

Curriculum overview:

The new Mathematics curriculum has only come into effect from September 2014. The Maths Faculty have used this opportunity to redesign their curriculum to meet the needs of the learners at KS3 as well as the expected curriculum changes at KS4 and 5.

As a Faculty we have chosen to condense the learning of KS3 into 2 years. The curriculum is narrower yet deeper. This follows a system of making links between topics and exploring through investigation. We encourage our pupils to make connections between topic areas to embed the use and application of Mathematics in problems solving and functional areas.

The significant changes to the KS3 Curriculum have been:

- Mathematics curriculum has changed from four to six topic strands, these are: Number, Algebra, Probability, Statistics, Geometry and Measures, Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change.
- A higher expectation overall. Pupils will be benchmarked against age-related expectations in other nations.
- there is a focus on consolidating understanding: Key Stage 3 builds on Key Stage 2.
- Probability and Statistics are treated as two separate topics.
- There is an increased level of challenge around the theory of number – achieved by introducing prime numbers and surds in KS3.
- Increased requirements for algebra, geometry and measures and ratios, proportion and rates of change
- There are raised expectations for achievement in probability.
- Financial education has been reinforced with a focus on solving problems involving percentage increases and decreases, simple interest and repeated growth.

Homework & assessments overview:

Homework at KS3 is set weekly online on www.mymaths.co.uk. From many years of pupil voice and speaking to parents and teachers, this has been a very effective tool to bring about positive engagement and completion of homework, through use of technology.

Each pupil has a unique username and password, which parents are able to access at home and to monitor the type of homework their children receive.

When pupils move into KS4, homework's are written tasks only. This is to reflect the expectations of assessment requirements.

Useful websites:

www.dropbox.com **Past Exam papers**

Username: swanleae1@gmail.com

PW: square321

www.mymaths.co.uk **Slides, questions and self-marking**

Username: swanlea

PW: rhombus

www.mathswatchvle.com **Video Tutorials and Worksheets**

Centre Id: swanlea

Username: square

Password: square

Practical tips / activities for parents to support learning at home:

- Homework, please ensure you check the homework your child receives and make sure they complete it on time. If your child does the homework on-time, the immediate consolidation of this has a better impact on the long term retention of topics taught.
- Do extra work at home, independent study/learning, pupils who do extra work at home independently are better at managing their own learning. A simple example is when pupils independently learn something new and don't understand, then they will always ask an adult. When they are explained to, they have a genuine interest and retain the information better, than just be told to learn something for the sake of it.
- Equipment/Organisation, please ensure that your children have a geometry Set and Calculator. The best learners are the best prepared.
- Exam Practice, it is essential that pupils sit at home and try exam papers in Exam and timed conditions. It is like practicing penalty shoot-outs in Football. Do you want to have your first go at a penalty shoot-out for the first time in the World Cup Final?
- Revision Guides, there are revision Guides available for sale in School, in shops and online, please buy them and make your children do them for extra practice.