

MATHEMATICS AT POST-16

Welcome to Post-16 Mathematics. This letter contains information to help you prepare for life as an A-level Mathematics student at The West Bridgford School. Please read the information carefully and if you have any questions direct them to your teacher or come and see Mrs Lynch or Mr Judge in the Maths Office.

[AQA A LEVEL MATHEMATICS \(7357\)](#)

New AS and A levels in Mathematics and Further Mathematics were introduced in England for first teaching from September 2017. The changes include:

- New linear structure: AS will be decoupled from A level, and all assessment will take place at the end of the course. Exam questions may draw on the content of the whole A level.
- New emphasis: There will be more emphasis on problem solving, reasoning and modelling, and a requirement for the use of [technology](#) to permeate teaching and learning.
- New content: The content of AS and A level Mathematics will be fixed. It will include pure mathematics, mechanics and statistics (including analysis of large data sets).

At The West Bridgford School, we begin a 2 year Maths course straightaway in Year 12. This will include work on Algebra, Trigonometry, Vectors and Calculus in Pure Maths. You will also do applied work in Statistics and Mechanics. This pattern then repeats in Year 13, with a greater emphasis on more challenging Calculus in the Pure Maths, and the introduction of Proof. You will have two teachers throughout the two years who will split the content with one teacher at a time taking responsibility for the applied content. You will have 9 hours of timetabled lessons per fortnight.

Every Wednesday after school, the maths department run the "Sixth Form Drop-In Workshop". This is open to all students and provides students with help and support from both staff and their peers. This has proved an extremely effective tool for those students wanted to develop their knowledge at all levels.

PREPARATION WORK

The jump from GCSE to A-Level Maths is pronounced and the pace of work is fast. It is important that you are prepared and starting from as strong a position as possible. To enable you to do so, we would like you to revise some topics.

We would recommend using CGP guides as a starting point. Key topics to focus on include:

- Fractions
- Surds & Indices
- Basic Algebra
- Quadratic Equations
- Trigonometry
- Straight Line Graphs

TEXTBOOKS

Students will be required to purchase 2 textbooks for this course. It is also essential to have an appropriate calculator. Details and an opportunity to purchase all of these items through school will be made available when you start in September.

ASSESSMENTS

When you arrive in September, you will sit an Initial Algebra & Number Assessment in your first lesson. You must score 50% or above to be considered ready for A-Level Maths. If you do not, you will be given additional work to support your study and will sit a retest after school a fortnight later. Algebra & Fractions form a huge part of the A-Level syllabus and proficiency in it is essential for success.

Following this, you will sit regular weekly assessments in class. These are typically exam-style questions, the results of which are recorded on BrightSpace. There are also Interim Unit Assessments throughout the year (around 1 per teacher per half term). This data should enable you to identify your own strengths and weaknesses and tailor your studies accordingly.

You will not be regularly set assessed homework in class but it is understood that you will be completing exercises from the textbooks at home and you must be working through the SiS work available on BrightSpace. This work forms the main body of your preparation for the summer examinations and is therefore absolutely vital to be completed. There will be regular folder checks to identify students who are struggling with organisation.

Enjoy your Summer!

The Maths Department