

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Welcome to the Mathematics Department. Mathematics is a core subject with every pupil completing a full GCSE in KS4. Pupils experience excellent teaching from an enthusiastic mathematics team. Pupils experience challenge during their lessons and are encouraged to look beyond the classroom and apply the maths in context.

The department structure currently includes: a Subject Leader, a 2iC KS4/Numeracy Co-Ordinator, a KS3 Co-Ordinator and eight other teachers who teach mathematics

There is a strong culture of academic success in the department. We achieve consistently strong results and are always reflecting on our practice to see where we can make further improvements. Our most recent GCSE exam results are shown below:

2022: 89% 9-4, 81% 9-5; 37% 7+

2021 TAGs: 93% 9-4, 77% 9-5; 33% 7+

2020 CAGs: 90% 9-4, 73% 9-5; 31% 7+

2019: 83% 9-4, 65% 9-5; 28% 7+

2018: 87% 9-4, 65% 9-5; 26% 7+

2017: 83% 9-4; 55% 9-5; 24% 7+

In September 2020 we introduced a new approach to mathematics by incorporating and developing teaching for mastery ideas into our practice. The use of the phrase “teaching for mastery” refers to the classroom concepts and approaches that best help pupils to “master” the mathematics they are taught. These concepts and approaches include incorporating a new KS3 scheme of work where concepts are looked at for longer and in more depth with the aim of pupils achieving a deeper, more connected, and more fluid understanding of the mathematics they are taught. More information on this approach is available on the school website.

Our belief is that all children can understand and succeed in mathematics. Each key stage 3 cohort has a booster class for pupils who find maths particularly challenging. In these lessons pupils focus on core topics which include the key numeracy concepts and skills. As part of our teaching for mastery approach, we have adapted the scheme of work further for these pupils to give them the time to really understand and practise key ideas that are required before moving onto further content.

As part of our teaching for mastery approach, pupils study similar mathematical concepts at the same time, regardless of their prior attainment. Support is provided through greater scaffolding. A core idea within teaching for mastery is that those pupils who grasp an idea quickly are not rushed on to new content, instead they cover the same content as all other pupils but are challenged further by exploring concepts in greater depth and given questions where they need to apply the ideas to new and unfamiliar problem-solving contexts.

Year 7

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12
Autumn	Algebraic Thinking				Place Value and Proportion							
	Sequences		Understand and use algebraic notation		Equality and equivalence		Place value and ordering integers and decimals			Fraction, decimal and percentage equivalence		
Spring	Applications of Number				Directed Number				Fractional Thinking			
	Solving problems with addition & subtraction		Solving problems with multiplication and division		Fractions & percentages of amounts		Operations and equations with directed number			Addition and subtraction of fractions		
Summer	Lines and Angles				Reasoning with Number							
	Constructing, measuring and using geometric notation		Developing geometric reasoning		Developing number sense		Sets and probability		Prime numbers and proof			

Year 8

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12
Autumn	Proportional Reasoning						Representations					
	Ratio and scale		Multiplicative change		Multiplying and dividing fractions		Working in the Cartesian plane			Representing data		Tables & Probability
Spring	Algebraic techniques						Developing Number					
	Brackets, equations and inequalities			Sequences		Indices	Fractions and percentages			Standard index form	Number sense	
Summer	Developing Geometry						Reasoning with Data					
	Angles in parallel lines and polygons			Area of trapezia and circles			Line symmetry and reflection		The data handling cycle			Measures of location

Pupils start studying for their GCSE mathematics exams at the start of Year 9. The course is split into two tiers: higher and foundation. The majority of pupils take the higher tier Edexcel exam series. A sample scheme of work overview for these pupils is shown below:

Year 9 Content	Year 10 Content	Year 11 Content
Unit 1. Number	Unit 10. Probability	Revision
Unit 2. Algebra	Unit 11. Multiplicative Reasoning	Unit 15. Equations and Graphs
Unit 3. Interpreting and Representing Data	Unit 9. Equations and Inequalities	Unit 19. Proportion and Graphs
Unit 4. Fractions, Ratio and Percentages	Unit 12. Similarity and Congruence	Revision
Unit 5. Angles and Trigonometry	Unit 13. More Trigonometry	Mocks round 1
Unit 6. Graphs	Unit 14. Further Statistics	Mocks round 2
Unit 7. Area and Volume	Unit 17. More Algebra	Response to mock, analysis, intervention and revision
Unit 8. Transformations and Constructions	Unit 16. Circle Theorems	
	Unit 18. Vectors and Geometric Proof	

For every unit studied, pupils are assessed using a mixture of class, homework and formal end of unit assessment. Pupils are provided with written feedback on success and areas for development and are given the opportunity to address any misconceptions.

Pupils will begin to sit full GCSE papers as mock examinations from the end of Year 10. Pupils are given detailed feedback of their performance after every mock exam series in Year 11 showing the areas of the course that each pupil needs to work on in order to progress.

Year 11 pupils receive a detailed QLA (question level analysis) that creates a bespoke revision guide for each pupil.

Pupils are given two pieces of homework per week in Maths. The department makes use of three websites for the majority of homework tasks. Year 7 pupils will utilise Times Table Rock Stars, alongside MathsWatch and Hegarty Maths. Years 8-11 pupils will receive a combination of online (MathsWatch and Hegarty Maths) and paper based homeworks. MathsWatch and Hegarty Maths contain support videos attached to the majority of questions. This allows pupils to access support and seek further explanation to support them with their work at home.

There are plenty of opportunities throughout the school year for pupils to utilise their maths skills outside of curriculum time. Pupils can engage with their love of the subject through UKMT Maths challenge team events and Maths enrichment activities, including maths clubs, Maths Week activities and trips.

There is also opportunity for extra support with their maths outside of lesson time through weekly interventions, and revision sessions as well as Prep Club plus to gain supported help with homework and drop in homework support sessions.

The maths classrooms all have access to computers or laptops and the majority of the department have their own classroom base. If you have any further questions regarding the department, please do contact Robert Jacobs, Assistant Principal and Subject Leader for Mathematics: mrjacobsr@strichardscc.com. We look forward to welcoming you to the department.