



# Mathematics

## Groupings:

- Students in Year 9 are put into groups according to their Mathematical ability.
- At the end of each half term we review these groups and make any changes if necessary.

## Assessments:

- Your child will start their GCSE Course in September of Year 9.
- We will begin to use Sample Assessment Materials and an increasing number of past papers provided by Edexcel

## GCSE Mathematics

There are significant changes to GCSE Maths compared to pre 2017 that will affect this year group.

The key changes are:

- The **volume of subject content** has increased. (This is one reason for starting in Year 9)
- The **demand of that content** has increased, with harder topics introduced. This is true for both Foundation and Higher.
- The total time for the examination has increased, from 3½ hours to 4½ hours. All exams will be terminal.
- There are **fewer marks at the lower grades** and **more marks at the higher grades** at both Foundation and Higher Tier.
- A **new grading structure** has been introduced, from grades 9 to 1, to replace the familiar A\* to G grading scale.
- There is a **greater emphasis** on **problem solving** and **mathematical reasoning**, with more marks being allocated to these higher-order skills.
- Students are required to memorise formulae – **fewer formulae will be provided in examinations.**

We are currently planning to follow the Edexcel Linear Mathematics (9-1) course, although a review of the most suitable exam board is being undertaken and we may decide that a different exam board meets our needs better.

**Examinations:** June 2020

To support your child we will keep up to date with all changes and ensure that students are familiar with the new types of questions.

New published resources such as textbooks and online resources have been evaluated and purchased.

Students are set weekly homework via Show My Homework , we also use a program called “Mathswatch” as well as more traditional paper activities. There will be greater emphasis on exam type questions as we move through into Year 10 and 11.

Students will also be given access to The PiXL Maths App. This will enable them to improve their skills in a fun and engaging way that will challenge them at an individual appropriate level.

PiXL Maths App - <https://mathsapp.pixl.org.uk/>