



Mount St Mary's Catholic High School

Educating The Individual For The Benefit Of All

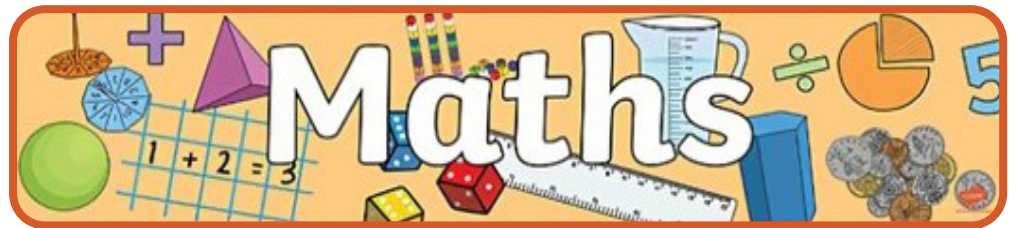
The importance of GCSE Mathematics

Just as languages provide the building blocks and rules we need to communicate, Maths uses its own language, made up of numbers, symbols and formulae, to explore the rules we need to measure or identify real life problems like distance, speed, time, space, change, force and quantities.

Studying Maths helps us find patterns and structure in our lives. Practically, Maths helps us put a price on things, create graphics, build websites, build skyscrapers and generally understand how things around us work, or predict how they might change over time when conditions change.

Maths remains one of the most sought-after qualifications. Colleges and places of work continue to make it a prerequisite. This explains why there may be an expectation for students to study Maths until they achieve at least a grade four.

Getting a pass in Maths at GCSE could mean young people getting in a profession that will help them earn in excess of £1m over the course of their working life, according to the Learning and Skills Council.



GCSE Mathematics

Careers Options

GCSE Maths at Grade 4 or better is a basic entry requirement for all further education courses and is also a key requirement for people entering the workplace. GCSE Maths also prepares students for studying Maths at a higher level:

AS or A-level Maths
AS or A-level Statistics

AS or A-level Application of Maths
AS or A-level Further Maths

A-level Maths can complement any subject from Music to Physics. People with Maths degrees and other qualifications can go into: accounting, medicine, engineering, forensic pathology, finance, business, consultancy, teaching, IT, games development, scientific research, programming, civil science, design, construction and astrophysics to name a few. Specific job roles include actuary, business analyst, software engineer, technology analyst, information engineer, speech technology researcher and maths teacher.

Jobs in mathematical sciences, that is careers that are directly prepared by studying maths at university, are generally very well paying. The combination of a skills shortage and a growing need for maths skills means more and more employers are on the lookout for maths graduates.

About a quarter of GCSE maths graduates go on to further study, while well over half end up in full or part-time work, or do a mixture of work and study. Only 7% of maths graduates are unemployed six months post-graduation.

What you will study

What you will study, as laid down in the national curriculum for Maths:

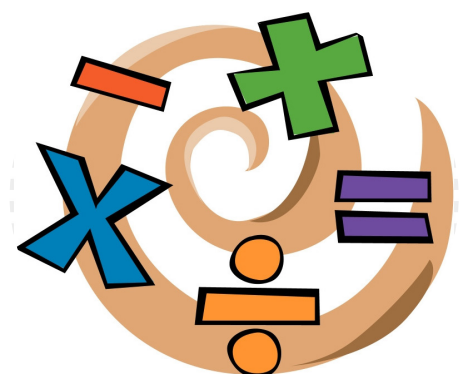
Working Mathematically
Reason Mathematically

Develop Fluency
Solve Problems

Content

Algebra
Geometry and Measure
Probability

Number
Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change
Statistics



How is the subject assessed?

Higher tier students use OCR, Foundation students use Edexcel

Duration of exams

Edexcel

- Paper 1 : 90 Minutes (Non-calculator)
- Paper 2 : 90 Minutes (Calculator)
- Paper 3 : 90 Minutes (Calculator)

OCR

- Paper 4 : 90 Minutes (Calculator)
- Paper 5 : 90 Minutes (Non-calculator)
- Paper 6 : 90 Minutes (Calculator)

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