

Information for Year 13 A level Mathematics students

We are inviting students who are studying A level mathematics in Year 13 at your school/college to take part in research into how they learn mathematics in sixth form. The study will support our knowledge of sixth formers' feelings about maths including how much they enjoy maths and how they experience learning maths at school/college. This information sheet tells you about the study. Please read it carefully and discuss with family if you would like to.

Who is conducting the study and why?

The Observatory for Mathematical Education is based in the School of Education at the University of Nottingham. It identifies trends in mathematics learning, experiences, and attitudes from Reception to university mathematics.

Why are we doing the study?

Learning maths is important for each young person's future, in further study and in life. Knowing when changes are likely to occur to learners' confidence and enjoyment of maths, helps us to advise schools, colleges and universities as well as policy makers, about what to do/not do to support all students to learn maths effectively.

How does the study work?

- This is a large-scale study with up to 120 schools/colleges which includes the views of students, teachers and parents/guardians. It will take place over two years and will help us to see how things change over time.
- Your teacher will choose an A level maths lesson for your class to complete an online survey (or they may send you the survey to complete on your own). The survey is mostly multiple-choice questions about your experience of learning maths at school/college. There are no maths questions in the survey, and your answers will not be shared with your teachers, parents/guardians or other students.

What information is being collected about each student?

At the beginning of the online survey, you will be asked to click to agree to participate in this research. By consenting to complete the survey, you are agreeing that your school/college can securely share your name, date of birth and Unique Pupil Number with the Observatory for Mathematical Education so your survey answers can be linked to government education data about you for anonymous analysis. If you do not consent, then you should close the survey before starting it. If you decide to complete the online survey you will be asked for your name,

date of birth, gender and school/college name. There will then be questions asking about A level maths, about your experiences of learning maths at school/college, as well as your future plans.

If you complete the survey but later change your mind, you can email us at mathsobservatory@nottingham.ac.uk. We will then delete all of the information that we have about you, but your anonymous survey answers may still appear in presentations and articles about the research if it is too late to remove them.

What happens to the information collected for the study?

We store the data securely in a SharePoint site that is only accessible to the research team. The anonymised survey data will be stored for a minimum of 14 years and then deleted if no longer in use.

How are we ensuring GDPR compliance?

We are processing personal data based on Article 6(1)(e) of UK GDPR in which processing is legal as it has a basis in public interest. Further details of how we ensure compliance with GDPR are provided in the [privacy notice](#).

Where will the research be published?

We will publish the research in reports, articles, and presentations. No student, teacher or school/college names will be included in these publications.

Where can I find out more information?

If you have questions about the research, contact mathsobservatory@nottingham.ac.uk. If you have concerns or a complaint, contact educationresearchethics@nottingham.ac.uk