

March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

### **GCSE Mathematics: Exam Board Change**

We want to support your child in achieving the best grade possible in their exams. Therefore, after careful consideration about what is in their best interests, we have decided that this year, Year 11 students will sit the AQA Maths exam paper in June 2018. This is a change in plan, as the original exam board was Edexcel.

To evaluate whether AQA would give students a better chance, they were given the June 2017 AQA Maths exam paper for their most recent assessment; an overwhelming majority of students performed better with AQA than with Edexcel. The majority of students have also said they prefer the AQA papers and find it easier to understand.

There is no difference in the content of what students will be tested on for the AQA exam board, so there is nothing additional to be taught or to be revised.

In October, all students received a free CPG Edexcel Revision guide, which is still suitable for their revision with the AQA exam. Details of the AQA syllabus can be found on the AQA website:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/gcse/mathematics-8300>

Students will be sitting the following exams:

- Paper 1: Non-Calculator - Thursday **24th May** morning
- Paper 2: Calculator - Thursday 7th **June** morning
- Paper 3: Calculator - Tuesday **12th June** morning.

As from now, students should be revising at least 5 hours of Mathematics per week. Achieving a Grade 5 or above in Mathematics will have a significant impact on your child's opportunities to access higher education and employment in the future. Six-week revision schedules can be found on the **MathsWatch** website. The most important aspect of Maths revision is practicing and marking past exam papers. AQA papers can be accessed here: (<https://mathsmadeeasy.co.uk/gcse-maths-revision/aqa-past-papers/>). Teachers have provided students with sample exam papers for their home learning since September. We also have an open door policy, and all students are welcome to ask for help from one of our teachers.

We encourage students to use Maths Watch ([www.vle.mathswatch.com](http://www.vle.mathswatch.com)). Your child's password is heartlands and their username is their mymaths username is (3- or 4-digits) @heartlands (for example, 1234@heartlands). If you would like to contact us directly please email or phone on the number below.



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