

## Revising Mathematics

- Students at KS4 are sitting the AQA linear examination 8300. Students will sit their examinations in summer 2017 in Y11.
- There are three exams both sat in the same examination window, although not all on the same day. The first is non-calculator and the second and third are calculator.
  - The second and third examination are calculator examinations and it is imperative your son or daughter is familiar with their calculator well in advance of the exam; we recommend they use the Casio FX83 (currently sold in supermarket's for £6-£9).
  - Students should also ensure they have their own angle measurer, compass and 30cm ruler for their exams.
- The key to revising mathematics is to complete past exam papers.
  - We recommend they complete each of these past papers at least once and either have the teacher mark it or mark it from the mark scheme; they should attend drop-in sessions to discuss any areas of weakness.
  - When revising using exam papers it is a good idea to allocate a minute for each mark on a paper. This is not exact, but it allows time to read the paper through before starting and time for checking at the end.
  - Students should note that marks are awarded for their level of written communication. These questions require clear and thorough workings to show the steps through the problem, ensuring answers are given in the correct mathematical format.
  - Support for doing the above is best done with a revision guide and a work book for additional questions.
- Revision schedule:
  - As mathematics lessons get closer to the exam, the emphasis in the lessons on revision will increase.
  - This change is a clear indication that pupils need to start revising themselves at home.
  - It is a good idea to start a plan for revision 6 to 8 weeks before each exam. This doesn't have to be a huge commitment initially, but the earlier it starts the more confident your son/daughter will feel about the exam.
  - Holidays before exams should be used wisely and students should take advantage of this opportunity to intensify any revision.
  - How much should they do? Depending on when revision starts we would recommend 30 minutes to an hour 3 or 4 times a week, avoiding 5 hour sessions on one day!

- Essential resources:
  - Exam papers – These are available on the school shared area and on the AQA website. There are copies of all the practice papers, the specification and additional revision resources. It is recommended that students download these resources to their pen drives in advance of exams.
  - Revision guides – Your son or daughter should have already bought either or both resources we have recommended to them – We use the CGP work books and revision guides **(AQA)**. These are available in WHSmiths or online.
  
- Online resources:
  - Mymaths.co.uk – Mymaths can be used specifically for the new GCSE by changing the menu in the top left corner to ‘GCSE exams 2017’. For revision there are booster packs, these work on key skills to boost grades from a D to C, from a C to a B and from an A to A\*. Alternatively there are lessons on all GCSE topics and homework’s to embed the learning.
  - AQA website <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/gcse/mathematics-8300> : This website provides clear descriptors of what will be examined. The key information you need to know is which tier they are studying in order to access the relevant information.
  
- Revision support in school:
  - Targeted revision sessions (run by members of the mathematics department) will run on lunchtimes leading up to the exams and we would recommend as many pupils get along to these as possible.
  - There is also a drop-in session run on a Monday lunchtime led by two members of staff to help with any student queries.