

CORE MATHS

Preparing young people for their transition to adulthood, further study and the jobs market

Christine McInnes, Director of Education at KCC wrote in Kelsi weekly update on 21 January 2022:

'The very poor levels of financial literacy in the UK adult population is well documented and summarised in this [FT article](#) , so this work is of real interest to KCC as we consider how we can strengthen maths across the county to better prepare children and young people in their transition to adulthood and the jobs market.'

Well, it might be that we already have an answer to this problem in the shape of Core Maths. Core Maths is a relatively new qualification that was first taught in 2014, and first examined in 2016, as a contribution towards achieving the UK government's policy objective of substantially increasing post-16 mathematics participation at Level 3 in England. Participation in post-16 mathematics in England is known to be much lower than that in other developed countries, despite recognition that mathematical skills and confidence are important for study, life, work and society.

Core Maths focuses on real-world contexts and financial topics, and is perceived to be more relevant to work, life and future study than GCSE and A level mathematics courses. Personal finance aspects of the course will help students in the future when dealing with mortgages, tax and loans in their own lives and enable them to view the world with a more critical eye. Importantly, Core Maths has also been designed to support the study of the mathematical content of other subjects with a quantitative component (both at level 3 and beyond) such as Psychology, Geography, Biology and Business Studies.

There is no doubt that most students who have chosen not to study A level mathematics would benefit from studying Core Maths after completing their GCSE. Support for introducing Core Maths at your school, or for developing your teaching of the course if you already offer this pathway, is plentiful.

This year, the Kent & Medway Maths Hub (in partnership with the AMSP and NCETM) will offer two funded Core Maths work groups to develop this teaching (with no cost for participation):

Core Maths **New to Core Maths**

Complete our Google form to register your interest [here](#)
For further support, the full AMSP offer can be viewed [here](#), with a helpful guide to selecting the most appropriate professional development course for you [here](#). Or please contact [John Heffernan](#), Assistant Maths Hub Lead, Post-16.