



To Parents/Carers of Year 9 Students

January 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

## Maths GCSE

Year 9 is an important year for our students, since your son/daughter will be deciding their options for GCSE. I would like to take this opportunity to explain some of the changes in the Maths GCSE assessment and how staff in the Maths Department are working to help ensure your son/daughter makes the best possible progress.

GCSE's are changing to 9-1 assessments. For Maths this also means some new content in the GCSE syllabus and a change to the assessments. Due to the changes in the syllabus the Maths Department have begun to deliver the new GCSE Maths course to Year 9 at the beginning of this term. This will allow students to spend longer preparing for their GCSE and to understand fully the changes in the grading system, thus maximising their chances for success.

Students will be studying for the Edexcel specification and will be examined with 3 assessments in the summer term of 2018. The assessment will be made up of 3 examinations: 1 non-calculator exam and 2 calculator exams. Each exam will be an hour and a half and consist of 80 marks. The Maths GCSE has two tiers: Foundation and Higher. Students can gain a 1 to 5 grade on a Foundation tier paper and a 4 to 9 grade on the Higher tier paper. We will be making decisions over the next 2 and half years as to which tier is most suitable for your son/daughter.

Attached to this letter are two documents which explain some of the changes to the report grading.

Students will have the opportunity to attend KS3 booster sessions after school on Tuesdays to support their learning and consolidate their understanding. If your son/daughter is interested in attending these sessions please ask them to speak to their Maths teacher.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding the changes to the GCSE assessment, please do not hesitate to contact me or speak to me at the Year 9 Pathways evening on Tuesday 2nd February.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs S Poole**  
**Associate Assistant Headteacher Leader of Mathematics**

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