

# HIGHDOWN SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM CENTRE

## Frequently Asked Questions



### MATHS DEPARTMENT

#### **Do you set your classes?**

*Students start Y7 in mixed ability groups for the first term before moving to three sets for the remainder of Years 7-11.*

#### **Home learning, Marking and Assessment**

*In line with school policy, students receive written feedback on their work once per fortnight. Additional feedback is given through online learning platforms where appropriate.*

*Homework is set once each week and this alternates between an online task which is marked automatically and a more substantial written piece.*

*We also use topic quizzes and cumulative assessments at key points through the year to assess students' progress and tailor our planning.*

#### **How many students do you have in each class?**

*At KS3, class sizes average around 29 students. At KS4 we try to maintain smaller class sizes for groups of students who need the most support. For these groups, class sizes are around 15-20 students per class.*

#### **How do you challenge your most able students?**

*Our focus in class is on deepening understanding of core concepts rather than accelerating students through a superficial understanding of topics. Students are also invited to compete in both the individual and group UK Maths Challenges run by the UKMT with some students progressing to later stages of the national competitions. Students who are clearly handling the GCSE content with confidence in Year 11 are also given the opportunity to take a further qualification in Maths, the AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Maths. This helps bolster the higher grade work at GCSE whilst also preparing students for A Level study.*

#### **How do you support students?**

*In addition to in-class support, we also run drop-in sessions for students to seek help on a one-to-one or small group basis. For those in most need of support we also run additional support/intervention sessions with intervention tutors and maths specialists in the learning support department.*

#### **Which Textbooks do you use?**

*We are not currently using textbooks in lessons. In-class activities are designed by staff utilising ideas of Intelligent Practice and Variation Theory.*

#### **Which exam boards do you use?**

*We currently use AQA as the exam board for GCSE and A Level Maths. For A Level Further Maths, we use Edexcel.*