

Maths

Headteacher's Newsletter



Maths Matters: Ambition, Opportunity and One Chance to Get It Right

This week at Brownhills Ormiston Academy, we are proudly placing Mathematics at the very heart of our school story. Maths is more than a subject, it is a passport to future success. Strong outcomes in Maths open doors to the very best sixth forms, colleges, universities and apprenticeships. Achieving Grades 7, 8 and 9 does not simply look impressive on paper, it fundamentally changes what is possible for a young person.

You will have heard me say many times that you get one chance at your education. We all have a duty to make it count. Nowhere is this truer than in Maths. Success in Maths builds confidence, resilience and independence. It teaches students how to think logically, solve problems and analyse information, skills that employers and universities value above almost anything else.

Our Maths curriculum is ambitious by design. It is carefully sequenced to ensure mastery, deep understanding and application across number, algebra, ratio and proportion, statistics, probability, and geometry and measure. Every lesson is designed to challenge students to think, speak and write like mathematicians, preparing them not just for exams, but for life.

Led by our outstanding Head of Maths, Miss A. Gilbert, herself a Brownhills alumna, our department has exceptionally high expectations and an unwavering belief that every student can succeed. Her leadership, skill and the equally superb team she has behind her ensures that every child at Brownhills has access to the best possible Maths education and we are delighted to share some of their work with you today.



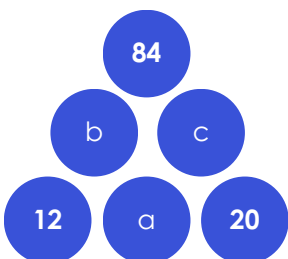
Strong Foundations: Year 7 Mathematicians and Number Pyramids

Our Year 7 mathematicians have been developing fluency, reasoning and problem-solving through increasingly challenging number pyramids. These tasks require students to work forwards and backwards, apply inverse operations, spot patterns and justify their thinking. These are all fundamental skills that underpin future success in algebra and beyond.

Number pyramids are not just about arithmetic. They teach students to persevere, to check their reasoning and to understand how numbers are connected. These same skills are essential for GCSE Maths, A Level Maths and careers in engineering, finance, computing, science and data analysis.

We are incredibly proud of the focus, resilience and curiosity shown by our Year 7 cohort as they build the foundations of their mathematical journey.

Your Turn: Can you work out the missing numbers in the pyramid?
In a number pyramid, each brick is the sum of the two bricks directly below it. Hint: Work backwards using subtraction.



My Maths Journey: Mr A Queensborough

Mr Queensborough's first experience of Maths came through football, discussing football statistics with his Grandad. That early connection between numbers and real life sparked a lifelong passion. He went on to study Medical Statistics with Business and Mathematical Business Analysis, before training as a Maths teacher.

A specialist in statistics, Mr Queensborough loves showing students how Maths underpins sport, business and everyday decision-making. He is particularly passionate about the use of manipulatives in lessons, which allow students to physically explore mathematical ideas and truly understand them.

His message to students is clear: Maths is everywhere. From budgeting and taxes to data analysis in sport, music, art and even hairdressing, Maths gives you control, confidence and choice. Thank you Mr Queensborough, for the brilliant start you have made to life at our great school. You have brought so much knowledge, skill and enthusiasm to our school and we love working with you.



The Language of Success: Year 8 and Algebraic Thinking

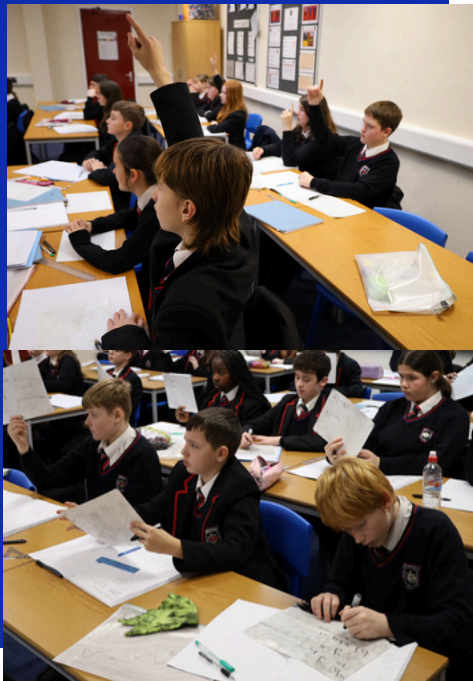
Our Year 8 mathematicians have been working extensively with algebra, simplifying expressions, factorising and solving equations. Algebra is the backbone of higher-level Maths; it allows students to generalise, model real-life problems and think abstractly.

This learning is a crucial stepping stone towards GCSE and A Level Maths, and supports subjects such as Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Computer Science. Careers in engineering, finance, medicine, architecture and data all rely heavily on strong algebraic thinking.

Well done, Year 8. The work we have seen from you has been really impressive and you have tackled this very challenging content expertly over the past few lessons.

Your Turn: Simplify fully $4(3x - 2) - 2(5x + 1)$

Expand both brackets carefully, collect like terms and simplify step by step.



My Maths Journey: Mrs J. Huskisson

Mrs Huskisson studied Psychology, where statistics played a vital role in understanding human behaviour and research. Her decision to become a Maths teacher came from working with apprentices and seeing first-hand how gaps in Maths limited confidence, progression and life chances.

Maths was always her favourite subject, and she trained as a specialist because she wanted her work to have real purpose. Her belief is simple but powerful: improving Maths improves lives, and every student deserves that opportunity.

Mrs Huskisson is now one of our Assistant Headteachers, but was a very successful Head of Maths at Brownhills Ormiston Academy prior to that. She is an excellent teacher and her passion for Maths is exactly why she has helped to shape so many mathematical minds in her time here at our great school.



Brownhills Alumni: Help Shape The Next Generation of Mathematicians

If you are a Brownhills alumnus with experience in Maths, A Level or beyond, we would love to hear from you. Whether through mentoring, speaking to students or sharing your story, your journey could inspire the next generation of Brownhills mathematicians. Please contact jpierce@brownhillsoa.co.uk to get involved.



Measuring Progress to Secure Success: Year 9 Assessments

This week, our Year 9 mathematicians completed assessments covering angles in parallel lines, areas of complex shapes, transformations, linear graphs, data representation and averages. These assessments are a vital part of our curriculum, allowing teachers to identify precisely where students are excelling and where further support is needed.

Assessment at Brownhills is about progress, not pressure. The information gathered enables personalised teaching, targeted intervention and explicit teaching of exam technique. These are skills students will rely on throughout their mathematical careers.

Well done to Year 9 for your excellent focus and determination.

My Maths Journey: Mr M. Windsor

Mr Windsor studied Maths and Music, demonstrating that Maths and creativity are deeply connected. Inspired by his father, also a teacher, he began his career at Brownhills in September and is passionate about breaking down barriers to Maths.

His belief is that understanding is the key to enjoyment. By providing clear explanations and structured thinking, he helps students realise that Maths is not exclusive, it is for everyone.

Mr Windsor is bringing this energy and passion for Maths education to his classroom every minute of every day and it is a joy to watch him in action. Thank you, Mr Windsor for making such a huge impact at our great school.



Rising to the Challenge: Year 10 GCSE Mathematicians

Our Year 10 mathematicians are now firmly embedded in their GCSE studies and beginning to prepare for summer mock examinations. Recently, they have been tackling multi-step angle problems involving intersecting lines, polygons and in their lessons they were having to justify their answers in great detail, explaining every step they had taken to find the answer.

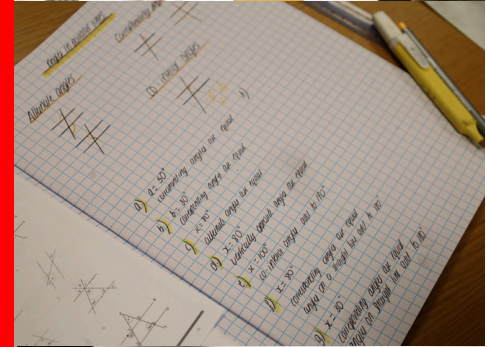
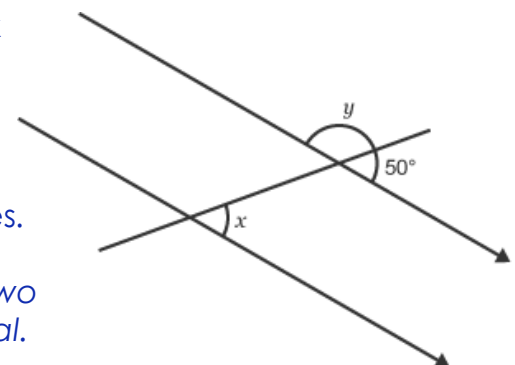
These questions demand careful identification of known angles, application of rules such as vertically opposite, alternate and interior angles, and logical sequencing to reach a solution. This level of challenge builds resilience, precision and confidence.

Well done, Year 10. You have made a brilliant start to your GCSE Maths course and we are excited to see you success in the mock exams in April. Get to work now and make the most of this first chance to show off what you know as you strive for those top grade in your GCSEs in 16 months time.

Your Turn: Work out the angle at x and y.

Hint: Corresponding angles are always equal. Angles in a straight line always add up to 180 degrees.

Fact: The line that intersects the two parallel lines is called a transversal.



A Word From Our Year 11 Mathematicians

I got an 8 in my last Maths mock exam but I am going to push for a Grade 9. I have always really enjoyed Maths but I remember it really started to make sense for me in Year 9 when I had Miss Gilbert. She was really good at explaining the more difficult ideas and my Maths really improved. Although, that can be said for every teacher I've had at Brownhills, they have all made a big difference and really helped me. Algebra is definitely my specialism. I have applied to do Maths, Further Maths, Physics, Chemistry A-Level so it is definitely going to be big part of my life.

Grace, Year 11

I managed to get a Grade 8 in my last mock and I hope I can get a 9 in the summer. I have done lots on First Class Maths and I think Sparx Maths is really beneficial as well. It really helped me to get the result I did in the last mocks. Algebra is definitely the element of Maths I enjoy the most. It just works for me now I have practiced it so much. Miss Green and Mr Windsor have been very influential for me this year and they are pushing me for the Grade 9 I want to achieve. I have applied for Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Geography and I hope to go to university after my A-Levels.

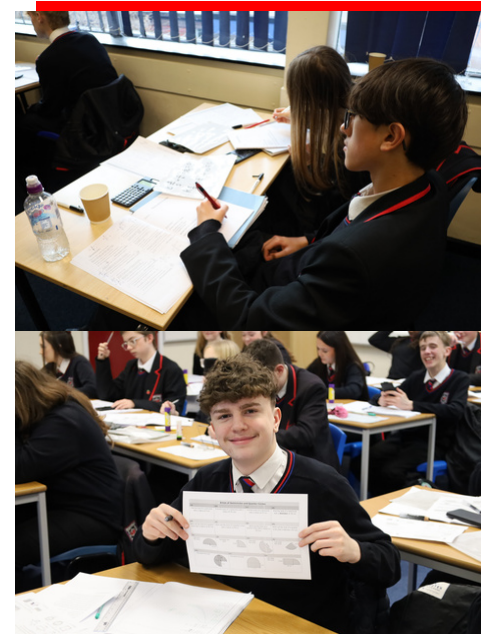
Will, Year 11

The Final Push That Changes Lives: Year 11 Mathematicians

Our Year 11 mathematicians have shown extraordinary commitment, attending interventions, masterclasses and additional sessions to refine their understanding and exam technique. This effort matters. What they achieve in Maths now can genuinely transform their future.

Securing Grades 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 opens pathways to sixth forms, colleges, apprenticeships and universities. It supports our shared aim: to gain the skills, attributes and qualifications needed to enjoy a life of choice and opportunity.

We are immensely proud of Year 11. Their determination, resilience and ambition embody everything Brownhills stands for. Now, the message it to keep going. Your mock exams are fast approaching and the time between now and your actual GCSE exams in the summer will fly by. Keep doing the work now and results will come. We are so proud of your achievements and effort and thank you for doing everything you can to make it count.



Together, Towards Mathematical Excellence

We are incredibly fortunate to be led by Miss A. Gilbert, whose leadership, vision and commitment ensure our Maths department continues to thrive. Alongside a passionate and expert team, she ensures every student is challenged, supported and believed in.

Remember: to revise Maths, you must do Maths. Regular practice through resources such as Sparx Maths is essential. Complete every task, practise deliberately and go beyond.

You get one chance at your education and Maths is key to making it count. Well done to all of our wonderful students and staff who are working brilliantly together to continue to provide the best Maths education possible.

With very best wishes,

Mr R T Doodson
Headteacher

