

Core Subjects

These subjects are compulsory and therefore studied by everyone – they are no choices to be made from this section – the information is included to help you to understand what your programme of courses will look like overall.

Course Title: GCSE Mathematics

Awarding Body: OCR

Further information available from: Mr Brown

Mathematics is an exciting and vibrant subject. As well as leading directly to many higher-level qualifications and careers, skills such as problem-solving, creative thinking and organised working are relevant to almost every walk of life.

All students in Years 10 and 11 study for a GCSE in Mathematics. The course is delivered by an experienced team of specialist maths teachers, and takes in a wide range of topics from the areas of number, algebra, geometry, proportion, statistics and probability.

Students are grouped in sets according to ability, knowledge and curriculum needs. The topics studied in each set are a mixture of consolidating previous learning and introducing new skills, so that students maximise their progress and confidence in the subject. Students are moved between sets where evidence from GCSE assessments and teacher observation suggest that work in an alternative set would be better suited to the individual student.

Assessment is by three written papers at the end of Year 11: one non-calculator and two calculator. (There is no coursework component. All work is exam-based.)

There are two tiers of entry:

- Higher Tier - leading to GCSE grades 4 to 9
- Foundation Tier - leading to GCSE grades 1 to 5

The Mathematics Department will select the most appropriate tier of entry for each student during Year 11.

It is essential that all students have their own scientific calculator and basic mathematics equipment (pen, pencil and ruler) for every lesson, so that they are able to fully participate in the learning taking place.

The key to success in Mathematics is small amounts of regular practice of challenging topics. The students who make the most progress are those who make the most of their valuable lesson time, make full use of the opportunities for independent study outside school, and seek out their teacher for extra help with any problems.