Edward joined the UAS module in Oxford in 2004, supporting the Mathematics department at the Peers School; a mixed comprehensive school serving around 900 students aged 12 to 18. After spending some time visiting the school and getting to know the staff and students, Edward led a weekly class with a group of year ten students, aiming to help them to reach their potential in their Mathematics GCSEs.

Edward developed a series of lessons, structured around investigations and ‘real-world’ mathematical problems, and led the class through the early stages of the mathematical toolkit that they needed to solve these problems for themselves. The highlight of the course was a visit that he arranged for the students to Oxford University, where they took part in a series of exercises and discussions to explore mathematics in the real world, touching on mathematics in science, technology and history, in addition to perspectives on pursuing the subject through study and careers beyond the school classroom.

Completing the module in the final year of his Mathematics degree, Edward graduated from Oxford University to join McKinsey & Company as a strategy consultant, based in London from September 2005.

Edward commented: “The UAS module provided a unique opportunity for me to broaden my skills in a diverse range of contexts. Learning to communicate mathematical concepts to a variety of audiences, and to work with both teachers and students, provided a fascinating mixture of challenging experiences. Through building close relationships with the school, I gained an insight into teacher training, mathematics education, and working with students to help them to achieve their potential.

Interpersonal and communication skills are at the very heart of the UAS project, and throughout the module I was able to develop in these areas. The flexibility built into the course provided a remarkable breadth of opportunity to stretch myself in new directions, and to identify how I could best support the ongoing work of the school. For me, the climax of the module was the opportunity to organise a school visit to Oxford University, providing an exciting case study in project management, and learning to cope with the unexpected!

Above all, I began the UAS module quite uncertain about teacher training, and I have left it more enthusiastic than ever about this field. Along the way, I’ve truly enjoyed an unforgettable set of learning experiences that are sure to help me throughout my future career.”

For further information go to the UAS website at www.uas.ac.uk or call Sharon Herkes on 0795 228 5304 or Dr Alex Brabbs on 01904 641488