

2nd October 2017

Dear Students and Parents,

Calculators for the new A Level Maths

As you may already know, the specification for A level Maths has changed for first teaching this September (2017) and, alongside changes to the structure of the course, the new syllabus has a specific requirement for students to make 'appropriate use of technology' throughout all examinations. In order to facilitate this, students will be expected to have a suitable calculator which they will need to bring to every Maths lesson. Scientific and graphical calculators will be permitted in all A level exams, and in particular they need to be able to compute summary statistics and access probabilities from standard statistical distributions – a function which their GCSE calculator will be unable to perform.

We are offering the opportunity to purchase a suitable calculator at a reduced cost through CASIO's Supported Pricing Scheme. There are two models which we are offering to students:

- **CASIO fx-991EX** (better known as the ClassWiz) **£23.94** (Amazon price £30.95) - this is a scientific calculator which has all the necessary functions required by the specification and has been recommended as a suitable device for the new A level. Students who currently use a CASIO calculator will find this a user-friendly and convenient way to carry out the essential calculations.
- **CASIO CG-50 £86.34** (Amazon price: £122.72) - this is a top-of-the-range graphical calculator which can perform all the necessary calculations alongside other useful functionality. The graph plotting function could be useful during examinations to aid the visualisation of abstract problems and for checking numerical answers.

Although there are other calculators which will meet the requirements of the new A level, we base our teaching on the use of a calculator around this model and cannot guarantee any teacher knowing all the functionality of different brands.

If you would like to order a calculator, there are two offers on Joinos. Please select the one that you would like and make the payment **by Monday 16th October** so we can place the order before half-term and the students can receive their equipment after the holiday. If you have any problems with Joinos, please contact Vicky Marriott of the Finance office on vmarriott@judd.kent.sch.uk. Should financial difficulties preclude your contribution please write in confidence to the School Business Manager, Clare Morey (c.morey@judd.kent.sch.uk), as we do have the Lawrence Atwell charity fund that we can use for certain cases.

I hope the students will enjoy using this advanced level of technology to support their learning of

mathematics throughout their A level studies. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on LMifsud@judd.kent.sch.uk .

Best wishes,

Mrs L M Mifsud
Head of Mathematics, The Judd School

