

Wednesday 13th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. As we embark on a new academic year, I wanted to take a moment to share with you how maths is taught at Roding Valley High School. Our school adopted the **Maths Mastery** teaching program as our primary scheme of learning for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 since 2013. The Maths team would like to provide you with some insight into what this entails and why it is a beneficial approach for all ability learners.

Maths Mastery is an innovative teaching methodology designed to ensure a deep and comprehensive understanding of mathematical concepts among students. It focuses on building a strong foundation in mathematics by allowing students to master each topic before moving on to the next (longer time spent on broader topics). This approach is based on the belief that every student can excel in mathematics when provided with the right support and instruction. Our Maths Mastery Curriculum is also taught in line with our ACED Teaching & Learning framework. If you would like to find out more about this whole school approach, then you can [click here](#).

Here are some key aspects of the Maths Mastery program:

- **Conceptual Understanding** – In Maths Mastery, we prioritise conceptual understanding over rote memorisation. Students are encouraged to explore mathematical concepts through hands-on activities, group discussions, and problem-solving tasks. This approach ensures that they truly grasp the underlying principles of mathematics.
- **High Expectations** – Maths Mastery sets high expectations for all students, regardless of their initial ability level. We firmly believe that every child has the potential to excel in mathematics, and our program aims to unlock that potential.
- **Problem Solving** – Problem-solving is at the core of mathematical thinking. Our students are encouraged to tackle real-world problems, fostering creativity and critical thinking skills that extend beyond the classroom.
- **Language and Communication** – are integral to learning mathematics. By articulating their ideas, learners take control and ownership of those ideas and learn where they can apply them and where not. They become aware of what they know and can then clarify, explore, consolidate and reorganise this knowledge. Non-verbal communication is also important and includes the use of symbols, representations, gestures and other non-verbal signals. If the teacher uses mathematical language but the learners do not, the words will not become 'their words', but will remain words used by a community of which they do not feel a part. Conversely, the more learners actively use those mathematical words, the more they will feel themselves to be mathematicians.

We want to assure you that the Maths Mastery program is suitable for all ability learners. Whether your child is just starting their mathematical journey or has a strong foundation, this approach will provide them with the tools and support needed to succeed. Our dedicated team of teachers is committed to fostering a love for mathematics and ensuring that each student reaches their full potential.

We understand that you may have questions or concerns about this new teaching program, and we welcome the opportunity to address them. Please feel free to contact me at odedeko@rodingvalley.net or call to discuss any queries you may have.

We look forward to working closely with you to provide the best mathematics education for your child. Together, we can nurture their mathematical skills, confidence, and enthusiasm.

We are confident that this program will set them on a path to mathematical success, as many previous students have found over the last ten years.

Yours faithfully



Mr O Edeko
Head of Maths



Ms P Larkin
Deputy Headteacher