

The Royal Statistical Society comments on the Chancellor's Budget announcement for maths education

Embargo: Immediate

The Royal Statistical Society (RSS) welcomes the Chancellor's announcement, in today's Budget, of a £600 incentive for schools for each student who decides to take up Maths or Further Maths A-levels or Core Maths, as recommended in the Smith Review.

On the announcement in today's Budget, Hetan Shah, Executive Director of the Royal Statistical Society, commented:

"We are pleased to see the Government has taken on board RSS and Smith Review recommendations and announced new incentives for the provision of post-16 mathematics qualifications. The RSS has long campaigned for a boost in support for mathematical study throughout students' time in education. In England, participation in Maths and Further Maths A-levels, as well as uptake of the new A-level Statistics, and Core Maths, are particularly important to us.

This spending decision should help to upskill the nation, narrow the gap with our economic competitors and address some of the skills shortages facing our data-driven industries - which are increasingly important to the British economy as a whole. For these very reasons, in fact, we would have welcomed A-level Statistics - as well as Mathematics - being included in the Chancellor's announcement today.

We will write to him shortly to suggest that the Government should include Statistics within this very welcome initiative."

The Royal Statistical Society is in favour of increasing participation in mathematical and statistical education. As stated in [our response](#) to the Smith Review, everyone needs to be able to use and interpret statistical information, to benefit their studies (regardless of subject), their everyday lives, their engagement in the democratic process, and their future careers. This will benefit the economy, wider society and the individual.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. For more information, contact Mags Wiley, RSS Press & Policy Officer, on 020 7614 3920 or at m.wiley@rss.org.uk



2. The Royal Statistical Society (RSS) founded in 1834 is one of the world's most distinguished and renowned statistical societies. It is a learned society for statistics, a professional body for statisticians and a charity which promotes statistics, data and evidence for the public good. Today the Society has over 8000 members around the world. Our Data Manifesto sets out our recommendations to government in ten key policy areas. www.rss.org.uk [@RoyalStatSoc](https://twitter.com/RoyalStatSoc)

3. The Royal Statistical Society (RSS) reissued its [Data Manifesto](#) for government in September 2016. In it, we call for the Government to prepare for the data economy by skilling up the nation.

