



## GCSE Mathematics - KS4 Information

### Key People

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Mr D Roberts- Second in Maths [droberts@queenelizabeths.com](mailto:droberts@queenelizabeths.com)

### Key Information

We use the Edexcel Pearson exam board. GCSE Mathematics is 100% assessment based. Students will sit three exam papers in May/June of year 11. Students are split into Higher or Foundation tier. In GCSE Maths there is a lot of content so it's really important that students practise and revise outside of lessons to ensure they do their best!

### Tiering

Students will be entered for either Higher tier or Foundation tier. Higher tier covers everything on the foundation tier and some additional and more challenging content. Foundation tier allows students to achieve a grade 1 to 5. Higher tier allows students to achieve from a grade 3 to 9, although it is designed for students aiming for a minimum of a grade 5. The certificate of results students receive will only show their grade and not the tier that they received it on meaning there is no difference in a 4 or 5 on foundation or higher.

### Calculator

It's essential that students have a proper scientific calculator and get used to using it. The model we recommend is the **Casio fx-83GT CW**. This is available for purchase on Parent Mail or from local supermarkets.

### Assessments

All students will sit three exam papers in the summer exams. Paper 1 is a non-calculator, while papers 2 and 3 are calculator. Each paper is 90 minutes long and out of a total of 80 marks. In each exam paper the easier questions are at the start and the harder questions are at the end. Topics are mixed up through all three papers. The marks required for different grades boundaries are different on each tier and change a little each year.

A good guide is:

| Higher Tier                |     |     |     |     |     |            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|-----|
| Grade                      | 9   | 8   | 7   | 6   | 5   | 4          | 3   |
| Percentage of marks needed | 85% | 73% | 60% | 47% | 33% | <b>20%</b> | 14% |

| Foundation Tier            |     |            |     |     |     |
|----------------------------|-----|------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Grade                      | 5   | 4          | 3   | 2   | 1   |
| Percentage of marks needed | 76% | <b>61%</b> | 45% | 30% | 14% |

### Sparks Maths

Students are used to Sparks maths for their HW platform. They log in using their school (google) email and password.

Students will be set HW each week. They can also use Sparks Maths to support their independent revision. They will be given a set of Sparks codes before their PPEs to support this.

### Revision Guides

If your child wants a physical revision book then we recommend the CGP revision guides and workbooks.

| Title                                                   | ISBN          | Info                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| CGP Revision guides Foundation Revision                 | 9781782944003 | Foundation Students only                                   |
| CGP Revision guides Foundation Workbook                 | 9781782944010 | Foundation Students only                                   |
| CGP Revision guides Higher Revision                     | 9781782944041 | Higher Students only                                       |
| CGP Revision guides Higher Workbook                     | 9781782944065 | Higher Students only                                       |
| Ready? Set? Go!: GCSE Maths Crossover Revision Workbook | 1838065008    | Students covering cross over Foundation and Higher content |

It's really important that all students know that the best way to revise maths is to do maths - that means answering lots of questions, including practice exam questions.

### Any Questions?

If you have any other questions or anything else you'd like to discuss then please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's class teacher or to Mrs Bain or Mr Roberts.