

Dear S3 Parent/Carer,

As a support to you helping your young person make their S4 choices, the Mathematics Faculty would like to give you further information about the two strands of course we offer as options.

One is the pure **Mathematics** route, the contents of which would be seen as desirable for those aiming for careers such as Engineering, Medicine, Accountancy and Pharmacy. This suite of courses includes Algebra, which can sometimes be a cause of concern among students. There is progression pathway from National 5 to Higher and Advanced Higher Mathematics.

We also offer the **Applications of Mathematics** route, which allows pupils to progress up to a National 5 qualification in a Numerical subject that does not contain Algebra. Applications of Mathematics is suitable for many college and University courses, including Nursing and Primary Teaching. Please see enclosed a diagram to show how the topics for each course differ and where they are the same.

I would like to encourage you to have conversations with your young person so that you can discuss their future career path and discuss which route would suit them best. There is always the possibility to do National 5 Applications of Mathematics in S4, followed by National 5 Mathematics in S5. For some this will be a better route as they will gain confidence from achieving in the Applications of Mathematics and use it as a springboard to gaining the National 5 Mathematics award. Picking the correct strand and route in S4 will give your young person the best opportunity to obtain at the highest level possible for their individual circumstances.

