

I've seen the same phenomenon play out in boardrooms, government committees, real estate auctions, engineering project teams – every situation, in fact, where human beings make hard decisions that come down to numbers.

Balance sheets. Betting odds. Budget papers. Blood test results. **Whatever the numbers, it's the mathematicians who know how to put them to work.**

They're not just bullet-proof in the face of faulty analysis. With mathematics on your side, you read the patterns that others just fail to see. And you tend to see much further, and faster, as a result.

Every smart leader makes a good friend of a great mathematician (assuming, of course, that the mathematicians themselves aren't running the show).

The power of mathematics is nothing new. Mathematicians have been winning wars, fighting crime, building cities, tackling epidemics and driving research – not to mention getting rich – for quite some time.

The fact remains, they have never been more vital than they are today, in the data-hungry world their skills brought about.

We know that the days when a particular degree led to a predictable career are long gone.