

# CORE SUBJECTS



## MATHS

Mathematics is a compulsory subject for all pupils until the age of 16. The courses followed at Key Stage 4 reflect the National Curriculum and continue the topics pupils will have studied in Key Stage 3, with new topics also being introduced.

The work is based on six areas of study:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio & proportion and rates of change
- Geometry & Measures
- Probability
- Statistics

Mathematics is taught in two tiers, and in year 11, we decide on the best tier of entry based on their performance in assessments, targets and mock examinations to ensure they achieve the best grade possible. The tiers are:

- Higher Tier - Grades 9 to 4
- Foundation Tier - Grades 5 to 1

### Why is GCSE Mathematics so essential?

GCSE maths is required for most courses, apprenticeships, and jobs, so it's important to do well. Furthermore, it will support you with:

- Preparing for university - Most universities expect applicants to have a good understanding of maths, and a grade of 4 or higher can increase your chances of getting in.
- Improving your earning power - Jobs that require technical skills and advanced knowledge often pay better, and GCSE maths can help you get into these jobs.
- Developing soft skills - GCSE maths can help you develop problem-solving, critical thinking, and numerical awareness skills.



If you have any course questions, contact Mrs. E. Addy at [eca@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:eca@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk) or your maths teacher.

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### The GCSE Course Structure

Pupils follow the OCR GCSE course, which builds upon the mathematical knowledge students have studied in years 7 to 9 and covers the full range of topics from the six key areas of study.

All pupils are set according to their ability and target grades to ensure they have the best opportunity to achieve their full potential. In the summer of year 11, they sit three exam papers, each 1½ hours long, with 1 being a non-calculator paper and the other 2 being calculator papers. Students' marks for these three papers are combined to produce their final GCSE grade.

### Internal Assessments

During Years 10 and 11, pupils are regularly assessed on each unit of work through homework tasks, mini-tests and activities. Pupils also complete more significant summative assessments at key points during the year to assess their progress on the topics they have covered.

The assessments are thoroughly analysed, and the results are discussed with individual pupils. Time is then allocated in lessons to re-visit the common topics pupils may have struggled with.



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