GCSE Mathematics
Edexcel

Overview

Mathematics at GCSE builds on the knowledge, skills and understanding developed in key stage 3. There are two tiers of entry: Foundation and Higher. The entry tier in Year 11 dictates the grades that accessible, these are listed below:

Foundation	1	2	3	4	5				
Higher				4	5	6	7	8	9

All students follow a GCSE Maths course, the tier of entry is not decided until after they have sat their mock examinations in February of Year 11.

Assessment

Students all follow a linear course which is assessed by three terminal examinations at the end of year 11; one non calculator and two where a calculator is allowed. Each paper is one and a half hours long and worth a third of the overall qualification. The whole spectrum of topics areas within each tier, is to be expected across all three papers.

Higher tier – this syllabus covers all topics which are grade 4 to 9.
Foundation tier - This syllabus covers all topics which are grade 1 to 5.

The course consists of six disciplines within mathematics, each weighted with a different percentage:

	Foundation	Higher
Algebra	20	30
Number	20	15
Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change	25	20
Geometry and Measures	15	20
Statistics	15	15
Probability		

Progression Pathways

A GCSE in Mathematics is very valuable as a supporting subject to many courses at GCSE, A level and degree level, for example physics, chemistry, biology, geography, psychology, sociology, and medical courses.
AS and A level Mathematics is a prerequisite for some undergraduate degree courses at University such as Medicine and Economics. We require a GCSE Mathematics grade of 7 or better for access to our A level Mathematics course.
A good pass (grade 5) in GCSE Maths is essential for progression to many level 3 academic courses (e.g. A levels in Sciences and Geography) and vocational courses (e.g. BTEC Engineering) as well as areas of employment such as teaching, fashion and childcare.

Careers

A good understanding of Mathematics will be useful to everyone. Learning to think like a mathematician will improve your problem-solving and decision-making skills. The Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) run an excellent website called Mathematics Careers which can be found at www.Mathematicscareers.org.uk and which demonstrates the uses of mathematics in a number of jobs and professions in areas such as Environment, Health & Society, Business & Money, Entertainment, Science & Engineering and Sport.