

The Mathematics faculty is a large team of experienced, successful, highly committed, friendly and supportive members of staff, including Faculty Leaders, Key Stage Coordinators, a whole-school Numeracy Coordinator, NQTs and trainees.

The faculty is well resourced and is housed in a purpose-built building which comprises a departmental office/resource base, a separate resource room and seven teaching rooms, one of which is also a computer suite. Some use is made of teaching rooms elsewhere in the school (primarily for sixth form lessons) but the majority of the department's teaching is in its own specialist accommodation. The faculty works closely with the school's Learning Support Assistants and also has designated admin support.

The policy with respect to student grouping is that after the first several weeks of Year 7 when students are taught in mixed ability groups, setting is introduced. The size of the lower sets is kept small to provide the maximum support for those who find the subject particularly difficult. Additionally, a small number of students receive extra support from the Learning Support team to help improve numeracy standards. This arrangement continues through to Year 11 and the placement of students in sets is reviewed regularly, with movement up and down as necessary. Our numeracy co-ordinator works particularly at transition and at KS3 with both students and parents.

Key Stages 3 and 4

In Year 7, students receive three one-hour lessons plus an additional numeracy/enrichment lesson per week. In Year 8 and 9, students have three one-hour lessons per week, while in KS4 students have four one-hour lessons per week, 1 lesson of which per fortnight is dedicated as a problem-solving lesson to help develop student abilities in using and applying the mathematics taught in their other lesson. Active schemes of work are in place for all year levels which are differentiated by stage. We have full sets of textbooks available for use at both KS3 and KS4. Students at Key Stage 4 currently follow the Edexcel Linear GCSE course. We consistently achieve excellent results in both key stages; in 2018 the department supported students to achieve 88% grade 4+, 76% grade 5+ and 9.6% of students achieved grade 9.

Sixth Form

Mathematics is a consistently one of the most popular subjects at Key Stage 5 at Roundwood Park School and the department and Key Stage 5 staff is highly regarded by the students in the school. We have healthy numbers of students studying Mathematics and Further Mathematics and achieve outstanding results (72% of grades were A*-B in 2018 and 100% of Further maths grades were A* or A grades). All students follow courses based on the OCR specification with students studying Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics. Schemes of work are followed, which include a number of topic tests to assess student progress throughout all modules.

Information and Communication Technology

We have a dedicated computer suite and interactive whiteboards in all classrooms within the Mathematics block. We use various mathematics-based computer software, including Autograph and Geogebra, and we subscribe to the MyMaths websites as well as have a subscription to “Bring on the Maths”, Whiteboard Maths, “MathsWorkout” and MathsBox and Justmaths. Furthermore, teachers utilise the eedi.co.uk website, on which all of the department schemes of work have associated auto-assigned quizzes which are used as in class work, home learning or revision purposed. Engagement with this helps to diagnose areas of strength and weakness. A class set of iPads are also available for use.

Extra Curricular

We enter students of all ages for the UK mathematical challenges at the appropriate level and a large proportion of these have gained certificates for their achievements. In addition to this, we have sent teams to the UK Senior Maths Team Challenge, UKMT Teams Maths Challenge as well as the Hertfordshire Year 7 and Year 8 Maths Challenge. Our Year 8 team were County Champions in the most recent team challenge. Our lunchtime “Pi Club” helps to prepare students for this. We also send selected students to master classes organised by the University of Hertfordshire while we also run a pan-Harpenden Year 12 problem-solving group for our very able students in Year 12 and 13. We have invited guest speakers to school in order to enrich our curriculum for our students; our most recent guest speaker delivered engaging sessions on “Twisted Topology” and “Freaky Probability”. Finally, students have the option of participating in Chess Club within the department.