

## **Core Mathematics Consultation: Response from the University of Cambridge**

**25 May 2014**

The University of Cambridge offers a number of undergraduate degree programmes for which a Level 3 mathematics qualification is either essential or desirable. We also find that a significant proportion of those admitted to subjects with no such requirement still hold A-level or AS-level Mathematics. Whilst this may not be a formal requirement for admission to such programmes, we nonetheless recognise the benefits that holding a mathematics qualification can have for students of any discipline.

We do not, however, regard Core Mathematics as a suitable substitute for AS-level Mathematics, and would consider it unfortunate should students be advised otherwise. We are concerned that those schools which are under pressure to make the most of finite resources - and consequently taking difficult decisions about which qualifications to offer beyond a core three linear A-levels - may find themselves doing exactly that. We are also concerned that teaching resource may in some schools be diverted away from valuable subjects such as A or AS Level Further Mathematics in order to teach this new qualification.

We hope that in introducing a qualification designed to ensure that all students leave school with a greater level of basic mathematical competency the government does not inadvertently undermine the level of mathematics amongst those who have the ability to stretch themselves further.