

PETER SYMONDS COLLEGE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Job Title: Teacher of Mathematics (A Level and GCSE)

Department information

Mathematics is the largest subject in the college and is taught by a dedicated team of 14 full time and 13 part time teachers.

We deliver the OCR (MEI) specification for both A Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics. Currently, our cohort includes approximately 800 Lower Sixth (L6) students and 750 Upper Sixth (U6) students.

In Further Mathematics, we have approximately 210 L6 students and 150 U6 students. Around a quarter of the L6 cohort will sit the AS qualification this summer. Students complete the compulsory Further Core Pure component in Year 1, alongside Modelling with Algorithms and Mechanics Minor. In Year 2 students continue with Further Core Pure and select from Mechanics Major, Extra Pure, or Statistics Minor. We teach A Level Mathematics and A Level Further Mathematics in parallel.

Since September 2019, we have been offering Edexcel A Level Statistics and currently have two classes per year. The course is well resourced, and the team is involved in the A Level Statistics Network, facilitating the sharing of best practices and highlighting professional development opportunities.

We also offer the AQA GCSE resit course, with approximately 100 students scheduled to sit their examinations this summer. Students who join the college with a Grade 3 in Mathematics are automatically entered for the resit examinations in November.

Each course has a comprehensive Google Site to share resources and direct students to additional learning materials. Each student has an individual login for Integral and MyMaths to support their learning and can be used for assigned tasks. Additionally, we have a structured system of weekly common homework across all courses.

To further support students, the department offers 20 weekly Maths Workshop sessions, 4 per day, and there are weekly extension activities available for students.

The majority of classes within the department are taught by a single teacher, though some are shared. Classrooms are equipped with an interactive SMART whiteboard, wall-mounted whiteboards and mini-whiteboards. Additionally, students studying Mathematics, Further Mathematics, and Statistics frequently use the new Casio CG100 graphical calculator to aid their studies.

The department benefits from a diverse team with a wide range of teaching experience, including backgrounds in the 11–16 sector. A full-time teacher typically delivers 22 lessons of 55 minutes each week, in addition to overseeing a tutor group, leading a workshop, and facilitating an enrichment activity.

To support the Head of Mathematics, there is a Deputy Head of Mathematics. There are also Heads of Subject for Further Mathematics, Statistics and GCSE Maths.

Simon Woods
Head of Mathematics
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