

Our Aims

At Astley Community High School, we aim to develop a positive approach to Mathematics by making it interesting and relevant to students.

Significant changes to the GCSE mathematics syllabus for students sitting examinations from summer 2017 will ensure that students are given opportunities to solve problems independently, and that they will develop their ability to think strategically. In addition to covering the traditional areas of number, algebra, geometry and statistics, **GCSE mathematics will be more demanding for everyone:**

- The **volume of subject content** has increased.
- The **demand of that content** is increasing too, with harder topics being introduced. This is true for both Foundation Tier students and Higher Tier students.
- The **total time for the examinations** is increasing
- A **new grading structure** is being introduced, from **grade 9 to 1, to replace the familiar A* to G** grading system.
- In the assessments there's a greater emphasis on **problem solving and mathematical reasoning**, with more marks now being allocated to these higher-order skills
- Students will be required to memorise formulae – **fewer formulae will be provided in examinations.**

Together these changes are designed to help students emerge from GCSE maths 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.

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 scores.

Support

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

The Mathematics Department subscribes to an excellent website [Just Maths](#), which may be used for effective independent revision. Students also have access to additional resources via Corbett Maths (5 a day, videos) and Mr Barton. Shared files KS4 maths contains practice examination papers and mark schemes. Students can email/Google drive home.

It is essential that students are fully equipped for the Mathematics course. All students require a scientific calculator for all lessons and will need a protractor and compasses for the examinations. Revision guides and calculators 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, email: cward@astleyhigh.org