

## Curriculum overview:

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 current Year 10s will be carrying on with the old specification GCSE.

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.

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.
- 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.
- A higher expectation overall. Pupils will be benchmarked against age-related expectations in other nations.
- there is a focus on consolidating understanding: Key Stage 4 builds on Key Stage 3.

## Homework & assessments overview:

Homework at KS4 are written tasks only. This is to reflect the expectations of assessment requirements.

Pupils are given weekly homework that is either exam related, extending classroom learning or consolidating classwork.

During Mock Exam period or closer to the actual GCSE Exam time, whole exam papers may be given for additional work.

## Useful websites:

[www.dropbox.com](http://www.dropbox.com) **Past Exam papers**

Username: swanleae1@gmail.com

PW: square321

[www.mymaths.co.uk](http://www.mymaths.co.uk) **Slides, questions and self-marking**

Username: swanlea

PW: rhombus

[www.mathswatchvle.com](http://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, 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, Please buy them and make your children do them for extra practice.