

Information on the Mathematics Department

The Mathematics Department consists of 12 teachers. It is led by the Subject leader and three members of staff, each coordinating a Key Stage within the department. The department is based in the main teaching block of the school, which includes classrooms as well as a departmental workroom.

This is an outstanding department, maintaining high standards at KS3, KS4 and A level. In 2019 the department achieved great success with 84% of pupils achieving grade 4 or above and 25% achieving grade 7 or above at GCSE. In the latest OFSTED inspection the quality of lessons taught within the department was judged to be outstanding and the results have shown the department's commitment to not only pupil attainment but also pupil progress. Pupils have very good attitudes and behaviour and the results at ages 14, 16 and 18 have been consistently above the national average.

Pupils are taught in two half-year groups in Year 7, and are placed into a top set, a support set, and then two mixed ability sets within each half-year. In Year 8 pupils are again taught in half-year groups, but are fully set based on ability within each half-year. There is good liaison between us and the feeder schools, with staff visiting the schools and gathering information on the new intake. In years 9-11 there are either 8 or 9 classes across a whole year group which are fully set based on ability. Good communication and tracking of progress does mean that setting is regularly reviewed, and pupils can move sets according to their progress. Each pupil receives seven hours of Mathematics lessons per two-week teaching cycle in Year 7, six hour in years 8 and 9, and eight hours per two-week teaching cycle in Years 10 and 11.

At KS3 we utilise a variety of resources to help and assist pupils in their learning. The department is fortunate to have many 'in-house' resources at its disposal and more and more we are utilising online resources. Our aim is to provide appropriate work and ensure that all are given the opportunity to explore Mathematics and reach their full potential. Pupils are encouraged to take part in events such as the UK Maths Challenge and to attend the Maths club.

At KS4 GCSE examinations are taken with Edexcel, using the GCSE 1-9 specification (1Ma1). GCSE teaching begins at the start of Year 10. The main textbook used is the Collins text specifically designed for the Edexcel two-tier examinations. The Top Set in Year 10 will also study the Edexcel Level 3 Algebra Award.

At AS and A level we have a large uptake of the subject. We follow the OCR Mathematics syllabus (H240) and also offer Further Maths with OCR (H245). This is a strong and high achieving area of the department of which we are very proud. We also offer an alternative to the A-Level with the AQA Level 3 Qualification in Mathematical Studies, allowing a different cohort to study Mathematics in Key Stage 5. In addition to this, sixth formers are offered the opportunity to retake GCSE Mathematics in order to improve their grade. This is targeted at those who did not achieve at least a Grade 4 at GCSE.

We subscribe to 'Hegarty Maths', the tasks are used as homework to encourage all pupils to review topics approximately 6 weeks after teaching and the 'Memri is used to raise the confidence and attainment of pupils.

As a department we are committed to serving the needs of all of our pupils and students. We are constantly striving to improve the provision we offer. There are weekly 'Maths Clinics' catered towards individual Year Groups where pupils and students can attend to catch up on work, ask for help with a solution to a problem or simply get on with homework. The department puts a lot of time into intervention work and offers afterschool Maths club for KS3 and support session in KS4 and KS5 as well as Peer Mentoring between pupils. We are keen to promote levels of numeracy, which OFSTED commented is a strength in the department, and so promote Mathematics across the curriculum.

The successful applicant will be joining a dedicated and friendly department who work together to provide the best Mathematical education possible. The department is committed to raising achievement across the whole ability range, and one in which innovation is welcome.