

Mathematics Curriculum Area

The maths team at Richard Lander School is a happy, close-knit group of professionals, determined to enthuse students about maths and prepare them for the rigours of the working world by securing top grades at GCSE.

Our department vision 'Aim High, enrich and support' summarises the principles we consider when planning engaging, challenging lessons where every student is supported to achieve the best possible outcomes.

We are also very much a 'yes' department. If a teacher would like to try out an idea they have conceived or researched, the answer will most likely be yes! We regularly meet to discuss our teaching strategies and ideas, share resources and discuss new initiatives both in department meetings as well as a less formal chat over lunch in our department base.

The department has a full time staff of nine together with three part-time colleagues. We also have one higher level teaching assistant dedicated to maths.

Each of our 11 classrooms has an interactive white board and we are continually expanding our extensive range of resources and software to enhance teaching and learning. We subscribe to MyMaths, MathsWatch, JustMaths, MathsBox, ActiveLearn and GCSEPod. We have access to two laptop trolleys each containing 20 mini-notebooks, for use in the classroom using a wireless network.

Students are set according to ability, from year 7 through to year 11. In years 7 to 9 our schemes of work are based around the Pearson KS3 Maths Progress textbooks. At Key Stage 4 all students follow the AQA GCSE 9 to 1 course and GCSE Statistics is offered as a 'twilight' session.

It is our intention to provide access to GCSE for as many students as possible and we have regularly achieved a 100% GCSE pass rate. 76% of students achieved GCSE 9 – 4 grades last year with 59% attaining grades 9 – 5 and 24% achieving grades 9 – 7. We aim to build on these excellent results this academic year.

We are keen to promote enjoyment and excitement in maths. Individual and Team challenges coordinated by the UKMT and the Further Maths Support Programme extend and enrich our more able students. All Year 7 students are given the opportunity to spend a day at the Eden Project undertaking mathematical activities to reinforce learning outside the classroom.

We have been recognised as a 'hub' centre by Edexcel and lead a collaborative network meeting for maths teachers in Cornwall each term. The Edexcel maths team provide the most up-to-date information regarding qualification reform and teachers are able to share their knowledge, expertise and successful teaching and learning approaches.

For more information please visit the Mathematics Curriculum area at www.richardlander.co.uk

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