



Case Study

Rokas Bakutis

School

St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School

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Rokas studied Further Maths AS with FMSP in 2016/17. He studied FP1, FP2 and S2 in Yr 12, and is now going into year 13 to study the rest of the A Level. He is also studying maths, physics and chemistry.

How was the tuition delivered?

The course was mainly taught 2 hours per week at another school (Flint High) and more support was given through revision sessions; the rest I learned mostly through peers and a bit online.

FMSP provided very good resources such as the revision sessions in Bangor and the integral website. The sessions were very thorough and informative, and the website was relatively easy to navigate with plenty of useful information.

What key skills do you think studying Further Maths has given you? Was it different to other A-levels at all and how?

It has taught me to study much more independently.

I think that to achieve at a similar level to other subjects, you need to do more work for FM - not only is it quite a bit more of a challenge in my opinion (to my other subjects Maths, Physics, and Chemistry), but, for my school, there was also much less teaching (2 hours per week compared to 5 for other subjects). Therefore not only was more work required, but it also had to be completed much more independently.

What was the most enjoyable experience you had as part of studying through the FMSP?

The most enjoyable part was probably getting to know like-minded friends as we shared lifts to Bangor for Saturday revision sessions. Along with learning new maths which I personally found enjoyable (some of the notation I found oddly satisfying!).

How do your friends feel about your decision to study Further Maths?

Some of my friends wonder how it's possible to cope with such a difficult subject, while others regret not taking it as it's limited their future career prospects.

I have made a few new friends, due to the classes being so small; it ends up being quite a cosy community.

Would you encourage others to study Further Maths? Do you have any tips for others?

I would encourage others.

My tips and advice would be: ensure you go to every lesson possible and every revision session possible, so as to not fall behind (this is easier than teaching it yourself as there is professional support); ensure you are proficient in the regular Maths A Level, as if you are not, it will be much harder to complete FM work (though I have found FM has helped with regular Maths a lot); try to consistently review and consolidate what you have learned, without neglecting your other subjects.

You will succeed if you have good organisation, motivation and consistency.

What's next for you?

I'm applying this year to study Mathematics at university, probably applying to Oxford, Loughborough, Leeds, and Bath.