

Dear Parent / Carer,

I would like to introduce you to how Mathematics works at St Mary Redcliffe & Temple School. We believe that all students have the potential to succeed with their Mathematics and we will support them every step of the way while at SMRT to achieve this goal. It is our aim to inspire students to see the true beauty of Mathematics by making it exciting, relevant and accessible for all.

Teaching and Learning

Mathematics teaching and learning at SMRT is centred around developing key concepts of fluency, problem solving and reasoning within a Mastery Framework. We practice plenty of questions and then apply that knowledge to thought provoking problems that gets students thinking deeply about their mathematics. In Key Stage 3 (Years 7 to 9) students are grouped according to ability into one of 3 groups: Higher, Middle or Support. Each group follows an ambitious curriculum that is designed to meet the needs of all of our students and prepare them for GCSE study in Years 10 & 11. In Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11) students are also set into 3 groups: Higher, Middle or Support and study either Edexcel Foundation or Higher Tier GCSE building on the knowledge and understanding they have developed at Key Stage 3. I have attached an outline of the Curriculum plan that your child will be following this year that indicates what topics are being taught and when.

Assessment

We assess students understanding through Unit Tests that take place once a term and are reviewed in class with opportunities for feedback and improvement. The Unit Tests also help to inform decisions to move students into different groups. This is done in conjunction with performance in class, teacher assessment and homework progress. Set movements are fluid and can take place at any time during the year although this is typically done after a Unit Test. This provides students with a number of opportunities to move groups throughout each academic year.

Homework

As you are aware completing homework and revising regularly is essential in learning and retaining mathematical skills and knowledge. To help, the school has invested in an online resource called Sparx Maths which I notified you about a few weeks ago and is now up and running. Your child has been issued with a Sparx Maths homework book and a student account so that they can access the website and complete the work both online and in the homework books. A Home Support Guide explaining how to use Sparx Maths is attached to this letter.

Should your child not have access to the internet and or computer at home please let us know so that we can help.

Equipment

Finally, it is expected that students bring the following equipment to every Maths lesson:

Pen, Pencil, Eraser, Sharpener and Ruler
Protractor
Pair of compasses
Exercise book

Calculator (We recommend CASIO *FX 83GTX* – which can be bought from the school. If your child needs one then please ask them to speak to their maths teacher)

We hope that your child will find Maths lessons engaging and enjoyable whilst fulfilling their potential in Mathematics. However, if you have any concerns please contact their Maths teacher in the first instance or me for concerns of a more general nature.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Sims', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Leigh Sims

Head of Mathematics – St Mary Redcliffe & Temple School