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Dear Parents/Carers

As you will know from your son or daughter, Mrs Fraser has visited every Maths class this week to let them know that we have received some funding which will enable every student who could benefit from it to have an "extra bite of the cherry" in terms of taking their GCSE Maths exam early in March. There will be an opportunity for them to sit two papers on Friday 2nd March and Monday 5th March at either Foundation or Higher level. (Their teachers will work with them to ensure that they are entered for the best possible tier on the day.) By having an extra chance to take the GCSE exam, we hope that they will benefit in a range of ways:

- that they will achieve or exceed their target grade early and therefore have one less area of study to worry about for the summer
- for those who sat the exam in November, if they do not achieve their target grade they will certainly be nearer to it than they were. (We think this will help them feel much more confident about the progress they have made and help them prepare better.)
- that from the Exam Board we receive very detailed analysis of each student's performance under exam pressure. This will give them some really helpful feedback about which specific areas they need to focus on for revision for the summer.

So, all in all, we believe that this additional exam entry will be a very positive experience. Prior to the two examinations, there will be an intensive build-up through the week focusing on Maths skills for the examination so that they feel as ready and confident as possible to rise to the challenge.

Under normal circumstances we would not be able to consider such an approach but for a range of reasons we feel that this year group would benefit a great deal from this opportunity.

It is fair to say that the significance of achieving their target grades, achieving their best and demonstrating capability in Maths has never been as important as it is today for young people and as a school we are committed to making sure that they have every chance to make the most of this great opportunity.

As always, if you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch with either Mr Stone, Mrs Smith or myself.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Pat Hollinghurst
Head