

The Maths department is one of our strongest; it is active, well-organised and hard-working. Over many years it has enjoyed an enviable reputation both inside the school and in Cumbria. In September 2003 we became a Specialist School in Maths and Computing. Whilst the principle of specialisms has been phased out, we still pride ourselves on the status and success of Maths at NTS.

The department moved into a new 8-classroom Maths Block in October 2006. The architect's brief was to create a building which "clearly saw itself as the most beautiful and impressive building in a school of beautiful and impressive buildings".

Currently the department has six full-time members, two part-time Maths teachers, a dedicated full-time teaching assistant and an HLTA in Numeracy. Most staff teach across the age and ability range and are expected to contribute beyond their teaching commitment. The department functions as a strong team. They spend quality time together at lunchtime and in departmental meetings and teaching and learning is always made a priority for discussion. Whilst the department has a blend of varied and interesting personalities and styles, striving for technical excellence is not optional – nor is a willingness to learn from each other, or having high expectations for all students and the ownership of targets for every class.

Academic results in Maths have always been good and frequently outstanding. Our intake is truly comprehensive. At GCSE we enter all of our pupils for the AQA linear specification. In the Sixth Form we follow the Edexcel courses.

Some setting takes place in Year 7 and from Year 8 upwards the setting is stricter within two parallel bands. Maths is a popular option in the Sixth Form. In each year group there are two single Maths groups and one Further Maths group. This year we have starter teaching Core Mathematics to Year 12.

Competitions are central to the life of the department. We won the regional final of the UKMT Team Challenge in 2011, 2012 and 2015 and went onto compete in the National Finals. In 2012 we came 23rd out of a total of 1571 schools.