



The Mathematics Department

The Mathematics department are a team of specialists who are active and positive in their aim to maintain and improve the standards of achievement of its pupils. The emphasis is on learning through participation and our teaching methods draw on the best of both traditional and modern approaches. The continuous development of our schemes of work involves regular revisiting of key concepts, interleaving and promotion of solid numeracy skills. This allows us to monitor and promote good progress for all our students. We have a robust and embedded focus on Data Driven Instruction in which we focus on closing gaps quickly and effectively.

Key Stage 3 – Years 7, 8 and 9

The key stage 3 scheme of work is designed to provide a smooth transition from key stage 2 to key stage 3 for students of all abilities. From September, we will be following the White Rose Maths curriculum for KS3. It focuses on mastery and deep conceptual understanding of mathematical knowledge. Our aim is to enhance students' conceptual understanding, mathematical communication, reasoning and problem solving skills and we strive for enjoyment of Maths for all. From the beginning of Year 7, students are placed into groups according to their attainment, so that learners can be challenged with others of similar ability. A common core of work is studied, although resources and delivery are tailored to the needs of the group. Students in Key Stage 3 have four 1-hour periods of maths each week. This reflects our belief that maths is of huge importance and is one of our main curriculum touchstones.

Key Stage 4 – Years 10 and 11

At key stage 4 pupils are prepared for the Edexcel Mathematics 9-1 GCSE exam. The course starts at year 10 and is completed by the February half term in year 11. Once the scheme is completed in year 11, pupils are then taught and supported through revision and spend time going through past papers and revision based on examination question level analysis. Each pupil will be assessed throughout the year using the Edexcel GCSE specification papers. The final exam is taken at the end of year 11 in May / June. We have five 1-hour lessons per week with key stage 4 students as well as a weekly after school session.

Enrichment

Within the Mathematics department, we are keen to promote enjoyment and excitement in Mathematics. Individual and Team challenges are coordinated by the UKMT and Further Maths Support program which extend and enrich Gifted and Talented pupils. The UKMT Individual Maths Challenges are designed to stimulate interest in logical thinking and are set yearly by Leeds University for the past twenty years. Our students at Darwen Vale have achieved certificates at all levels each year.

We run the AQA Level 2 Further Maths qualification, which is intended for those who may consider studying Maths or Further Maths at A-level. Our students have been to a variety of universities including Salford, Manchester and Edgehill as part of this programme and were given an insight into the various careers that involve maths at a high level.



DARWEN VALE HIGH SCHOOL

An Aldridge Community Academy 

We are keen to foster excitement around Mathematics and have a problem of the week competition for all students to enter. Breakfast and lunch time Maths clubs are available to our students and we love to celebrate our Mathematicians with our Maths student of the week and month.

Department Vision

Our Mathematics faculty aims to mould young people into able problem solvers, logical thinkers and lifelong mathematicians as a product of inspirational and reflective teaching. Our passionate department, aim to share their knowledge by relating Mathematics to real life situations, adding value to the subject and dispelling the negative concepts. We strive to promote equality and diversity by providing a parallel learning environment for all students, nurturing young minds and giving them the confidence to multiply their knowledge and increase their understanding of practical application.

Staff

Our faculty work as a team and support each other. We have a range of different experiences and backgrounds within the faculty and a range of strengths which all complement each other. We are keen to develop and grow as a team and love to share best practice and resources and plan on how best we can move things forwards. We have weekly faculty time dedicated to developing the pedagogy and subject knowledge in our faculty through co-planning. Within our faculty we are fortunate to have a number of highly experienced lead practitioners. NQTs and teachers at the start of their career and we are always excited by their fresh ideas and having the chance to grow new talent within the Mathematics teaching profession. Being part of a MAT, we regularly work closely with our partner schools in the local area and across the country.