

11 July 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

GCSE Mathematics in Year 9

We would like to welcome your child to GCSE Mathematics at The Weald. The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the structure of GCSE Mathematics, to outline how we will teach the course and to remind you of some key equipment that your child will need throughout Years 9, 10 and 11.

Mathematics is a tiered subject at GCSE with different grades available on the Foundation tier to the Higher tier. The final decision about which tier of GCSE mathematics students will sit will not be made until the middle of Year 11. Throughout Year 9, all students will be studying the same topics, and these will generally be from the Foundation tier only.

Here is a brief explanation of the class labels:

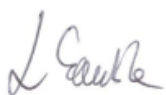
- Classes 1a, 1b, 2a are set classes preparing for the Higher tier and should be aiming to gain a strong understanding of all of the Foundation content in year 9, ready to build on this in year 10 and 11 with Higher content.
- Classes 2b, 2c, 2d are parallel Foundation classes. These classes are not set and will all study the same Foundation content during the year. This is a change from previous years where these classes have been set, which we believe will benefit the students in a number of ways. The classes will be better balanced in terms of size, support students in developing a growth mindset; believing their abilities can improve with effort and perseverance, and all students will have the opportunity to learn from each other's approaches and perspectives.

Please note that students can change classes during the school year, or at the end of a school year, and this can happen in Years 9, 10 or 11. These changes are generally guided by scheduled summative assessments, but formative, ongoing assessments carried out by teachers during lessons are also taken into account.

Ahead of starting GCSE Mathematics, a reminder that your child needs a scientific calculator, such as the Casio Fx-83GTCW, a protractor, ruler, and a pair of compasses.

If you have any questions about the information in this letter or would like to know more, please contact Mrs L Gamble on lgamble@theweald.org.uk.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs L Gamble
Director of Mathematics