

GCSE Statistics Frequently Asked Questions:

What grade can they expect to achieve?

This all comes down to participation in the lessons and the students individual work, like all their subject, but we have found some strong links to their Maths grade. Students tend to achieve a similar grade to their Maths but with some differences. It is harder to achieve the top end grades (7,8,9) in Statistics then it is in Maths due to knowing the Mathematical methods and, more importantly the interpretation and reasoning of each statistical process. We also find that students achieving 3's, 4's and 5's in Maths are more likely to achieve higher in Statistics, due to less mathematical processes to remember than Maths.

Will they sit Higher or the Foundation papers?

Like with Maths we continue to monitor a student's progress throughout the course, and we won't make a final decision until February of year 11. This gives plenty of time to assess which paper is more suitable.

If they are sitting a foundation paper in Maths, do they have to sit a foundation paper in Statistics?

The courses are different and this leads to differences in the way the material is assessed. We find that students are more able to achieve a grade 5 in the Stats higher paper than in the foundation. This is completely different to Maths where it is more achievable to get a 5 on the foundation paper instead.

What materials/textbooks/ revision guides should they get?

A revision guide is provided to those who are on the course so they will get one in year 10. A student won't need to purchase any other texts but if a student wishes, there are textbooks that can be found, and we follow the Edexcel course if someone was to choose one. Old textbooks are still very good and come at a fraction of the cost of the newer editions (with mostly the same questions and examples)

Why do you do it over two years whilst other schools cover it over one year in year 10?

We have chosen to do the course over the 2 as there are big overlaps with the GCSE Maths course and we find students doing both at the same time in year 11, has a big positive impact in both courses when it comes to their understanding and overall grades.

If a student drops out of the course, can they be refunded part of the fees?

Unfortunately not. Like with all after school courses, the school is putting on extra staffing to facilitate the teaching of the course and this is not covered financially through state funding. Because of this the school is committed to staffing the course for all the students through year 10 and 11, therefore that cannot be recovered as the course will continue for the other students who are continuing.

What is a Statistics lesson like?

The course is taught in a sixth form/post-16 manner. Poor behaviour will not be tolerated, and students will be asked to leave the class. The classroom environment involves lots of topic related discussions as it is important for students to understand each statistical method and to not just learn the mechanics of it. There is expectation of students to complete their homework regularly and will help students to practice the material. Students have also chosen to do this extra course, so it leads to a friendly and enjoyable environment to learn and teach in. It does help that we have a few laughs about how poor Statistics can be in all forms of the media in the world.