



**University of
Nottingham**
UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA



**Observatory for
Mathematical
Education**

The Observatory's cohort studies are the largest ever longitudinal study of mathematics education in England. They start in 2024/25 and run for seven years, following the same group of pupils from Reception to Year 6, Year 7 to Year 11 and Year 12 to Year 13. We will explore attitudes to, and experiences of, learning mathematics, and investigate how and why these vary between classes, schools/colleges, regions and groups of learners over time.

For the secondary cohort study we have around one hundred 11-18 schools with sixth form provision and will survey students studying A-level maths in these schools, but it is important to understand the experiences of students studying A-level maths in post-16 only institutions. Our 'colleges' cohort study will provide this balance, following one A-level maths cohort when they are in Year 12 (2024/25) and in Year 13 (2025/26) in Sixth Form Colleges in England.

The Research Partner College's commitment:

- Arrange for A-level maths students to complete an online survey in Year 12 (Spring 2025) and Year 13 (Spring 2026).
- Ask the Head of Mathematics to complete a staff audit (list of teachers of maths in the college) and short annual survey in 2024/25 and 2025/26.
- Ask teachers of mathematics to complete a short online survey (Year 12 teachers in 2024/25 and Year 13 teachers in 2025/26).
- Send an information letter to parents/guardians in 2024/25 and 2025/26 that explains the purpose of the study. The letter will also contain a survey link for parents/guardians.
- Provide A-level maths class lists and limited data for the students in the cohort (name, DOB, UPN, A-level maths class) via a secure method provided by the Observatory, once in 2024/25 and once in 2025/26.

The Observatory for Mathematical Education's commitment:

- Make an annual payment of £500 to each college when the surveys are complete.
- Provide clear, accessible information and instructions to ensure the smooth running of the study.
- Send teachers of maths a link to an online survey at the appropriate time.
- Provide annual, anonymised reports from the study.
- Ensure the highest standards of data security and confidentiality.

Participation in this prestigious research is by invitation only.