

# Mathematics



Welcome to the Mathematics Department at Islwyn High School. We are a forward-looking department who endeavours to develop, maintain and stimulate pupils' curiosity, interest and enjoyment in Mathematics. We have high expectations of all our learners; our aim is to build resilience and pupils' problem solving skills resulting in ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives.

As a department we value resourcefulness and invest heavily in websites such as Hegarty Maths in order to develop independent and resourceful learners. We also have a department Youtube channel which learners can use to close the gaps in their knowledge.

We recognise the importance of providing pupils with the necessary mathematical skills needed in other subjects in the school curriculum and in everyday life. Mathematics is compulsory up to GCSE level where pupils follow the WJEC specification. We offer differentiated courses to suit learners of various abilities, enabling them to reach their full potential.

There are opportunities for more-able students to challenge themselves in Mathematics in every year at Islwyn High School. Our learners participate in the annual UK Maths Challenges and UK Team Challenge. Additionally, we participate in the EAS Maths Challenge, competing against other local schools; we are the current reigning champions. Our year 11 learners compete in the annual University of South Wales Fifth Form Maths Quiz to see mathematics in a university context and raise aspirations. At an 'in class' level there are dedicated tasks in schemes of work that are to challenge and deepen the thinking of more-able learners.



All learners will be entered for both GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Numeracy. The course will build on and progress from the levels of Numeracy expected at the end of Key Stage 3 through the Numeracy Framework. The Numeracy GCSE will assess the mathematics that learners will need in their everyday lives, the world of work and in other general curriculum areas. GCSE Mathematics will extend to aspects of Mathematics needed for progression to scientific, technical or further mathematical study.

There will be three overlapping tiers of entry.

Tier of Entry	Grades Available
Higher	A*, A, B, C,
Intermediate	B, C, D, E
Foundation	D, E, F, G

### Summary of Assessment

Both GCSEs are assessed through two units.

Tier	GCSE Numeracy & GCSE Mathematics	
	Unit 1 Non calculator	Unit 2 Calculator allowed
Higher	1 hour 45 minutes (50% weighting)	1 hour 45 minutes (50% weighting)
Intermediate	1 hour 45 minutes (50% weighting)	1 hour 45 minutes (50% weighting)
Foundation	1 hour 30 minutes (50% weighting)	1 hour 30 minutes (50% weighting)



Selected learners will have the opportunity to study Additional Mathematics.