

Information for Year 7 parents from the Mathematics department.

Scheme of Work

We use the CIMT MEP programme – pupils are issued with text books early in the first term and the scheme is backed up with resources including a copy of the text book and interactive exercises on their website: www.cimt.plymouth.ac.uk/.

The boys are also issued with exercise books in which almost all class and homework are completed.

We have started the year with an arithmetic unit following concerns that our pupils were arriving from their Primary Schools with a variety of techniques for dealing with addition, subtraction, long multiplication and division. This should be an improving situation as primary schools put more emphasis on numeracy but we still see a big range of marks. We teach them a formal algorithm for each operation and encourage them to use this every time they have to carry out a calculation. The unit began with a 15 question test to see what techniques they were using when they arrived and they will complete a very similar test before October half term.

Assessment

Diagnostic tests, based on half a book, are carried out during the year, the first in a few weeks' time based on Chapters 1 to 6. These will be reported to parents along with all other subjects as per the calendar, in what we call CAT (Common Assessment Task) assessments at three points during the year. Assessment grades are awarded and the grades awarded will be explained when the first CAT is published. Students are also awarded grades based on organisation, engagement, and behaviour.

There is also a formal exam towards the end of the year and there will be another information evening in April to explain how this works and how you can help.

Assessment is also carried out each week using a skills check homework booklet. There will be one booklet each half term with the same 10 skills being checked – this half term they include identifying factors of numbers, simplifying fractions and multiplication. The booklets are marked each week and the emphasis is on showing the correct working.

Homework

Your son should receive two pieces of homework each week and should spend about 20 to 30 minutes on each piece. His teacher will usually include extension work so that the most able pupils are stretched. Written homework is normally checked at the start of the following lesson and pupils are asked to self-mark their work. Exercise books are normally collected in once a fortnight and the teacher will check homework has been properly attempted but no mark will be given. However, marks are given on diagnostic and CAT assessments. The skills check booklet also needs completing each week without a calculator. All homework for years 7, 8 and 9 is recorded on FROG as well as in the students' planner.

Equipment

Calculators are not needed for the majority of year 7. Most work can be done without a calculator and any calculations can be done in their exercise books. They will need a calculator for the end of

year examination and possibly for other subjects and we encourage them to buy Casio calculators when this time comes. Work is generally done in pen in their exercise books but they are encouraged to draw diagrams in pencil and to use a ruler for straight lines. At various points they will also need a protractor and compasses too.

Extra help

Boys who are struggling with any of their work are encouraged to see a maths teacher at lunchtime and get one-one help. However, we will identify students who require extra help on particular topics and they will attend mentoring sessions on a Friday morning. At this stage, the boys are being selected on the basis of their arithmetic test result but we regularly review who would gain most benefit. This will be available for 16 students at a time who will each be helped by a year 9 student.

More information about the mathematics department can be found on the school VLE (<https://frog.kings.lincs.sch.uk/app/os>) and on the school website (http://www.kings.lincs.sch.uk/page_viewer.asp?page=Mathematics&pid=69). These links also contains links to plenty of other resources which you or your son may find useful.