

Mathematics

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: OCR

Introduction

A fundamental aim of this course is to encourage students to develop a positive attitude to mathematics, and to appreciate the place of mathematics in society. Students will be able to apply mathematical concepts to situations arising in daily life. They will develop the skills necessary to take advantage of modern technology in the form of calculators and ICT.

Course content

The course builds on the mathematics studied at Key Stage 3, and is organised under the same general headings of Number and Algebra, Shape and Space, Data Handling, and Using and Applying mathematics.

Students will follow the course over two years. The most able students may be given the opportunity to complete the course in Year 10 and will also complete and Additional Maths GCSE qualification. If successful they will begin the A-level course in Year 11.

There are two tiers – Higher and Foundation. The grades available in each tier are E to A* (Higher) and G to C (Foundation).

Assessment

Unit examinations.

There are 3 unit examinations taken in January and June of Year 10 and June of Year 11. The Unit A exam lasts 1 hour, calculator permitted (25%); the Unit B exam lasts 1 hour, calculators not permitted (25%); the Unit C exam lasts for 1 hour 30 minutes, calculator permitted (50%). The three marks are combined to give an overall grade.

Each unit can be sat at either Higher or Foundation tier, with the opportunity to mix tiers or retake units.

Why study Mathematics?

Opportunities for further study and career pathways:

A GCSE in mathematics provides an essential basis for further study in the subject, and will also help students who wish to study other subjects such as the sciences, economics, and music. Anyone who studies mathematics seriously will find themselves developing transferable skills such as the ability to think clearly and logically, and most importantly, the ability to make connections and see relationships.

Institutes of further and higher education, and employers, like to see a GCSE in mathematics in a CV, as it indicates at the very least a reasonable level of numeracy and a high grade in the subject indicates skill in solving problems.

For further information contact:

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