



# PARMITER'S SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1681

Headmaster: Mr M Jones BA MEd

11 January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

## **MAT, STEP and TMUA Training**

We write to advise that all our Year 12 Further Mathematics students have been informed that the Mathematics Department will be offering sessions for students intending to study Mathematics-based university courses which are known to require admissions tests and interviews. The sessions will be run by Dr Belghitar, after school on Thursdays from 3.30pm - 4.30pm, initially on a fortnightly basis **starting on 26 January**.

In the first instance, the focus will be on introducing students to new ideas and types of questions not usually encountered in the Mathematics and Further Mathematics A Level, as well as offering an opportunity to engage in problem solving and develop mathematical reasoning. These sessions would benefit students who are interested in mathematical problems and techniques beyond specific Mathematics admissions tests. After the Year 12 examinations and during the first part of Year 13, the focus will turn more specifically to training for MAT/STEP/TMUA examinations and it is expected that only students who are preparing for these examinations will continue to attend after that point.

Should your child have mentioned this opportunity and is unsure if these sessions are relevant to them, please encourage them to talk to Dr Belghitar by Friday 21 January.

For your convenience, a brief outline of the Mathematics-based admissions tests can be found on the following page.

Kind regards

Dr Belghitar  
KS5 Mathematics Lead

### **About STEP**

STEP (Sixth Term Examination Paper) Mathematics is a well-established examination designed to test candidates on questions that are similar in style to undergraduate mathematics. STEP is used by the University of Cambridge. Other universities may ask candidates to take STEP as part of their offer for courses such as Mathematics and Computer Science - in such cases, the university will advise which papers to take. STEP 2 and STEP 3 are three hour long examinations, which are sat alongside A Level papers in June of Year 13. STEP 2 covers material from A Level Mathematics (Pure and Applied), STEP 3 requires knowledge of Further Mathematics too.

### **About MAT**

MAT (Mathematics Admissions Test) is a 2 hour 30 minute assessment which is a subject-specific admissions test for applicants to the University of Oxford's undergraduate degree courses in Mathematics, Computer Science and their joint degrees. A few other universities also use MAT for all of their undergraduate Mathematics course applicants. MAT takes place in November of Year 13.

### **About TMUA**

The TMUA (Test of Mathematics for University Admission) is designed to give an opportunity to demonstrate mathematical thinking and reasoning skills needed for demanding undergraduate Mathematics or Mathematics-related course, such as Computer Science or Economics. This is a 2 hour 30 minute assessment that consist of two papers take consecutively. TMUA takes place in November of Year 13.

It is important that students are aware that MAT/STEP/TMUA are not easy and require a great deal of commitment and the questions are more challenging than those found in an A Level paper. Question are designed to make students think, as they are used by universities as part of their process to identify the very strongest applicants.