

3rd September 2014

Dear Parent/Carer,

Success in Maths A Level

On behalf of the Maths department, I am writing to welcome your daughter/son to their Advanced Level study of Maths. Maths is often referred to as one of the 'facilitating subjects' at A Level, which means that it is well-regarded by university admissions departments and forms part of the entry requirements for a wide variety of degree subjects. As such, it is highly competitive and the transition from GCSE to AS Level is a steep one.

Students must be responsible for their own learning. As a department, we will do our best to prepare students for their exams. However, success at AS and A2 Level is largely down to the way students commit to their courses. They need to start strong to finish stronger!

The following strategies and ideas may be useful for you to discuss with your daughter/son and monitor as they progress in Year 12:

- All homework deadlines must be met. Using a calendar may help students plan and manage their workload.
- Keeping folders and notes organised is important. Regular checks will be done by department staff.
- Students must copy up all notes and ensure they have any handouts/homework tasks if they miss a lesson.
- Students should re-read their class notes and, where appropriate, summarise them. Students should take the initiative and come to speak to the Maths staff between lessons if they are struggling with anything.
- Study periods: students should make their own timetable for how they will use their free periods. Consistent independent study throughout the year is preferable to last minute cramming.
- Feedback will be given verbally and on written work. Students must listen/read carefully and act on that feedback if they are to make progress towards their target grades.
- Attendance at any additional support or revision sessions is crucial.

If you wish to source any additional revision or support materials for your daughter/son, we study **AQA** Maths.

Useful websites:

<http://www.mrbartonmaths.com/alevel.htm>

http://www.schoolworkout.co.uk/a_level.htm

<http://www.examsolutions.net/maths-revision/syllabuses/AQA/period-1/specification.php>

Thank you in advance for your support. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself or Mrs McDonald, Assistant Curriculum Leader for Maths, who is in charge of KS5 Maths intervention.

Yours faithfully,



Miss C Sarson
Curriculum Leader for English & Maths