St Mary's Catholic School

Maths Department

The department occupies a suite of 9 classrooms. Each classroom is equipped with a state of the art Smartboard linked to a desktop computer. The desktop is linked to a classroom speaker system. There are also standard whiteboards in each room. Every teacher on a full maths timetable has their own classroom.

There are currently 14 members of staff in the department. There is a head of department and two deputy heads of department. One member of staff is a head of year, one is an assistant pastoral lead and a further staff member is on the SLT.

Maths Department

Maths is a very popular and successful subject in the school and each year results are very strong.

Key Stage 4
- 82% of pupils achieved at least a Grade 4 in GCSE Maths in 2023
- 66% of pupils achieved at least a Grade 5 and 32% a Grade 7
- Maths Progress 8 score of +0.35 in 2023, amongst the highest in the North East.

Key Stage 5
- 49% of A-Level Maths grades were A*-A in 2023, with 81% A*-C
- 80% of A-Level Further Maths grades were A*-C in 2023

In Year 7 students are set using a mixture of Key Stage 2 data from primary schools as well as CAT scores taken in the first term. Throughout the Key Stage 3 course the students are grouped by ability across two parallel bands. For the GCSE programmes in Key Stage 4, the students are also grouped by ability across the whole year group. Sets are reviewed every term and updated using students' assessment performance. Class sizes in KS3 are typically 30 pupils in sets 1 and 2, 25 in set 3 and 20 in set 4. A small set 5 also exists, typically consisting of approximately 10-15 students. GCSE classes follow a similar reducing pattern. We currently have 3 Year 12 groups of 18 students and three groups of around 15 at A2. We also have A Level Further Maths classes in both Year 12 and 13.

KS3

Key Stage 3 provision is currently 6 x 1 hour lessons per 2-week cycle in Years 7-9. There are comprehensive schemes of work and resources for all year groups. Problem solving and the application of skills play a key part in the SOW, as does regular assessment. Homework is set weekly and alternates between a written task and an on-line activity. The written task is from a prepared homework booklet and the marking provides students with formative feedback which the students then respond to in the next lesson. Termly assessments are formally marked and levels reported home.

KS4

Students at Key Stage 4 have 8 x 1 hour lessons per 2-week cycle. We follow the OCR Syllabus for GCSE. There are comprehensive schemes of work and resources for all units. Students are encouraged to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of Mathematics using varied approaches to learning. The SOW contains problem solving activities to develop thinking skills. Each SOW offers structured learning and regular assessment. Assessment is on-going with students sitting regular topic tests, termly assessments and mock exams in Year 11. Termly assessments are formally marked and levels reported home. High achieving students are offered the opportunity to study AQA Level 2 Further Maths alongside their GCSE. Homework is set weekly and alternates between a written task and an on-line activity. The written task is from a prepared homework booklet and the marking provides students with formative feedback which the students then respond to in the next lesson.

KS5

Key Stage 5 provision is currently 9 x 1 hour lessons per 2-week cycle. The department offers both AS and A2 level Maths and Further Maths. We follow the OCR syllabus covering modules in Pure Maths, Statistics, Mechanics and Further Pure Maths. Comprehensive schemes of work and resources for all units are in place. A high quality homework schedule is in place, which provides the students with an opportunity to practise extensively exam style questions throughout the course. Students will sit 3 exams at the end of year 13 for A Level Maths and Further Maths. Assessment is on-going with students sitting mock exams in Y12 and 13 with grades reported home regularly.