INTRODUCTION TO THE MATHS DEPARTMENT

The Mathematics Department is a thriving department comprising 6 members of staff, including a HLTA Mathematics specialist. The ethos of the department is one of a commitment at all levels where staff operate both as individuals and as a team.

We achieve excellent results across the full age and ability range and our added-value at all stages is very good. Mathematics is a popular subject at Dene Magna and the uptake of students following the subject into a local sixth form is consistently high. We are continuing to work alongside a neighbouring institution to develop a new college for the Forest of Dean. The plan will be to grow 6th form teaching with staff at the existing college and at Dene Magna.

Mathematics is taught in sets throughout all years and mostly we teach a year group all at the same time, which makes movement between sets (predominantly upward) straightforward. At Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8) the scheme of work is currently based on the Collins Maths Frameworking books. We assess each term (six times per year) and movements between sets take place as appropriate. The top two sets enter the UKMT Maths Challenges and the department is looking to further develop Mathematics beyond the curriculum, such as STEM activity days, visits to major STEM employers (e.g. Airbus) and enquiry based educational trips such as to Techniquest.

We begin GCSE in Year 9 with almost all students studying GCSE across 3 years. At Key Stage 4 we currently follow the Edexcel syllabus, but courses and textbooks are under review in preparation for the new syllabus, first teaching in September 2015 and first examination in 2017. These are exciting times in the Mathematics department and the teacher selected to join us will have a good understanding of the requirements of the 2015 curriculum. A person who is happy to be inventive in the classroom will fit in well with the existing team. We are particularly interested in pursuing a curriculum based on “Singapore Maths”, exploring a Mastery rather than a spiral curriculum. It is intended that GCSE statistics will be taught outside of the daily timetable so experience and an interest in this qualification will be advantageous.

All Mathematics classrooms have inter-active whiteboards and there is a break out space for small group work. We have access to ICT suites equipped with 30 PCs and students in all years might use a variety of software - Geogebra, spreadsheets and LOGO, for example, as well as MathsWatch, an excellent internet based resource. Staff also use software in many other areas of the Mathematics curriculum, including the extensive use of the IWBs.

Department meetings are regularly held after school to enable us to share good practice and provide support to colleagues. Alongside these we talk informally on a daily basis, often in our department staff work area. We are a friendly, professional team and look forward to you joining us.