

# Westcliff High School for Girls

## Mathematics Department 2026

The Mathematics Department is a successful, forward-thinking team with a strong commitment to high-quality teaching and learning. We work collaboratively to continuously refine our practice, share expertise and ensure the best possible outcomes for our students. Teamwork and professional dialogue are central to the way the department operates.

The department is staffed by five full-time and seven part-time teachers and is well resourced. Facilities include a suite of seven mathematics classrooms and a central office space where each teacher has a designated work area with access to a computer and printer. All mathematics classrooms are equipped with interactive smart screens, which are embedded into everyday teaching, alongside access to the school IT network and specialised mathematical software for graphing and data handling.

### **Key Stage 3 and 4**

The school admits students into the Sixth Form and teaching across KS3 and KS4 is carefully structured to support progression. In Year 7, students are taught in mixed ability form groups. From the start of Year 8, students are set by attainment, with the cohort divided into two equal populations. Each population contains one Set 1 and two Set 2 groups. All classes follow a common scheme of work and are taught in parallel, with higher sets exploring topics in greater depth. Set movements are reviewed at the end of Years 8 and 9.

This model continues into KS4, where students are reassessed and re-set in a similar structure. Set 1 students complete the GCSE Mathematics specification by the end of the first term in Year 11 and subsequently study the Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics alongside their GCSE. All other students follow the Edexcel Higher Linear GCSE Mathematics course, with examinations taken at the end of Year 11.

Curriculum time allocation is as follows:

- KS3 (Years 7–9): three one-hour lessons per week
- KS4 (Years 10–11): seven one-hour lessons per fortnight

Homework is set regularly and supports independent learning. In KS3, homework is set using a combination of MyMaths and MathsWatch. At KS4, homework includes MathsWatch, Dr Frost and exam-style questions from past papers.

### **Sixth Form**

Mathematics and Further Mathematics are among the most popular A Level subjects in the Sixth Form. We follow the Edexcel linear specification for A Level Mathematics. Students receive nine hours of teaching per fortnight in both Years 12 and 13, with each group taught by two specialist teachers- one who specialises in Statistics and one who specialises in Mechanics.

All AS content is completed in Year 12, with students sitting the AS Mathematics examination in the summer. Progression to Year 13 requires a minimum of a grade C at AS level, with the full A Level completed at the end of Year 13.

Further Mathematics students follow an accelerated pathway. In Year 12, students complete A Level Mathematics alongside Further Mathematics units including Core Pure and optional applied components. Progression to the full Further Mathematics qualification requires a minimum of an A or A\* at A Level Mathematics (or a B at AS level). Students who do not meet this threshold are supported in resitting A Level Mathematics in Year 13 to improve their grade.

### **Enrichment and Wider Opportunities**

The department places a strong emphasis on fostering enjoyment, confidence and curiosity in mathematics. All Year 8 students participate in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge, all Year 10 students enter the Intermediate Maths Challenge, and Sixth Form students are invited to take part in the Senior Maths Challenge. Where appropriate, students also engage in team competitions such as Maths Feasts and group problem-solving challenges.

For Sixth Form students with a particular interest in mathematics, the department runs a weekly STEP class, supporting preparation for extension papers and admissions tests including STEP, MAT and TAMU.