



Maths Department Information

Introduction to the Department

The Maths team currently comprises six full-time and four part-time Maths specialist teachers with responsibility for teaching Years 7 to 13 including Further Maths A-level. Some dedicated teaching assistants, who have been trained by the Department to deliver intervention to year 7 students in addition to providing classroom support, also support the team. The Director of Maths is supported by two TLR post holders, the deputy subject leader responsible for KS3 and a KS5 coordinator. As a team we have a wealth of experience teaching across the age range, we are supportive of each other and enthusiastic about teaching our subject. The Maths Department actively participates in UKMT Challenge events at all levels and is well represented at Wiltshire enrichment events.

Teaching

KS3

In Year 7, students are taught in mixed ability groups following a bespoke 'mastery' scheme of work, which allows students to explore multiple methods and representations, to provide them with a toolkit of problem-solving strategies. They are initially tested on their working mathematical knowledge which allows teachers to understand the dynamics of each group and to inform of suitable assessments throughout the year. Using this initial assessment and subsequent assessments throughout year 7, alongside KS2 and CATs data, students are then put into sets from year 8 onwards. Year 7 students have 6 maths lessons per fortnight.

In Years 8 and 9, the mastery approach taken in Year 7 has been extended. Students are formally assessed at three points throughout the year and are constantly monitored to ensure set changes happen when necessary. Year 8 and 9 students have 6 and 7 maths lessons per fortnight respectively.

KS4

All students complete a GCSE in Mathematics following AQA Linear specification 8300. KS4 pupils have 7 maths lessons per fortnight.

Sixth Form

A Level Maths regularly attracts a large number of students. Further Maths is also offered for a smaller, but viable group of enthusiastic mathematicians. Pupils follow the AQA specification.

Pupils have 9 maths lessons per fortnight, with two different teachers and are expected to study outside of lessons to help further their development and progress.

Learning Outside the Classroom – Enrichment Activities

The more able Mathematicians are given the chance to compete in the UKMT Maths Challenges at varying levels throughout their school career. Team events also occur during the academic year. After school Maths drop-in sessions occur throughout the year. These cater for a variety of pupils and their needs, whether they need help with homework, a pointer in the right direction to consolidate what has been studied in lessons, or they just want to come along for the interest and the challenge. We also have a STEM club and have run a racecourse trip for our year 7 intervention students, where they are able to see maths being used in real life. We also run trips to 'Maths inspiration' events.

Environment

The Maths Department teach in a new purpose-built Maths block with seven teaching rooms (officially opened June 2013), as well as in two extra classrooms next to the Maths block. All classrooms are fitted with projectors. The department is well resourced with textbooks, practical equipment and electronic materials. The use of ICT in lessons is very much encouraged. We subscribe to Mymaths, White Rose and Kerboodle.

The Maths Department is an enthusiastic and mutually supportive team with a healthy mix of experience and backgrounds. St Laurence is a school where induction arrangements are well established especially for staff new to the profession. The Maths team also provide placement opportunities for trainee teachers each year.

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