



Focus of the Month April 2016

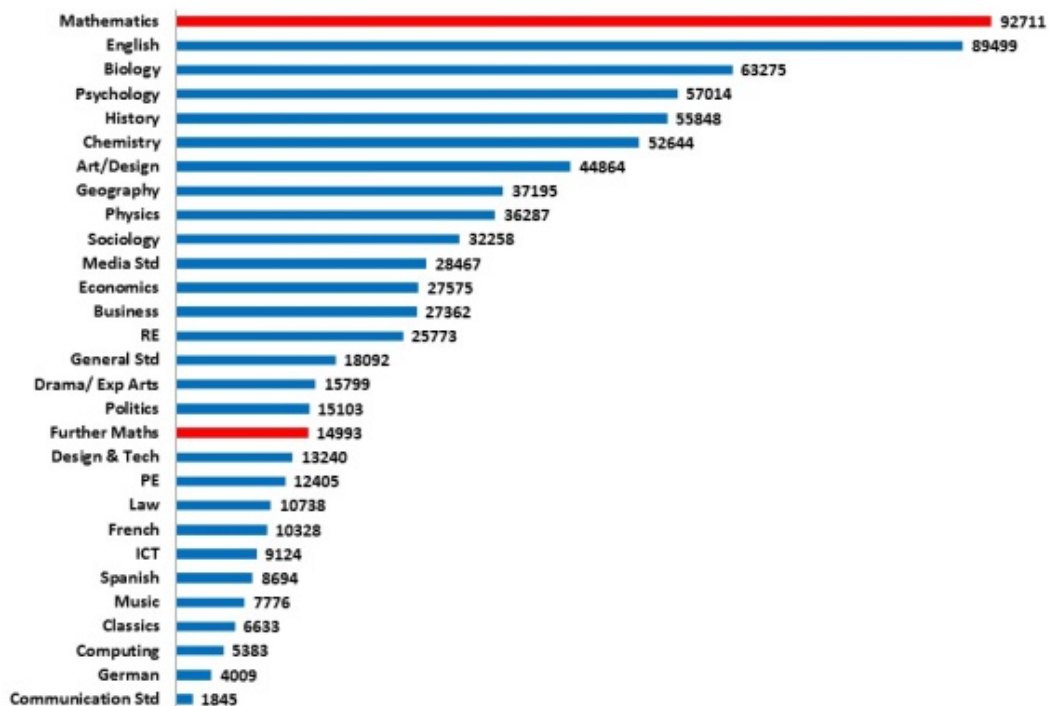
Offering Further Mathematics

Our focus for this month is on why schools and colleges should offer their students the opportunity to study Further Mathematics and the support that the FMSP provides to enable you to do this.

Why offer Further Maths?

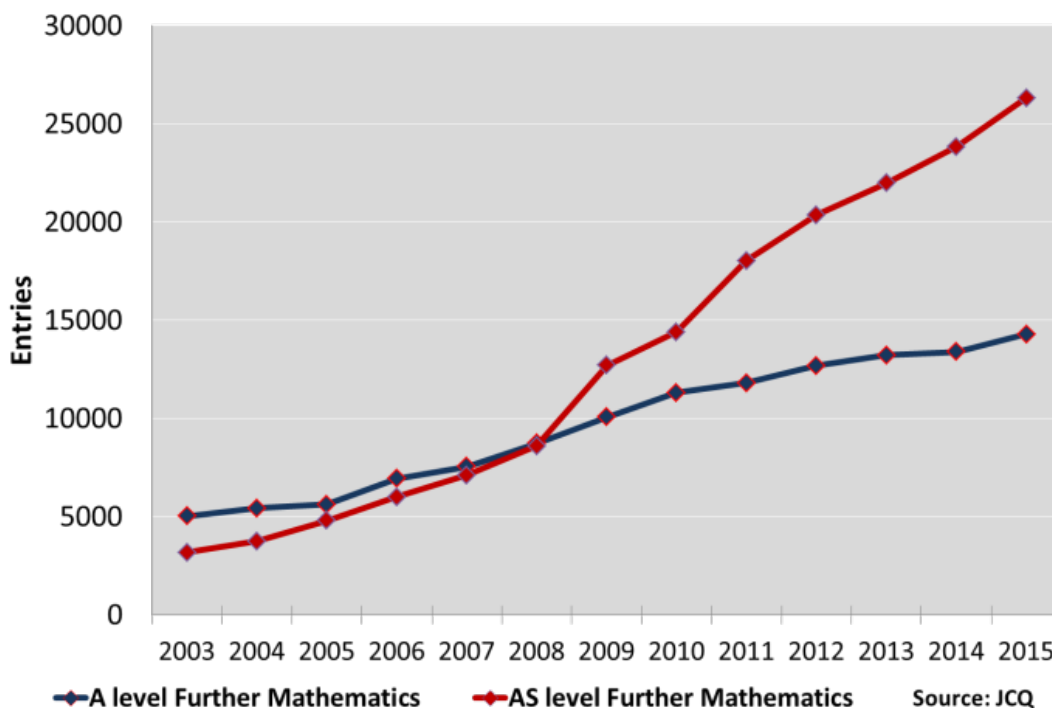
A level Further Mathematics is one of the fastest growing A level subjects. In 2015 there were almost 15,000 entries, making it more popular than many other A level subjects such as French and ICT.

2015 A level entries by subject



The majority of schools and colleges now offer A level Further Mathematics. In 2015 67% of state-funded schools and colleges which had students studying A level Mathematics also had students taking A level Further Mathematics.

Further Mathematics entries in England



Further Mathematics is **not** just for the top A level Mathematics students. AS Further Mathematics is accessible to many students capable of passing A level Mathematics.

On the [Why offer Further Mathematics](#) and [Making the case for Further Mathematics](#) pages of the FMSP website, you will find resources and information to help you make the case for offering A level Further Mathematics. This includes information for senior leaders, as well as a presentation and handouts for students and parents.

Five key reasons for offering Further Mathematics are:

- Supporting the study of A level Mathematics and other subjects
- Helping progression to university courses (and beyond)
- Supporting and challenging more able students
- Retaining able students
- Raising the profile of mathematics in the school/college

The wider benefits to the school/college of introducing Further Mathematics have been investigated by the UCL Institute of Education. The [full report](#) and a [summary report](#) can be found on the FMSP website.

Ways to offer Further Maths

Even if you have small numbers of students, it is possible to offer Further Mathematics in a cost effective way with the support of the FMSP.

The FMSP has a lot of experience of working with schools and colleges to help them set up and establish Further Mathematics provision. The [strategies](#) that have been used are summarised on our website.

There are a number of [useful case studies](#) of schools/colleges that have worked with the FMSP to develop Further Mathematics which give a helpful insight into strategies that have worked.

[The FMSP is also able to support schools/colleges with tuition](#) for Further Mathematics. Schools/colleges that [register](#) with the FMSP receive free access to online teaching resources for Further Mathematics.

Promoting Further Maths

The FMSP supports schools and colleges in promoting the uptake of Further Mathematics, providing information to GCSE students and raising awareness about the benefits of studying both A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics. The FMSP has produced [presentations, posters and leaflets](#) to help promote A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics. . There are also links to videos that can inform students of the advantages of studying mathematics. Contact the FMSP admin team admin@furthermaths.org.uk to order copies of the posters or leaflets.

In addition to providing resources, the FMSP organises [enrichment events](#) for students which aim to inspire and inform them of the opportunities open to them through studying mathematics at A level.