



HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

December 2023

Key Stage 4 Maths at Hampstead School

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to introduce myself as the new Head of Mathematics (started in September 2023) and wish to provide some information on how we teach maths at Hampstead School. It's important that we work together to ensure your child thrives at this subject.

"We firmly believe that everybody can be a mathematician and that all students have the right to experience mathematics in a safe but academically challenging environment."

Curriculum and Setting

We have opted for the following structure for Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11):

Ma1	- very high prior attaining students
Ma2 & Ma3	- mixed Higher classes
Ma4	- Higher/Crossover class
Ma5	- Foundation/Crossover class
Ma6, Ma7 & Ma8	- mixed Foundation classes
Ma9	- smaller nurture group

At GCSE, students will be entered for either the Higher or Foundation tier. The topics studied can be found in the half-termly curriculum letters which have been sent out by the school. See the [Edexcel GCSE Maths specification](#) for more information. The specifications for [GCSE Statistics](#) and [AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics](#) have also been hyperlinked.

Equipment

Students must bring their own **scientific calculator** to school every day. For Foundation students, we recommend the Casio FXGT-CW, available for a discounted £13 via ParentPay (a very good deal relative to other retailers). For Higher students, we recommend either the Casio FX-991CW (£23) or the Casio FX-CG50 (£71), both available at their discounted price on ParentPay. Students should also have their own **compasses** and **protractor**. In addition to these, students are expected to bring in **two black pens, two pencils, a green pen, rubber, and sharpener** – in line with the school's expectations on equipment.

Homework and Independent Learning

Regular maths practice at home from Years 7 to 11 makes an enormous difference to GCSE grades.

- All students receive weekly Sparx Maths tasks, set every Wednesday at 4 pm, due the following Wednesday at 9 am.
- **All compulsory tasks must be at 100% for the home learning to be marked as completed**
- Please ensure your child can access Sparx Maths. They need a tablet, phone or computer, internet, and their yellow homework book. All workings should be written in the yellow homework book before the answers are entered into Sparx Maths.
- To log in, students first login to Hampstead.RMUnify.com using their Hampstead School login and select Mail to stay signed in. They can then select the Sparx Maths tile and 'sign in with Microsoft'.
- Encourage completion of the optional XP boost and target tasks, as well as independent learning tasks.



- You may also wish to read this guide to the Sparx Maths [independent learning feature](#), and the list of [Sparx topic codes](#).
- Students may also be set written homework at the discretion of their Maths teacher.
- Year 11 students will soon be expected to complete a structured programme of weekly revision/exam practice-orientated tasks.

Revision Guides

Year 11 students are also expected to bring in a **CGP revision guide** for the tier they are working towards ([Foundation](#) and [Higher](#)) to every Maths lesson. Higher students should also bring in a [CGP grade 8/9 workbook](#), which can be used as extension in and out of lesson.

Support at School

- Encourage students to ask teachers for help during lessons.
- Sparx support sessions are available to support students in completing their homework and boosting confidence.*
- **All students with incomplete homework are expected to attend these support sessions. We will send notifications by email if your child is expected to attend an after school session.**
- If your child can't attend a session, please contact their Maths teacher before their session.
- Students can visit the Maths office at any time outside of lessons to seek support. Staff are always available.

*Our Sparx support sessions take place on...

Year 10 – Thursdays, after school, 3 to 3:30

Year 11 – Tuesdays, after school, 3 to 3:30

Support at Home

We encourage parents and carers to support their children at home in the following ways:

- Create a quiet homework space with access to a device and their yellow homework book.
- Ensure timely, distraction-free completion of homework.
- Help your child memorise times tables up to 12 x 12.
- For extra practice, encourage students to do their 'independent learning' on Sparx Maths.
- Please also purchase a revision guide/workbook, as mentioned above.
- We strongly believe that success in maths is supported when trusted adults speak positively about the subject. We also know that many adults did not have a positive experience of maths at school. Please help us to help your child succeed in maths by always speaking positively about our subject.
- Please do ask your child to show you what they've been learning in maths and praise them for the progress that they are making.

Thank you so much for your support. I look forward to working with you and your child over the coming year.

Best regards,

Parsa Hassan-Yazdi
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 Hampstead School
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