



STRATFORD GIRLS'
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

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Dear Fellow Colleague

Working at Stratford Girls' Grammar School is an enjoyable, exciting and rewarding experience as you have the opportunity to work with students who are enthusiastic, confident and academically of a very high calibre. All of the students here have the potential to achieve very highly in Maths and one of the challenges, as in any school, is to ensure that these potentially high achievers remain engaged and intrigued by the relationships within mathematics. We endeavour to develop their appreciation of Maths as an elegant language and a pure subject in its own right as well as always being ready to answer the usual question of "when are we ever going to use this in the real world?"!

The subject is very popular at A-level where about half of our students from Year 11 take Maths within the sixth form. We also have a significant number of new students to the school in the sixth form opting to take the subject. The large numbers taking this subject are very pleasing but it does present its own challenges in that the groups are relatively large (18 is a typical size) and there is a wide spread of ability and prior mathematical experiences within the groups. There is also a group in each year taking Further Maths.

In order for students to be so keen to continue their study of Maths at A-level we must be doing something right lower down the school! We aim to include a variety of teaching and learning strategies within our lessons, including ICT, tarsia puzzles, loop cards, and functional skills tasks. Our schemes of work have links to both the MyMaths and Nrich websites and we also have typical Maths software such as Autograph and Geometers Sketch pad available in school. The department has a dedicated suite of rooms, each kitted out with both an interactive and normal whiteboard. We also have a class set of department laptops that we regularly put to good use.

We aim to enrich our students rather than accelerate them; although we do not enter students for their GCSE early, we do offer an extra course in Year 11-the AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Maths. We are very keen on students being able to problem solve and apply their understanding to complex problems. We aim to provide suitable challenge for all students so we have prepared extension material for students using appropriate Maths Challenge questions, and AEA and STEP past paper questions for both Year 11 and the sixth form. We enter students for the UKMT Maths Challenges and also enter the Team Maths Challenges.

We offer support outside of lessons for those that wish to take up the opportunity, by running daily lunchtime sessions called SUMS – Some Useful Maths Support. Each member of the department is usually available on a voluntary basis. We also have sixth form mentors who help support the younger students in these sessions. The students are appreciative of staff giving up their time at these drop-in sessions and some students become regular visitors, using it as a quiet place to do their homework, knowing that they have support when needed.

One of our strengths as a department is that we are very supportive of each other and will often be found having informal department meetings at break and lunch times in the department office or over a coffee in the staffroom. We are always willing to share what has worked well and are keen to implement best practice.

We are seeking an enthusiastic and dedicated person to join our department. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything you would like to ask and we look forward to receiving your application.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Bateman
Head of Mathematics