



Emerald
Secondary College

Changes to the Mathematics Program at Emerald Secondary College in 2018

As per the Bush Telegraph Article on 27th October 2017, there will be changes to the Mathematics program at the College in 2018. Emerald Secondary College is committed to providing students with the best teaching and learning program possible. After a review of our mathematics teaching program and Maths Pathways, including feedback from parents and students, the College has decided to change and restructure our Mathematics Program. Below you will find answers to some of the questions you may have.

Will Maths Pathway be staying?

No. Emerald Secondary College has decided not to continue with the Maths Pathway Program for Years 7 to 10 in 2018. Whilst Maths Pathway worked well for some students, as a whole student engagement and achievement did not meet the College expectations.

What will students be using instead of Maths Pathway?

Students will receive explicit teaching from their Maths teachers, supported by a textbook and other resources. The textbook can be differentiated to meet a variety of student levels within the classroom. The College has negotiated a great value textbook bundle for families, available as text + digital. This Oxford Bundle is on the booklist and includes Science and Humanities also.

Do I need to purchase anything else?

Yes. There is an additional homework and support program, which supports student learning at home. The program will offer students videos on topics, assessment of their understanding, investigations and much more, and includes tips and advice for parents supporting their child's learning. More details will be communicated to families shortly.

How will Mathematics run in Years 7-10?

Students undertake five periods of Mathematics in a week. During three of these periods, students will be building their mathematical skills and knowledge with their teachers, using the textbook as a resource. In the remaining two periods, students will be continuing with the Enriched Learning program, as in 2017. In these classes students complete problem-solving and reasoning tasks to develop their critical thinking and analytical skills to embed deep understanding of mathematics. This structure is the same as 2017, but without Maths Pathways.

Will SEAL Mathematics be different to mainstream classes?

The College provides a differentiated learning program of mathematics to all students at the school. As such, students in SEAL may be working ahead of their peers.

What support will be offered for my child if they below standard in Mathematics?

Over the next few weeks, the College will send a letter home to the families of students who have been identified as needing additional support in the Maths classroom. These families will not purchase a textbook, but instead pay a Mathematics levy. The levy will be used to supply resources which are appropriate to the child's level to support their learning. The College is also investigating if an intervention program would be required 2018. Homework Club is also available to support students.

Will VCE Mathematics change?

There will be minimal change to VCE Mathematics in 2018. The textbooks will be the same as those in 2017. The only addition is that students studying Units 3 and 4 of the following subjects: Further Mathematics, Mathematical Methods or Specialist Mathematics, will be using **Edrolo** as a support tool for their classroom learning. Edrolo combines interactive video theory, formative assessment, exam practice and analytics and is used by over 500 schools in Victoria. This year, students in Year 11 and 12 trialed Edrolo in Term 3 for Units 1-4 of Mathematics subjects. The students rated the program as easy to use, informative videos and beneficial to support their learning. Edrolo was also available for other subjects, and over 16,000 views were recorded in a 3 month period.

What else is happening with Mathematics in 2018?

There will be some new initiatives introduced at the College to promote Mathematics in 2018. Some of these are a Mathematics Competition and Mathematics excursions. The school will also continue with some current practices including: Maths Olympiad, Math Extension Programs, celebration of significant Math days and much more. We are excited about all the positive changes occurring in Mathematics.

When will access to Maths Pathways end?

Maths Pathway will expire at the end of the year. Parents can continue with Maths Pathway if they subscribe to the program privately.

How will students be assessed?

Instead of students having a fortnightly Maths Pathway test, they will have a topic test. This will be completed after students have finished studying a topic. The topic test will be aligned with VICVELS. Results to parents will be available through Compass. In addition to topic tests, students will also complete Common Assessment Tasks throughout the year. The CATs will allow students to explore/investigate a mathematical concept. Students will complete the CATs in class.

Much time and consideration has gone into the planning of Mathematics at Emerald Secondary College for 2018. Our goal is for students to be engaged, motivated and challenged in their classrooms to achieve their best results, and we are confident our program will provide this.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the College.

Kind Regards,



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Maths Domain Leader 2018

