



Media release

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For immediate release

Students realising the value of numbers

Figures released today by the Joint Council for Qualifications indicate that mathematics is one of the fastest-growing subjects at AS and A-level following a dramatic surge in uptake of the subject this year.

The number of A-Level Mathematics entries is up 7.3% on last year, with AS-Level Mathematics increasing by 9.3%.

Further Mathematics has also seen an explosion in popularity, with entries increasing by 8.3% at A-Level this year and a fantastic **18%** at AS-Level.

Dr Alice Rogers, Vice President of the London Mathematical Society, said:

“We are delighted with these figures. It is very encouraging to see that more students are realising that mathematics is a very valuable part of a portfolio of study, irrespective of intended career paths or degree subject choices.

This is another big step towards a recovery from the significant downturns following the Curriculum 2000 reforms”.

The number of Mathematics A-Level entries plummeted in 2001/02 on the introduction of the current AS/A2 level system, although uptake has been steadily recovering since then. This year’s figure of 60,000 entries to A-Level Mathematics reflects a significant improvement, but does not match the 67,000 entries seen in 1999/2000.

The London Mathematical Society extends its congratulations to all students receiving their AS and A-level results today.

ENDS

Notes for Editors

1. The **London Mathematical Society (LMS)** is the UK's learned society for mathematics. Founded in 1865 for the promotion and extension of mathematical knowledge, the Society is concerned with all branches of mathematics and its applications. It is an independent and self-financing charity, with a membership of over 2600 drawn from all parts of the UK and overseas. Its principal activities are the organisation of meetings and conferences, the publication of periodicals and books, the provision of financial support for mathematical activities, and the contribution to public debates on issues related to mathematics research and education. It works collaboratively with other mathematical bodies worldwide. It is the UK adhering body to the International Mathematical Union and is a member of the Council for the Mathematical Sciences, which also comprises the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications and the Royal Statistical Society.
2. Figures are taken from the JCQ website (www.jcq.org.uk) and refer to England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
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