Course Information

Qualification: Level 3 Mathematical Studies
Exam Board: AQA
Subject Leader: Miss C. Reidy

Entry Requirements:

Minimum Entry Requirements:
5 x 5s
4 in English and Maths

Subject Specific Entry Requirements:
4 in GCSE Maths

Why study Core Maths?

Many of the new A-level exam specifications include an increased amount of mathematics. This often involves working with some high-level statistical ideas that are not studied at GCSE. Core Mathematics is a course that is worth the same as an AS-level, is a qualification that is recognised by universities and employers and which provides much of the mathematical and statistical background required in other A-level subjects. These subjects include Geography, Biology and Psychology. If you are studying one of these subjects and are not intending to do A-level Mathematics then Core Maths will be very helpful.

Alongside the statistical elements of the course, problem solving forms a large part of the course. The majority of this involves starting with a something real (such as a newspaper article) and applying some mathematics to it. This is fun and satisfying (and a little scary when we discover how many errors there are in the news we see every day!).

What can I do with Core Maths after Sixth Form?

Degree courses in the subjects mentioned above can also include a large amount of statistical work, and some universities are encouraging sixth formers to study the subject because it will help to support applications for university degree courses and will help the students during the course too. Several universities have made reduced tariff offers to students who are taking Core Maths to reflect the value that they place on the course. Many employers say they are keen to work with people who can solve problems and the work we do with real-life problem solving will help with this.

What will I study?

Level 3 Mathematical Studies includes the following areas of study:

- Material taken from GCSE maths; this is applied in new contexts
- Problem solving, including the use of real-life starting points
- Mathematical literacy, which involves being able to analyse statements mathematically
- Personal finance
- Statistics
- Using ICT

There are 3 lessons per week across Year 12 and Year 13. The course is examined via two papers (no coursework), taken at the end of Year 13.
Paper 1: Problem solving and personal finance
Paper 2: Statistical techniques