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Ysgol Uwchradd Cei Connah
Connah's Quay High School

Case Study

Connah's Quay High School

Address

Golftyn Lane
Connah's Quay
Deeside
Flintshire
CH5 4BH

Number of students aged 16 – 18
2013/14



Case Study:

Student – Jessica Akins

Further Maths Delivery:

I studied at Connah's Quay High School in their sixth form; I studied three A Levels plus the Welsh Baccalaureate. I have been taught Mathematics by an amazing teacher that brought maths to life for me and inspired me to continue with maths past GCSE. I want to pursue a career in actuarial work and by studying Mathematics in University; I hope to fulfil my future career. I thought that by completing AS level Further Maths, it would give me more insight into my future University course. I spoke to various teachers at school about wanting to do a Further Maths AS course and they enrolled me in the Further Maths Support Programme, after they had researched it. I also spoke to other students that were doing the same university course and they said that Further Maths helped them in their first year in understanding the lectures better. As the subject has become more complex my passion has grown even more. I enjoy the challenge of solving complex problems and I am particularly interested in Calculus.

I completed the Further Maths course after school with some other students and one of my maths teachers; we studied the modules, M1, FP1 and FP2 on an online classroom. We also went to various revision days at Bangor University for our courses. I found the online classes very different to what I was used to although I still felt we had a support system there as I could ask the teachers for help if I didn't understand the work. I think it also helped me to understand subjects quicker as there was a time restriction and it also gave me an insight to independent learning; we had homework regularly and end of subject tests. This meant that there was a lot of independent study, which improved my confidence with the subject.

Benefits of Studying Further Mathematics?

I found the course very useful, and I believe that it would benefit many other students to complete it as it can help with the grade requirements for University applications. Although I didn't complete the full A level, by completing the AS level I have more of an insight into the subject, if I had known about it in Year 12 I wouldn't have hesitated to start it then and I would have been able to complete the full A Level. I also think that by completing the course it helped me achieve a higher grade in my Maths A Level which was an A*, my Further Maths AS Level was a B. I got accepted into my first Choice the University of Manchester and I will start in September. I also think that the universities that I applied to were interested in how the course worked as it was challenging to do something that was very different to normal classes. It isn't until you start visiting the university open days that you realise how much they value Further Maths and how competitive the subject is.