

Information for A level Mathematics teachers

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. This is the second year of the study that is following students in 120 schools/colleges. You may remember asking your students to complete a survey last year when they were in Year 12. The study will support our knowledge of sixth formers' feelings about A level maths including how much they enjoy maths and how they experience learning maths at school/college. This information sheet tells you about the study.

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 for learners 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 that includes the views of students, teachers and parents/guardians. It will take place over at least two years and will help us to see how things change over time.
- Schools/colleges will receive an email which will include a set of instructions for the Year 13 A level maths teacher, information for Y13 A level maths students, and a survey link and QR code for students to access the survey.
- The teacher will choose an **A level maths lesson for the class to complete the online survey** (or will send students the survey to complete at another time, if needed). The survey is mostly multiple-choice questions about the student's experience of learning maths at school/college. There are no maths questions in the survey. The student information explains that we will not share their answers with their teachers, their parents/guardians or the other students.
- The students will provide their consent to participate in this research at the start of the online survey – they must be given free choice as to whether they wish to participate or not.
- If there are any students that the teacher feels may need support to understand the research, their role in it and what they are being asked to do then, then teachers should provide this support, making clear that it is the student's choice and they should not



consent if they are unsure. If any students need support with completing the survey, this can be provided by the teacher, but the teacher should not instruct the student to select particular answers. Students might need assistance with understanding the meaning of particular words or phrases. The teachers can suggest that students skip a question if a student is unsure how to answer or feels uncomfortable answering.

- The survey is designed to take students **around 15 minutes** to complete but this will be different for each student depending on how quickly they work through it. The survey has more questions for students whose answers indicate they are hoping to progress to university. This means that these students make take slightly longer to complete the survey.

What information is being collected about each student?

As part of the survey, we will ask Year 13 A level maths students to provide their name, date of birth, gender and school/college name.

What happens to the information collected for the study?

The data will be stored securely in a dedicated SharePoint site that is only accessible to members of the research team. Data will be deleted as soon as possible after it is no longer needed, and each participant is given a numeric code so that the data they provide is stored anonymously. 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.