

Core Maths 'Early Developer' projects (information for centres)

Summary

The Department for Education (DfE) is looking to further support the development of Core Maths by funding 'Early Developer' projects. This builds upon the work of the Core Maths Support Programme (CMSP) and Early Adopter Teaching projects that are already underway. The Early Developer project centres will be expected to work closely with the newly established Maths Hubs.

To this end, the DfE has invited Maths Hubs to nominate up to three centres per Hub (schools and/or colleges) to prepare for Core Maths teaching. Funding will be provided via Maths Hubs to nominated schools and colleges to develop Core Maths curricula (courses/teaching schemes), resources and professional development activities during the spring and summer terms (January-July 2015) to prepare for teaching Core Maths from September 2015.

The Core Maths Support Programme (CMSP) will provide support and advice for these centres to assist them in preparing a high quality Core Maths course, including sharing experiences and best practice from the early adopter schools and colleges who have begun teaching Core Maths from this term. There will also be opportunities to link to the CMSP's regional training events and liaise with local Core Maths Leads.

Background

The Government has set out its ambition for the overwhelming majority of young people in England to study mathematics to age 18 by 2020. 'Core Maths' qualifications will shortly be available for students who achieve a grade C or above at GCSE but who do not currently continue with any form of more advanced maths after age 16.

In September 2014 over 170 schools and colleges received funding through the DfE to teach Core Maths to about 3,500 students, a year ahead of general teaching commencing in September 2015. These 'Early Adopters' have begun work to develop teaching and curricular approaches and teaching materials and support that will be shared more widely and freely with other schools and colleges.

For September 2015 Core Maths qualifications, with UCAS tariff equivalent to AS levels, will be available widely to all schools and colleges and we have been working to raise awareness amongst HE and employers of the new qualifications. Core Maths will help students retain and further develop their mathematics to

make them better able to cope with the mathematical demands of other subjects they are studying, HE and the workplace.

Teaching Core Maths from Sept 2015 is not mandatory. However school and college performance tables from 2017 will include a level 3 mathematics participation figure which will include Core Maths qualifications.

The CMSP has been established to support schools and colleges introducing and embedding Core Maths qualifications. The CMSP will provide teaching materials, resources and professional development for teachers to support schools and colleges as well as a range of training workshops across the programme.

Why teach Core Maths?

Approximately, 250,000 students each year achieve a Grade C or above in GCSE maths but do not progress to study AS or A Level maths. Universities and employers tell us that they would like these students to have stronger mathematical abilities than they currently have.

A recent report¹ looked at the mathematical needs of undergraduate students in disciplines such as Economics, Sociology, Psychology, Chemistry, Geography, Computing and Business and Management. It found that students arrive at university poorly prepared for the mathematical and statistical demands of their subject. This problem is often compounded by the fact that many of these students will not have studied any maths or statistics for two years or more, resulting in a lack of fluency and confidence in applying mathematical skills, even when applying known techniques and methods to new problems areas.

What will the qualifications look like?

'Core Maths' is not a qualification in itself; it is a suite of qualifications that develop students' mathematical understanding and application of maths in ways that are valuable for further study and employment across a range of areas.

Core Maths qualifications are distinct from AS and A Level Maths. Core Maths is aimed at non-specialists, to deepen and strengthen their skills and maintain their confidence in maths. They will build students' competence and confidence in mathematical techniques like statistics, financial maths and modelling – for example, learning how to build a financial model to understand an investment, analyse trends in population growth or calculate ways to improve a process.

Additional information about each of the Core Maths qualifications can be accessed from the Core Maths Support Programme [website](#)².

¹ http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/resources/detail/disciplines/Maths_Stats_OR/MATHS-Transitions-report

² <https://www.ncetm.org.uk/resources/45394>

Core Maths Early Developer Projects

Selected schools and colleges will be expected to:

- Identify a relevant Core Maths qualification to be taught from September 2015.
- Design a comprehensive course outline / scheme of work which reflects the qualification.
- Develop teaching materials and other resources to cover the course.
- Make provision as necessary to ensure capacity in the school/college to teach Core Maths from September 2015.
- Address professional development needs where relevant - this can include consideration of CMSP professional development materials (Subject Knowledge Enhancement and the Core Maths Masters qualification) and Lesson Study approaches.
- Share teaching resources, exemplar practice and experiences through relevant Maths Hub networks.
- Report regularly to their Maths Hub and the CMSP on progress, including issues if they arise.
- Work in conjunction with the local Core Maths Lead and Early Adopter Teaching Projects, including participating in CMSP's regional training events.

Funding

This will be £10,000 per institution between December 2014 and July 2015, provided via Hubs.

Funding is to support development within schools and colleges and not to fund on-going teaching costs. Although funds should not be used directly for teaching, funding is available to support professional development time and costs, the development of resources either individually or collaboratively and for work on Core Maths within the Maths Hub.

In summary:

- The funding can cover staffing time to plan courses and develop resources.
- Typically plans might include for example: use of staffing (to plan and develop teaching and related resources); project management; production of resources/course materials; teacher CPD; monitoring and evaluation. (This is not intended as an exhaustive list.)

Expression of interest

Centres interested in being nominated to be a Core Maths Early Developer should liaise directly with their local Maths Hub.
