

## Further Maths Support Programme Wales

# Newsletter

August 2014

### Further increase in the numbers taking Further Maths A-level in Wales

This year's Further Mathematics A-level results are again a cause for celebration in Wales. Both Mathematics and Further Mathematics results have built upon last year's increased entry with further rises:



**William Thomas**  
Ysgol Bro Gwaun  
University of Bath

"Thanks to the tutors and FMSP I was able to achieve A\*s in both Maths and Further Maths and obtain a place at my first choice University."

**Jessica Akins**

*Connah's Quay  
High School  
University of Manchester*

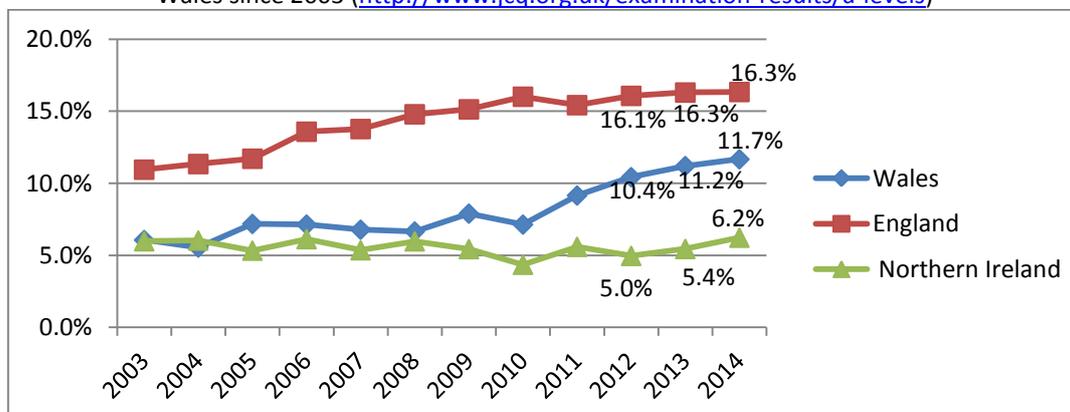
"I found the course very useful and I believe that it would benefit many other students to complete it. I think that by completing the course it helped me achieve a higher grade in my Maths A-Level which was an A\*"



- A level Further Mathematics numbers are up from 416 to 435, a 4.6% increase.
- AS Further Mathematics numbers are up from 369 to 411, an 11.4% increase.
- A level Mathematics numbers are up from 3713 to 3727, a 0.4% increase.
- AS Mathematics numbers are up from 4796 to 5087, a 6.1% increase.

The proportion of Maths students who sat Further Maths A-level reached 11.7%, which is the highest result ever in Further Maths in Wales. Since the Further Mathematics Support Programme was launched in Wales in 2010 the percentage has risen steadily every year, see the graph below.

**Graph 1.** Percentages of A-level Maths students taking A-level Further Maths in England, Northern Ireland and Wales since 2003 (<http://www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results/a-levels>)





## Year 11 Conference Bangor University North Wales



FMSP Wales held a Year 11 Conference at Bangor University on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014. The event was well attended with 95 students registering, from 10 schools in North Wales and for 9 of the schools it was the first time they had attended the Year 11 conference. The conference was held over a full day and students participated in two workshops and a talk. There was an even gender split with 47 girls and 48 boys. Four workshops were delivered in total, which included one by Katie Speckles, a well renowned female speaker, and one in the medium of Welsh delivered by Dr Gareth Ffowc Roberts entitled  $14x + 15 = 71$ , A Tudor Tweet? FMSP received positive feedback about the event, with the talk given by Colin Wright entitled "Maths and Juggling" receiving fantastic feedback.

## Year 10 Conference – South Wales



The Further Maths Support Programme Wales ran three successful conferences in June and July 2014 for Year 10 students from across South Wales. The conferences were run at Pembrokeshire College, Swansea University and the University of South Wales.

The conferences provided an enriching and enjoyable day for 340 students from 20 schools from South Wales including 4 from Pembrokeshire and 4 from Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The aim of the conferences was to demonstrate to students the depth and breadth of mathematics and to encourage them to consider studying Mathematics beyond GCSE. All four conferences aimed to give the message that maths is a rewarding subject and opens the doors to a variety of exciting career opportunities.



## Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

**Sean McCarthy**  
Teacher  
Milford Haven School  
"We had an excellent instructor who tailor-made his instruction to suit the ability ranges of the delegates from a recently qualified teacher to someone who last looked at this work over 30 years ago"

From September 2014 the Further Maths Support Programme Wales will be offering a pilot Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Programme in Further Maths to teachers from state-funded schools/colleges in South Wales. Project Coordinator Sofya Lyakhova said: "Up-skilling teachers is crucial for ensuring the provision of Further Maths is sustainable in Wales." The CPD survey results suggest there is a strong interest for CPD in Further Maths in Wales <http://www.furthermaths.org.uk/wales-teacher-support> At least 22% of all state-funded sixth form centres replied and 84% of all respondents would be interested in receiving CPD in Further Pure, Mechanics or Statistics in next 12 months. The need for a CPD programme was also mentioned in the interim evaluation report.

## Teaching Further Pure Mathematics 1 with Confidence

Date: Swansea and Cardiff - October 2014 – March 2015, Course Cost: Free

FMSP Wales are running a series of face to face workshops and online lectures free of charge. This course is ideal for teachers who have not taught topics from FP1 previously or for teachers who simply wish to refresh their subject knowledge. Knowledge of AS Core (C1 & C2) algebraic techniques would be advantageous. Online resources provided through [Integralmaths.org](http://Integralmaths.org) allow participants to supplement the course.

Full details can be found at [http://www.furthermaths.org.uk/Wales\\_CPD](http://www.furthermaths.org.uk/Wales_CPD). Deadline for applications is the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014.

### Registration

All state-funded secondary schools and colleges in Wales are invited to register with the Programme <http://www.furthermaths.org.uk/Eregister.php> and express their interest in tuition assistance by contacting the Programme Coordinator Sofya Lyakhova on **01792 602793**.

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