

Mathematics

(Compulsory Subject - GCSE)

What will I learn about?

We use Mathematics to explain and understand the world we live in and to make predictions about what will happen in the future. Mathematics is a problem-solving tool that allows us to develop an understanding of all things in the world in which we live.

You will continue to build on the skills learnt at Key Stage 3 covering number, algebra, shape and space and handling data in more detail. You will learn new skills and techniques in these areas, and then apply them in practical situations to see how mathematics solves real life problems. There is now a much greater emphasis in the assessment of Mathematics in its use in real life scenarios.

How is the course structured?

All students will follow a scheme of work designed to cater for their individual needs and rates of progression. Students will study Number, Algebra, Shape and Space (Geometry), Probability, Applying Mathematics (Problem Solving), Ratio and Proportion.

All students will be entered for their Mathematics GCSE at the end of Year 11, as we follow a linear specification.

How will my work be assessed?

There are two main ways that students' work is assessed:

Internally - Mathematics teachers feedback to students on their progress by marking homework, mock assessments and offering supportive advice in preparation for examinations. This support will help you to achieve your target grade in Mathematics.

Externally - students will sit a full GCSE examination at the end of Year 11. There are 3 x 1 hour 30 minutes assessments, all carrying equal weighting. Paper 1 will be a non-calculator exam. Papers 2 & 3 will require a scientific calculator.

Students will be entered at either Higher or Foundation Tier in line with the new grading system:

Higher Tier (9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4) or Foundation Tier (5, 4, 3, 2, 1) based on their Year 9 performance and teacher assessment.

What can this qualification lead to?

Many careers and higher education courses have previously asked for a GCSE at Grade C or above in Mathematics as it demonstrates a basic level of competence in working with numbers and problem solving. The new Maths GCSE grading system will set a new Grade 4 at the equivalent to a current Grade C but most establishments acknowledge that a new grade 5 will be the benchmark. A Mathematics GCSE, along with an English GCSE, is a crucial qualification for students' progression after Year 11.