

West Hill School Maths Department

A Parent/Carer's Guide to GCSE Mathematics

As you will be aware GCSE's changed some years ago now and are now graded from grade 9 down to grade 1. Only around 3.5% of the country will achieve a grade 9 so this is high target to aim for and achieve. A grade 4 is currently the minimum accepted by colleges to be accepted onto their courses, anyone achieving below a grade 4 will need to retake this at college.

What Mathematics Specification do we use?

AQA GCSE 8300

Which exam papers do pupils have to sit?

| | Paper 1 | Paper 2 | Paper 3 |
|--------------------|---|---|---|
| | Non-calculator | Calculator | Calculator |
| Content | Any non-calculator topics and problem solving | Any calculator or non-calculator topics and problem solving | Any calculator or non-calculator topics and problem solving |
| Length | 1 hour 30 minutes | 1 hour 30 minutes | 1 hour 30 minutes |
| Marks | 80 | 80 | 80 |
| Date (Provisional) | 25 th May 2021 (am) | 8 th June 2021 (am) | 15 th June 2021 (am) |

A total of 4 and a half hours and how many marks they get from the 240 marks will determine the grade awarded to pupils.

What intervention is available from the maths department?

The department offer targeted interventions to year 11 currently. These are either before school from 8.30am to 9am or from 3pm to 4pm after school and run for a fixed period of time by invitation only. If a pupil is invited to an intervention this does not necessarily mean that they are underachieving as these sessions are about maximising progress. We try and include all grades and all pupils where we can.

Nearer to the exam dates we may open up sessions to any pupils and other opportunities maybe offered., these will be communicated to you by the usual channels.

What independent resources are available to pupils?

- The school uses www.hegartymaths.com and pupils can use this to do additional and independent study. This is in addition to the home learning set.
- Pupils hegartymaths, home learning exercise books, as long as they have been used well.
- Class exercise books should also be a good revision tool if they are well maintained.
- The VLE contains many resources, including past papers and the recommended website resources list.
- The PiXL maths app.
- The department sells a variety of revision resources as detailed on the letters.

What can I do at home to support progress and learning?

- Talk about the learning happening in school and at home and any assessments coming up or any past results and feedback.
- Encouragement and positive support will make a difference.
- Check that the weekly home learning tasks set are being completed.
- Encourage independent study as detailed above.
- Create a revision timetable together and stick to it, remember to timetable breaks and meals.

Thank you for your ongoing support with maths and please do not hesitate to contact us at school if you have any concerns or we can help in anyway.