

September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers.

I am writing to introduce myself as the Head of Maths and to provide some information about how we deliver our maths curriculum at Moorside High School.

Year 7 Baseline Assessment

Year 7 students are currently in mixed-ability classes for Maths. To ensure that each student is placed in the most appropriate set for their ability, all Year 7 students will sit a Baseline Assessment during their Maths lesson on Wednesday 16th September.

The assessment will last 50 minutes, will be a non-calculator paper, and will be marked out of 60. It is designed to include a balance of fluency (skills-based) and problem-solving questions. The focus is on Key Stage 2 content, which forms the foundation for many topics covered in Key Stages 3 and 4.

The topics covered in the assessment include place value, negative numbers, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, fraction manipulation, rounding, factors and primes, and area and perimeter.

The results of this assessment will help us determine the most suitable set for your child.

Curriculum and setting

In Year 7, we set students based on their prior attainment, our own baseline assessment, along with diagnostic assessments in the first half term. This allows us to analyse the strengths and areas which require more development for each student, but more importantly it allows us to ensure they are in the correct class where pace and the level of support will maximise their progress. All classes follow the same curriculum at Key Stage 3, the only difference is the pace and the scaffolding that is provided to ensure they achieve the best possible outcomes. Students will be placed in new groups from the week beginning Monday 5th October.

The outline for the year 7 curriculum is as follows.

Year 7 Autumn term

- Place value, ordering and rounding
- Algebraic notation and substitution
- Expressions and equations
- Sequences
- Four operations
- Rounding and estimation
- Averages and range
- Graphing data

Year 7 Spring term

- Fractions, decimals and percentages
- Directed number
- Fractions and percentages of amounts
- Perimeter and area
- Speed, distance and time

Year 7 Summer term

- Properties of number
- Add and subtract fractions
- Add and subtract fractions
- Angles and polygons

As a department we look at the maths groups following all assessment points to ensure that students continue to be in the group which best suits their learning. Occasionally we will move students before these points especially in year 7, if we think a student will benefit from a different group. However, it is important to say that whatever class your child is in, their maths teacher will always ensure they are challenged. As a department we are extremely proud of the high expectations we have for all our students.

Thank you for all the support you have shown us so far. As we move forward with our approach to optimise learning, we want to work proactively and productively with our parents/carers to continue to offer the best possible education for your child. Please do get in touch if you wish to discuss any element of the information I have provided.

Kind Regards

Miss C Hindley
Head of Mathematics

