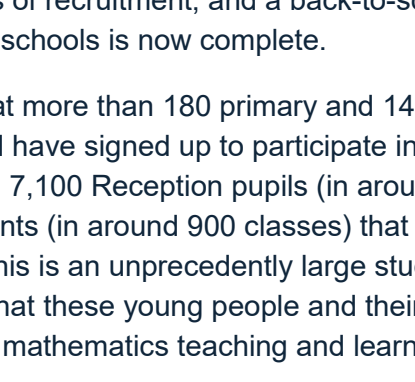


A newsletter brought to you by the Observatory for Mathematical Education

Welcome to the first newsletter from the Observatory for Mathematical Education in which you can read about what we've been doing and what's coming up. In future, we will be including key research findings and news about new projects.

We hope you find it information and welcome your feedback. Please get in touch using the contact details at the bottom of this update.



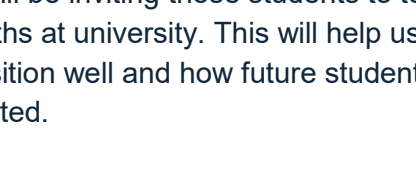
Recruiting research partner schools

After several months of recruitment, and a back-to-school rush, our search for research partner schools is now complete.

We are delighted that more than 180 primary and 140 secondary schools from across England have signed up to participate in this groundbreaking study. That's around 7,100 Reception pupils (in around 250 classes) and 26,000 Year 7 students (in around 900 classes) that we'll be following over the coming years. This is an unprecedentedly large study and we're very excited to find out what these young people and their teachers can tell us about what works in mathematics teaching and learning.

Our [sampling strategy](#) ensures a representative sample of schools from across England. We have monitored a set of fourteen important variables, including geographical region, size and type of school, and percentage of pupils on free school meals. Having a representative sample will help us to build strong evidence about the system as a whole.

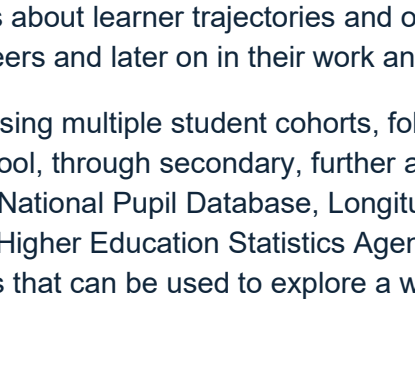
In a few weeks we will be recruiting sixth form colleges to bolster our secondary 11-18 sample. In the spring we will be surveying Year 12 students who are studying A level Mathematics to understand their experience and choices.



Study of transition to university mathematics

The Observatory is exploring the expectations and experiences of undergraduate students starting mathematics degrees. At the start of September, UCAS sent an email to nearly 7,000 prospective maths undergraduates inviting them to complete a survey. The responses from over 1,000 students are currently being analysed by [the team](#).

Early in 2025 we will be inviting those students to tell us about their early experiences of maths at university. This will help us understand who manages this transition well and how future students can be better informed and supported.

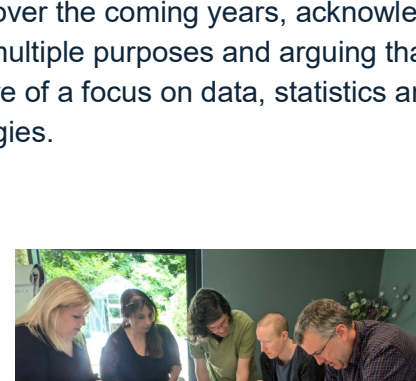


The Observatory data lab is operational

Our secure data lab is up and running. Observatory researchers, accredited by the Office for National Statistics, are using this specially-designed space to securely access national administrative datasets and explore important questions about learner trajectories and outcomes, both within their education careers and later on in their work and lives.

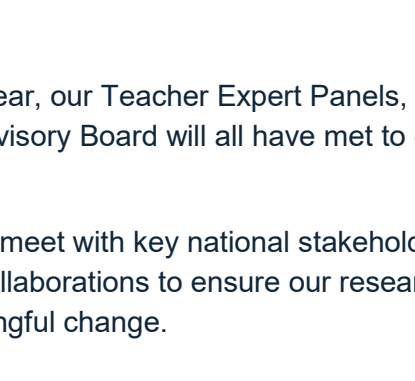
The team are analysing multiple student cohorts, following each from the start of primary school, through secondary, further and higher education and into work. The National Pupil Database, Longitudinal Educational Outcomes and the Higher Education Statistics Agency datasets are tremendous resources that can be used to explore a wide range of interesting questions.

Watch this space!



Other news

The Observatory Director, Professor Andy Noyes, was one of the authors of a major report from the Royal Society: [A new approach to mathematical and data education](#). This landmark report sets out a vision for mathematical education over the coming years, acknowledging that school mathematics has multiple purposes and arguing that the curriculum should include more of a focus on data, statistics and the use of digital tools and technologies.



Looking ahead and future plans

In addition to the trend analyses and cohort studies, the Observatory will continue to work on other projects, including the [Mastering Maths](#) and [Counting Collections](#) trials, both funded by the Education Endowment Fund, and an evaluation for the U-Maths network of University Maths Schools.

By the end of the year, our Teacher Expert Panels, Research Expert Panel and Strategic Advisory Board will all have met to discuss plans for 2024-25.

We will continue to meet with key national stakeholders and build new connections and collaborations to ensure our research is used to inform positive and meaningful change.

Observatory for Mathematical Education
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