

Media Release: New funding for the successful Further Mathematics Support Programme

The Department for Education (DfE) is to provide Mathematics in Education and Industry (MEI) with substantially enhanced funding for a further three years to continue and extend the work of the Further Mathematics Support Programme (FMSP), working with the National Centre for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics (NCETM) and the Institute of Education (IoE).

The FMSP will expand its work to improve access to Further Mathematics tuition, and to increase the numbers of students in England studying advanced mathematics from 16 to 18. The FMSP has a strong emphasis on teachers' professional development, to help meet the increasing demand from students to study Mathematics beyond GCSE level. The new contract will build on this work by supporting teachers and students in preparing for entry exams to top universities.

The FMSP and its predecessor the Further Mathematics Network (FMN) have rescued Further Mathematics from what looked like a terminal decline. Between 2005, when the FMN started, and 2013, entries in England to A level Further Mathematics rose by 135% to 13,232 (Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) figures). Further Mathematics is now one of the fastest growing subjects, increasingly valued by universities and employers.

Since 2009 the FMSP has been working to encourage more participation in A level Mathematics and entries in England have risen by nearly 22% to 81,171 (JCQ figures). There is still much work to be done however, we estimate that there is potential demand from universities and employers for over 100,000 students to take A level Mathematics per year with over 20,000 of them also taking A level Further Mathematics

The FMSP will continue to be managed by MEI and will

- Support the teaching and learning of AS/A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics, including providing tuition for students who cannot access Further Mathematics teaching in their own schools and colleges.
- Provide specialised professional development to teachers of AS/A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics and to support teachers of KS4 Mathematics in encouraging students' progression in mathematics.
- Promote mathematics and raise awareness of the benefits of studying mathematics beyond GCSE level.
- Work with Higher Education Institutions to promote the benefits of studying AS/A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics
- Support trainee teachers with A level Mathematics
- Help students to develop advanced mathematical thinking skills useful for examinations such as the Mathematics Admissions Test, Sixth Term Examination Paper and Advanced Extension Award, and support teachers in preparing their students for these examinations.

The FMSP is organised regionally through an MEI central management team and a network of Area Coordinators based across the nine government regions in England.

For more details please see www.furthermaths.org.uk or contact MEI Chief Executive, Charlie Stripp: 07771864507, charlie.stripp@mei.org.uk.