

GCSE Statistics helps embed maths knowledge, boost confidence and improve outcomes

Name	Brookfield Community School
Type	Comprehensive
Location	Southampton
Cohort	GCSE Statistics cohort size: 40



Brookfield Community School is one of the largest co-educational, comprehensive secondary schools in Hampshire. It currently has 1800 students aged 11 to 16. The school has been offering **Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Statistics** since 2017. We spoke to Vicki Brunink, Learning Leader for Maths, who discusses her experience of teaching GCSE Statistics at the school.

We wanted to offer something extra to our high attaining students

We introduced Pearson Edexcel GCSE Statistics to our curriculum several years ago because we wanted to offer our more able mathematicians something extra and something a bit different. We also wanted to give our high attaining students the opportunity, not only to embed their existing maths knowledge, but build on it by offering GCSE Statistics.

Students taking the qualification have improved GCSE Maths knowledge

When we introduced GCSE Statistics, we thought it was important to make the qualification accessible, so we decided to offer it as a one or two-year course. We offer the qualification as an option to our high attaining mathematicians who study it in one year and take the qualification in Year 10. This works well as we have some exceptional students who by Year 10 have a really good grasp of GCSE Mathematics, so GCSE Statistics is a great complementary subject to offer them.

The students sit their GCSE Statistics exam at the end of Year 10 which is really helpful in reducing the exam pressure of Year 11. This is a good boost for their confidence because they are not worried about other GCSEs and can concentrate fully on preparing for one subject. It also gives them the experience of sitting a formal examination early and get a feel for the examination process. These students then follow an FSMQ in Additional Maths during Year 11. The one-year option allows them to apply their mathematical knowledge to different contexts and to see how statistics fits into the real world.

We also offer GCSE Statistics in a separate option block to all students which allows them to take two years to complete the course. For these students, the GCSE Statistics course supplements their GCSE Mathematics work as there is an overlap between the content. This has helped to secure many key statistical skills and has helped them to achieve higher grades in both subjects.

| The specification is clear and easy to deliver

We found the course specification was very easy to sequence as it follows the Statistical Enquiry Cycle. The specification is very clear in what the students need to learn which is a huge plus and something we value as teachers.

The support we get from Pearson Edexcel is excellent such as the Get Ready to Teach events and much more. There's always someone to help if we have any questions and the Maths Emporium is particularly good for resources which are all very easy to find.

| Teaching GCSE Statistics has a positive impact on all subjects and prepares students for their future careers

The qualification has an overlap with the GCSE Mathematics syllabus which means that when the students are learning and revising, it benefits both. It gives students much-needed context to the areas they are studying. Statistics is everywhere and it allows them the opportunity to scrutinise it and assess its reliability. Teaching GCSE Statistics helps with the application of Statistics to real world issues. The discussions we have about Statistics are brilliant!

Students taking GCSE Statistics also benefit from the vast cross curricula link opportunities. Students quickly gain an advantage in other subjects that require statistical analysis, such as Science, Geography, Social Sciences, Business Studies and PE.

We have seen how advantageous it is for the student to take GCSE Statistics as they move on to further study. It helps them in a number of different A-level courses which many choose to do when they leave us. Taking GCSE Statistics also starts conversations about a future role using statistics, a highly respected and well-paid career choice.

Visit our website to find out more about Pearson Edexcel GCSE Statistics.