

Should maths be made a legal requirement until the age of eighteen?

On Wednesday the 4th of January, Rishi Sunak set out to outline plans for maths study to be offered after the age of 16, through alternative qualification routes.

"Right now, just half of all 16-19-year-olds study any maths at all. Yet in a world where data is everywhere, and statistics underpin every job, our children's jobs will require more analytical skills than ever before. And letting our children out into the world without those skills, is letting our children down" he said.

"Maths is important, but not relevant after GCSE."

"The whole thing was ill-communicated, and the GCSE cur-

riculum should be reviewed instead."

These are two statements from our Head of Maths, Mr McKinnon, and maths teacher Ms Alexander, who both think that it should have been better reviewed before making a statement.

Some pupils have said: "It's unfair for people who struggle with maths to continue with it" and "The whole idea was released to the press as a distraction from the very real problems our country is facing at the moment."

Many students and teachers have expressed that maths should not be compulsory until

the age of eighteen, but some students disagree. "Maths is a very important subject, and to be able to have those skills is very important" said one student. "Being able to do your own taxes and finances is a key skill that everyone should be able to do" another added.

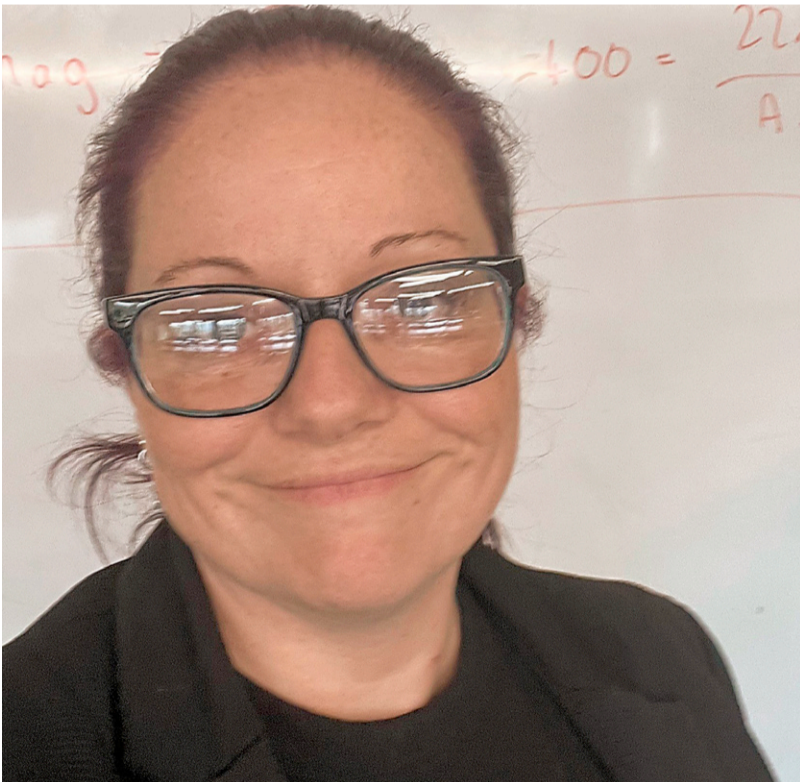
Many students have also expressed concern, since some people are more creative and enjoy subjects like music, drama and art, and would feel invalidated and struggle much more than others if they had to continue with maths until the age of 18.

MOLLY ROBERTS



Prime Minister Rishi Sunak in parliament

HEAD OF SCIENCE IN THE HOT SEAT



Ms Smith answered our questions

Today we interviewed the Head of Science, Ms. Smith. We asked a series of questions and we had some mixed answers.

Q: What is your opinion on the students?

A: The students are nice and helpful at times.

Q: What is the best way to revise for GCSEs?

A: It depends. Each person approaches it differently; some use websites and some use revision books and revision cards.

Q: What do you think of the school?

A: It's a good school and it's a really interesting school - and amazing!

Q: What is it like being Head of Science?

A: Hard work but rewarding.

Q: How long have you been at the school?

A: Since 2015, so I've been here for eight years.

Q: Are there any good side for websites to use for GCSE revision?

A: Cognito

Q: Where is the ideal science trip to?

A: The London Science and Natural History Museums.

Thanks very much to Miss Smith for answering all of our questions!

HARRY WRIGHT & MILLIE BIRCH, YEAR 9

A chance to relax after the stress of mock exams

SCHOOL REWARDS TRIP
27/01/2023

On Friday, students from Year 7 to Year 11 had the opportunity to go on rewards trips.

This was especially helpful for Years 10 and 11, as we all deserved a break and a chance to relax after the incredible stress of the mock exams.

The trips included going to Chester Zoo, Liverpool and Rednal Go-Karting.

I went on the Liverpool trip and I thought that it was great because it gave students the opportunity to spend their own money.

School ran this trip last year as a trip to Cheshire Oaks, but with Liverpool it was definitely on a bigger scale.

I had a great time and enjoyed myself a lot. I think that this trip was a good idea, and school should totally run it again next year.

FINLAY TURNER, 11CV

Ofsted visit for a routine inspection

Recently, St Martins school was visited by Ofsted for a routine inspection.

I know many of you experienced the lessons with the visitors and I'm sure it was not the easiest experience for teachers and students alike. I wanted to

recognise the hard work many put in during the visit and I hope this was demonstrated in the end result of the inspection.

The students who took part in meetings and interviews, I commend you for your confidence and bravery, and to the teach-

ers who persevered through the constant interruptions I thank you too. I hope that the library's improvement is noticed and commended, and that ultimately the school's overall excellence is accurately depicted.

AMY ELLIOTT 11CED

Go-kart fun on rewards trip

On Friday a group went go-karting at Rednal for their rewards trip. The weather was wet, but those on the trip were excited. We were shown to the overalls, then it was time for a safety briefing before, with helmets on, it was time to hit the track.

Some drove cautiously due to the weather, others were a little more daring. There were a lot of spin outs! Before we knew it, it was over. We had spent only ten minutes on the track and after a snack it was back to the bus.

EWAN MOTTRAM, YEAR 10