Core Mathematics

Key contacts Mrs Davies (Head of Department) and Mr J Keogh (KS5 Co-ordinator)

Exam Board: Edexcel

Overview of the course:

Core Mathematics is a relatively new qualification that provides an opportunity for students to pursue Mathematics in Sixth Form without studying for an A Level in Mathematics. Whilst Core Mathematics will extend students' understanding of Mathematics beyond GCSE, it will focus primarily on using Mathematics the students have already studied within contextualised problems.

Core Mathematics is an ideal choice for students who will be using Mathematics in their other A Level subjects but are unable or unwilling to commit to the full Mathematics A Level course.

This course aims to promote:
- Application of mathematical principles.
- The use of mathematics within candidates' studies, work or interests.
- Development of skills that enable you to communicate, use and interpret mathematics.
- The solution of substantial and realistic problems encountered by adults.
- The ability to solve open-ended problems.
- The development of mathematical modelling skills.
- The development of mathematical reasoning skills.
- Use of appropriate ICT.
- Enjoyment of Mathematics and increased confidence when using Mathematics to solve problems.

Total teaching contact time will be 180 hours over the one year of the course – approximately nine hours a fortnight.

What will you study?

Core Mathematics' main objective is to prepare students for the world of work by increasing their capacity to solve authentic, real-life problems using Mathematics. The course will focus on developing students' ability to select the appropriate Mathematics to tackle significant problems as well as increasing their confidence to work in groups and communicate ideas using Mathematics.

Course content will include Statistics, the Mathematics of Decision Making, the Mathematics of Finance and some pure Mathematics concepts that go beyond Higher GCSE.

Assessment

Core Mathematics is a one year course with a terminal examination taken at the end of Year 12.

Possible career path?

Post 16 Mathematics opens doorways to many potential careers. It is fundamental to the further study of mathematical based subjects, science subjects, and a wide range of engineering and technology. It is very useful in biological subjects, in geography and economics, business and management studies, accountancy, operational research, banking, and education, to name a few. Core Mathematics will provide a foundation for working on the mathematical content of a vast range of disparate degree courses and careers.

The majority of employers believe that Mathematics is a fundamental skill and regard numerate people highly. The Core Mathematics qualification has been introduced partly because mathematical problem solving has been identified as an area of development by employers in our education system.

If you are considering studying Core Mathematics you will need to:

- have enjoyed most of the Mathematics you have studied so far; and
- have attained at least a Grade 5 on the GCSE course.

Entry requirements

Five GCSEs Grade 9-5, including English and Mathematics to Grade 5.

For further information on reasons to choose Core Mathematics please go to https://amsp.org.uk/ and browse the student area.