

Revision for Maths GCSE

February 2017

Dear Parent,

At Test Valley we want all our pupils to achieve as high as possible – in their “pursuit of personal excellence”. Leading up to their last practice exams we will be doing the following:

- Continue to provide after school revision every Thursday until pupils have completed their final GCSE Maths exam in the summer.
- Run a revision session during PSHE day on Friday February 17th.
- Run a “Walking Talking Mock” exam, where pupils (in exam conditions) are shown how to complete an exam paper. Pupils will be guided in what to look for in exam questions, the terminology involved and hints and tips on how to break down a question into manageable chunks. This is a revolutionary technique that helps demystify the pupils’ perceptions of exams and has been proven to give pupils more confidence.

We have also, as promised, created a book of exam papers. It contains 4 sets of 3 papers. We are selling these purpose made books at the price of £4.00 each. Pupil Premium and Services children will have this paid for. For pupils to make the most of these books, we recommend they do the following:

- Attempt all questions from each paper. Pupils should not just focus on the questions they feel comfortable with. They need to challenge themselves to improve quicker.
- Check their answers to see if they were correct or not.
- There are answers (but not workings) provided at the back of the papers so that pupils do not have to wait for a teacher to mark their work each time – they can immediately check if they have an answer correct for themselves.
 - If they got their answer correct – great!
 - If they got an answer incorrect – **then** they should use any of the other revision materials* they have available to try and figure out how to answer the question correctly. At the start of each paper the name of the topic in each question is provided so that to help. If they still cannot figure out how to get the correct answer – ask their teacher.
- Add up their total score and compare it to the grade boundaries provided. Please note that these are not confirmed boundaries but are a “best guess” from analysis of the materials provided by the exam boards and collaboration with other leading schools all around Hampshire.

**A revision page was specially created within the Maths area on Moodle to help. This includes links to two key sites that would help fill in any gaps in their knowledge – www.mathedup.co.uk and www.corbettmaths.com. Both sites have questions, worked solutions to exam questions and a “how-to” video for every possible maths topic. Other resources include a free e-book revision guide, flash cards and further practice questions.*

As there are 12 exam papers in total in the book, this works out as approximately 1 paper per week leading up to the first Maths GCSE exam. This is the minimum that pupils should be doing as we will allow some lesson time as well.

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You can pay for the practice-paper book in the following ways:

- £4 in cash at the office.
- £4 cheque made payable to “Test Valley School”
- Via the e-payment method
- Pupil Premium and Services pupils will be given one book free of charge. However, if it is lost any replacements will have to be paid for.

I will collect a list of people who have paid each day and distribute the books as necessary.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of pupils having the correct equipment: Pens, pencils, ruler, rubber, protractor, pair of compasses – and a scientific calculator (we recommend a Casio fx-85 or similar with the ability to write fractions as they would be seen in a book). We cannot provide these for all pupils so the only way to guarantee that they have what they need in a test is to have it themselves. With one non-calculator paper and two calculator papers it is really important that they have been able to practise using their own equipment beforehand.

Thank you in advance for your continued support. Should you wish to discuss the above further do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mr E J Whatley.
Head of Mathematics.

This slip is for my son/daughter T/G.....
to receive a copy of the Practice Paper Exam book created by the Maths department.

I have enclosed:

- £4.00 (cheques made payable to “Test Valley School”)
- I wish to pay via the e-payment method
- My child is registered as a Pupil Premium / Services Pupil so no payment is required.

Signed (parent) Date.....

Please print name

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