

Educate for life

Dear parents and carers,

As we continue to strive for academic excellence, I would like to address an important aspect of our students' education: the use of calculators in lessons and exams.

Calculators have become an essential tool in modern education, particularly in subjects such as mathematics and science. Their use are allowed in Mathematics; the Sciences; Geography and Design Technology GCSE exams. They not only help students perform complex calculations more efficiently but also allow them to focus on understanding and applying concepts rather than getting bogged down by arithmetic.

Here are a few reasons why regular use of calculators are beneficial:

1. **Familiarity and Confidence:** By using the same calculator in both lessons and exams, students become familiar with its functions and operations. This familiarity reduces anxiety and increases confidence during exams.
2. **Accuracy and Efficiency:** Calculators help ensure accuracy in calculations, which is crucial for solving complex problems. They also save time, allowing students to allocate more effort to problem-solving and critical thinking.
3. **Enhanced Learning:** With calculators, students can explore and understand mathematical concepts more deeply. They can experiment with different approaches to problems and verify their solutions quickly.
4. **Preparation for Future Studies and Careers:** Proficiency with calculators is a valuable skill that students will use in higher education and various careers. Encouraging their use now prepares students for future academic and professional success.

Impact on Grades:

Studies have shown that students who are proficient with calculators tend to perform better in exams. The ability to quickly and accurately perform calculations allows them to focus on the application of concepts, leading to improved grades.

Recommended Calculator Models:

To support our students, we recommend the following calculator models:

1. Casio FX-83CW
2. Casio FX-83GTCW

We recommend that each student especially in Year 10 and 11 has a personal calculator that they use consistently in class and during exams. This practice will help them become comfortable with the device and maximize its benefits.

We appreciate your support in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued partnership in your child's education.

Yours Sincerely,
Mr. Foster
Director of Mathematics