

GCSE MATHEMATICS



Our Aims

At Astley Community High School, we aim to develop a positive approach to Mathematics by making it interesting and relevant to students. We offer support and encouragement so that students can be confident to try different approaches and learn from mistakes.

- In the assessments, there is a great emphasis on **problem solving** and **mathematical reasoning**, with more marks being allocated to these higher-order skills.
- Students are required to memorise formulae – **only a few formulae are provided in examinations**. Together these changes are designed to help students emerge from GCSE Mathematics with a level of confidence and fluency that will provide a genuine foundation for the rest of their learning and working lives.

The Course

All students will follow the GCSE linear syllabus at either the Foundation or Higher tier. There is no coursework for GCSE Mathematics. For each tier there are **three written examinations** each lasting **1 hour and 30 minutes**. Students will be allowed the use of a calculator for two of these papers. Students are set regular homework and we expect the best effort. We use Hegarty Maths which allows students to watch a video to help refresh their memory. Feedback will be provided, and students are given the opportunity to resubmit tasks.

In order to ensure that pupil progress is monitored, there are regular progress tests. Pupils will be supported with revision prior to a test and be given the opportunity to revisit problem areas after the test. Pupils will also review previous targets and set new ones for the next half term block. Parents will be informed of results which are significantly below target. Postcards will be issued for pupils who are working above the expected level. Set changes may occur as a result of progress test monitoring and also the opportunity for small groups working with our intervention teacher.

Support

Close to the GCSE examination, we will provide additional opportunities for revision. Over the last few years we have successfully used small group intervention and crammer sessions. All pupils are issued with practice examination papers, which are marked and graded.

Students can access a wealth of maths videos and worksheets on Corbett Maths and Dr Frost. Students can independently work through the 5 a day sheets. We will share practice papers via Google Classroom.

It is essential that students are fully equipped for the Mathematics course. **All students require a scientific calculator for all lessons** and we have these for sale in school. Please check with us before you buy - the Wilko ones are not so good!. Revision guides are available to purchase from the Finance Office.

We are keen that all pupils make good progress and so we are more than happy to discuss the needs of individual pupils where necessary.

For further information please contact Mrs Ward, Head of Mathematics Faculty:

carolyn.ward@svf.org.uk

