

Dear Parent/Carer

Changes to the teaching of Maths in Year 7 and Year 8.

Following our first term using a Mastery curriculum at Edwinstree Middle School, we are now in a position to make a change to the way in which your child is 'set' in maths. Research shows that the majority of pupils do not learn best in teaching groups based upon ability. Pupils need to encounter a range of learning styles and approaches amongst their peers in order to hone their own skills and to be challenged by new ways of considering a concept.

Following our recent tests and the teaching staff's ongoing assessment of pupil learning and areas of need, we are adopting a mixed-ability approach based upon area of curricular need. These areas include Place Value, Fractions, Decimals & Percentages and Written Calculations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). The pupils have been grouped by these areas of error into mixed-ability teaching groups.

Each week pupils will have an opportunity in class to be taught further about their area of weakness and a home learning task will be set. The other lessons in the week pupils will be following the Key Stage 3 curriculum – Fraction, Decimals and Percentages for Year 7 and Algebra for Year 8. The teaching staff for each year group will remain the same, but some pupils will be allocated to a different teacher to the one that they have been with for the Autumn Term. All of the maths teachers have embraced the changes to the maths curriculum, both nationally and at Edwinstree, and we are in a strong position to move our pupils further forward with their learning.

Pupils who are more able in maths will continue to be challenged, not only by a more complex maths curriculum, but also by the manner in which this curriculum is presented to them – we still aim to complete the Key Stage 3 curriculum in two years. We are aspirational for all of our pupils and see this as a positive step for every learner.

I appreciate that this may feel like a significant change to both pupils and to parents. As such, I shall be inviting you to give feedback on your experiences later on in the year. Likewise, we look forward to sharing your child's successes with you throughout the term. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Dawn Kitchener,
Head of Faculty: Maths.

