



St. Ninian's HIGH SCHOOL

Scoil Ard Noo Ninian
Our Ref: Maths Change2019/Exams/ARL/SB

4th December 2018

Dear Parent or Guardian

Re: Change to the Mathematics examinations

I am writing to inform you about a change to the Mathematics examinations planned for the Year 11 Class of 2019. These students were due to be entered for Cambridge IGCSE in the summer exam series following their sitting of the Cambridge Core paper this October. However, we have now been given the opportunity to enter our students for either the Cambridge or the WJEC GCSE Mathematics examinations in the May/June exam series 2019 instead.

This decision was made by the Department of Education, Sport and Culture last week as it is understood that offering both boards would allow students to be directed towards the most appropriate examination for them to secure the best grade possible. Both are rigorous qualifications that are graded A*-G and are recognised worldwide by educational institutions and employers alike.

Most students in Year 11 have already sat Cambridge IGCSE Core Examinations in October. The results of these will be available on 17th January, at which point we will ensure that all students progress to the most appropriate pathway in order to improve their grade in the summer series: WJEC GCSE offers three tiers of paper (Higher, Intermediate or Foundation) and Cambridge IGCSE offers two tiers (Core and Extended). We anticipate that the majority of students will follow a WJEC route.

Please note the WJEC examination dates are 24th May and 6th June 2019.

Whilst we have been following the specification for Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics we are confident that our students will be well prepared for examinations with the WJEC board, should that be their chosen route. The content is very similar and the style of question will be relatively easy to adapt to. All students will be given the chance to attempt past papers from WJEC GCSE Mathematics so that they gain experience in the style of assessment ahead of the summer examinations.

The Mathematics department will continue to work hard with our students to secure the best possible outcome for them in their Mathematics qualifications. Should you wish to find out more about the WJEC specification please use the following link:

<https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/mathematics/r-mathematics-gcse-2015/wjec-gcse-maths-spec-from-2015-r-e.pdf>

We appreciate that parents may have questions regarding these changes so we will be holding a short information evening on Tuesday 11th December 5.30pm in our Lower School Hall. However, we appreciate this is very short notice at a very busy time of year so if you are not able to attend and you wish to discuss how the change will affect your child specifically then please don't hesitate to contact me here at school via email or telephone. Further guidance and information will be provided after the Core results on 17th January.

Should you wish to attend you can book a place for the evening on the school website by clicking on the Parent's Evening Appointments link located in the Parents tab via Parents Evening and follow the instructions to make your booking.

Yours sincerely,

Miss A. R. Lewis.
(Subject Leader for Mathematics)

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