

08 September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer of a Year 11 pupil

Firstly, a welcome back to pupils for what is always an important year and one that invariably passes quickly. Hopefully the new Year 11 are ready for the school year and have made important resolutions to themselves to work hard, be attentive in class and act upon their teachers' advice.

I am writing to parents simply to outline a change of the Maths exam board the pupils will study in Year 11. Previously, pupils have studied the Edexcel exam board but the Maths department has decided to change to the OCR exam board. This will still lead to a GCSE in Maths, as before, and will not affect the delivery of the subject in lessons or entail additional content.

The reason the Maths department has decided to do this is purely in the interests of the pupils. The OCR examinations contain a lot less prose in the actual questions than Edexcel so are clearer to understand. Each paper is out of a total of 100, rather than 80 for Edexcel, with a similar number of questions, therefore there are more marks available per question. The first examination is a calculator paper which pupils prefer as it gives them confidence to approach the next two. The number of examinations in Maths is the same as is the duration of the examinations - each one 90 minutes long.

Year 11 pupils have already had experience of the OCR papers in Year 10 so are familiar with the slight changes mentioned above. The Maths department found that the majority of pupils achieved the same grade or higher in the OCR papers than the historical Edexcel exam board.

If you wish to speak to Mrs Alvarez, Head of Maths, about the change of exam board there will be an opportunity to do so at the Year 11 GCSE Information evening on Wednesday, 17 September from 5.30pm - 6.30pm in the Main Hall.

Yours faithfully



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