



MAIDEN ERLEGH

SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 8 - Maths at Maiden Erlegh School

I'm writing to you as the Head of KS3 Maths to provide some information about Year 8 mathematics and what you can do at home to support your child.

Equipment

Students must bring their own calculator to school every day. This should be either the Casio FX83GTCW (the newest model) or the Casio FX83-GTX which should be named. Students should also have their own compasses, protractor, pencil, pens, rubber, ruler, green pen and glue stick.

Setting

We often get asked about setting. We group students in maths based on their prior attainment - this ensures they are in classes where the pace and level of support will be right for them. All classes follow the same curriculum at Key Stage 3. Occasionally we will move a student to a different maths class if we think they are in the wrong group. Normally we don't do this until after their mid-year or end of year assessments, but changes may be made sooner if we think we have them in the wrong class. Whatever class your child is in, their maths teacher will always ensure they are challenged. We have the highest expectations of every child and an outstanding level of teaching expertise in the Maths Department.

Homework

Regular maths practice at home from Years 7 to 11 makes an enormous difference to GCSE grades. This year, we are very fortunate at Maiden Erlegh School to subscribe to Sparx Maths. Students are set new tasks on Sparx Maths every Wednesday and they have one week to complete it. The first task will be set on Wednesday 10 September. Teachers will spend some time during a lesson to explain what Sparx Maths is, how to complete homework and to show the Independent Learning tab too. Please ensure that your child can access their Sparx Maths homework on a device such as a laptop or tablet. Students should write down all calculations in their books, accompanied with a suitable date and title. If they do not have access to a device or internet at home, they will be able to complete their maths homework at school in Homework Club. If your child has any difficulty with their homework then they must watch the accompanying video, and if they continue to struggle then they should seek help at school. It is vital that they do not do their homework the night before it's due as this doesn't give them the opportunity to seek help. Incomplete or late homework will be sanctioned with a behaviour point. If your child wants extra maths homework, they are invited to do additional practice using the XP Boost, Target, or Independent Learning features on Sparx Maths.



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Assessments

Students will have two formal assessment this year.

- Mid-Year Assessment (December)
- End of Year Assessment (May)

A revision list will be provided approximately 1 month before each assessment with links to Sparx Maths and Corbett Maths. They will be posted on the Year 8 Maths Whole Year Google Classroom page (code: tdut4hx). There will also be a short test every half term for teachers to monitor progress and students to know which topics to work on at home and how to improve.

Challenge and Enrichment

During Year 8 we offer the following opportunities:

- Students will have the opportunity to enter the Junior Maths Challenge in May in both Years 7 and 8. These are national maths competitions run by the UK Mathematics Trust. We will ask students to sign up for these challenges with their class teacher approximately 2 months in advance.
- Pi Day Competitions in March that students can get involved in
- Maths Drop In runs every Wednesday for further maths support

Support at School

Students are always encouraged to ask their teacher for help in lessons. When students need additional help with maths, they should come to Maths Drop In. This runs every Wednesday after school in M1 or M2 and is open to all year groups. This is a drop-in session: students do not have to stay for the whole session, nor do they have to attend every single week. They can come along when they need an explanation or a bit of extra practice, or for help with Sparx.

Support at Home

We encourage parents and carers to support their children at home in the following ways:

- Provide a quiet place for them to do homework and ensure they complete it in a timely manner, without distractions or the need to rush.
- Make sure they know their times tables. Your child should already be able to instantly recall all multiplication facts up to 12 x 12. If they do not yet know their times tables, recite them together regularly. They can practise their times table on Sparx.
- If they're a keen mathematician, encourage them to participate in the challenge opportunities described above.
- If they need extra practice, encourage them to do this on Sparx. If they prefer paper-based activities, you could buy them a workbook like KS3 Maths Higher Level All-in-One Complete Revision and Practice. There are numerous other books on the market that offer additional support or challenge.
- Always speak positively about mathematics, even if it wasn't your favourite subject at school. Ask your child to show you what they've been learning in maths and always be enthusiastic about it.

Thank you in advance for your support. I look forward to working with you and your child over the coming year.



Yours sincerely

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Miss M Longdon
Head of KS3 Mathematics



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