

GCSE MATHEMATICS

Course

Students will study Number, Algebra, Geometry and Statistics in a variety of contexts which will, at times, involve using skills from more than one topic area. The curriculum has changed because it needs to move forward with the demands of employers, universities and the global community. It will therefore include more functional, problem solving and investigative elements that can be applied in real life situations, rather than simply remembering how to do something.

Students will be presented with a problem and will have to select a mathematical strategy and decide how to use it. 40% of marks will be allocated to the recall and use of their Mathematics knowledge. Reasoning, interpreting and communicating Mathematically will account for 30% of marks. Interpreting and analysing problems, then generating a strategy to solve them, accounts for the remaining 30% of marks. Students are encouraged to develop confidence in Mathematics and to recognise the importance of Mathematics in their own lives and to society.

Assessment

The examination is available at two tiers of entry, higher and foundation. Each student will be entered at the tier most suited to his/her ability. There will be diagnostic assessments throughout Years 9 and 10 with the GCSE exam entry in June in Year 11.

Progression/Careers Information

A GCSE grade 5 or above in Mathematics opens many doors to successful careers and is a requirement for the majority of Post 16 courses/careers, particularly engineering and technical subjects at a higher level. Students can progress to the A-Level Mathematics Course at Sixth Form Colleges.