



## **Sandwell Academy Area of Experience**

### **Mathematics**

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Sandwell Academy opened in September 2006 with a Year 7 and Year 12 and now has an intake from Years 7-13 of 1250 students. The Academy has a 10 session week and 1.5 of these are dedicated to Mathematics from Year 7 to Year 11. Two A-Level groups exist in both Year 12 and 13 and students have 2 sessions of Mathematics per week. We currently employ 11 members of staff within the team, including a Deputy Head, a Curriculum Leader, a Key Stage 3 Lead Teacher and a Sixth Form Course Leader.

Students in Year 7 are initially taught in form groups (mixed ability). They are put into sets towards the end of Module 1. A key feature of the way Mathematics is taught is that the whole class works together on a common topic. The three-part lesson format has been adopted by the department throughout Key Stage 3 and there is a strong emphasis on improving student's numeric skills. Students complete Key Stage 3 over a two year period. Year 7 and 8 Mathematics is often taught in a Learning Base. Teachers and students take pride in the 'Maths Area' with relevant displays including examples of exemplar work.

The post-16 curriculum provides AS and A level Mathematics and an opportunity for students to improve their GCSE and numeracy grades.

The Mathematics curriculum, for all stages, is divided up into seven modules per year, this being in line with the Academy's curriculum delivery.

The whole of the Mathematics curriculum for the current academic year is available in task form on the Academy's Online Curriculum or at home via the Internet. Many hundreds of hyperlinked resources are available such as Interactive Flash-based games and learning activities, PowerPoint presentations and website links.

There are eight dedicated teaching group areas in the Mathematics Area of Experience. Five of these areas are more traditional study rooms, the other three being of an open plan style, separated by large soundproof screens to reduce noise and provide lots of space for display of student work.

In line with Academy ethos, the Mathematics team employ a variety of teaching and learning styles with students, the choice being made by referencing suitability of style to task or topic, rather than any methodological dogma. Each teaching area is equipped with a PC driven Interactive Electronic Whiteboard in order to make use of the online curriculum and the resources contained therein.

Modules in Years 7 and 8 are written according to the National Numeracy Strategy and the teacher is directed to the levels that need to be taught. *Maths Frameworking* (Collins) is the text which has been adopted and is supported by the on-line curriculum.

Key Stage 3 results in mathematics are exemplary and have clearly demonstrated accelerated progress with students comfortably progressing beyond national benchmarks. Post 16 results have also been very good with many students achieving the higher grades at AS and A-Level. Results at Key Stage 4 are outstanding and lead the way in performance at Sandwell Academy. 71% of last year's Year 11 students left with a level 4 or higher.

**A Lally**  
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