

Mathematics

Key Stage 3 & 4 Curriculum Information

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Mathematics is taught to all students at Key Stages 3 and 4. Students follow the National Curriculum at a level best suited to their ability. GCSE mathematics is taken by all students at key stage 4. They are entered through the AQA exam board (from 2017). Most employers and colleges ask for a specific grade in GCSE Mathematics and look favourably on a good grade. Almost all jobs require you to be 'numerate.' Even if you choose a career that does not involve a specific grade at GCSE, the skills learnt will help you in many areas of adult life – budgeting, getting the best deal in shops, cooking, etc.

The Mathematics department works hard to ensure that every student reaches his or her full potential in a stimulating and well-resourced environment. All students are challenged and we have high expectations for them.

We offer a variety of approaches to teaching and learning to engage and motivate students and demand their active participation. At both stages students will work to develop basic numeracy skills that will help them to perform in their chosen career or during higher education. Mathematics enables students to learn how to think logically, reason clearly and solve problems.

Key Stage 3

The path through the Key Stage 3 curriculum is based on number, algebra, geometry and statistics. The pupils are grouped by ability and move from one topic to the next. As topics are re-visited, they are studied in greater depth and complexity. At Ormiston Denes Academy we aim to make mathematics meaningful to our students and encourage stimulating independent learning.

Assessment is an integral tool to monitoring progress and encouraging students to take responsibility for their learning. Each student is assessed at different points throughout the year to help judge their progress as well as at the end of the year.

With the recent changes to the Key Stage 3 Curriculum, our focus for our students is the acquisition of skills; mathematical fluency, mathematical reasoning and problem solving.

The transition from Key Stage 3 to 4 happens at the beginning of Year 9. Students are grouped according to ability.

In mathematics, topics are taught in progressively greater depth over the course of key stage 3 and key stage 4 providing a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study.

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Key Stage 4

At GCSE, students will develop confidence in mathematics and recognise the importance of mathematics in their own lives and to society. They should also develop a strong mathematical foundation to go on to study mathematics at a higher level.

The Mathematics GCSE will enable students to:

1. Develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts
2. Acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems
3. Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions
4. Comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

Students study either foundation or higher GCSE, both of which are examined at during Year 11. We currently study the AQA Linear specification.