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**Principal:** Mrs L Monk – BMus (Hons) **Specialisms:** Science, Performing and Creative Arts

25<sup>th</sup> May 2018

## **Preparation for the Year 10 end of year exam**

### **Dear Parent/Carer**

In June your son/daughter will be sitting their end of year examinations in Mathematics. This will enable us to ensure they are following the most suitable tier of entry for their GCSE and will allow the students to gain some valuable experience of sitting an examination in formal settings.

The exam will take place under full formal exam conditions and we would like to ask you to encourage your son/daughter to revise and prepare for this exam over the coming weeks as if it were their GCSE. This will provide us with the best possible picture of your son/daughters potential.

Revision activities will take place in lesson time and all students will be provided with a revision checklist and information on where to find key revision resources.

Students in set 1 and selected students from set 2 will be sitting a mock higher tier GCSE paper. This decision will be informed by their class teacher and agreed upon by the curriculum leader of KS4 and the Assistant Principle of Mathematics. The remainder of set 2 pupils, pupils from set 3 and set 4 will be sitting a mock foundation GCSE paper.

The dates of the examinations are as follows:

Paper 1 Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June

Paper 2 Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June

Paper 3 Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June

## MATHEMATICS FACULTY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ***What exam board specification is my child studying?***

Your child is studying the Edexcel 1MA1 specification. It can be found using the following link <http://qualifications.pearsons.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/mathematics-2015.html>

This is commonly referred to as GCSE 2015.

### ***What is the structure of the exam?***

There are three exams in total, each paper is 1 hour 30 minutes long. Each paper is out of 80 marks. The first paper is non calculator and the other two are calculator papers.

There is no coursework for GCSE Mathematics

### ***How are the grades awarded?***

The new GCSEs are graded 1 to 9. The current guidance suggests that the same proportion of students who gained a grade C previously will get a grade 4. Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve a grade A and above.

Grade 5 is considered a good pass.

Currently there is very little guidance on the number of marks needed to achieve each grade. Therefore the department is using a best fit model based on the knowledge gained from other departments. The students should therefore concentrate on ***improving the number of marks*** and not concentrate on the grade.

### ***What tier paper is my child studying?***

Currently sets 1 and 2 are sitting the higher paper and sets 3 and 4 are sitting the foundation paper. This is subject to change closer to the exam to ensure that your child secures the best possible grade.

The grades achievable on a foundation paper are 1 to 5. The grades achievable on a higher paper are 3 to 9.

### ***How can I support my child at home?***

The best way to revise mathematics is to do regular small chunks of revision. 10 minutes of mathematics a day can improve your grade by 1 in 6 weeks.

The best website to use is HegartyMaths. To access HegartyMaths your child must go to [www.hegartymaths.com](http://www.hegartymaths.com) and use their login details to access the site. If they can't remember their login details they can request via the site that their details are reset.

Once logged into HegartyMaths your child will be able to access videos on different topics at different grades. The videos will provide step by step instruction on how to solve problems and also give your child questions to answer.

A quiz is attached to every video for additional practice.

Other recommended websites include

- **Corbett Maths** <https://corbettmaths.com/>
- **Just Maths**
  - **Higher** <https://justmaths.co.uk/2015/12/21/9-1-exam-questions-by-topic-higher-tier/>
  - **Foundation** <https://justmaths.co.uk/2015/11/29/9-1-exam-questions-by-topic-foundation-version-2>
- **Maths Genie** is a user-friendly website. It is regularly updated with exam style questions on new topics plus practice papers. <http://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/>
- **PixiMaths** has created an excellent collection of GCSE 9 - 1 revision booklets suitable for different grades. <https://www.piximaths.co.uk/>
- **MathsBot.com** is a great website where you'll find GCSE questions, revision grids and practice papers.
- **onmaths.com** is a website where students can complete practice papers online.
- **Blandin** has created a series of question booklets broken down by topic area. They have also created a set of grade 9 papers. <http://www.bland.in/>

### **How is the school going to prepare the students for the exam?**

The mathematics department offers after school revision every Tuesday and Thursday in EF1. Certain students will be required to attend these sessions and they will be notified individually.

If you have any questions regarding revision then please contact Miss Smith via email ([esmith@shenleyacademy.org.uk](mailto:esmith@shenleyacademy.org.uk))



**E SMITH**  
**Assistant Principal - Mathematics**