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Press Release January 2014

Further 2 years funding announced for Further Mathematics Support Programme (FMSP) Wales

In December 2013 the Welsh Government announced funding would be provided over two years for the continuation of the FMSP Wales. The significant annual funding of £225,000 would be made available in 2014-2015 and 2015-2016.

Welsh Government Education Minister Huw Lewis said *“We’ve made a commitment improving levels of numeracy and enhancing the STEM subjects – science, technology, engineering and mathematics”.* *“High level maths skills open doors to so many careers for our learners and we must support them to get the skills they need to succeed”.*



Statistics Revision Session

The programme was initially funded for 3 years from 2010-2013 to cover the pilot area of **Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea**. Further funding was made available in 2013/14 to cover **Anglesey, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Conwy and Gwynedd**. It is led by the Wales Institute of Mathematical and Computational Sciences (WIMCS) based at Swansea University and operates in partnership with Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff, Swansea and University of South Wales.

Stephen Williamson said *“The Wales Institute of Mathematical and Computational Sciences (WIMCS) are delighted that the Welsh Government has committed funding to provide 2 year visibility to the Further Maths Support Programme (FMSP) Wales. The extended period of guaranteed funding will better enable the FMSP Wales team to plan and deliver the required level of support needed for the two year A Level Course. Evidence shows that students with Further Maths A Level are better prepared for STEM Degree Courses particularly those in Mathematics, Engineering and Physics”.*

The confirmation of funding would build on the success of the Further Mathematics Support Programme (FMSP) Wales, which supports schools and colleges at Key Stage 4 and post-16 level to increase teacher expertise and student participation in AS/A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics. All state-funded secondary schools and colleges in Wales are invited to register with the Programme. A full range of activities and events are held throughout the year for those attending state funded schools/colleges interested in pursuing Mathematics-rich degrees (including STEM subjects).



Geometry workshop – Year 12 Conference

The programme delivers a variety of enrichment and revision events including Year 10, 11 and 12 conferences, advanced mathematics masterclasses and further maths support workshops for pure maths, mechanics and statistics.

An Evaluation was carried out by the Welsh Government Social Research and the final report, published in December 2013, said that *“it is the integrated approach to support that has been valued by teachers and students alike”*. *“The programme provides a flexible range of tuition, revision, careers advice and web-based resources for students and help for teachers”*.

Useful links:

www.furthermaths.org.uk/wales

<http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/educationandskills/2013/8356143/?lang=en>

For more information:

Contact the Area Coordinator, Sofya Lyakhova, on 01792 606845.

Notes for Editors

1. The FMSP Wales is managed by The Wales Institute of Mathematical and Computational Sciences (WIMCS) and is in partnership with Mathematics in Education and Industry (MEI, www.mei.org.uk). It is funded by the Welsh Government.
2. More information regarding the Further Maths support programme Wales can be found at: <http://www.furthermaths.org.uk/centre/?centre=wales>
3. The Wales Institute of Mathematical and Computational Sciences (WIMCS) is a collaborative partnership of the universities of Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff, Glamorgan and Swansea. It has been set up by the Welsh Government through the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales. WIMCS aims to enhance the standing of mathematics and computation in Wales, to foster links with industry, commerce and business, to generate substantial research funding and to provide a forum for education and public awareness of the Mathematical Sciences (www.wimcs.ac.uk).
4. For more information please contact the FMSP Wales Administrator on 01792 606609 or by email adminwales@furthermaths.org.uk



Year 12 Conference
Cardiff
4th Dimension