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Dear Parent/Carer

## RE: Maths update

I have been delighted with the general level of effort and commitment shown by Year 11 students regarding their maths GCSE in recent weeks. Every morning we have a growing group of students coming in at 8am to study maths and give themselves a better chance of improving their grades. The learning environment in lessons is purposeful and driven, with students understanding that the final push has already begun. With the final maths mocks only a couple of weeks away I wanted to ensure all parents were aware of these dates and the opportunities that are available to students in the maths department.

### Maths Mocks for Year 11

The fourth and final maths mock exams are in less than two weeks. Students will sit the following exams:

- Monday 20th March – Non-calculator paper
- Wednesday 22nd March – Calculator paper
- Thursday 23rd March – Calculator paper

We are aware of a clash with Art/Graphics for a small number of students and will ensure all students have the opportunity to sit all three papers.

Please ensure your child has a calculator for the second and third exams as calculators will not be provided. Scientific calculators are available from the maths department office for £5.

### Breakfast on the mornings of the exam

We want students to walk into the exam hall feeling well prepared and confident. Staff and students are working hard in the lead up to exams to ensure this but the morning of the exam is a crucial time for our students. As such we are offering a breakfast served from 8am in the Dining Hall on the dates of the mock exams above. Students should arrive at school at 8am where they will be greeted by a hearty breakfast and several maths staff who will be available to support students with any last minute questions.

### Morning support sessions

Every morning of the week all Year 11 students have the opportunity to attend additional maths support sessions. These sessions are held in MA8 from 8.00am until 8.40am daily. Students are advised to bring work they would like help with and maths teachers will be on hand to support. Students who have regularly attended have hugely benefitted from these sessions and have seen an improvement in their grades.

### **Thursday after school support sessions**

Every Thursday after school the maths department run a series of classes for specific students to attend to raise attainment. Please could you ensure your child does attend these sessions as they are specifically aimed at addressing an area of weakness that has been identified from previous mock papers. If your child is not part of these sessions and they would like to be, please ask them to speak to me.

### **Easter revision**

There will be a number of opportunities for students to attend revision sessions during the Easter holidays. Many of these will be targeted at specific students so we can ensure lessons suit the needs of pupils but there will also be 'drop in' sessions where any student can attend. Letters will be going home before Easter with specific details of sessions and it is hugely important students attend these compulsory sessions.

### **Work at home**

With the first GCSE maths paper just 77 days away, students need to be putting the hours in at home. Students can purchase maths revision guides from the department office for a £1 deposit. There are also a large number of practice papers produced by Edexcel that are available. Students have been receiving these for homework and in lessons. Many students have also brought in a USB and asked for all these papers and their mark schemes so they can revise at home. Other useful resources include [www.mathsgenie.co.uk](http://www.mathsgenie.co.uk) which has a large number of maths videos showing students how to tackle questions and [www.corbettmaths.co.uk](http://www.corbettmaths.co.uk) which contains numerous useful resources as well.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding maths.

Best wishes

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