Core Maths Level 3 Certificate in Mathematics in Context (Pearson)

Why study this subject?
Core Maths is a new qualification for students who are keen to extend their GCSE Maths skills for future study or work but have decided not to study A Level Mathematics. This course is to support students who study Psychology, Geography, Business, Economics, Biology, Chemistry, or other similar courses where there is a high mathematical content.

Although Core Maths does not count as one of your three main subjects, it is a valuable extra qualification which is **equivalent in UCAS points to an AS Level,** with some universities making adjusts to offers based on successful completion of Core Maths. The course is three lessons per week for two years.

Entry requirements
Please see the entry requirements page on the school website.

Content
Core Maths uses problem-solving tasks with relevant real-world content to bring Maths to life. There are four main topic areas:

- **Statistics** – e.g. what is the average life expectancy in different countries?
- **Probability** – e.g. would you rather be given £900 or have a 95% chance of getting £1000?
- **Linear Programming** – e.g. on a new housing development, to make the most profit, how much land should be used for houses and how much should be used for flats?
- **Sequences and Growth** – e.g. how could we predict the population of the UK in 2050, and why might we need to know this?

Assessment
We follow the Edexcel specification which is called 'Level 3: Mathematics in Context'. There are two exams at the end of the two-year course. Paper 1 is 'Comprehension' – understanding data from a pre-released source booklet. Paper 2 is 'Applications' – applying problem-solving skills. Both papers are 1 hour 40 mins long. You will receive a grade from A to E, and these carry the same UCAS points as an AS-Level.

Future courses and careers
Core Maths is gaining increased recognition amongst universities and employers. Although Core Maths is not a substitute for future courses which require A Level Mathematics, it is valued by many universities and employers. Most universities will not use it as part of their standard offer, but will look positively at students who have completed the course successfully, and some will allow it in lieu of a grade 6/7 at GCSE. You are advised to check with individual universities about their course requirements.