

25th September 2018

Dear Students and Parents,

Calculators for the new A Level Maths

As you may already know, the specification for A level Maths changed last 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 the 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 therefore offering the opportunity to purchase, via Joinos, a suitable calculator at a reduced cost through Science Studio. There are two models which we are offering to students:

CASIO fx-991EX (better known as the ClassWiz) – **£22.74** (Amazon price: £30.95)
CASIO CG-50 – **£83.94** (Amazon price: £122.72)

The ClassWiz 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.

The CG-50 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. We would recommend that anyone studying Further Maths has this model if possible.

The additional functions of the CG-50 will provide useful learning opportunities, which we will make use of during Maths lessons. However, there are other sources of technology, such as smart phones, which can perform the same techniques during lesson time, so those students studying single Maths will not be disadvantaged in their learning if they choose to only purchase the ClassWiz.

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 will not guarantee any

teacher knowing all the functionality of different brands.

If you wish to buy a calculator for your son/daughter, there are **two offers on Joinos** for you to make the payment, depending on which version you would prefer. The school will be placing the order after the offer **closes on Joinos (Friday 12th October)** and, due to the necessity of obtaining them quickly, we are only able to order calculators for which we have received full payment. As mentioned in the letter, this offer does represent a significant saving on the prices available online generally, particularly for the CG-50.

The calculators will be handed out to students after the October half term holiday. I hope they 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 JWainwright@judd.kent.sch.uk.

Best wishes,

Dr J Wainwright
Head of Mathematics

