



Ripon Grammar School

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5th July 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians of A level mathematics students starting their L6 course in September 2017,

Re: buying an updated calculator for new A level mathematics students starting their course in September 2017

The new A level has specific requirements such that your son/daughter's current calculator probably does not have enough capability to do all the necessary calculations that are needed. Therefore, I am writing to you to suggest you purchase a new calculator prior to the start of the new academic year in September.

Here is what the exam board specification states on calculator requirements:
"It is expected that calculators available in the assessment will include the following features:

- *an iterative function such as an ANS key,*
- *the ability to compute summary statistics and access probabilities from the binomial and normal distributions."*

As you would expect there are a myriad of options available but I am going to recommend one model only: the **Casio fx-991EX Classwiz**. The reasons are the following:

- It meets the above requirements and is suitable for both A level maths and further mathematics
- It is one that we have seen at various training days about the new A level
- Each teacher in the department will have a version of the calculator so teachers will know how to use it
- It represents good value at about £25. More expensive, graphical, models are available but they tend to have functions that are not needed
- There are lots of videos on the internet on how to work the calculator

Given that many new A levels students will be looking to buy a calculator, I suggest the purchase is made sooner rather than later. Some high street shops may have the model, otherwise the internet provides a ready solution. Please note that these new requirements are only for students starting their A level this September and do not refer to students who have already started their A level course.

If you have any questions other than about the suitability of other calculator models, please contact me via e-mail on whiten@ripongrammar.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Mr N White
Head of Mathematics

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