# Prince William School

# Mathematics Department

**Departmental Ethos**

We strive to develop the skills and knowledge of each individual student, to create mathematicians who are confident in the use of maths. The department follows schemes of work that are skills-based and differentiated. We aim to produce pupils who enjoy maths and have confidence in their own abilities; students who are independent learners and have the ability to use their own skills to improve their progress.

At the heart of our approach is an absolute commitment to provide an environment in which students, working in partnership with staff, can achieve their full potential. We endeavor to create an atmosphere that is open, encouraging and takes account of individual needs.

# Curriculum

Our students are taught from a curriculum encouraging a deeper understanding of topics. Year 7 students are taught in mixed ability groups in the first term and all other years are set by ability.

All students complete assessments that identify areas of weaker understanding and these are then addressed in lessons. We aim to create independent students by raising awareness of the areas they need to work on most, and encouraging them to work at home, from the beginning of their maths career at PWS. Year 7 students also improve the fluency of their times tables using ‘Timetables Rockstar’ at the beginning of every lesson, and Year 8 use ‘Numeracy Ninjas’ to increase their basic mathematical knowledge and confidence with numeracy.

Key Stage 4 students work towards the AQA GCSE specification, at either higher or foundation. Assessments from KS3 and Year 10 as well as the mock exams in the second half of the Autumn term of Year 11 inform fluid set changes and alterations to tiers of entry as necessary.

In Key Stage 5 we currently offer AQA A Level Maths, AQA Further Maths and AQA Core Maths. We are aiming to increase the numbers students in the sixth form and have been encouraging the higher ability students in Year 11 to continue with Mathematics post-16; Students in Year 10 have the option of studying OCR Additional Maths Level 3 to encourage them to continue their mathematical studies in Year 12.

## Accommodation

The Department is housed in a separate block of 9 classrooms, all of which contain interactive whiteboards. It has a small central area with a few tables and computers for students to use, together with an intervention room and a staff room.

**Enrichment**

We regularly participate in external events and challenges as well as running clubs in school at lunchtime. Students are entered for the UKMT challenges, engaging in challenging problems.