



# Year 7 maths guide for parents

The Oathall Maths department is fully staffed by a team of dedicated specialist maths teachers. Students have maths for 7 hours every fortnight. At the start of Year 7, students are taught in mixed ability sets moving to streamed classes after the first term. Decisions on sets are never based on the result of one test alone but are made using extensive student data and teacher knowledge of the student.

At Oathall we teach maths following the White Rose Scheme of Learning which some of you may already be familiar with from your primary school. White Rose uses a mastery approach to maths teaching which is a research-driven teaching and learning method that meets the goals of the National Curriculum. A mastery approach can be summarised as follows:

- Puts number first: confidence with numbers is the first step to competency in maths
- Puts depth before breadth: knowledge is reinforced regularly
- Encourages collaboration: students can progress through the schemes working together
- Focus on fluency, reasoning & problem solving: giving students the skills they need
- Concrete Pictorial Abstract: students first use objects, then drawings, then symbols to understand maths step-by-step.”

What this means for your child: .

- They won't be rushed through topics
- They will revisit ideas regularly
- They'll be expected to explain their thinking, not just get answers

The overview of the White Rose maths scheme of learning for the three terms of Year 7 is as follows;

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12
Autumn	Algebra Sequences <a href="#">VIEW</a>	<b>Free trial</b> Algebra Algebraic notation and substitution <a href="#">VIEW</a>	Algebra Expressions and equations <a href="#">VIEW</a>	Algebra Place value, ordering and rounding <a href="#">VIEW</a>	Number Four operations <a href="#">VIEW</a>	Number Statistics Averages and range <a href="#">VIEW</a>	Number Rounding and estimation <a href="#">VIEW</a>					
Spring	Statistics Graphing data <a href="#">VIEW</a>		Number Fractions, decimals and percentages <a href="#">VIEW</a>	Number Directed number <a href="#">VIEW</a>	Number Fractions and percentages of amounts <a href="#">VIEW</a>	Geometry and measures Perimeter and area <a href="#">VIEW</a>						
Summer	Number Speed, distance and time <a href="#">VIEW</a>		Number Properties of number <a href="#">VIEW</a>	Number Add and subtract fractions <a href="#">VIEW</a>	Geometry and measures Angles and polygons <a href="#">VIEW</a>							

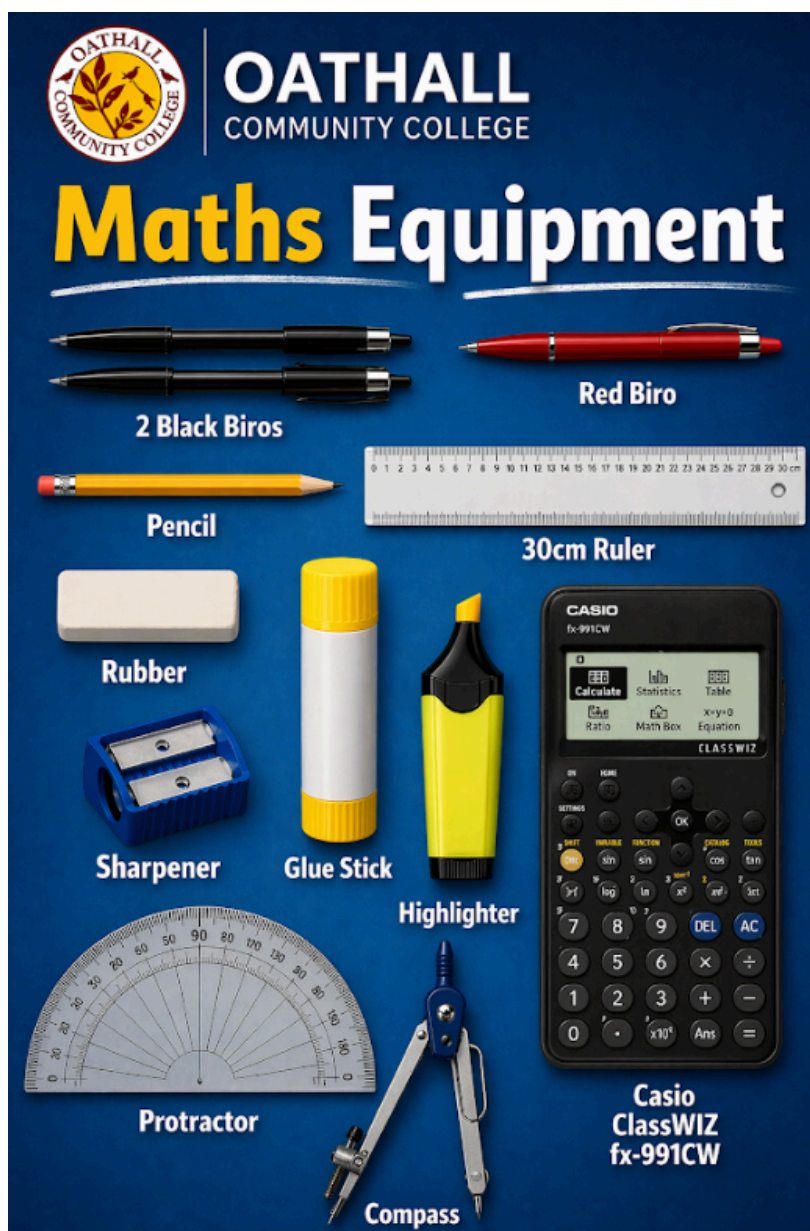
End of topic assessments take place in class approximately every 2 or 3 weeks. This supports students to apply their understanding, become independent and identify areas for improvement. It is also vital that they become experienced in answering maths questions whilst working in exam conditions.

## Equipment expectations

One of the most important ways parents can help support their child in maths is to ensure that they come to maths lessons fully equipped for every single maths lesson.

Maths equipment is vital for students to fully access their learning, to ensure a smooth learning experience for all students and to improve student independence.

The minimum expectations for mathematical equipment are as follows:









In order for students to be competent in using this equipment it is vital that they have quick access to their own maths instruments and become familiar with their own personal equipment.

## Homework

Homework plays an important role in helping your child practise and build confidence which in turn supports their independence, progress and problem solving skills. At Oathall Community College maths homework is set fortnightly on an online platform called Sparx Maths.

### What is Sparx Maths?

Sparx Maths Homework is an online learning platform that creates personalised maths homework for students aged 11-16. We believe that practice makes perfect, so each week, your child's teacher selects the topics that have been taught in class and then Sparx builds a personalised set of questions to match your child's current level of understanding. Our aim is for all children to strive for 100% completion of their homework. By consistently using Sparx Maths, your child can build a solid foundation in maths and achieve their full potential.

 <p>Teachers select topics that have been taught in class.</p>	 <p>Sparx Maths builds a personalised set of questions.</p>	 <p>Students complete their homework online.</p>
 <p>Teachers monitor homework so they can motivate and support students.</p>	 <p>Parents can monitor homework using Parent Portal and receive an email before homework is due.</p>	 <p>Teachers receive powerful insights each week.</p>

### [A parent's guide to Sparx Maths - How does Sparx Maths make sure difficulty levels are correct?](#)

### How can I help my child with their Sparx Maths Homework?

We believe your child can answer all of the questions correctly in their homework, but we know there may be times when they struggle, so how can you support your child with their homework?

Our top tips for you and your child when using Sparx Maths:

- Encourage them to tackle it on their own
- Suggest to them to use the support videos when stuck on a question
- Suggest that they start early to give plenty of time for help if they need it.
- Check homework is completed on time
- Promote a quiet phone free workspace
- Encourage times tables and mental maths practice

The expectation is that homework takes approximately 1 to 1½ hours each fortnight so students should aim to complete it over a number of sessions. If students do not complete their homework they have to attend a homework support session after school.

There are weekly maths drop-in sessions run by the maths department on Friday lunchtimes to support any students who need help with their homework.

## Maths enrichment opportunities

During their maths journey at Oathall, students will have opportunities to engage in a wide range of maths activities outside their regular lessons:

- UKMT Junior Maths Challenge – a national mathematics competition for Year 7 and 8 students that fosters problem solving skills
- UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge – a national mathematics competition for Year 9 and 10 students
- Year 9 Maths Picnic – inspired by AMSP, this is a maths problem solving and teamwork competition hosted by Oathall, open to Federation schools
- Cross Federation school maths events
- Links to Haywards Heath College – college students come to support our Year 9 Maths Picnic
- Pi Day – celebrated with a school-wide Pi competition
- National Numeracy Day – with a competition for under 13's
- Extended learning days: students are off their normal timetable whilst participating in extended learning activities; these include a finance programme, an entrepreneurial challenge and the LAMBS project, giving students the chance to connect with the onsite farm
- Parallel Club – an online maths enrichment club for curious students
- Trip to the Maths Museum in London
- STEM club for Y9 students - students work on a science, technology, engineering and maths project to build an item from scratch, working as a team then compete against other schools

## Contact details

Once your child is at Oathall if you have any questions or concerns regarding maths, please do reach out to your child maths teacher in the first instance.

Emails for all teachers are [initialsurname@oathall.org](mailto:initialsurname@oathall.org)

Head of the Maths Department is Ms Sarah Jeffcoat; [sjeffcoat@oathall.org](mailto:sjeffcoat@oathall.org)

