



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to welcome students into Year 11 and look forward to supporting them through this important year. Together we can work together to build confidence, secure strong progress and help every student achieve their best possible GCSE grade. However, put simply, the best way to revise maths is to do maths.

GCSE examination arrangements

Students will be entered for Edexcel GCSE Mathematics at Foundation or Higher tier. Teachers will monitor progress and select the tier that offers each student the best chance of success. If a Higher-tier student is at risk of not achieving grade 5, a move to Foundation may be recommended. Decisions will be based on assessment evidence, carefully considered and communicated. Students will sit three papers

1. Paper 1 – Non-calculator 80 marks
2. Paper 2 – Calculator 80 marks
3. Paper 3 – Calculator 80 marks

A student's final grade is based on the total number of marks across all three papers.

Regular exam practice in lessons

After the first week, students will start to complete Half Past Papers each week in lessons. These focused papers take approximately 45 minutes and provide manageable, regular practice with GCSE-style questions. Teachers will review them in detail, revisit key knowledge and model effective examination technique. Students should review their answers, complete corrections and act on feedback.

Each paper has a QR code linking to a full video tutorial. There are free live sessions on YouTube and TikTok each Thursday: Foundation from 7.00-7.30 pm and Higher from 7.30-8.00 pm, with recordings available afterwards. Papers and walkthroughs can be found on www.hannahkettlemaths.co.uk/half-past-papers. Students should use these to catch up after absence or review questions independently.

Wednesday after-school intervention

Year 11 mathematics intervention will take place every Wednesday from 3.00-4.00 pm, and students are strongly encouraged to attend. Sessions will include targeted topic support, guided past-paper practice and other activities designed to strengthen knowledge, improve examination technique and boost grades. Mathematics staff are always willing to explain difficult ideas and answer questions.

Students will benefit most by participating actively: arriving ready to learn, attempting the work, asking questions and acting on feedback. Simply attending will not, by itself, lead to improvement. Selected students may also be invited to smaller intervention groups during form time. We ask families to encourage regular attendance and purposeful participation in every opportunity offered.

Weekly Sparx Maths homework

Students will be set Sparx Maths homework every week. Completing it carefully and on time strengthens recall, develops fluency and identifies areas for further work. Please support your child in completing homework consistently and reviewing difficult questions, corrections and feedback.

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Students should show their working and attempt each question independently. Using AI or answer-generating websites does not build mathematical knowledge and can make it harder for teachers to identify where help is needed.

Sparx provides plenty of support. Students should first attempt a tricky problem and check their notes or previous examples, then watch the supporting video and try again. If they remain unsure, they should speak to their teacher. We encourage students to ask for help, and staff will be very happy to talk them through it..

Recognising commitment

Each week, the top three Sparx XP earners in each class will be recognised. Year 11 students who complete every homework on time throughout the term will also receive a prize at Christmas and Easter.

Calculators

Calculators will be available in lessons and provided for the calculator examinations. Students may choose to have their own for home revision so they become familiar with its functions. The department uses and recommends the Casio fx-85GTCW.

Further revision support

Alongside Sparx and the weekly Half Past Papers, these free websites offer explanations and additional exam practice: · Maths Genie - GCSE topics, videos, worksheets, exam questions and past papers. · Corbettmaths - Topic videos, practice questions and 5-a-day activities. · Dr Frost Maths - Interactive practice, topic resources and GCSE revision materials. · BBC Bitesize GCSE Maths - Short revision guides, examples and practice activities.

How families can help

- Support your child in completing weekly Sparx homework independently, carefully and on time.
- Encourage regular attendance and active participation at Wednesday intervention and any bespoke sessions offered.
- Provide a quiet revision routine and ask your child to show you the work they have completed, corrected and reviewed.
- Encourage your child to use the available videos and resources to catch up promptly following any absence.

We look forward to supporting Year 11 and celebrating their progress. Thank you for encouraging your child and with regular practice, a positive response to feedback and a willingness to ask for help, every student can make meaningful progress. Please contact your child's mathematics teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Rhodes

Head of Maths