



# HANLEY CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

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## Mathematics Faculty Overview

The mathematics team has varying degrees of experience and areas of expertise but are united in our common goal to achieve the best possible outcomes for all students - regardless of their prior attainment - while also enabling them to truly understand and appreciate the beauty of the subject, its rich diversity and its ever-increasing relevance in our lives and our society. We have established five guiding principles for our work:

### **High expectations**

We reject the idea that a large proportion of people 'just can't do maths'. Effort and belief lead to success. Everyone can make progress in mathematics.

### **Deep thinkers**

Mathematics is not a set of rules or procedures to be learnt. Doing mathematics involves searching for patterns, describing what you see, and thinking deeply about the connections between concepts.

### **Developing mastery**

Key learning points in mathematics are studied in depth. Those who grasp concepts quickly are challenged through rich and sophisticated problems. Those who are not yet fluent are given more time to consolidate understanding before moving on.

### **Resilient learners**

Mathematics provides challenges that knock you off balance and force you to think. The ability to recover quickly from difficulties is a valuable skill for life.

### **Understanding mathematics**

Mathematics is about much more than just an examination grade. Capabilities in problem-solving and reasoning are developed alongside highly relevant and important skills.

Students are grouped broadly according to their Key Stage 2 data and provided with the support and challenge necessary for them to make appropriate progress. The schemes of learning are arranged into two pathways, ultimately working towards either the Higher or Foundation tier at the end of Year 11.

Student numbers at A Level are healthy, and most members of the mathematics team are involved in sixth form teaching. We currently have more than fifty students studying for Mathematics A Level, including ten who are studying Further Mathematics.

Teaching takes place in seven dedicated classrooms. Computer rooms or laptops can be booked in order to allow students to access relevant websites and software that can be used to enhance learning in the subject. Teachers currently have access to JustMaths, Kangaroo Maths, MathsPad, Integral, Mathsbox and Autograph. Students use the Sparx Maths platform for homework.

We are a hard-working team of people who readily support each other within a whole-school ethos of classroom excellence and innovation. This is a school where every student is known as an individual, both in the classroom and through our excellent pastoral system.