

26th March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Year 7 maths trial

I am writing to you to share some details of a Maths teaching trial that we are going to conduct with three Year 7 classes during the next half-term.

One of the biggest challenges that any school faces at the moment is the decreasing number of teachers that are available for work. The profession is not as popular as it once was and the numbers of people choosing to train to teach is declining each year. The impact of this has not really been felt at Outwood Academy Newbold as we are fully staffed with specialist teachers in every department. However, we have begun to notice that the availability of good quality supply teachers has decreased over recent years.

I will always try to get a subject specialist teaching students in every lesson that they have, even when this is a cover lesson. However, I can see a time approaching when this will be harder to achieve and therefore I want to trial a system that would ensure our students get expert delivery in their lesson in the event that a teaching colleague was absent.

We have selected three Year 7 maths classes to run this trial. The trial will see Miss Salmon teach all three classes at the same time through a video link. The following bullet points will explain further how the trial will work:

- All students will go to their normal timetabled classroom and sit in their normal seat.
- Miss Salmon will be based in one of the three classrooms.
- There will be a teacher in each of the other two classrooms (for the trial it will be the class' normal maths teacher).
- Miss Salmon will speak to all three classrooms via a video link.
- Miss Salmon will provide the taught element to the lesson - she will give the expert description on how to carry out a particular piece of maths.

- Miss Salmon will set each class a series of tasks - these will have been planned in advance and appropriate for the students in each room.
- Students will work on their tasks for a period of time being supported by the teacher in their classroom - they will have a clear set of instructions for how to complete each task with common misconceptions already identified so that no student falls behind.
- Miss Salmon will, at various points, communicate with each classroom to take feedback from students and ensure that students are understanding the maths.

The trial is designed to test the equipment and methods that we are using to ensure that this technique works. We are deliberately trialling this with a maths teacher in each room so that if there are any technical issues or it becomes apparent that a lesson is not working as planned we can stop the trial immediately and students will receive teaching from their normal teacher.

We will take feedback from students, staff and parents at points throughout the trial to see whether or not it is working as we would like it to.

If the trial is successful then in the future we can use this technique to increase the quality of cover lessons in the academy.

If you have any questions or concerns then please contact me directly and I will be happy to discuss this further with you.

Yours sincerely,



Rob Southern
Principal