



Founded 1125

Re: Further Maths

June 2024

Dear Further Maths students,

I hope you have received your letter today with all of the Welcome Pack information and the Bridging Work and that you are excited about the next stage of your academic journey.

If you are receiving this additional letter, you have selected Further Maths at A-level. Further Maths is our hardest A-level and is the subject that is simultaneously most over-subscribed and also least suitable for the largest number of its applicants. Every year, we have to make decisions on which students are suited to do this course. If we did not make these decisions, we would have a number of students doing this subject who are not able to access the content, struggle with the course and who subsequently end up with outcomes below the level they would have achieved had they selected a different A-level.

This year our approach has been to accept all students onto the Further Maths course who have: gained a conditional offer at Reading School; applied for Further Maths; and met the subject criteria in their predictions. This means we have a slightly larger cohort than we would typically take on, but means all students who wish to undertake Further Maths are given the opportunity to start the course.

During the first term of Year 12, up until December, all students who have selected Further Maths will be rigorously assessed. These assessments will provide a level playing field for all students and will be deliberately crafted so that they do not disadvantage students who have not previously studied Further Maths or Additional Maths at GCSE. By completing this range of assessments, we will have evidence of each student's progress in the first term of their A-level Maths course and will speak to any students who are falling a long way short of the required standard. We will then ask them to reflect on whether Further Maths is the correct course for them. This decision will be student-led.

All students who decide to continue at this point will continue to study Further Maths until the end of the academic year. At the end of Year 12, however, we will have end of year assessments and any students identified at this point as not meeting the required standard will be removed from the Further Maths course. This decision will be staff-led.

As all students who do Further Maths must do so as part of four A-levels, this will mean students still have three A-levels and will not be disadvantaged in the university process.

We wanted to take the opportunity at this early point to ensure all students and parents understood our intentions for the year ahead. By approaching Further Maths in this way, we are convinced we are best able to make judgements that benefit each individual student according to an equitable and comparable process for all. We hope this is clear and that all students understand this process from the outset.

Kind regards,

Mr A Lloyd
Head of Sixth Form

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