Core Mathematics

Awarding body: AQA

Course entry requirement: GCSE grade 5

Course description: Core Maths is a term use for a level 3 post-16 Mathematics qualification in the sixth form at St Thomas More Catholic School taken alongside A-levels courses. It is equal in size to an AS level, and carry the same UCAS tariff.

So why should you choose a Level 3 Core Mathematics? Well despite the obvious enjoymentand challenge it will provide, a qualification equivalent to AS level in Mathematics. It equips you for the next stage of your life whether that be following academic or vocational pathway. It is endorse by many leading University with some making reduced offers for Core Mathematics students.

Core Maths is designed to support students who achieve grade 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics, but decide not to study AS or A-Level Mathematics.
Core Maths is valuable for any student planning a future that requires good quantitative skills, whether in higher education or employment. Degrees such as Biology, Geography, Business studies and Economics all expect a high level of mathematical competency that will supported by studying Core Maths. Furthermore, it will help students develop skills that support the quantitative aspects for the following courses: Sociology, Psychology, Environmental Sciences, Sports Sciences and PE, Health and Social Care.

The Casio FX-991EX ClassWiz Advanced Scientific Calculator is required for this course and will be available from the school for £20

Qualification: AQA Level 3 Certificate Mathematical Studies

Method of assessment: 1 hour 30 minutes written Examination for each paper
Duration: 1-year course

Specification and units of study:
Specification no.: 1350

Paper 1: Mathematical Studies; 50% of the qualification, 60 mark

- 3.1 [Analysis of data](#)
- 3.2 [Maths for personal finance](#)
- 3.3 [Estimation](#)

Paper 2A: Statistical Techniques: 50% of the qualification, 60 mark

- 3.4 [Critical analysis of given data and models](#)
- 3.5 [The normal distribution](#)
- 3.6 [Probabilities and estimation](#)
- 3.7 [Correlation and regression](#)

Opportunities for progression and career prospects:

This course is develop with support from employers and higher education institutions, and focuses on applying mathematical reasoning to solve real-life problems. The courses are design to:
- Foster every students' abilities of thinking mathematically, to consolidate, build and apply mathematical understanding in unfamiliar situations.
- Support students' learning in other subjects requiring quantitative skills
- Prepare students for the real-life mathematical demands of further study and employment.

In readiness for Higher Education and vocational qualifications, the Core Maths modules concentrate on the development of a variety of techniques and the acquisition of valuable transferable skills, many of which have important applications in other fields. There are key links with percentages, interpreting graphs and solutions, variation and probability covered at GCSE Higher Level and these modules allow adeeper understanding of risk, error and bias when problem solving. The Core Maths qualification also look at interpreting graphs in context, financial maths, normal distribution, correlation and much more. They provide the essential tools for much scientific work, and is important in such varied fields as computing, business, economics, biology and psychology, sociology, sports science and PE, Environmental studies, health and social care.
Hence, a level 3 core maths qualification is also useful if you intend to go straight into apprentice/employment after college.