THE FERNWOOD SCHOOL

The Faculty of Mathematics

Welcome to the Mathematics faculty at the Fernwood School. We are particularly proud of our GCSE results and over the last few years we have averaged 79% of grades A*-C at GCSE and last year 28% of students gained GCSE A or A* grades.

The ethos of the faculty is; that Mathematics encompasses all aspects of everyday life and, as such, we focus on the use of Mathematics in the real world and problem solving and we encourage our pupils to become independent learners in the subject.

We have a wealth and breadth of experience in the faculty, with our practitioners able to deliver personalised lessons which seek to engage, enthuse and encourage our learners to make rapid progress and achieve their potential. The faculty consists of 9 full time staff who aim to provide an atmosphere of mutual respect in which every student feels valued. The faculty works as a team, sharing ideas, resources and enthusiasm. All teachers in the faculty are Mathematics specialists who involve themselves fully in the life of the school; some have additional responsibilities, most are tutors and all contribute to the school’s pastoral system.

Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8)

In year 7 all students sit a baseline test and are set according to their scores. There is freedom of movement in the sets as they are taught in half year groups. Year 7 enjoy 4 lessons of Mathematics a week, 2 of which make a double lesson.

In year 8 students are set according to their attainment throughout year 7 but only have 3 lessons per week.

Both year 7 and 8 follow the national curriculum which has been divided into units of study (5 in year 7 and 4 in year 8). The students access the work according to the ability of their group. Over the course of this academic year we are developing aspects of the scheme of learning to reflect the changes in the KS2 and KS3 national curriculum.

Key Stage 4 (Years 9-11)

At GCSE students follow the AQA linear specification (4365) where they are assessed on the basis of two final papers (current years 10 and 11). Those likely to achieve Grades A* to C will be entered for the higher tier whereas students at Grades D to G follow the foundation course. We also offer a Certificate of Achievement course for those who do not access the GCSE Syllabus. It is envisaged that, where appropriate, we will offer the AQA Further Maths which is particularly beneficial for those students considering A Level Maths.

We offer a varied and flexible curriculum that provides students with the best possible opportunities to succeed. We have high expectations of ourselves and of our students. We use homework as an extension of the classroom experience to help students develop as independent learners. In particular, we expect students to work with online study materials and assessments, including ‘MyMaths’ and ‘CGP Tutor’, as well as undertaking more traditional activities. This approach works best in partnership with parents and we value their interest and contributions. We seek to allow students to develop confidence in their learning through our teaching in an environment that is interactive and supportive.
The faculty supports individual students through a range of intervention activities, such as:

- One to one support
- Small group numeracy intervention during tutor time
- Tutor group numeracy mornings
- PiXL mentoring and monitoring; Diagnosis, Therapy and Testing (DTT)

The faculty is forward thinking and hardworking with high quality first teaching at the heart of all that we do. We have a new, innovative teaching and learning board where we share best and next practice and each member of the faculty is involved in peer coaching within the faculty, all of which aim to further develop each member of the faculty.

It is an exciting time for the Mathematics faculty with new developments and challenges expected in an effort to build on the tremendous success it has enjoyed at key stage 4. The successes to date are attributed to many factors but above all else to the dynamic, high quality teaching and learning which remains our highest priority in all that we do.