Year 8 Options 2020

GCSE Mathematics

Examination Board: OCR
Course Specification: J560

What is GCSE Mathematics all about?

The qualification is designed to develop the broader mathematical skills of problem solving, reasoning and generalising. There will be opportunities for pupils not only to study traditional mathematical topics like Number, Geometry and Statistics but also how to use them in everyday life.

The course encourages learners to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards mathematics and to recognise the importance of mathematics in their own lives and to society. It also provides a strong mathematical foundation for learners who go on to study mathematics at a higher level, post-16.

Course Structure:

The course is allocated 8 periods every 2 weeks in Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11.

Details of course components:

You will study a wide range of topics from the four key areas of Mathematics of Number, Algebra, Shape and Statistics.

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE assessment is based in three written examinations in May/June of Year 11.

Foundation Tier

Grades 5 to 1*
3 x 1 hour 30 minute exam papers (two calculator and one non calculator)

Higher Tier

Grades 9 to 4*
3 x 1 hour 30 minute exam papers (two calculator and one non calculator)

* See separate document re the changes to the grading system nationally for Maths and English.
Grade 9 is highest grade, grade 7 equates to current A, Grade 5 to current C.

What could I do next with GCSE Mathematics?

You could study Mathematics or Further Mathematics at A Level or the Level 3 course, Core Maths. This is very useful as many universities and employers prefer applications from students who have studied Mathematics beyond GCSE.

Mathematics GCSE is highly valuable in the workplace, opening up opportunities for many different career paths such as architecture, banking and finance, business consultancy, engineering, game design, health and medicine, IT and computer science, psychology, science, teaching and many more.

This Maths course also encourages the development of characteristics valued by employers such as the ability to speculate and make decisions, work effectively with others, explain and prove ideas, communicate clearly, interpret, reflect on and solve problems.