

# Key Stage 4 Options 2021

## Mathematics



# Why choose .....

Maths is a compulsory GCSE so all students must study it for GCSE.

Maths is an important GCSE and many post-16 options require you to have a good pass at maths GCSE. The majority of university courses look for at least 4 in GCSE maths. Not getting a 4 in these subjects might limit your chances of getting into university.

The majority of employers look for at least GCSE grade 4 in maths and it could be the difference between you getting the job or promotion you want or not. People with good GCSE grades in English and maths also earn approximately £2,000 pa more than those who don't.

If you don't get a 4 at Maths there is a legal requirement to keep re-sitting Maths either until you reach 18 or until you get the grade 4.

# Course Overview

The exam board for GCSE Mathematics is Pearson (Edexcel) and the specification code is 1MA1.

All mathematics courses follow the Key Stage 4 Mathematics Programme of Study and build upon techniques covered during Key Stage 3 in the core areas of Number; Algebra; Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change; Geometry and Measures; and Statistics and Probability as well as applying them to a wide variety of problem solving situations.

Students will study either Foundation tier or Higher Tier Mathematics. There is a greater emphasis on number, ratio, proportion and rates of change at the Foundation tier, while in the Higher Tier the emphasis is on Algebra as this is the vehicle for progression to A-Level Mathematics.

# Assessment

The Maths GCSE is 100% examination

At the end of the GCSE course all students will sit three written examinations of equal weighting; two calculator papers and one non-calculator paper.

A feature of the new GCSE Mathematics examinations is an emphasis on open-ended or multi-step questions, often set in a real-life context.

# What the most important thing to remember about GCSE Maths?

Students can make the most of their mathematical talents by making a sustained effort in class over the two years.

Maths is like playing a musical instrument, the more practice you do the better you will become.

Most students will find some aspects of the course challenging from time to time; the students that face up to the difficulties they encounter and seek assistance to overcome them are those who succeed.

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**For more information please speak to your Year 9 teacher  
or contact Mrs C Davies**

