



WHEATLEY PARK SCHOOL

The Mathematics Faculty

The Mathematics Faculty is accommodated in a suite of eight classrooms built in 2003. There is a large staff office which includes a departmental photocopier and a wide variety of resources for shared use. The maths team consists of nine members of staff and each full time teacher has their own classroom with either a data projector or interactive whiteboard. We are a strong, innovative team that work together to develop our own teaching and continually improve the quality of provision for all students.

The GCSE results have been consistently strong for some time and progress made by students in 2016 was above average. Over 79% of students achieved a grade C or above and we are on a trajectory to improve.

A consistently high proportion of students choose to take AS Mathematics, reflecting the positive ethos of the faculty. A Level results are good, with a large number of A* and A grades and each year we have students leaving to pursue Maths degrees.

Key Stages 3 and 4

Students are taught in their tutor groups in Year 7 and then from Year 8 to Year 11 the classes are placed into sets based on prior attainment. We have developed our schemes of work with a focus on improving engagement, motivation and mathematical challenge. We have a new structure at Key Stage 3 to enhance this, focusing on problem solving, key processes and connections within mathematics. Our Key Stage 4 schemes of work are organised around core concepts and give students the opportunity to make links between parts of the curriculum. At Key Stage 4, we offer the AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics to students who are ready to develop their mathematics beyond GCSE.

Although we have a good stock of textbooks the emphasis within the faculty is on developing and sharing our own resources that engage the students at Wheatley Park. We believe it is important that all teachers have a sense of ownership over the activities they choose to use with students and that teachers feel able to try new ideas within a supportive environment.

In addition, students at Wheatley Park regularly participate in the UKMT Maths Challenge competitions and the school hosts heats of the Team Challenge.

Key Stage 5

We regularly have a high number of students enrolled on the AS Maths and Further Maths courses. This is a reflection of students' positive experiences lower down the school and the excellent reputation the mathematics faculty has. We offer students the opportunity to gain up to 3 A-Levels in Maths (recently one student achieved 3 A*s in A2 Maths) as well as the opportunity to participate in more informal problem solving groups. We use the Edexcel exam board for A Level Mathematics.

ICT

The faculty has a class set of Chromebook laptops and access to ICT suites across the school. Teachers use these creatively to impact on students' learning.

We use specialised software for online marking, which involves scanning students' written work and marking it online. This saves lots of time, and enables us to give really detailed individual feedback as well as tracking strengths and areas for development.

Links to universities

The faculty has strong links with higher education institutions and we are regularly involved in research projects with both Oxford Brookes and Oxford Universities. We offer places to four PGCE students over the year and also welcome students from Oxford University's Undergraduate Ambassador Scheme.

The team

We are a genuinely supportive and friendly team. We enjoy discussing our work, through faculty meetings, collaborative planning opportunities and informal discussion. We are all constantly working to improve our practice. We offer good support to teachers joining the team and enjoy working together to achieve our goals.

Please feel free to visit us.

James Gurung
Head of Mathematics