

KS3 Mathematics

Course Outline:

The KS3 Mathematics course is designed to bridge the gap between primary school and GCSE, and aims to support students in developing the key skills that they will require when they begin their GCSE program in year 9. In particular, we focus on securing basic numeracy skills and developing students' problem solving skills. The scheme of learning runs over two years, with students studying a different topic each half term. Topics covered in years 7 are: Number Properties; Sequences & Graphs; Geometry; Fractions and Percentages; Symbols; and Data. The topics covered in year 8 are: Arithmetic; Transformations; Equations & Inequalities; Probability, Area, Perimeter & Volume; and Ratio & Proportion.



Assessment:

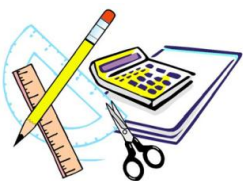
At KS3 we regularly assess students' progress. This is done in two ways.

1. Throughout each half term students complete three extended assessment tasks in lessons. The first is a teacher-assessment task, the second a peer-assessment task where students assess one another's progress and the third a self-assessment task where the students assess themselves. This allows the students to develop an understanding of what is required in each topic allowing them to become more independent understanding what they need to do to improve. After each of these tasks the teacher will review the students' progress, using their classwork, homework and assessment task and give them a teacher assessed level.
2. At the end of each half term students complete an in class test. This is a cumulative test and covers all of the topics the students have studied so far that year, thereby allowing the students to see what progress they have made.



Exams:

Students complete a one hour exam at the end of the year. This is a non-calculator paper and covers all of the topics covered so far.

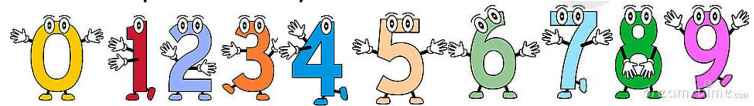


Key Dates in KS3:

Half-termly assessments are completed in the last lesson of each half term.
The end of year test is completed in July.

Top Tips:

- Practice! Practice! Practice!
- Create flashcards of key facts to stick around your bedroom.
- Bring your scientific calculator to every lesson.
- If you are stuck - ask! We run a maths help club every lunchtime in room 48!



Parents can help by:

Supporting your child with their homework, including helping them to use MyMaths. Homework is set once a week and should last around 30 to 40 minutes. Most teachers have a routine around when this is set.

Encourage your son/daughter to seek help with anything that they have found difficult.

IMPORTANT WEBSITES:

www.mymaths.co.uk

Login details are available to all students.

This is a subscription website containing online lessons and tasks for all of the topics covered at KS3.



GCSE Mathematics - Year 9

Examination board & syllabus: Edexcel Linear GCSE Mathematics (1MA0)

Course Outline:

The GCSE Mathematics course encourages the development of logical problem solving skills. Through the course students will learn to process and interpret a variety of information and apply their knowledge to planning and solving problems. We have decided to follow a linear course in order for all of our students to have more time to develop their mathematical skills in order to achieve their target grade.

All students began their GCSE course in Year 9.



Assessment:

Each group of students will work with their teacher to determine which tier of entry (Foundation or Higher) is most appropriate for them. Throughout the course students will be assessed regularly in order to set targets and ensure they are working toward their target grade.

- Foundation tier - they can achieve from Grade G to Grade C overall
- Higher tier - they can achieve from Grade D to Grade A* overall



Exams:

- All students will complete their GCSE in Year 11.
- In collaboration with class teachers students will be entered for their exams in either November or June, dependent on which route is best to support students.
- An internal end of year exam will be carried out in years 9 and 10 in June/July.



Key Dates:

Exam dates are currently unavailable for external exams.

Top Tips:

- Practice! Practice! Practice!
- Create flashcards of key facts to stick around your bedroom - the more you see something the more likely you are to remember
- Bring your scientific calculator to every lesson.
- If you are stuck - ASK! Come to the Maths office at break or lunchtime and any maths teacher will be more than happy to help you with any problems you have - it doesn't have to be your own teacher.
- Create a mind map of revision notes at the end of each half term to review your learning.



Parents can help by:

Encouraging your son/daughter to purchase (and use!) a revision guide. These are available from the Maths Office as either a book (£3) or CD-Rom (£4)

Supporting your child with their homework, including helping them to use MyMaths, and encouraging them to seek help if required.

IMPORTANT WEBSITES:

www.mymaths.co.uk

Login details are provided to students.

A subscription website that contains revision lessons and exercises on all topic areas.

EDEXCEL scheme - <http://www.edexcel.org.uk>

A database of past papers and mark schemes.

