

## **MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT**

There are currently seven full time members of staff, three part-time members of staff and a deputy head whose major teaching commitments are devoted to the subject. Each full-time member of the team is assigned his or her own room, very well-equipped, including a data projector and interactive whiteboard.

Students are set at the end of the first half term of Year 7 across two parallel bands, three or four sets being created in each half year. In Year 9 students are set across the year into eight sets and at KS4 a further extra group is created.

The NNS is currently followed at KS3 alongside the kangaroo maths schemes of work and with CGP practice text books used supported by a wide range of electronic resources. The department has its own dedicated mathematics ICT room. There are six timetabled maths lessons per two week cycle.

In Years 10 and 11 students are prepared for the Edexcel GCSE mathematics examination using CGP and Pearson texts. Currently, six of the ten sets are entered for the Higher tier examination with the remainder sitting the Foundation level. Sets 1 and 2 study some AO topics in the final two terms and have the option of sitting the AO examination in the same examination season as their GCSE. As the depth and spread of material has increased, the time allocation has gone up from 6 to 7 hours of class contact per fortnight.

From September 2018 all students at KS5 will all follow the same A Level mathematics content which includes both mechanics and statistics elements. The ability to teach a wide range of A Levels topics would be advantageous for any applicant. At KS5 students can opt to follow AS mathematics and further mathematics, continuing to A-Level in both. Again, we currently use Edexcel as the examining board and predominantly follow the Pearson textbooks. There are three groups studying maths in Year 13 and five in Year 12 with a group of further mathematicians in each year giving us 130 pupils studying A-level maths. Maths has been the most applied for sixth form subject in 4 out of the last 5 years at Balcarras.

We encourage all teachers to teach across all year groups, all abilities and all key stages.

The department has an excellent record of success in external examinations. Results are consistently well above the national average and amongst the highest in the county. At GCSE we have exceeded 90% A\*-C for the 6 of the last 7 years. Last year our 4+ was 90% and 5+ 78% with 6% of the year group achieving a Grade 9.

At A2 level we had a 100% pass rate again this year with 84% achieving A\*-B grades in maths. In further maths the corresponding figures were 100% pass rate with 80% A/A\*. At AS level we had 94% A-E with 65% achieving one of the top 2 grades in maths and in further maths we had 100% success with 91% A or B grades.

Pupils are invited to enter the UK Maths Challenges at all levels and enjoy success. We always enter a team in the junior and senior UK Team Maths Challenge.

In 2013 the department led the school's bid to become a Maths Hub. GLOW Maths Hub is now well established under the leadership of Steve Lomax. The department actively supports Steve in the leadership of the hub and there will be plenty of opportunities for getting involved with the hub's CPD activities.

I wish you luck in your application. Please contact me if you have any questions, either by phone or at [smc@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:smc@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk)

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