



## The Mathematics Department

### Becket Keys Church of England School

#### *The team*

We currently have eight Mathematics teachers, ranging from those in the early stages of their teaching career, to very experienced professionals.

#### *Teaching area*

Mathematics lessons are delivered in a suite of rooms in the brand-new Justin Welby building. All rooms are equipped with Interactive Whiteboards.

#### *Curriculum, Assessment & Student Groupings*

Mathematics is taught in 'setted' groups from Y7, with four 50-minute lessons per week throughout KS3-4. All Russell Education Trust (RET) schools use the same examination board (EdExcel), to allow us to share schemes of work (SOW) and teaching resources. Our new SOW treat Y7-11 as a single course, so we systematically develop the skills, concepts and knowledge to be assessed at GCSE. This means, for example, regular exposure to the types of problem-solving demanded by the final exam. The department is typically good at using marking to accelerate learning, identifying 'next steps in learning', which we expect students to act on as soon as their books are returned. These include, but go beyond, misconceptions, and challenge students to extend their thinking and develop their abilities as mathematicians.



In the Sixth Form, we teach the Edexcel Mathematics and Further Mathematics A level courses. Good numbers of students are taking Mathematics for A level and we have now introduced an entrance exam to help select the most appropriate students – this has only served to increase demand for places!

## *Professional Development*

We take our CPD seriously, as all of us can develop our generic and subject-specific expertise. Department meetings focus on sharing ideas, jointly planning lessons, moderating assessments and generally making ourselves better at teaching Mathematics. We review students' progress every six/seven weeks, talking through strategies for addressing the learning needs of individuals, teaching groups and cohorts. Levels are reported back to parents via the VLE every six/seven weeks. We benefit from work scrutiny, learning walks, and longer observations by RET advisors and our senior team, which help us focus on what works well and where we need to adjust our practice. The RET Mathematics network provides regular opportunities for Trust-wide training, and for meeting our counterparts in the four other RET schools, with RET Mathematics advisors frequently in school, to work with teachers on developing the sort of teaching approaches demanded by the GCSE (9-1) and A level examinations.

