

The Mathematics department

The Mathematics department is outstanding, routinely producing excellent results for all students. Progress in GCSE Mathematics has been upper quartile for the last three years, with 82% of students achieving grades 4 or above at GCSE in 2019. In the pandemic in 2020 the awarded grades were similarly 82% at grade 4 or above. The department is characterised by collaboration, mutual support and good humour. Mathematics is extremely popular with students. It is the most popular A Level subject in the school and students universally speak highly of their Maths teachers and of the department.

The curriculum

Lessons are 60 minutes in length. There are 5 lessons per day. The college operates a ten-day timetable.

Key Stage 4

The Key Stage 3 curriculum is completed by the end of Year 8 in our partner middle schools, with whom we have a very close working relationship. This enables us to start delivering the GCSE in Year 9. In Year 9, there are 8 classes each of which has 5 lessons of mathematics per cycle. Students are set by ability for the top 2 sets together with 2 mixed-ability classes in half year group blocks. All students follow the AQA GCSE 9-1 course.

When students move into Year 10, we add two groups, meaning that each half year group is divided into 5 classes, each of which have 7 lessons per cycle.

Key Stage 5

There are three groups of A level Mathematics students and a group of Further Mathematicians in both the Lower and the Upper Sixth.

Mathematics is a very popular A level subject and has consistently good results, with many students studying mathematics or related degrees. In 2019 89% of Maths A level students achieved grades A* - C. Of the Further Maths A level students 100% achieved grades A* - A. In 2020 the awarded grades were similar with Maths 86% at A* - C and Further Maths 100% at A*.

Accommodation and resources

Mathematics is taught in the department's purpose built block which has recently been extended to provide six specialist Maths rooms, meaning that all members of the department have their own teaching room. The department has its own trolley of 14 laptops with wireless connectivity. All rooms have a data projector and there is also an interactive whiteboard. The department capitation is generous.

Extra-curricular activities

Students take part in the Senior and Intermediate Mathematics Challenges. The department also runs clubs, catch up sessions and revision workshops throughout the year.

The post

This vacancy arises because our current Head of Maths, Rowena Bowles, who has led the department since 2009 is retiring at the end of the year. The successful candidate will inherit a really harmonious, well-organised and tremendously successful department of well-qualified, experienced specialist staff and will be supported by the equivalent of two Seconds in Department.