



Bartholomew School

Mathematics Department

The Department

The Maths Department at Bartholomew School is a strong and successful team of nine full-time, and one part time teachers, all of whom are experienced staff. The team is committed to the teaching of Mathematics, developing mathematical thinking in all students and raising standards. The department meets regularly to share good practice

Aims of the Department

At Bartholomew we aim to make learning maths an enjoyable experience. We would hope to provide the students with a warm, friendly and orderly classroom atmosphere - an environment which will make a significant difference to their motivation and overall achievement in maths. To help us and the students reach their full potential, staff will always attempt to make mathematics challenging and demand high standards of work from all our students.

Students are set in ability groups from Year 7 and this setting is monitored regularly to ensure that the students are correctly set at all times. Whatever grouping the students are in, the key feature of the way Mathematics is taught is that the whole class and year group work together on a common theme. In class, as well as learning Mathematical knowledge, the students are encouraged to develop their problem solving, communication, visualisation and logical thinking skills. The students will also look at the application of Mathematics to everyday life.

ICT plays an important role within the department, with each maths classroom enjoying the use of interactive whiteboards. These boards enable teachers to use a range of interesting software and offer the opportunity for teachers to develop different teaching styles, all of which enhance the opportunities for our students. Students are also given the opportunity to develop their own use of technology, but at the same time we do not want to encourage a reliance on technology - mental strategies are given a high level of importance.

At KS3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) we follow a course that we have developed to suit the needs of all our students. At KS4 (Years 10 and 11) we follow the Edexcel GCSE Specification using in-house resources which enables us to enter students into the final examination at the correct level for their needs.

At KS5, students study the Edexcel A level Maths specification; which includes Pure, Statistics and Mechanics. We also offer Further Mathematics to our more able students, which awards two full A levels over the two year course. We also offer Level 3 Core Maths to support Sixth Form students in their other subjects.

Outside of lessons, teachers give a lot of time to support students. There is a twice weekly afterschool 'clinic' for both KS3/4 and KS5 students. Teachers in the department are often also available during break and lunch times to assist if students are struggling with any aspect of their maths work.

Each year students are encouraged to take part in the UK Maths Challenge. In the past students have had great success in this event and some of our students have even progressed to the European level of the competition.