

Frequently Asked Questions

A-level Maths

Question: What's the difference between Maths and Double Maths?

Answer: Single maths is for students that really enjoy the subject – it takes up one of your subject choices and you will spend 4 hours a week in lessons and 4-5 hours a week outside of lessons studying it. Single maths has an entry requirement of a 6 in Maths and a 4 in English Language.

Double maths is for students that really love the subject! It takes up two of your subject choices and you will spend 8 hours a week in lessons and a further 8-10 hours a week outside of lessons studying it – so it is really important you enjoy it. Double maths has an entry requirement of a 7 in Maths and a 4 in English Language. At the end of the course you will get two A-levels. For more information please see our video and FAQ sheet for Double maths.

If you pick single maths and change your mind at the end of the first year, you can pick up Further Maths AS to go alongside your Maths A-level in the second year. Lots of Universities like Further Maths AS if you go onto Maths or Physics related courses, or you might choose to do it just because you find you like maths even more than you thought!

Question: What are some of the key topics I would cover?

Answer: The course is $\frac{2}{3}$ pure maths, which will cover topics such as trigonometry, logarithms and calculus. The remaining part of the course is split into $\frac{1}{6}$ Statistics, which builds on the data handling you studied at GCSE (but is much more interesting) and $\frac{1}{6}$ Mechanics, which is the maths of forces and objects in motion. Algebra is a key skill that underpins most of the work you will cover, so make sure that you enjoy, and are good at, that area of maths.

Question: How many other subjects can I choose alongside this one?

Answer: The majority of students will study 3 A-level subjects, so you can study 2 more subject alongside maths. Maths can be taken alongside any other A-level or L3 BTEC courses.

Question: Do I need to have studied Additional Maths for Further Maths at GCSE to do this course?

Answer: No, the course is taught building on GCSE maths only

Question: What is the learning style like within this subject?

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Answer: Lessons are a mixture of methods and examples taught from the board, guided discovery of important principles and time to practice new concepts. There is plenty of opportunity for group work and students are encouraged to share their ideas of approaching problems. Many lessons will feature students working in groups on a shared problem on big whiteboards around the room.

Question: How will I be assessed?

Answer: Students are regularly tested using a combination of formal tests that review recently covered topics and weekly problem set tests that cover the independent work that has been set for that week.

Question: What support can I access if I am struggling?

Answer: We run several workshops throughout the week that are drop in sessions for students to ask any questions they have. There is also a workshop room which students are welcome to use even when not staffed and they can ask other students who will be working on the same problems. Teachers are always happy to answer student questions, and we encourage students to send us a picture of the question and any working they've attempted so we can give hints and suggestions. Second year students are available in some extra workshops or as 1-1 mentors as well.

Question: Are there any subject specific entry requirements?

Answer: Yes, please refer to the prospectus [here](#) for general and subject specific entry requirements

Question: Are there normally any trips that I can go on?

Answer: We run an annual maths trip to Thorpe Park looking at the mechanics of rollercoasters, a biennial trip to New York to visit the maths museum and other area of mathematical interest and various other trips to local universities. We also take a group of students to Maths Fest in London each year and run numerous competitions and enrichment activities

Question: What do students who have studied this area normally do after Collyer's?

Answer: A Maths A-level is a great qualification for many pathways. Students have gone on to study subjects such as Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Biological sciences, Medicine, Economics, Accountancy at University. Other students have gone straight into degree apprenticeships or other forms of employment.



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