

4th October 2010

Dear parent/carer,

### **GCSE Maths – Year 10 (Set 3-7)**

As you will be aware, your child will take their GCSE Maths qualification at the end of Year 10. To give your son/daughter a better chance of achieving their target grade in GCSE Maths, we have made a change to the arrangements.

Your son/daughter will now follow a course leading to a Maths GCSE run by the Edexcel exam board rather than OCR. Experience from last year has indicated that your child will have a much better chance of a good A\*-C pass if we enter him/her for this exam. The exam is a full GCSE Maths with the same value as any other, and the skills and content your child has been learning since the beginning of the OCR course are the same as those required for the new qualification. The main change is that the new GCSE modules will be examined by topic areas rather than by grade levels. Also the level of literacy needed to successfully answer questions in the exam papers is lower, which is an area that students found the most difficult in the OCR specification. This change will mean that there is also a change to the exam dates – these will be:

- ◆ Unit 1: 15<sup>th</sup> November (am)
- ◆ Unit 2: 1<sup>st</sup> March (pm)
- ◆ Unit 3: paper 1: 6<sup>th</sup> June (pm)
- ◆ Unit 3: paper 2: 10<sup>th</sup> June (am)

The Edexcel Maths GCSE is a one-year course therefore students will still have the opportunity to complete their Maths course in Year 10. However, for those students who have already successfully completed 2 modules under the OCR course, we will support these students to complete the final OCR module in June of Year 10. This will provide these students the opportunity to complete their Maths GCSE with OCR by the end of Year 10. All students are therefore being offered the greatest number of options and the best opportunity to complete their Maths GCSE at the earliest available time with the highest grade they can possibly achieve.

If your child has gained their target grade in both GCSE Maths and GCSE English at the end of Year 10, he/she will be able to choose from a range of different options in Year 11, which is likely to include progressing to AS level Preparation in Maths/English or selecting from one of the other combinations of GCSEs the Maths and English departments offer.

Our new arrangements are made with your child's best interests and their results in mind. If you have any questions or would like to find out further information about this change we will be available for discussions as well as to provide you with examples of the differences between the two papers during an evening session. This evening will be on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm in Upper Academy Hall. Please contact me at the email address below if you wish to attend so that we can prepare resources for you.

Yours faithfully

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