



Case Study

Sian Phillips

School

Ysgol Dewi Sant  
Bryndulais Ave,  
Llanelli  
SA14 8RS



I studied FP1 and M2 through face to face tuition from a visiting tutor at school, and FP2 through online lessons. At the University of Liverpool, MPhys Astrophysics. Further maths was not a course requirement so probably helped my application to stand out.

**How would you evaluate your overall experience of taking Further Mathematics through the FMSP?**

I loved the further maths course as it was continually challenging, interesting and intellectually stimulating but each part of the course was explained in such a way that it was easy to understand, and we were given lots of opportunity for practice.

**What was the most enjoyable experience you had as part of studying through the FMSP?**

**(Were there any benefits you didn't expect?)**

I most enjoyed the study days, as it was on these days that I learned the most and was able to develop my wider understanding of maths beyond the confines of the course. My favourite study days were when we finished covering the course content with time to spare and were able to use the time to find out from the tutors about new and exciting maths. Each different tutor brought different ways of thinking and it was very helpful when it came to the exam to have several ways of approaching a problem.

**What do you think about the workload associated with Further Maths? Was it different from other A-levels at all and how?**

I found A level maths to be quite formulaic and dull with repetitive questions. Further maths was different in that I had to put much more time and concentration into the work I was doing. I had more homework for further maths than any other subject but it was always a pleasure to do and the work I would turn to first, even when it was only due the next week and I had an imminent chemistry test to revise for.

**What was the least enjoyable experience you had while studying FM with FMSP? Anything you found particularly hard?**

I can't think of any part of the course that was hard or not enjoyable. Before starting the course I was concerned about the online aspect but I quickly got used to the different style of interaction and was able to learn from these lessons as easily as from face-to-face teaching.

**How does your family feel about you taking Further Mathematics and the workload associated with it? Did you get any help/support from them?**

My mother encouraged me to take up further maths at the beginning of the year when I was undecided, as she thought it would be useful in the future. My family did not help me with the work but they were supportive of me doing it.

**How do your friends feel about you taking FM? Any friends taking FM themselves? Have you met any new friends on the FMSP course?**

Several of my friends were also taking further maths and we all enjoyed it. I found that studying further maths strengthened my friendships as it was a real joy to share the excitement of discovering new mathematical concepts with my close friends and we would often discuss what we had been doing in class and work together. We also enjoyed meeting other people with similar interests at the study days and making new friends.

**Did you find it harder than regular A level work?**

I found it easier than most subjects since success was dependent on understanding rather than memorisation. The concepts involved in the work were always excellently explained during the lessons and if I had any questions or problems my tutors were always happy to give help and pointers so I never felt it was a struggle.