

Maths

Mathematics is essential in every walk of life: whether you are wallpapering, applying for a mortgage or deciding whether the pair of jeans that are in the sale are actually the bargain of the year or not!

The Maths Department at The Clifton Centre provides an exciting and challenging curriculum. The curriculum aims to ensure that all students become fluent in the fundamentals of Maths and are able to reason mathematically by following a line of enquiry as well as solve problems by applying their maths to a variety of routine and non-routine problems. The Department uses a variety of up-to-date teaching methods and resources to engage students and relate their mathematical knowledge to everyday life around them.

Aims

Our aim is to make Maths more engaging, challenging and relevant to modern life and we create lessons which support this. The curriculum seeks to ensure that our students are able:

1. To develop their mathematical knowledge.
2. To confidently use their mathematical abilities and skills.
3. To develop an approach towards problem solving.

As a Department we have very high expectations for all of our students. At Key Stage 4, our students follow the Edexcel GCSE scheme of work (from current Year 10), which is assessed at the end of Year 11. The Maths Department's programme of study covers the full range of material contained in the GCSE Mathematics (9-1) qualification.

Topics covered:

- Algebra
- Graphs, tables and charts
- Fractions and percentages
- Equations, inequalities and sequences
- Angle
- Averages and range
- Perimeter, area and volume
- Graphs
- Transformations
- Ratio and proportion
- Right-angled triangles
- Probability
- Multiplicative reasoning
- Constructions, loci and bearings
- Quadratic equations and graphs
- Perimeter, area and volume 2
- Fractions, indices and standard form
- Congruence, similarity and vectors

EXAMS:

Our students are entered for Edexcel Number & Measure Award (Levels 1 and 2) in January and June each year as well as the GCSE Mathematics (9-1) in June.

English

At the Clifton Centre, all young people are study for qualifications in Functional Skills English which focuses on the three areas of English; Speaking and Listening, Reading and Writing. We also enter students for EDUQAS GCSE English Language and, if appropriate, EDUQAS GCSE English Literature.

Throughout the two years, we study some Shakespeare, prose, poetry, drama, media and spoken language. We match our topics, novels, plays and poetry to the needs of our students in order to engage them. All topics studied focus on the elements needed at key stage 4 so that the students are continuously developing the skills they need for their Functional Skills and GCSE exams at the end of Year 11 and beyond.

Units of work are assessed very regularly during the topic by the teacher using class work and homework. We then formalise the assessments by building key pieces into all units which are also standardised. In addition to this, homework booklets focusing on key Literacy skills are given to our young people on an individual basis, tailoring their learning to exactly what they need. Targets are set on entry and progress towards targets measured after each assessment. Intervention will be undertaken where necessary to support students. Students also have opportunities to assess and to feedback on their own and each other's work.

The English Department also arrange, when appropriate, extra-curricular activities for the young people. These have included: Film Club, English Literature classes, Cinema and Theatre Trips. (One of the most successful being a theatre trip to see Romeo and Juliet performed at the Oldham Coliseum!)

Art and Design

All KS4 students are invited to participate in the GCSE Art programme. The curriculum offered is the AQA Fine art option, and it is a two year course. Art is available as a full GCSE, and the level of grade achieved depends on how much work students have in their portfolio. The course requires a good level of commitment and there is a requirement of the student to complete coursework which is 60% of the final mark, as well as completing a ten hour controlled assessment piece of work which is 40% of their GCSE mark.

All students have a minimum of five sessions in this subject. There is also the option of an extra session in the afternoons, for supported self-directed study.

Teaching of an art project will include:

- Skill based units, familiarising students on the work of artists. This will include an analysis of different media and techniques.
- Research of a topic/theme
- Experimentation with materials/techniques
- Using their imagination.
- Improving their critical understanding.

In all work there is the making of a final outcome e.g. painting or 3D construction, with the added aim that each student works creatively and independently.

Social Sciences

In the social sciences department students have the opportunity to study towards two qualifications, GCSE Citizenship Studies and Level 1/2 Certificate in Preparation for Working Life.

In GCSE Citizenship students will develop skills to become thoughtful and active citizens who engage intelligently and enthusiastically with public life.

Students will gain knowledge of democracy, government and law, and develop the ability to create sustained, well balanced arguments. Communication skills are increasingly sought after by employers and this course will enhance students' writing and speaking styles. The course is assessed by an exam at the end of year 11. Although there is no controlled assessments students are required to conduct their own research study and use this knowledge to help them answer questions in the exam. It is a really interesting course that will help prepare for their future. You can help your child by talking about the news or stories from newspapers and encouraging them to have their own thoughts and opinions.

We also offer level 1 or 2 Preparation for working life. This is equivalent to a half GCSE. The course covers aspects of careers, health, personal safety, employment opportunities, applying for jobs and personal finance. Preparation for Working Life is very practical and students learn skills such as how and where to find employment opportunities, how to apply for jobs and courses, and how to prepare for an interview. This is assessed by an exam and a controlled assessment.

Elements of both the courses map on to programmes of study at Key Stage 4 for Citizenship and PSHE, such as personal and economic well-being and financial capability.

Information, Communication and Technology

At Key Stage 4, students will have the opportunity to study the Edexcel GCSE ICT. The course enables students to develop knowledge and understanding in specialist areas of Information and Communication Technology, and demonstrate the skills needed to work in the operation and development of ICT specific or ICT non-specific business organisations.

The GCSE course includes a 40 hr piece of controlled assessment where students can showcase their skills in;

- Gathering and Presenting Information
- Modelling
- Digital publishing
- Evaluating products

This carries a weighting of 60% of the overall grade at GCSE.

Students study for an exam in year 11; this contributes 40% towards their final GCSE grade. The topics covered include the following:

1. Lets Communicate
2. On the Move
3. Entertain me – what to buy?
4. Smart Working
5. Shopping Experience
6. Health and Well being

Furthermore, students will be also be given the opportunity to complete an additional ICT qualification – Functional Skills in ICT at both Level 1 and Level 2. These are designed to give learners the skills to operate confidently, effectively and independently in education, work and everyday life. They are created in response to employers' perceptions that many learners are not achieving a sufficiently firm grounding in the basics.

Physical Education

At The Clifton Centre we place a high value on Physical Education (PE). Both staff and students regard PE as a key component of the education we provide, with the aim of developing young people into well-rounded individuals who possess a positive attitude towards physical activity and competitive challenges.

Lessons cover the objectives laid out in the national curriculum through the provision of six strands of Physical Education;

- Games
- Dance
- Gymnastics
- Athletics
- Swimming
- Outdoor adventurous activities.

Lessons are aimed to be diverse and engaging for students. Each class participates in two sessions of Physical Education per week, in both indoor and outdoor learning environments. As well as traditional activities such as; football, badminton, rugby and athletics, we also run lessons that focus on problem solving and designing your own games as well as less traditional sports such as volleyball, boxing, free running and handball.

Learning in Physical Education lessons focuses on developing a progression of key physical skills and the application of taught skills and tactics into a small game environment. Children are taught to develop balance, coordination and agility as well as an understanding of teamwork, tactics, independence and creativity.

Core PE is taught off site, whilst BTEC Sport utilises the onsite fitness suite and off site facilities in the local community. The PE qualification delivered is BTEC Sport & Active Leisure Level 1. Units of study include:

- How the Body works
- Taking Part in Sport
- Taking part in Exercise
- Fitness
- Planning own Fitness Programme.

Physical Education at The Clifton Centre is taught in line with the school's commitment to the SMSC programme. Lessons are designed to allow all children to explore their own abilities and talents in an inclusive environment, regardless of gender, race, age, nationality and physical or mental ability.

Students are encouraged to sculpt and drive their own learning, harnessing their natural creative instincts and imagination. Team games offer the children opportunities to develop their understanding of rules and consequences. Students are expected to develop their own games with their own set of rules, thus applying their learning and boosting their social skills. Sport is of vast cultural importance to Britain.

Students at The Clifton Centre have opportunities to compete in inter-school competitions which gives them a sense of achievement and develops their role in the wider community and culture of the society in which they live.

Music Production

During their studies, students will:

- Explore some basic elements of music and music production through listening, improvising, recording, arranging, editing and mixing.
- Create original musical ideas using a variety of stimuli.
- Learn to extend basic ideas into more complex pieces, using formal development, variation, textural contrasts and dynamic shaping.
- Develop some basic knowledge of mixing and production techniques, including sound shaping, effects use and parameter automation.
- Learn to apply technical skills in a creative context through project work.
- Compile a CD portfolio of work that can be used for assessment and personal enjoyment and promotion.

Vocational Department

BTEC Level 1 Introduction to the Hair & Beauty Sector

Students have the opportunity to work in a professional salon environment within the Clifton Centre.

They develop essential transferrable skills such as:

- An awareness of health and safety
- Communication
- Customer care skills

As well as developing specialist hairdressing and beauty therapy technical knowledge such as:

- Hand and skin care
- Nail art
- Shampoo & conditioning
- Styling
- Make up
- Eye and brow treatments

These are essential for working within the industry and provide a stepping stone to undertake further training at college.

Hair & Beauty Therapy is a practical vocation, so the majority of learning takes place in the salon undertaking practical assessments. They will also take part in theory sessions to build portfolios, which will include the photographic evidence from their practical elements.

Students are given one-to-one tutorials and feedback to review progress regularly.

BTEC Level 1 in Exploring the Hospitality Industry

Students can learn all of the basic skills necessary for employment in the hospitality industry like; becoming a chef or as a food and beverage service professional. We have professional facilities including a fully equipped kitchen and canteen facilities.

As part of the course, students will plan and serve daily lunches to the staff and students at the centre; developing their skills in;

- The correct preparation and cooking of fish, meat and vegetables
- Creating interesting menus

Progression

The qualification can lead to careers in Hospitality and Culinary Arts, either as a chef or food and beverage personnel, before progressing to management. Students can also progress onto the HNC in Hospitality Management course, delivered at Future Skills @MediaCityUK.

Enrichment

Students go on a range of visits such as local markets and possibly work experience in local eateries.

BTEC Engineering Level 1

This course is for students who are interested in a career within the engineering sector. You will gain practical and theoretical skills through studying a variety of subjects such as mechanical principles and applications, fabrication processes and technology properties, problem solving, as well as gaining an insight into the vast engineering industry.

What will Students study?

Students will study five mandatory units:

- Health and safety in the engineering workplace
- Communication for engineering technicians
- Engineering project
- Mathematics for engineering technicians

Mechanical principles and applications as well as a range of specialist units, which may include:

- Business operations in engineering
- Engineering design
- Properties and applications of engineering materials
- Further mechanical principles and applications
- Applications of mechanical systems in engineering
- Principles and applications of fluid mechanics
- How is the course assessed?

The course will be assessed through a range of coursework, assignments and practical observations.