

# News story: New Advanced Maths Premium can open more doors for young people

During a visit to Lilian Bayliss Technology School in London, Schools Standards Minister Nick Gibb and Chief Secretary to the Treasury Elizabeth Truss announced the Advanced Maths Premium, a new fund to help schools and colleges increase the number of students studying maths after GCSE.

Data shows that pupils who do well in maths at school earn higher wages, with men seeing a premium of 12.5% and women a 23.9% increase.

The premium will also support institutions to increase the number of girls and those from disadvantaged backgrounds taking advanced maths qualifications, to help equip Britain with the skills needed to boost the future economy. The £600 premium is equivalent to 15% of the base funding per student.

It follows a commitment from the Education Secretary to continue improving academic standards in order to deliver a truly world-class education, that inspires young people to make the most of their lives and gives them the opportunity to fulfil their ambitions, no matter where they live.

From September 2018, schools and colleges will receive an extra £600 premium for each additional pupil taking the one-year AS maths or the Core Maths qualification. This could mean £1,200 for each additional pupil who takes the two-year A level in maths or further maths.

While maths continues to be the most popular subject at A level, with almost 25% of pupils choosing to study it, there are almost three quarters of students with an A\*-C in GCSE maths at age 16 who decide not to continue studying the subject.

Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Elizabeth Truss, said:

We know that maths powers our economy. And for individual students, choosing maths could add around 10% to their future earnings.

It is even more beneficial for women and I specifically want to encourage more girls to take maths and open up their future.

In many other advanced nations, pupils are encouraged to study maths beyond 16-years-old. The maths premium will help more students study maths for longer and put them in a great position to take up skilled jobs.

Schools Standards Minister Nick Gibb said:

Academic standards are rising in our schools, with 1.9 million more children in good or outstanding schools than in 2010.

Although maths remains the most popular subject at A level, this premium will open up the opportunity for even more young people to study advanced maths qualifications, providing them with the knowledge and skills for future success.

Our reforms to post 16 maths qualifications, have led to a more rigorous curriculum, enabling pupils to gain a deeper understanding of the subject. This will lead to better options for further study and training, including careers in engineering, computing, accountancy and design.

During the visit both Ministers saw first-hand how pupils are preparing for their upcoming maths exams and heard about young people's future plans to use their qualifications in the next stage of education or careers.

As set out in the Sir Adrian Smith review, there is an increasing demand for mathematics and quantitative skills in all levels of the labour market and the Royal Society has outlined maths as the key skill required by employers by 2030. This extra funding will increase maths provision and the quality of education that can be provided to pupils and therefore better preparing them for further study and future careers.

In addition to this, the Royal Society has discussed the importance of young people having a positive experience of learning mathematics and understanding its value and importance in order to apply what they have learned in future studies, employment and daily lives.

Frank Kelly, Chair of the Royal Society Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education, said:

The UK cannot prosper without a numerically literate population.

The Government has recognised that too few young people are studying maths after turning 16 and the increased funding announced today can be a step towards putting that right.

This funding boost comes during the Year of Engineering, which celebrates the world and wonder of engineering, which is inextricably linked to maths. It also forms an important part of the Industrial Strategy which is committed to boosting engineering across the UK, ensuring everyone has the skills needed to thrive in a modern economy.