



23 February 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians

## **Change to Accelerated Mathematics**

As you are aware, your son is in the Year 10 Accelerated Mathematics set and is currently working hard towards achieving the top grade in his IGCSE Mathematics this summer.

The current Year 10 cohort is the first year group that will study the **new Linear A levels in Mathematics and Further Mathematics** starting in September 2017. These are both 2 year courses, with exams in Year 13 which cover the entire A level content. This is a change from the current system of a separate AS in Year 12 (worth half the A level) and then A2 in Year 13.

**Due to these changes to the A level course, I have decided to withdraw the accelerated option for A level Mathematics with effect from September 2016.**

After much consideration, I feel that the best option for your sons is NOT to sit the old non-linear AS in Mathematics in Year 11 (as previous accelerated sets have) because they will then have a mix of non-linear Mathematics and linear Further Mathematics A level qualifications. Instead, they will study for a **GCSE level qualification in Further Mathematics in Year 11** and following that, they can then choose A Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics (if desired) as part of their Sixth Form option choices.

This **Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics** places an emphasis on higher order technical proficiency, rigorous argument and problem-solving skills and is suitable for able students who are expected to attain the top grade in GCSE Mathematics and are likely to progress to A level studies in Mathematics and Further Mathematics. This makes it challenging for these top mathematicians and also a great foundation for further studies in mathematics. (It has been used successfully at South Wilts for their top year 11 students for a number of years.)

Mrs Brown has explained this change to your sons and given them the opportunity to ask any questions. If you have any questions, please email me on the email address given below.

Yours sincerely

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