

Kingdown School Mathematics Department Information for Applicants

Kingdown has a highly successful Mathematics Department. We pride ourselves on the excellent standard of our teaching and the hard work displayed by pupils across all three Key Stages; this combination has resulted in excellent examination results over many years. I am very proud of the team I work with, both within the Department and the wider school, and I hope that this is a Department you feel that you would enjoy working in. I look forward to receiving your application!

DARREN MUNRO
Curriculum Leader of Mathematics

1. Department Structure and Main Responsibilities

TLR posts in the Mathematics Department are as follows:-

- Head of Department – Darren Munro
- Head of KS4 – Andy Golding
- Head of KS3 – James Pemberton
- Head of KS5 – Nick Bloxham

There are currently 14 teachers in the Department, housed in dedicated Maths teaching rooms with ceiling-mounted projectors, interactive whiteboards and a staff computer in every room. Two members of the team are also members of SLT; a number of smaller responsibilities exist within the Department (SEN co-ordinator, ICT co-ordinator, A,G & T co-ordinator, resources development). All members of the team contribute to new ideas and we have an extensive collection of resources, especially ICT based.

The teaching commitment for a non-TLR position within maths is 42 periods per fortnight out of 50, reduced to 40 periods for an NQT. This is a key part of our commitment as a school to managing the health and wellbeing of our staff, and compares extremely favourably with other schools in the local area and beyond.

2. Professional Development

Kingdown prides itself on the quality of the professional development opportunities it offers to both its own staff, and to others. We have a comprehensive NQT induction programme, including regular professional development, INSET meetings and training, and the allocation of a subject mentor and a teaching 'buddy' (a recently qualified teacher from a different Department), to offer help and support during the first few months in teaching. The Maths Department also acts as a 'Home School' to PGCE Maths students each year. All of the Department become involved in their training and we pride ourselves on giving them a very supportive environment in which to begin their teaching careers.

3. Curriculum

Key Stage 3

At KS3 we have created a SoW that encourages students to be reflective and proactive in their learning while frequently challenging them to think, adapt and problem solve to prepare them for the new Maths GCSE and life beyond schooling. Students are given a responsibility for their learning with clear objectives for the term ahead, which are also shared with parents. These learning lists, in conjunction with our assessments, are used to give every student a clear idea of their next steps and how to improve with the aim of developing a growth mind-set amongst the students. Students are given great opportunities to be successful at all levels and respond to this very well creating an excellent culture for learning.

Key Stage 4

For current Year 9 and beyond we teach the AQA Linear syllabus (9-1) with 4 groups taking Higher Tier exams and 8 taking Foundation Tier. Class sizes average at around 22 per group. We track pupil progress very effectively and provide challenge for all students. In 2015, 78% of students achieved A*-C grades in Maths at Kingdown on first entry. 50% of students made at 4 Levels of Progress from Key Stage, placing us as the top comprehensive school in Wiltshire. These results were built upon in 2016 where we scored an impressive 0.32 in value added. We have coped well with the change to 9-1 grades where pupils gaining 4+ in 2019 reached 73% following 75%(2017) and 70%(2018). In addition, most of our Year 10 students take GCSE Statistics in Year 10 and our top set pupils sit the GCSE in Further Mathematics in Year 11.

'A' Level

'A' Level Maths is a hugely popular choice at Kingdown with 80+ currently studying a Level 3 Maths course. The 'A' Level teaching of each group is shared between two teachers. We also teach a fully timetabled Further Maths option at A2 and have an ever increasing number of our students who go on to study Maths or Maths related degrees at some of the most prestigious Universities in the country. After going through the first exams of the new specification we are aiming to build on a strong set of results. In addition to traditional A levels we also offer Level 3 Mathematical Studies (Core Maths) which allows pupils to continue Maths alongside other A level subjects without the high rigour that A level brings.

4. Department Accommodation and Resources

The Maths Department is housed together in one block of eight classrooms, the HoF office and Department Office, and 4 more state of the art classrooms that recently been completed. Each room has an interactive whiteboard and projector which has allowed the use of many ICT led initiatives including our KS3 on-line Scheme of Work, and 'A' Level tutorial PowerPoint's. WiFi access has recently seen a massive upgrading to make it available to use up to date technology with pupils within all classrooms.

5. Extra-Curricular Activities

Every Tuesday and Wednesday we run after school clubs at 'A' Level, GCSE and for all Gifted and Talented students in KS3 as well as a numeracy club primarily for KS3 pupils. All members of the Department contribute throughout the year and the excellent atmosphere and mutual respect is greatly appreciated by students and teachers alike.

We run a Maths Able, Gifted and Talented Group once a week and enter local and National Maths competitions to offer those students a suitable level of challenge.

6. Further Information

The Ethos of the Maths Department

The Maths Department at Kingdown is a dynamic and forward thinking Department that has been at the forefront of innovation and change in the Maths Curriculum for some time. We are keen to embrace new developments which enhance the learning experience we provide for our students – for example, almost all of our KS4 students take GCSEs in both Maths and Statistics, or Maths and Further Maths - and have been innovative in our flexible approach to helping pupils achieve their GCSE target grades. We were one of only twelve schools in the country that piloted work on Key Indicators at KS3, and offer further Maths as an established 'A' Level option. All of this we can do because we are a supportive, friendly team where new ideas and approaches are welcomed and openly discussed. We challenge our students and expect great things and they never disappoint! Whether you are looking to commence your career as a maths teacher, or to further develop as an experienced practitioner, we would love to hear from you and look forward to the next stage of the development of our wonderful and welcoming team.