



16<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

## Maths Newsletter June 2023

I hope you had a restful half term break and are ready for the challenges facing us over the next few weeks. I am writing to address a number of common questions that have come up within the Maths Department recently.

### Maths Groups

With Year Groups moving up after the half term break and a new timetable for staff as well as students, we have shuffled Maths groups around which may have resulted in a change in teacher. Ideally, we would like students to stay with the same teacher all the way through to the end of Year 11. The research shows that stability and relationships built and sustained over a longer period has positive impacts on progress. This is not always possible for various reasons. We have a few teething problems but we continue to work on making improvements and this will become easier once our teaching assistants are back in lessons after the Year 11 Exams come to an end.

### Personalised Learning Checklists (PLCs)

Over the next term, we will be moving towards a new assessment framework in Maths. At the end of a unit, your child will write a short PLC check task that will provide the opportunity to reflect on what they know and what they need to work on. The document breaks the unit into subsections which are then RAG rated (Red, Amber and Green). Red are areas they are weak on, Amber areas are those that need development and Green are areas students are secure in. This task will not be graded in the traditional sense, but will inform learning progress and will be formally tracked. The PLC will be updated periodically following evidence in homework, review tasks, practice and recall, etc. More information to follow once the first unit tasks are completed.

### Formal Assessments

These will take place at least three times in an academic year and will cover areas taught throughout the course to that point. This will be traditionally graded, allowing the PLC to be updated and be given formal feedback with clear opportunities to respond. Students will be given fair warning and revision homework.

### Maths Mocks Year 10 (i.e. new Year 11 cohort) & Thursday Period 6

The new Year 11 (Year 10 students that moved up in June), will be completing formal Mock Exams this term. Revision resources were shared in Google Classroom in May before the half term break. Further homework and revision will be supplied leading up to these dates to help them prepare. We will be starting our Year 11 Drop-In Revision and Practice sessions after School every Thursday. Rooms M1, M2 and M9 will be open and staffed with our Maths teachers to support any homework issues, general revision or reteaching topics as necessary. No pre-registration is necessary.

### Maths Equipment

It is imperative that your child attends School with the correct equipment for their lessons. We have a limited supply of spares and the time taken to hand these out and collect back in each lesson eats into valuable learning time. In addition to their usual black pens, pencils, ruler, rubber, and red pen, they will

need a Scientific Calculator and Maths Set. The latter can remain at home until they have their assessments or lessons on constructions and angles. We recommend the Casio FX-85GTX as it is a natural display and has some very useful functions that other calculators do not have. Equipment, including calculators, are available for purchase from our Reprographics Office during break and lunchtime. A Price List has been sent along with this letter. Please check that your child has their equipment, especially pens and pencils that need to be renewed as they run out.

### **Homework**

Going forward, homework will be provided by your child's main Maths teacher every week on DrFrostMaths or posted to their Google Classroom. Your child has a unique login and password for DrFrostMaths, linked to their School email address. If they forget their login details, these can be reset using their School email and a link is sent directly to them to reset their password. Should they experience any problems, please contact their Maths teacher who can unlock accounts and reset passwords too. DrFrostMaths has videos connected to all homework, even when the teacher does not earmark them and are a valuable resource if your child is struggling. All we ask is that they try their best.

As always, your support is valuable and appreciated. Please feel free to contact your child's Maths teacher if you need information regarding their Maths lessons or homework.

Yours faithfully,

**Mrs J Murray**

Curriculum Leader, Maths

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