

How can I be successful in A-level mathematics?

- **be actively involved** in managing the learning process, the mathematics and your study time
- **take responsibility for studying**, recognising what you do and don't know and ask for help with what you don't know
- **attend every lesson and make complete notes**. Test questions are based on material and examples covered in class as well as those in your textbooks. If you miss a lesson you will be expected to catch up with the work missed before the next lesson, if possible. Make sure **your folder is organized**.
- **be an active participant in the classroom**. Get ahead in the book; try to work some of the problems before they are covered in class. Anticipate what the teacher's next step will be.
- **ask questions in class!** There are usually other students wanting to know the answers to the same questions you have.
- **ask questions outside the class**. Your teacher will be pleased to see that you are interested and you will be actively helping yourself.
- **take responsibility for keeping up with the homework**. Make sure you find out how to do it.
- **you will need to spend more time studying per week** – you do more of the learning outside of class than in.
- **good study habits** throughout each term make it easier to revise for tests.

A-level mathematics is much harder than GCSE. We recommend that you consider taking a fourth option in case you find the course too difficult for you.

Studying mathematics is different from studying other subjects

Mathematics is learned by *doing* problems. Attempt each homework set. The problems help you learn the formulas and techniques you do need to know, as well as improve your problem-solving prowess.

A word of warning

Each lesson builds upon the previous ones throughout the course. You must keep up with the work set. Attend lessons, read the examples given in your textbooks and do all homework. Falling a day behind puts you at a disadvantage. Falling a week behind puts you in deep trouble!

A word of encouragement

Each lesson builds upon the previous ones throughout the course. You are always reviewing previous work as you cover new material. Many of the ideas link together. Identifying and learning the key concepts means you do not have to memorise as much.

Mathematics at Key Stage 5 is different from mathematics at Key Stage 4

Mathematics classes at Key Stage 5 meet more frequently than those at Key Stage 4. Material is covered at a faster rate and you are expected to absorb new material much more quickly. Tests will be more frequent and more specific. Take responsibility for keeping up with the homework. Make sure *you* find out how to do it. You will need to spend *more* time studying per week – you do more of the learning *outside* of class than in. Tests may seem harder because they cover material in more depth.

Preparation for September

You are expected to read and complete the booklet of maths problems. Please bring the booklet with you to your first class in September.