



www.furthermaths.org.uk/wales



Case Study

Mike Jarrett

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Number of
students 16 – 18



Case Study:

Student – Mike Jarrett

Further Maths Delivery:

I like Mathematics because of the feeling of satisfaction that I get when working for a long time on a problem and trying different approaches until one finally works and everything comes together, cancels out and leaves one beautifully simple answer. I also like that there is only ever one definite answer to each problem. Being able to use my Maths knowledge for real world problems, such as finding the probability of specific outcomes using stats, or finding that maximum value of something using differentiation, is another reason why I enjoy Maths so much.

When I studied Further Maths at Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones, I had one two hour session a week with our teacher Colin Fleming, who came from St. Asaph to teach us. There were only three of us in the class, which was good because it allowed us to easily ask questions if any of us were stuck during the lessons, however, outside of lessons, we didn't have many people to discuss with if we had any issues.

I first heard of the Further Maths Support Programme when my teacher told me that they were holding a revision session at Bangor University. All of the revision sessions were useful because any extra support was very welcome given that we had such little time in lessons. I also found that they had a YouTube channel (FMSP(Wales) Revision Videos) that walks you through a lot of the questions on each part of the syllabus, which was very useful when it came to revision.

The fact that I only had a very limited time with my teacher meant that I did end up needing to doing a lot of work independently, such as going over notes and watching videos on topics that I felt I needed a better understanding of. I also attended as many FMSP revision sessions as I could. This

allowed me to be taught by a range of different teachers who would often have a different way of explaining topics from my teacher, which helped a lot when it came to understanding the topic. The revisions sessions also helped by letting us meet other students who were also studying Further Maths, with whom we could discuss the questions we were working on, and different methods of approaching them that they had been taught. Overall, I found the FMSP to be very useful when studying Further Maths, and would definitely recommend them to anyone else studying Further Maths.

Benefits of Studying Further Mathematics?

I knew that I was going to study further Maths as soon as I found out it existed when my brother, who is two years older than me, chose to study it for his A-levels. I have always enjoyed studying Maths, and any opportunity to discover more about it and study it further is one that I will strive to take. I also knew that I wanted to do Maths at university, and that taking Further Maths would aid me in doing so.

I really enjoyed studying Further Maths, and I would definitely recommend it to anyone who is interested in exploring Maths in more detail, because it allowed me to discover many different sides of Maths that I wouldn't have seen in the standard A-level Maths course, one of my favourites being proof by induction. I feel that the standard A-level Maths course teaches you new techniques within Maths and shows you how to use them in simpler situations. The Further Maths course however allows you to use the techniques from the A-level Maths course in much more advanced and more in depth situations, which gives you a better understanding of how they can be used. You'll often find yourself using two or three techniques from A-level Maths in one Further Maths question, which I find very satisfying, as it shows how useful they are.

I didn't tell universities that I was studying Further Maths through FMSP Wales, however the University of Bristol lowered their entry requirements for their Maths course from A*A*A to A*AA simply because I was studying Further Maths.

For my A-levels I achieved 3 A*s in Maths, Further Maths, and Chemistry, and an A in Physics. In October I will be going to study Maths at the University of Warwick.