Core Mathematics

Course Requirements
Sixth Form Entry Requirement plus
GCSE Mathematics – Grade 4

Syllabus
AQA

Who to Contact
Mr S Cameron
Course Leader

Overview

Core maths has been designed to maintain and develop real- life skills. What you study is not purely theoretical or abstract; it can be applied on a day-to-day basis in work, study or life and includes a financial maths element.

It will also help with other A-level subjects – in particular with science, geography, business studies, psychology and economics.

Core maths is a new course but already several universities have come out in strong support of it. Even subjects like history now recognise the importance of statistics and so a core maths qualification will help you hit the ground running at university.

The skills developed in the study of mathematics are increasingly important in the workplace and in higher education; studying core maths will help you keep up these skills. On average, students who study maths after GCSE improve their career choices and increase their earning potential.

Employers from all different sectors are also firmly behind the core maths qualification. Many roles in today's workplace require high levels of budget management and problem-solving skills; Core maths will be a useful tool in equipping you with these skills.

Core Maths is a level 3 qualification and will give pupils up to 20 UCAS points. It is taught over the course of year 1 and is externally assessed at the end of year 12. Pupils opting for Core Maths will be expected to study three other subjects in addition to Core Maths. Core Maths provides an opportunity for pupils to continue their mathematics studies post-16 without opting for A-Level Mathematics.

Structure

The course covers 2 modules, one focuses on the core analytical skills, ensuring pupils can use mathematics to build up a strong argument to support or refute a hypothesis. Whilst the other uses these skills and builds on them in a data analysis (statistical) context focusing on content learned at higher GCSE and stretching pupils with new content including normal distribution and standard deviation.

There are 2 exams in the summer both 90 minutes long. In which pupils must show detailed working out and make clearly defined assumptions to answer questions like 'How far will the average human being walk in their lifetime'.

This course is designed to be taken by students with a Grade 4 and above in mathematics.

If you have a desire to study mathematics further but prefer the problem solving side of it and don't feel that a traditional A-Level maths route is the right choice then core maths could be the course for you.

Year 11 pupils should ask their Mathematics teacher if he/ she thinks they are suited to the course.

'It is essential that students keep up their maths skills but clearly A-level mathematics aren't for everybody. Core maths gives students the opportunity to maintain and develop everyday maths skills that will be really useful to them both at university and when they start work.'
Dr Deidre Hughes OBE, chair of the National Careers Council, England