Core Maths

Pathway 2

Course description:

Core Maths is about students doing meaningful mathematical problems to increase their confidence in using mathematics to be better equipped for the mathematical demands of other courses, higher education and employment.
Core Maths is the new Level 3 qualification (equivalent to an AS level) for students who achieved a Grade 4 (formerly a Grade C) or above at GCSE mathematics and wish to develop their practical skills so they may apply these in work, study or everyday life.

Qualifications required:

- In line with the entry requirements for a Pathway 2 subject.
- You should have a grade 5 or above at GCSE Maths in order to fully cope with the subject content.
- We will consider those with a grade 4 in conjunction with a good pass on our entry test.

Aims of the course:

Why Core Maths?
Currently, only around 20% of students study mathematics beyond GCSE in the UK – the lowest rate in leading developed countries in the world.
According to the Higher Education STEM project, many students arrive at university with unrealistic expectations of the mathematical and statistical demands of their subjects, leading to a lack of confidence and anxiety by the students. .
Designed to maintain and develop real-life mathematics skills, what students study can be applied on a day-to-day basis whether in further study or employment. Most courses will include a financial mathematics element and can help with other A level subjects, including science, geography, business studies, economics and psychology.
The skills developed in the study of mathematics are increasingly important in the workplace and in higher education. Most students who study mathematics after GCSE improve their career choices and increase their earning potential.

Future prospects:

Will it be recognised by universities and employers?
Even though Core Maths is a new qualification, several universities have already come out in strong support of it. Employers from a range of sectors are also firmly behind the qualification. Many roles in the workplace require high levels of budget management and problem-solving skills and Core Maths will be a useful tool in equipping you with these skills.

Student feedback:

“Maths is good because you get instant feedback; it is either right or wrong!”
"It is hard to explain the satisfaction I feel when I solve a really complex problem"

Subject Teachers:

Mrs Bolton

Core Maths

Features of the course:

- We study the Level 3 Mathematical Studies which is AQA's Level 3 Core Maths qualification (equivalent to an AS Level). This is designed to follow on from the 9-1 GCSE.
- Analysis of data, Personal finance, Modelling and making estimations are all studied in the compulsory module.
- Module 2a Statistical Techniques explores the analysis, interpretation and presentation of data including the use of the binominal distribution
- Module 2b Critical Path & Risk Analysis explores planning projects using activity networks, cost-benefit analysis and probability
- Module 2c Graphical Techniques explores the analysis, interpretation and presentation of various graphs including the use of exponential functions and logarithms.
- For the Level 3, two year course there will be one comprehension module and one option (Statistical Techniques or Critical Path & Risk Analysis or Graphical Techniques) module

Methods of Assessment:

It is planned to use the AQA exam board.

There are two equally weighted written examinations, both sat at the end of the course. Paper 1 consists of the compulsory module. Paper 2 consisting of one of the option modules will be decided on a cohort basis. Calculators may be used in all examinations.

Core Mathematics does **not** involve any coursework.