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Case Study

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Case Study:

Student – Christian Jones

Further Maths Delivery:

Throughout Secondary School, Maths has been a fascinating and dynamic subject. From the introduction of Algebra in Year 7, to complex numbers and matrices at A Level, Mathematics has provided a consistent and rewarding challenge. The use of a wide range of mathematical tools has greatly increased my problem solving ability, and has allowed me to experience a vast range of weird and wonderful concepts.

I was first introduced to the possibility of taking Further Maths by my Form Tutor, Mr Park, in school (who was also my Maths teacher at GCSE), when I was encouraged to apply for Oxford. Although I didn't get in, one thing I have realised is that universities place a large emphasis on taking Further Maths at A Level in order to progress to a Maths degree.

My school, St. Richard Gwyn, has formed a Sixth Form partnership with another local school, Flint High, and this enabled AS Further Maths to be timetabled – 8 hours over 2 weeks. This was taught at Flint High by Mrs. Williams, who did a fantastic job teaching FP1 and FP2. In A2, this became much less structured, but tutorials from Miss Hewitt, Mr. Lunt and Mr. Palmer for my Mechanics and Statistics units, and the support of FMSP online lessons helped me achieve my grades in Maths.

The FMSP was introduced to me at GCSE, when the possibility of taking A Level Further Maths was discussed. Attending the taster session gave me an insight into a subject that I have fully enjoyed studying for the last two years.

Benefits of Studying Further Mathematics?

If you can do an A Level in Maths, then I'd definitely recommend considering Further Maths as well. The two courses complement each other, and if studied side by side, the Further

Maths provides an incredible boost to your Maths skills needed for the regular A Level. The only real differences between the two are the content, and the level of independent study needed. Of course, there is a large base of support for Further Maths: online tuition, study days at nearby universities, and face to face tuition all make studying Further Maths extremely accessible, even if your school doesn't offer it as an option.

It's not just your mathematical ability that improves; Further Maths helps develop many more skills. For example, there is a lot of independent study involved, which in turn, improves your time management skills. Also, in my course, I improved my communication skills by assisting in teaching and mentoring the Year 12s in my A2 Year.

As I said above, universities like Further Maths, especially if you want to take Maths beyond A Level – whilst some universities do require it, AS Further Maths is almost a minimum unofficial requirement! I also think that using FMSP Wales is a huge bonus, as it proves you can study effectively, efficiently and independently. At A Level, I achieved 3A*'s and an A (A*A* in Maths and FM), and these grades have got me to the University of Bath, where I'm going to study Mathematics.