



**THE OPEN  
SCHOOL**

## A student story

# Ethan

Ethan is a high prior attaining student who has always attended well, worked hard and achieved. With a supportive family and high aspirations, he is a great communicator and is confident in his academic ability. Ethan is a very high achiever amongst his peers and needs to be exposed to experiences that broaden his horizons and challenge his thinking.



This student has been provided with access to A Level further maths to compliment his A Levels. It is not available in his Sixth Form currently. Further maths is delivered through Open Schools by two teachers who are located in two different Sixth Forms. All lessons are accessed asynchronously, supplemented with live Teams seminars weekly. Ethan has also been provided with additional online learning through a remote EPQ package and the Aspire platform to assist planning for his next steps. This broader learning package has been provided for Ethan to support his pathway to university, raise aspirations beyond the confines of his

lived experience and to stimulate his passion for learning. Ethan has been supported by his two further maths teachers. He feels he has benefitted from their different teaching styles, their vast wealth of subject knowledge and the small group seminars where he has been able to ask lots of questions and explore concepts beyond the limits of the curriculum. He has achieved A\* in his assessments and feels this more flexible way of working is helping him to learn at his own pace and receive a more bespoke offer. Ethan has been able to attend half-termly face to face meetings with his teachers which has helped to build trust and engagement. These sessions have been fun and collaborative. Ethan is also grateful that he has a Head of Sixth Form and pastoral support at his own Sixth Form because these staff help him to feel connected. He is able to ask questions if there are any issues with access to the remote aspects of his learning through Open School.

Ethan has been able to sustain an A\* and strong attendance throughout the course. He feels inspired by Further Maths. Studying through Open Schools has made him feel more confident in learning independently and remotely and he feels it is a privilege to learn in this way. He reports that his problem solving skills and resilience have increased and he feels well prepared for university. Due to Open School, Ethan now feels slightly more confused about the future. His options are broader than he thought before he started and there is more choice of pathways for the future. He is hopeful that with ongoing support he will be able to plan his next steps. He still has plenty of time to make decisions.