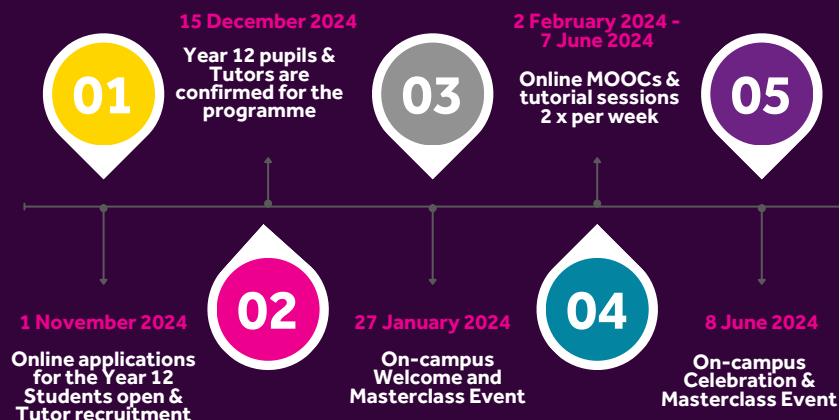


Overview

The University of Manchester inaugurated the [mA*ths Online Programme](#) as the northern partner for the 2023/24 academic year on January 27, 2024. We've collaborated with Mathematics in Education and Industry (MEI) and Imperial College, London to create 50 places for Year 12 pupils from Greater Manchester and to support them reach their full academic potential in achieving A* / A at A-Level Maths. The programme is targeted at pupils from communities underrepresented in Higher Education and The University of Manchester strand of this project is funded by [HG Foundation](#).

Timeline



Year 12 Pupils: Eligibility criteria

To participate in this programme at Manchester, the applicant must:

- In Year 12 and studying their first year of A Levels, including A Level Maths;
- Have a home postcode in Greater Manchester;
- Have passed 8 GCSES;
- Have 6 of those GCSES graded 7 to 9, including GCSE Maths and Science (we asked for proof of this within the application form);
- Have a belief that they are capable of achieving Grade A or A* at Maths in their final A-Level exam, especially with the additional learning provided by this programme.



20 Schools/
Colleges



42 Year 12
Pupils



13 Tutors



14 Online
MOOCs



2 Masterclass
Events

mA*ths Online Programme

The online application period for Year 12 pupils commenced on November 1, 2023 and closed on December 4, 2023. Out of the 117 applications received, 48 successful applicants who met the eligibility criteria were notified on December 15, 2023. A priority has been given to those:

Priority participants	Number of selected pupils
From a POLAR 4 Q1 postcode	18
Who come from a school that has an IMD flag	23
Who are a Young Carer	1
Who are a refugee or in the process of seeking asylum	1
Who have 3 months or more experience of living in care	1
Have parents / carers who do not possess an undergraduate degree or higher degree from the UK or abroad	24
Have pupil premium or free school meals at secondary school	6

As of February 5, 2024, six applicants declined their place in the programme, and one was withdrawn.

Tutor recruitment

A total of 13 current students at the University of Manchester were recruited to work as a tutor/ mentor at the programme and deliver 2 on-campus events and 14 online tutorial sessions.

The Year 12 pupils were divided into two groups, each with two assigned tutors, and collectively, the groups collaboratively decided on their preferred schedule for the two weekly tutorial sessions. which will be conducted through [Integral](#). Additionally, to ensure continuous support, three tutors will be designated as backup tutors throughout the program.

Masterclass

As part of the programme, the tutors and the Year 12 pupils were invited to a compulsory welcome and masterclass event on January 27th. A total of 40 Year 12 students, 13 tutors, 4 student ambassadors and 5 staff members (including MEI University Sector Leads) attended the event. The event was organised through the following [timetable](#) and [presentation](#).

Year 12 pupils were requested to share their insights through [a brief survey](#), inquiring about their expectations for the program and their feedback on the masterclass event.

Survey findings

A total of 37 responses were gathered from the survey and its findings provide valuable perspectives for enhancing the Programme.

Why did the Year 12 students apply for the programme?

- To get an A* - To develop and enhance knowledge on mathematics and mathematical skills - 41%
- To gain confidence in solving complex mathematical problems - 16%
- To gain a new insight into maths and some extra support with my maths at A level - 13%
- To improve my personal statement and CV - 11%
- For a great experience and opportunity - 10%
- Recommendation from teachers/ family/ friends - 8%



4.46 out 5 rating on how they found the Masterclass event overall

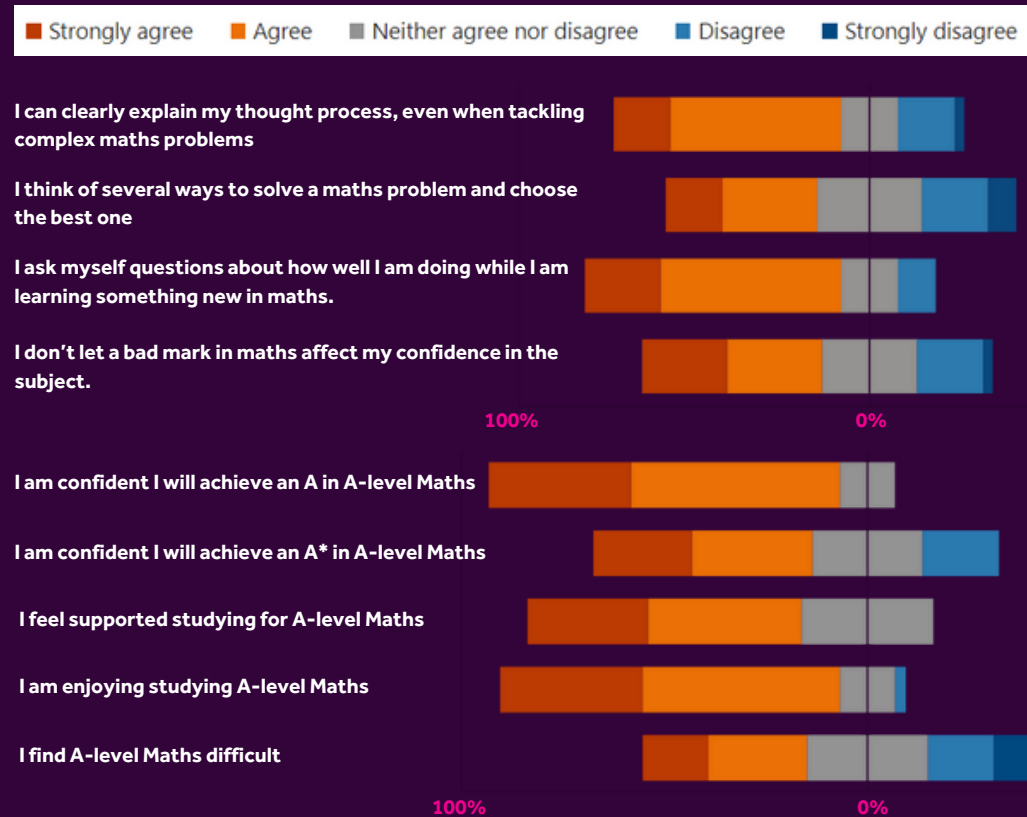
What did they most enjoy about the masterclass on January 27th?

- The workshops (Coordinate geometry & Quadratics) - 16
- Networking and socialising - 8
- Support from the tutors and the lecturers - 6
- Learning that there are multiple solutions to the same problem - 4
- The icebreakers - 3

mA*ths Online Programme

Survey findings continued

We asked the pupils how strongly they agree or disagree with the following statements to gather insights into their current level of confidence in Maths.



Anything the tutees would like to change about the masterclass?

1. Shorter duration/ Longer duration
2. More challenging and niche questions
3. Not as fast paced, a bit more time to work through questions.

Final comments

- "Everyone was lovely", "It was very helpful"
- "I'm looking forward to this course, and I hope it'll help me achieve the grade I need."
- "Lets get that A*!!!"