

Frequently Asked Questions FAQs Mathematics Learning at Island School

Where is the textbook for year 7 and 8 maths?

- There is no prescribed physical text book for year 7 and 8.
- There is a rich collection of resources on ISLE which will enable you to support your child at home.
- The ISLE also contains summaries of each unit covered and some suggested resources
- We strongly recommend that you utilise the Skills Unit to support your child's learning. In here you will find links to worksheets and websites which focus on the fundamentals. These enable your child to develop their independent learning.

What is the maths department's philosophy in terms of learning mathematics?

- Classroom focus is on problem solving, inquiry based learning experiences and homework is practice and reinforcing their understanding.
- We adopt a growth mindset where we believe through dedication and hard work, everyone is able to experience success in understanding mathematics.
- "In a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work—brains and talent are just the starting point. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment. Virtually all great people have had these qualities", Carol Dweck.
<http://mindsetonline.com/whatisit/about/>

Why are percentages not reported for the skills test?

- Skills are returned marked and highlight the areas for development . Students may go to ISLE to the skills section to consolidate and improve on those areas identified. ISLE includes online lessons, videos and consolidation exercises.
- There is research to support that students do not take on any qualitative feedback when quantitative (percentages) are reported. <http://www.dylanwiliamcenter.com/is-the-feedback-you-are-giving-students-helping-or-hindering/>
- Since the introduction of the skills test, students consistently show marked improvements over the course of the year.

Does my child need a tutor?

- We have put a lot of thought into the conceptual development of maths learning at Island School and it would be not advantageous if a tutor was to focus on rote memorization or rote learning of techniques beyond their conceptual understanding.
- However we do appreciate that you may deem it necessary to have a tutor to support your child's mathematical learning and if so please advise the tutor of our philosophy.

Are years 7 and 8 streamed and how do you cater for different backgrounds in a mixed environment?

- Year 7 mathematics classes are not streamed.
- In Year 8 we introduce three broad pathways. These pathways are flexible, i.e. movement is possible between them. The curriculum is, however, identical in each pathway.
- Learning experiences in maths lessons are "high ceiling, low threshold" tasks. These have been designed to "give access to all students of varying backgrounds in a mixed environment but at the same time challenge all students at their level. We have high expectations for all of our students.

Any further resources?

Here is some websites that you may like to use at home with your child:

<http://nrich.maths.org/frontpage>

<https://www.myimaths.com/> All students have the school domain login and personal login details

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zqhs34j>

<https://isle.island.edu.hk/>

<http://donsteward.blogspot.hk/>

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