

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year Seven progress

The KS3 team at Ipsley are committed to preparing our students for High School in every way possible to ensure a smooth transition. The English and Maths Departments are working in partnership to ensure that our students are best placed to excel in our subjects when they reach KS4. Below are ways you can support your child's progress in maths and English.

As a result of changes to the KS3 and KS4 curriculum we now have an increased focus on calculator skills in maths lessons. Two out of the three GCSE maths papers your child will sit will require them to use a scientific calculator. The best preparation for this would be for them to be using one on a regular basis and so they can fully understand how it works. During maths lessons students are able to borrow the school calculators but a much more preferable option would be for them to have their own scientific calculator. Currently at Tesco the black FX-83GTPLUS is £10 but you can buy them cheaper online and they are also available in blue or pink.

The changes to the English curriculum this year mean that students are expected to understand and analyse more challenging texts within their GCSE exams. In order to prepare students for this, the English department will be using higher level texts within KS3 as well as developing students' reading skills and strategies. The department will continue to use the Accelerated Reading scheme with year 7 and 8 to monitor students' reading age, encourage independent reading practice and promote reading for pleasure. Each student will have their own Accelerated Reading book that is tailored to their reading level and we ask students read for twenty minutes each day in order for this scheme to be most effective. Students are encouraged to read other books in addition to their Accelerated Reading book and English staff are happy to discuss and make suitable suggestions in light of a student's interests and hobbies.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Barker

Miss Yeomans

Assistant Director of Learning and Standards
Standards for Maths

Assistant Director of Learning and
for English