

**LEVEL 3 MATHEMATICAL STUDIES**  
**(AQA specification)**



Mathematical Studies is a Level 3 course, equivalent to half an A Level, which can be studied in combination with any other subjects, with the exception of A Level Mathematics or Further Mathematics, and is an excellent preparation for many degree courses. It is normally studied over just one-year, but can be extended to two-years as required. The course is designed to develop students' resourcefulness in solving problems they may face in everyday life. It will be studied alongside their other courses with two hours of lessons each week.

The Mathematical Studies course enables students to learn about where mathematics is used in their everyday lives, ranging from analysing, presenting and interpreting data to finance, looking at mortgages, student loans and taxation. Students will see how mathematics is used within their other A Level subjects as it will help them to present logical and reasoned arguments in context, using mathematics to support their summaries and report writing and to critically analyse the reliability of the mathematics they are presented with in the media.

Students will study critical paths and risk analysis where they will learn how to identify critical activities within a project and the best order in which to complete activities to be able to meet deadlines. They will also work with probability so that they can confidently assess the risks involved in decisions they make and the impact, both positive and negative, they will have.

The course comprises two examinations, each equally weighted, and each lasting 90 minutes. Students will also receive pre-released material in advance of their examinations which some of the exam questions will relate to. They will have the opportunity to go over this material within their lessons.

Mathematical Studies sits well with humanities and social science subjects and is particularly useful for those intending to apply for apprenticeships or to higher education to study any subject which requires students to analyse and report upon information including midwifery, geography, psychology and business related courses.

Mathematical Studies is not a subject which requires the learning or retention of a lot of facts. Rather it requires the understanding of a limited number of concepts and techniques and how to apply these to a range of unfamiliar, real life, situations.

*GCSE minimum requirements:*

*Mathematics – grade 4*

*English Language – grade 4*