

PAn/MSa

1st October 2018

Dear parent and/or carer,

I am writing to provide you with information about your child's maths homework this academic year, as we have made some significant changes.

As a department, we aim to ensure that all students leave school with the ability to use mathematics in everyday life and in whichever career path they choose to pursue. We aim to provide a personal, challenging and engaging mathematical education, using the curriculum to develop confidence, communication and problem solving skills. In doing so, we have identified that students often find it difficult to revise mathematics independently. We want to support your child further to ensure that the work they complete at home is meaningful and will help them make better progress inside the classroom. Research has proven that students that spend quality time completing independent work in maths can accelerate their grades, raising their GCSE result by a whole grade over the course of secondary school.

Therefore, you can expect your child to receive weekly homework to complete independently at home. Work will be set in two formats (three if they are in Year 11):

1) HEGARTYMATHS

We have invested in an exciting new online platform, which over time will transform the way your child learns independently in maths and revises for assessments. Your child will receive an 'independent learning exercise book' to bring home. Specific skills tasks will be set via HegartyMaths (www.hegartymaths.com) for your child to complete once per fortnight (more regularly if they are in Y11). This will involve your child watching an online video developed by specialist maths teachers, making notes and completing a short quiz. If you do not have wifi to support this, we are now running a maths club twice a week to support students with their homework. Whilst your child's teacher will look at the scores that your child gets on the quiz to inform their planning, we are mainly concerned about the effort and quality of note taking your child will be producing. We are committed to ensuring *quality* independent learning as opposed to *quantity*.

Over time, your child will build a portfolio of revision notes that they can use in the future. However, your child can also go beyond the tasks set by us as a school. If your child is struggling on a specific topic, you will see that there are building blocks under each video that can support your child to further develop and master their understanding. Your child should aim to turn each of their donuts green, showing that they have mastered a topic.

Please see the Student Guide for details on how your child can set up their HegartyMaths account and also the parent checklist so that you can see how to best support your child at home.

2) KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

Your child will have received a free copy of our knowledge organiser [Y7 & 8 will receive instalments of this fortnightly]. As you will be able to see, there is a lot of information that your child is expected to know at GCSE and we want to ensure that we enable your child to learn this information overtime. There is an expectation for students not only to learn formula, but also to understand an enormous amount of mathematical language. Without a knowledge of this information, they simply cannot

access questions and thus, cannot gain marks at GCSE. Therefore, it is vital that your child regularly revisits this knowledge.

Once a fortnight, we will test your child on 10 facts from their knowledge organiser. We expect students to get at least 8/10 in this. If your child does not meet this expectation, they will be expected to attend a maths club lunch time session of their choosing to revisit their mistakes. Failure to attend this lunchtime club will result in an afterschool sanction.

3) GCSE PAST PAPERS [Y11 only]

As your child's GCSE exams approach, we may send your child home with a past paper to complete. This will then be marked and feedback provided to enable your child to improve and highlight further areas of weakness. Your child should then use HegartyMaths to focus on these areas of weakness.

I hope that this helps you to understand what homework to expect from your child this year and to enable you to help your child achieve their potential. I will endeavour to provide further information to you about this at parents' evening this year. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Phil Anderson
Director of Maths