

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The Green Road, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1EP

Tel: 01335 343 685 Email: enquiries@qegs.email Twitter: @qegs_ashbourne

Web: www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr S Garrity Chair of Governors: Mr C Smith



27th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Maths Support

With the new school year just underway, we would like to draw your attention to the ways in which you can support your child with their maths, and how we will be supporting them.

For those in exam classes, we are running several after school help classes. 906 on a Monday for Sixth Form, 523 on a Wednesday for Higher GCSE, and 524 on a Wednesday for Foundation GCSE. All sessions run after school until 4:15. In addition to this we are running small group support sessions during maths time throughout the year across all year groups. The students in these support groups will change throughout the year.

We are also running several exciting clubs:

- Codebreaking - currently only open to years 7 and 8, Wednesday B weeks until 4:15. This a great way to practice maths skills and logic in a fun way.
- Darts club - open to all years and abilities, every Thursday until 4:15. This will give students a very different way of practicing their adding and subtracting.

To support your child at home, one of the most powerful things you can do is talk positively about maths, and avoid phrases such as 'I was never any good at maths'. Lots of other ways can be found on the school website at <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/maths-positivity-and-parental-engagement/>

The most common question we as maths teachers get asked in assessments is 'how do I do ____ on my calculator?' This is a question that we are not able to answer within assessments and invigilators are not allowed to answer it in exams. A lot of this stems from unfamiliarity with the calculator they are using, meaning many marks can be lost. If the calculator is in the wrong mode and the student does not know how to change it, it can render it virtually useless for the purposes of a GCSE exam.

To get around this, it is vitally important that your child not only owns a calculator, but is in the habit of bringing it to their maths lessons to allow them to build up their understanding and familiarity of the calculator. Any calculator is better than none, but for GCSE they will need a scientific calculator. We would recommend the following models:

- Casio fx-83GT PLUS (or fx-83GTX) - This model is great for GCSE.
- Casio fx-991EX - This has additional features that may be useful for higher GCSE. This calculator is required for A-level maths, so if your child is thinking of doing A-level maths, it may be worth getting this calculator now.

Calculators can usually be found fairly cheaply in a larger supermarket or in stationery stores. If you are finding the cost of a calculator prohibitively expensive, particularly if you are in receipt of free school meals, please do get in touch with Mr Bawden (bawden@qegs.email), as we would not like this to hinder any child's education.

Yours faithfully

Alex Barnhurst

Curriculum Leader for Mathematics

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