

THE OAKWOOD MATHEMATICS FACULTY INFORMATION SHEET

Oakwood School has a dedicated Mathematics Faculty who embrace new ideas with excitement and enthusiasm. The faculty is comprised of 11 teachers, 2 of whom are part time, and 2 dedicated Maths teaching assistants.

The faculty occupies a suite of 10 classrooms with interactive screens in each of the classrooms. 5 of these classrooms are situated within a newly built area of the school providing a modern learning environment for students. Additionally, there is a Maths resource/workroom within the main teaching block. Our Maths teaching assistants also have access to a small group intervention room. There is easy access from the Maths faculty to a range of ICT suites where students use a various online resources including GeoGebra, Desmos, Mathswatch and Mymaths.

Each member of the faculty is encouraged to teach in a style that suits them. This variety of different teaching styles encourages a collaborative approach within the team towards sharing ideas and planning which can all be used to promote an engaging learning environment. We have designated planning time as a faculty once a week in which to further encourage a collaborative approach towards lesson planning and resource sharing. A key focus over the last year has been developing the use of diagnostic questions to assess students understanding within lessons and to aid the delivery of differentiated lessons alongside investigating the use of variation theory when planning resources for students to use in lessons.

We have a strong emphasis on developing problem-solving skills within the department with students encouraged to try out their ideas, share their ideas with other students and be critical thinkers who always strive to understand the reasons why something works.

Students joining Oakwood in Year 7 are taught in their tutor groups until half term. They are then grouped according to their ability and taught in ability sets all throughout the rest of their school career. In KS4 we follow the AQA 1 – 9 linear exam board specification although we encourage our students to think of Maths as a 5 year GCSE course.

We have strong links with our Primary feeder schools. Prior to the pandemic, we offered problem-solving days for Year 2 and Year 6 students which were always well attended. These are something which we are keen to restart during this academic year. During the last academic year, we appointed a Key Stage 3 coordinator who will be looking to further enhance the links between Oakwood and our feeder primary schools.

We participate in the UK Mathematical Challenges run by the University of Leeds. Years 7 and 8 enter at Junior Level and Years 9 and 10 enter at Intermediate Level and each year sees an increase in the number of successful students. Furthermore, selected students from all year groups have opportunities to undertake Maths mastery class events at the University of Surrey.

We have successfully introduced several ECTs to the Faculty and the teaching profession over the past years and we support the structured induction programme for all new staff by a mentoring system. We also benefit from our links with Brighton University and enjoy the experience of working with initial teacher trainees via a variety of different training routes. All staff review their own professional development and regularly participate in and contribute to in-service training.

We are looking for a highly motivated and talented teacher who can further develop Maths into one of the leading subjects in the school.