



HEDINGHAM SCHOOL
AND SIXTH FORM
ACHIEVEMENT & EXCELLENCE

Official

15 September 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 11 GCSE Maths

It is pleasing to see that the vast majority of students have made a good start to their Year 11 Mathematics lessons. Obviously, this is the start of a vital year for students, and I wanted to ensure that you are aware of the support being offered to students in school, along with what can be done to support students at home.

In School Support:

- As a department, we have already launched our after-school revision sessions with students. These will take place every Wednesday after-school throughout the whole year. There will be the choice of both taught sessions and teacher supported independent study. There is no need for students to sign up to these sessions, they can turn up as often as they are able to. Sessions run from 3.15-4.15pm.

Independent Work at Home:

- Students should expect to be set homework weekly. This will often be in the form of past exam questions to help prepare students for their Mock exams in December. Past paper material allows valuable practice time to apply their learning in lessons to typical questions that they will experience in their final GCSE examinations. It is vital that students give these tasks their best effort and use revision guides and websites to help support with any content they may have forgotten.
- I would also like to remind you of online support available. As a school we pay a subscription to [MathsWatch](https://www.mathswatch.com) and www.methodmaths.com both of which students have individual logins for and can use to track their revision progress. Another website which is freely available is www.mathsgenie.co.uk which breaks down all the topics that will be examined by grade and provides a video, exam questions and solutions for each topic.

With Mock exams less than 3 months away it is important that students are using their independent time wisely. We recommend that alongside the homework set by their teacher, they are accessing the websites detailed above to go through topics they covered in Year 10. Our advice with revision in Mathematics, is that the most effective approach to supporting long term retention and recall, is "little and often", so three twenty-minute sessions a week is often more effective than one hour blocked revision.

Mocks are important as detailed analysis of their papers will take place to allow them to target their revision for the summer exam. The December mock exams will also be used to decide which tier students will be entered for in the summer. This is particularly important for students in sets 1 and 2, who are currently following the higher tier. If they wish to sit the higher tier in the summer, they need to prove in the mock exam that they are capable of achieving at least a grade 4 on the higher paper. Any student who does not achieve a grade 4 or above in the mock exam will be transferred onto the foundation paper. It is essential that the decision is not left any later, as time needs to be given to fully prepare students for the summer exam and content is different between tiers.

Finally, it has been noticed by staff that many students are not fully equipped for lessons. It is essential that students bring their own scientific calculator to school. They need to be familiar with their own model of calculator ready for the exam, as we do not want them to be disadvantaged by using an unfamiliar model in the exams.

I hope that this provides some clarity. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Woodley
Head of Mathematics

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