



23 September 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian

## **Year 9 - Mathematics**

We are writing to provide important information about how mathematics is taught in Year 9 at Maiden Erlegh School and how you can support your child at home to help them succeed in their GCSE Mathematics (EDEXCEL).

### **Equipment**

It is essential that all students come to school fully equipped for every maths lesson. They must bring their own scientific calculator every day – we recommend either the **Casio FX-83GTCW** (latest model) or the **Casio FX-83GTX**, clearly labelled with their name. In addition, students should also have the following items:

- Compass
- Protractor
- Pencil and pens (including a green pen)
- Eraser and ruler
- Glue stick

### **Setting**

We are frequently asked about how we organise maths classes. Students are grouped based on prior attainment to ensure they receive the right level of challenge and support. From time to time, a student may be moved to a different group if we feel a different pace or approach will better suit their learning needs. Regardless of their set, all students are held to high expectations and benefit from outstanding teaching across our Maths Department.

### **Homework**

Regular practice at home is vital for long-term success in mathematics. At Maiden Erlegh School, we use **Sparx Maths**, an online platform that provides tailored homework tasks each week.

- **Homework is set every Wednesday and is due the following Wednesday.**
- The first homework task was set on **Wednesday 10 September.**
- Students must complete their homework in their exercise books, clearly dated and titled, showing all their working out.



Please ensure your child can access Sparx Maths using a suitable device such as a laptop or tablet. If access is not available at home, your child can complete homework in **Homework Club** at school.

If your child is struggling with a task, they should:

1. Watch the accompanying help video on Sparx
2. Seek help at school well before the deadline

**Homework should not be left until the night before** it is due. Late or incomplete homework will result in a behaviour point.

Students who wish to do extra practice can use **SPARX's XP Boost, Target, or Independent Learning** sections.

### Assessments

Students will complete two main assessments during the year:

- **Assessment 1:** Chapters 1–3 (December)
- **Assessment 2:** Chapters 1- 8 (May)

Revision lists will be published about a month in advance, with links to relevant resources on **Sparx Maths** and the **Kerboodle** digital textbook. These will be available on the **Year 9 Maths Google Classroom** (Class code: fyhu633)

Additionally, there will be short topic tests throughout the year to monitor progress and help students identify areas to improve.

### Challenge and Enrichment Opportunities

We encourage all students to engage with additional maths opportunities, including:

- **Intermediate Maths Challenge** (January) – a national competition run by the UK Mathematics Trust. Students will be invited to sign up via their teacher about a month in advance.
- **Pi Day Competitions** (March)
- **Half Termly enrichment tasks** set on Google Classroom.

### Support at School

Students are always encouraged to ask for help during lessons. If they need extra support outside class, they can attend our **Maths Drop-In**:

- **Wednesdays after school in M1**
- No sign-up needed
- Students can attend as often as they like, and stay for as little or as long as they need



## How You Can Support at Home

Your support makes a big difference. Here are a few simple ways to help your child thrive in maths:

- Provide a quiet, distraction-free environment for homework
- Encourage your child to complete work in a timely manner
- Ensure they have access to the **Kerboodle** and **SPARX Maths**
- Motivate them to take part in challenges or do extra practice
- Speak positively about maths – even if it wasn't your favourite subject!
- Ask your child what they've been learning and celebrate their efforts
- Encourage them to use the following free websites to support their learning:

<https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/gcse.php>

<https://corbettmaths.com/contents/>

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

*A Drazic*

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