

6 November 2017



Dear Parents/Carers

Mathematics GCSE

Following close scrutiny after the results of the summer GCSE Mathematics from the major exam boards, we have decided to move from Edexcel to the AQA specification in Maths. We would suggest that the question style lends itself more to our students and we have made this decision following analysis of mark allocation, consultation with other schools and external parties. It is important to note that the mathematical content remains the same.

We have already begun preparing students for the new specification and the forthcoming Pre Public Examinations (PPEs) will be based around the AQA specification. These PPEs are a crucial stage in preparing for the final exams. These exams provide a useful indication of where each student is currently working at and, more importantly, which areas require further intervention, learning and support. It also provides essential practice and experience in sitting a full GCSE exam before the actual exams are sat in May and June.

To help Year 11 students prepare for these PPEs and the final exams in the summer, we have purchased a revision guide, which we are currently distributing. Please could you check to see that your child has their guide and that they are using it. The guide is written specifically for the AQA course.

Your child will also have received an 'Arithmetic Challenge' learning pack. This will support them in developing times tables and quick mental maths; essential elements that can, if not secure, be a serious barrier to accessing some parts of the exam and the higher marks.

We would be grateful if you could support us by ensuring your child works through this and ensure they persevere with the areas they find more difficult.

We look forward to seeing you at our Year 11 Parents Evening on Thursday 7 December where we can discuss with you how your child performed in the November PPEs and what they need to do to fill in any missing knowledge.

We appreciate your continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

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