



Ripon Grammar School

Helping shape the future since 1555



Re-founded 1555

Thursday 8th September 2018

Dear parents,

Re: GCSE Statistics

We wish to inform you that Ripon Grammar School will no longer offer GCSE Statistics to alpha1 pupils and to explain our reasons for making that decision. Historically, GCSE Statistics was taken by alpha1 students in fifth form, along with GCSE further mathematics, having taken their normal GCSE mathematics examination in fourth form. This changed when the new GCSE [9-1] was introduced and, for the last two years, pupils have taken three GCSEs in fifth form – mathematics, further mathematics and statistics - which has added an additional four and a half hours of exams to an already full examinations schedule.

The new 9-1 GCSE mathematics course contains a significantly increased amount of mathematical content, which is equivalent to about eleven weeks-worth of teaching. Whilst we have tried to accommodate these extra topics by starting the GCSE course in the third form, we have found that it is still a rush to complete all the courses in time to allow sufficient revision. Moreover, it has meant that mathematics has had to be taught at such a pace that deep understanding has not always been possible. Additionally, the GCSE statistics course has also been updated and it has additional content as well, which creates further time pressure that we feel neither benefits the students nor their understanding and enjoyment of mathematics

By removing GCSE Statistics, we hope to achieve two aims:

1. Teach the topics of GCSE mathematics and further mathematics at a slower pace, allowing students more time to process the material. Moreover, there will be more time at the end of fifth form to revise all the material covered.
2. In any extra time gained, provide a better diet of enrichment activities, including greater emphasis on UKMT maths challenge, more problem solving and investigational tasks and opportunities for pupils to have a wider understanding of mathematics as a subject beyond the confines of the school curriculum.

By doing the above, we want to ensure that pupils in alpha1 are sufficiently challenged and stimulated but do not find their mathematics lessons a slog and therefore be put off from taking the subject at A level. This decision takes immediate effect and so current F5 pupils in alpha1 will not take GCSE Statistics. On a final note, we would like to make it clear that the GCSE further mathematics course will still be taught to alpha1 and alpha2 pupils and there are absolutely no plans for this to change. If you have any questions about the decision please e-mail whiten@ripongrammar.co.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Neil White
Head of Mathematics

Mr Kevin Auger
Deputy Head (Curriculum)

Headmaster: Mr. Jonathan M. Webb, MA (Cantab).

Address: Clothholme Road, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2DG Telephone: (01765) 602647 Facsimile: (01765) 606388

Email: admin@ripongrammar.co.uk Website: www.ripongrammar.co.uk