

# THE MATHEMATICS AREA

This is an exciting time to be joining the Mathematics Area. Our happy team are all specialist mathematicians who combine their passion for their subject with their love of teaching. We are a highly collaborative team who enjoy creating and sharing resources. Staff wellbeing and workload management are central to all that we do.

## Mission Statement

To make Mathematics an enjoyable, exciting and worthwhile experience for all students.

- To promote high quality teaching and learning with high expectations resulting in all students making excellent progress.
- To foster students' perseverance and resourcefulness in solving problems and to develop their ability to think logically and creatively.

## Current Staffing

- Director, 2 Deputy Directors of Mathematics, a Lead Teacher of Mathematics, an Assistant Director of Mathematics, and a whole school Numeracy Coordinator from within the Mathematics team.
- The Director of Maths is an Associate Senior Leader who is part of the school's wider SLT group.
- 15 specialist Mathematics teachers
- A curriculum support assistant (15 hours per week)
- The Area is led by a collegiate team consisting of the Director and the other post holders specified above. Responsibilities are, however, shared widely amongst the whole team.
- All members of the Area teach classes across the age and ability range.
- Every teacher joining the Area finds it committed, collaborative and proud of its achievements, and can be sure of friendly and effective support from all members of the team.
- A 'Teaching and Learning Excellence' programme gives colleagues the opportunity to work with other colleagues to observe lessons and develop resources.
- An internal referral rota offers an effective way of dealing with any student behavioural issues, which are rare.

## Brief Curriculum Overview

The Area ensures that every course delivered has not only a full scheme of work but also detailed lesson ideas and relevant resources. This is to ensure high quality teaching, learning and assessment, as well as ensuring the rapid induction of new members to the Area team. There are very detailed and well-resourced schemes of work at all key stages, which are constantly under review and are updated to reflect curriculum changes.

We have developed our programmes of study, schemes of work and lesson resources building on the work of White Rose Maths (their Head of Curriculum was formerly Director of Maths at SWCHS). While we have access to text books for all key stages, our curriculum is not text book driven.

## Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)

- In Years 7 and 8, students are banded in two year halves:
- Key Stage 2 UMS scores, recommendations from feeder primaries and internal assessments place students into three broad bands at October half-term in Year 7. There is then flexibility to transfer students between groups as the need arises.
- In Year 9, the two populations are re-assigned according to wider options choice and are moved into three bands: a Higher band (aiming at grades 6-9), an upper Foundation (aiming at grades 4-5) and a lower Foundation band (aiming at grades 1-4).

#### Key Stage 4

- The bands established in year 9 continue with the top band having the opportunity to study Further Maths.
- Revision practice and past papers start in October of Y11 and are interspersed with the teaching of the last GCSE topics.

#### Key Stage 5

- Mathematics is an extremely popular option at Sixth Form level, where the current Year 12 has two Further Mathematics groups and four Mathematics groups.
- We are an early adopter of the new Core Maths programme and have 2-3 sets in each year group studying OCR's Quantitative Reasoning course.
- Students regularly go on to study Mathematics at university, including Oxbridge. We provide the opportunity to prepare students for STEP papers.

#### Environment

- The Area is housed in self contained, modern accommodation (built in 1997, extended in 2006 and affectionately known as the Pythagoras Pavilion) with twelve classrooms and a recently refurbished Area office.
- Three classrooms are equipped with suites of PCs and there are sets of ipads available.
- All classrooms have ceiling-mounted projectors, Smartboards and visualisers, in addition to a traditional whiteboard.

#### Resources

- All teaching rooms have Smartboards and visualisers.
- All teaching rooms have desktop PCs for running applications and Smartboard software.
- The department also has access to Hegarty Maths and Mymaths.
- Class sets of textbooks are available for all three Key Stages.
- There is a separate training budget, allowing staff to use courses to promote staff development and enrich the curriculum.
- The department engages with many extra-curricular activities including UKMT individual and group Maths Challenges.

#### Exam Results Summary

In 2019, GCSEs were 29% 7-9 and 84% 4-9 and A level were 90% A\*-C.

#### SLT link

The Senior Deputy Headteacher is the SLT link to the Area.