

Swavesey Village College

Mathematics Department

The Mathematics Department is located in a purpose built block with interactive whiteboards fitted in all of our 12 classrooms. There are 15 specialist Maths teachers in the department, 14 full-time and 1 part-time (including two currently on maternity leave). I'm the Director of Maths with responsibility for Swavesey Village College and our partner trust school, North Cambridge Academy. We have KS3 and KS4 coordinators who share the role of 2nd in charge. Our Lead Practitioner promotes and advances teaching and learning through our dedicated department development time and beyond. Our strong team also comprises of an Assistant Principal and a Deputy Principal. We are a cohesive team, priding ourselves on collaboration and team work. We set ourselves high standards of performance and we expect equally high standards of our students. Key features of our department include:

- Smaller class sizes across all year groups
- Targeted intervention to support younger students, and also those preparing for exams
- Scheduled department development time within the school day
- Centralised schemes of work, homework and assessment
- Centralised lesson-by-lesson resources for all year groups
- A clear team ethos driven by supportive and experienced team leaders

Philosophy - We aim to foster enjoyment and interest in the subject for its own sake while emphasising its use as a tool across the curriculum, in the workplace and in everyday life. As teachers we aim to motivate students by providing a stimulating and supportive environment. Students are involved and their interest maintained through suitably demanding and varied work, including non-routine problems that require them to think for themselves. We continually strive to improve our students' learning experience and are therefore fully involved in projects relating to mixed-ability teaching, Mastery and Financial Education.

Mathematics at Key Stage 3 - Students are taught in mixed ability groups. Lesson are carefully differentiated to allow all students to access the learning objective, whilst making sure that all students are suitably challenged. It is our intention that all students enjoy Mathematics and reach their fullest potential by removing the barriers created by a traditional setting system.

Mathematics at Key Stage 4 – Students are taught in mixed-ability groups within higher and foundation tiers. Our highest attaining students are given the opportunity to study Additional Mathematics FSMQ alongside the GCSE. In 2017, 81% of students earned grades from 4 to 9, 27.9% from 7 to 9 and all of our year 11 students achieved at least a grade 1. The Maths department progress 8 score was +0.48, indicating that on average our students achieved half a grade higher than the national expectation.

Maths Mentors – To help students close achievement gaps, we run a Maths Mentor program. Our Maths Mentors are a group of trained year 9 students who support lower-achieving year 7s. The students who volunteer for this role are trained before being assigned a partner. The feedback from students in both year groups and their teachers has been very positive and we have been involved in training other schools to set up similar systems.

Outside the Classroom - Our students actively participate in individual and team UKMT Maths Challenges, as well as other local team Maths challenges at both KS3 and KS4.

Further Education - We are proud that a large number and large proportion of our year 11 students go on to study Mathematics at A level. We regularly host former students who return to SVC to talk to Year 11 students about studying Maths at 6th form.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to talk in detail about your application. You are also most welcome to visit the department before making your application.

Cameron Fehr
Director of Mathematics, CMAT

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