

Congratulations to all those students who achieved AS and A levels in Mathematics and Further Mathematics this summer, and to their teachers. The continued growth in A level entries for Mathematics and Further Mathematics really is excellent news. It reflects an increasing awareness of the value, [supported by research evidence](#), of the mathematics A levels as a passport to higher education and employment across a wide range of subjects.

Every student achieving a grade 6 or above on the new GCSE Mathematics this summer should consider studying at least AS Mathematics, and should be given the opportunity to do so, and those achieving a grade 5 should discuss with their school or college the possibility of taking AS level Maths. More students taking maths at A level is both very valuable to the individual students in terms of improving their life chances, and great news for the country as a whole. Maths skills are very valuable to our national economy but, despite these continued increases in numbers of students with A levels in Mathematics and Further Mathematics, Britain still lags behind many of its international competitors in terms of the mathematics education of our workforce.

For more details on this years' AS and A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics entries, please see [this information](#) from the Further Mathematics Support Programme

It's also brilliant that [Core Maths numbers have grown so strongly](#). It's vital that this growth continues in future years, so that a far greater proportion of our young people learn these crucial quantitative skills. As my MEI colleague, Stella Dudzic says:

Congratulations to students who have gained Core Maths qualifications today. It has been encouraging to see the growth in numbers sitting the qualifications, with 83% more students taking Core Maths this year compared to last year.

Core Maths qualifications enable students to think mathematically and to use maths in a range of contexts which they might meet in their future life, work and studies. It is good to see more schools and colleges offering their students the opportunity to study Core Maths qualifications.

In addition to being increasingly important when studying other subjects at A level and beyond, quantitative skills are vital for all citizens, enabling them to participate fully in our democracy and strengthen our economy. Students who have gained at least grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics, and are not intending to take AS or A level Mathematics, should consider studying Core Maths.

Charlie Stripp

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