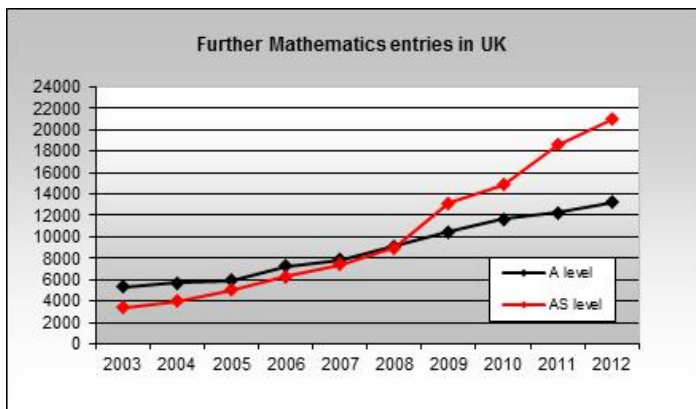# Further Mathematics Briefing for Higher Education

The number of students taking A and AS level Further Mathematics in the UK continues to increase quickly.

In 2012 more Mathematics and Further Mathematics A levels were awarded than ever before.

The number of students taking A level Further Mathematics has more than doubled since 2003.

The number taking AS Further Mathematics has risen even more sharply.

The table shows the entries in the UK for A/AS level Mathematics and Further Mathematics for 2012

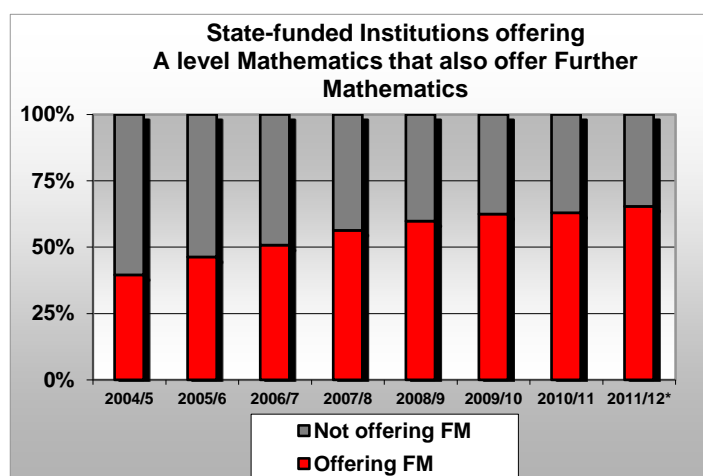| Qualification	Entries in 2012	Entries in 2011	Entries in 2003	% increase since 2011	% increase since 2003
A level Mathematics	85 714	82 995	50602	3.3%	69%
A level Further Mathematics	13 223	12 287	5315	7.6%	149%
AS level Mathematics	148 550	141 392	63841	5.1%	133%
AS level Further Mathematics	20 954	18 555	3371	12.9%	522%

(data source: JCQ)

A number of factors have contributed to the rise in entries for A/AS Further Mathematics

- **Two thirds of state funded schools/colleges now offer Further Mathematics courses.**
  In 2004/5 less than 40% of the state-funded A level Mathematics providers in England had students taking A level Further Mathematics. In 2011/12 this proportion had grown to 65%.

- **Promotion of level 3 mathematics courses through careers presentations and enrichment events aimed at GCSE students.**
  Last year the FMSP organised 60 enrichment events for 14-18 year olds together with a large number of school based visits and events.

- **Increasing awareness of students and their teachers that Further Mathematics is an essential or desirable subject for progression to Mathematics, Engineering, Physics and other STEM degree courses.** Information provided on university websites and at HE open days encouraging the study of A/AS Further Mathematics helps to convince students and school leaders of the need for it.