NAPLAN – 9 to 11 May and OLNA

Year 7 NAPLAN: Testing will take place during May. Students who wish to practice some previous NAPLAN tests can find them on the ‘Student_Common’ drive (in the ‘Mathematics’ folder).

Year 9 NAPLAN
As a consequence of industry and employer feedback on literacy and numeracy standards, the role of the year 9 NAPLAN test changed during 2013 – students who achieved at Band 8 or above in the Numeracy, Reading and Writing components were deemed to have pre-qualified to achieve a WACE (secondary graduation). Those who achieve at band 7 or below in any of the previously mentioned components are required to demonstrate that their numeracy (or literacy, or both) is at the required minimum standard. This is done through sitting the OLNA (Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment – details of the OLNA are available at the SCSA website). It is preferable for year 9 students to aim to achieve this minimum standard during their year 9 NAPLAN. Previous NAPLAN tests for practice can be found on the ‘Student_Common’ drive (in the ‘Mathematics’ folder).

Year 10 to 12 OLNA
Students who have not demonstrated the minimum numeracy standard will have 6 opportunities to do so prior to graduation (two in each of years 10, 11 and 12, normally in March and September). The OLNA is a non-calculator online assessment. Preparation: Students should work on their fundamental mental mathematical skills by practising Numeracy Basics tests. They should also download and practice previous NAPLAN tests, plus a variety of other revision resources that are available on the Student_Common drive (in the ‘Mathematics’ folder) or on the SEQTA mathematics portal page. Students are encouraged to come to the maths focus room or the after-school homework classes to seek assistance.

Obtaining Mathematics Help
Parents and students should be aware of the following sources of mathematics help (outside of the classroom) that are available through the College:

- The maths focus room (22) is open during the 2 half of lunch every day, with a maths teacher on duty to help with homework, assignments and study.
- The College runs after-school homework classes in the library on Monday through to Thursday. There will be a mathematics teacher present at many of these sessions – students are encouraged to check the roster.
- The Mathematics department has a portal page on SEQA. It contains many valuable resources and is a good source of information for parents and students. On SEQA, look for the port-hole icon, then select the "MAT" tab.
- Students in years 7 to 9 will be able to re-sit a majority of mathematics tests if they score below 65%. To obtain details of the ‘Repeating Assessments Policy’, go to:
  - ‘Student_Common’ drive (Mathematics Folder).
  - Mathematics department portal page (within SEQA).
- All students (years 7 to 12) will have access to the Mathspace website (https://mathspace.co). Over these first few weeks, mathematics teachers will ensure that all students have access to this online resource, which provides them
with an online textbook and access to many questions (which marks a students working as they proceed, and offers help and instructional videos). Depending on their individual style, some staff will be using this as a source of homework, others as part of their course delivery. Either way, students are free to go onto this site to practice the mathematics concepts currently being taught in class, and to use it as a source of revision and study.

- Parents and students often ask about tutors for mathematics. We keep a list of people who have expressed an interest in tutoring (the list is primarily mathematically capable ex-students, however it also includes teachers from other schools). This list is available on the ‘Student_Common’ drive and the mathematics department portal on SEQTA (alternatively, email your daughter’s maths teacher, and they will email out the list). Note, parents are responsible for checking whether a tutor has a Working With Children card.

Issues, Problems, Queries
If you have any concerns, please ensure that your first port of call is your daughter’s mathematics teacher. A majority of issues can be simply resolved with a quick conversation.

Mastery of Times Tables
One of the key factors that can impact on a student’s mathematical success is their ability to rapidly recall facts, such as tables. The Australian Curriculum syllabus requires that basic table facts be learnt by the end of grade 4, thus enabling students to utilise this knowledge to assist in developing their mathematical understanding in a range of other areas. Some students arrive in high school with a solid mathematical foundation in place; however, it is not uncommon for students to arrive with insufficient mathematical preparation. All year 7 mathematics classes will have the opportunity to complete a times tables assessment to ascertain their knowledge of these basics facts. Your daughter will bring home a colour printout of her results – this will give you a good indication as to her level of tables knowledge. The test to be used is stored on the ‘Student_Common’ drive – navigate to Mathematics/Resources/Times tables practice spreadsheet. Note, it is also stored on the SEQTA maths portal page.

The test is stored in an Excel spreadsheet, and should work on a home desktop/laptop computer (both Mac and Windows – it does not work on the iPad). This spreadsheet contains programming that enables both testing and practice of selected tables. Students are encouraged to take this spreadsheet home and practice the tables where they need to improve.

Numeracy Basics – Years 7 to 10
All students in years 7 to 10 take part in the Numeracy Basics improvement program. This program focuses on improving a student’s understanding of the fundamental mathematics from the preceding years of the Australian Curriculum syllabus – for our learning to be successful, we must base it on a solid foundation. Each numeracy basics test contains 50 questions which cover this fundamental content. Time permitted is exactly 30 minutes, and the test is to be completed without a calculator. The tests are contained on an Excel spreadsheet, and students are encouraged to take a copy home (on a USB) and put it on the home computer. Students can find them stored on the ‘Student_Common’ drive, the SEQTA maths portal page, and on many of the SEQTA mathematics course pages. Each numeracy basics spreadsheet contains programming that allows a student to generate as many new tests (and answers) as they require. A student who has practiced and mastered the content within a numeracy basics test should be able to significantly improve their performance within the in-class assessments; their increased understanding of the fundamentals will also assist in their day-to-day mathematics classes.

Mathematics Lower School Streaming


Mathematics classes tend to use streaming to ensure that students are exposed to content that is pitched at a level that is appropriate to their abilities. Please refer to the streaming document on the SEQTA maths portal page for more details.

Streaming does lead towards specific upper school mathematics subjects that are appropriate to the ability level of the student. Details of mathematics pathways can be found on the SEQTA Mathematics portal page. Parents and students are often keen to be in the top mathematics classes such that they qualify for the highest level of upper school mathematics courses. It is important to emphasise that this is not always appropriate, as it can place a student in a subject where they are out of their depth, and their confidence can be impacted. Position within lower school classes is based on assessment performance, and is determined by the mathematics department. Students who are keen to move up a stream need to be performing at the highest levels to be considered. These movements will be decided by the mathematics department, based on the principle of doing the best thing for the student.