

Curriculum Overview:

The current Year 10s and 11 will be carrying on with the old specification GCSE. The new Mathematics curriculum has only come into effect from September 2014 for the current Year 9s, who will sit the new specification GCSE in 2017.

The Maths Faculty has used this opportunity to redesign their curriculum, to meet the needs of the learners at KS4 as well as the expected curriculum changes at KS5.

As a Faculty we have chosen to condense the learning of KS4 into 2 years, beginning in Year 9. We use Teacher Assessment and exam diagnostic tools to personalise learning for Year 11s to fill in their gaps in knowledge.

We regularly assess Year 11s at the end of each half term (with actual GCSE Exam Papers) and use the exam diagnostics to help teachers plan their lesson and for mentors to use for intervention purposes. This provides pupils with a much personalised approach and ensures that pupils are filling in gaps in their knowledge as opposed to learning something they know already.

The significant changes to the KS4 Curriculum have been:

- Grading will change from A*-U, to numbers 1-9. A number 4 will be equivalent to a GCSE grade C. However 5 will be the new benchmark.
- GCSE Foundation paper Grades will be 1-5. Meaning that Foundation pupils could get up to a Grade B. Higher paper grades range from 4-9.
- There could be up to three 1hr 30mins exam papers. 1 non-calculator and 2 calculator papers.
- Mathematics curriculum has changed from four to six topic strands, these are: Number, Algebra, Probability, Statistics, Geometry and Measures, and Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change.
- There is 'talk' of significant content change such as simple A Level topics incorporated into the new specifications as well as more of an emphasis of Algebra and Proof.
- Kinematics will be taught at KS4.
- There is a focus on consolidating understanding: Key Stage 4 builds on Key Stage 3.

Homework & Assessments Overview:

Pupils are given weekly homework that is either exam related, extending classroom learning or consolidating classwork. Homework at KS4 are written tasks only. This is to reflect the expectations of assessment requirements.

During the mock exam period or closer to the actual GCSE Exam time, whole exam papers may be given for additional work. We also use Pre Public Examinations. These are exam papers that try to closely predict what may come up in the actual exams. It is essential that pupils attend collapsed timetable sessions when these papers are published online from organisations such as PiXL.

In year 11 we are also trialling a 'Just Maths' Resource called 'Bread and Butter'. This is a homework that incorporates a variety of maths topics. The Bread and Butter topics are topics we expect pupils to know, topics we want them to regularly practice or we have not got enough time to cover in class. We then use the outcome of these homework's as targets for pupils to learn independently at home or as student learning targets in class. This ensures that prior knowledge and essential topics are consolidated.

Useful Websites:

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

Username: swanleae1@gmail.com

Password: square321

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

Username: swanlea

Password: triangle

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 better impact of 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, and 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 at the World Cup Final?
- Revision Guides - there are revision guides available for sale in school, in shops and online.