



ST COLUMBA'S COLLEGE MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Philosophy

The Department challenges each student to become enthusiastic about Mathematics and fully to realise his own potential in the subject. High levels of achievement are based upon quality teaching, high expectations and the encouragement of each individual. Our aim is that students should become comfortable and confident in the mastery of mathematical concepts, and in their application. We believe that Mathematics is central to education not only for its essential usefulness, but because it both trains the mind and can be enjoyable for its own sake. Students with particular aptitude and interest in the subject are encouraged and strongly supported to progress, via success at A-level, to study the subject in Higher Education as a main or supporting course.

Teaching Programme

The Department strongly believes in the formal approach to teaching in order to provide mastery of the subject. Success depends upon careful monitoring of the ability of each student and the pace at which he progresses. To facilitate correctly pitched teaching students are set according to ability from the outset. In Form 1 (Year 7) – on entry –this is based upon performance in the mathematics entrance test paper.

In Forms 1, 2 and 3 (Years 7, 8 & 9) we have five sets that follow the curriculum at a pace which is comfortable for the individual students. In Form 4 & 5 (Year 10 & 11) we expand from five to six sets. The sets are reviewed at regular intervals throughout the year and appropriate changes are made. All changes are notified to parents whether it is a movement up or down.

The students follow the IGCSE in Mathematics during Form 4 and Form 5 (Year 10 & 11). More than a third of the students also take the Level 2 certificate in Further Mathematics alongside their IGCSE. Students invariably achieve 100% A* - C in Mathematics. GCSE Statistics is also offered as an option for students that wish to choose it.

A Large number of students, virtually half of the Sixth Form, take a course in A-Level Mathematics. We also offer Further Mathematics to support those wishing to continue with the subject at a higher level. A high proportion of our students' progress to degree courses involving Mathematics.





ST COLUMBA'S COLLEGE MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Personnel

Each member of the Department is highly qualified. Of the ten staff who make up the teaching complement, eight are full-time and two part-time. All full-time staff teach groups within Key stages 3 and 4 and at A-Level, teaching is dependent upon experience and qualifications.

Facilities

Mathematics is taught in a suite of classrooms situated on the ground floor in the heart of the main school building; all classes have regular access to the IT suite where there is a good deal of Mathematics software and further to this there is an interactive whiteboard in each of the classrooms. A proportion of sixth form teaching also takes place in the separate Sixth Form Centre. The Department office houses the main resources and provides additional working space. The Department is well resourced with a variety of materials to include various software packages.

Appointment

We seek to appoint an experienced, enthusiastic and dynamic Assistant Subject Leader. This is an outstanding opportunity to assist in the leadership of the largest and most successful Department in the college.

