28th February 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Year 11 GCSE Mathematics**

As you may be aware there have been some significant changes made to the GCSE Mathematics curriculum in recent years. The current Year 11 cohort will be the first students to be examined on the new specification. The students will be expected to complete 3 examinations:

**Paper 1 (non-calculator)** – Thursday 25th May

**Paper 2** (**calculator)** – Thursday 8th June

**Paper 3 (calculator)** – Tuesday 13th June

These will be graded according to a numbered system from 9 - 1 rather than the more familiar A\* - G.

There will still be two tiers of entry:

Foundation, which will feature questions from Grade 1 to Grade 5

Higher, which will feature questions from Grade 4 to Grade 9.

Due to the nature of this new GCSE, we are looking very carefully at which tier of entry will apply to each student. This includes discussions with the exam board and other schools. We will be entering students for the tier in which we believe they will achieve the highest possible grade.

To prepare for their examinations and to assist the school in entering your child for the correct tier, we will be undertaking another mock exam. The dates for these are:

**Paper 1 (non-calculator)** – Thursday 9th March

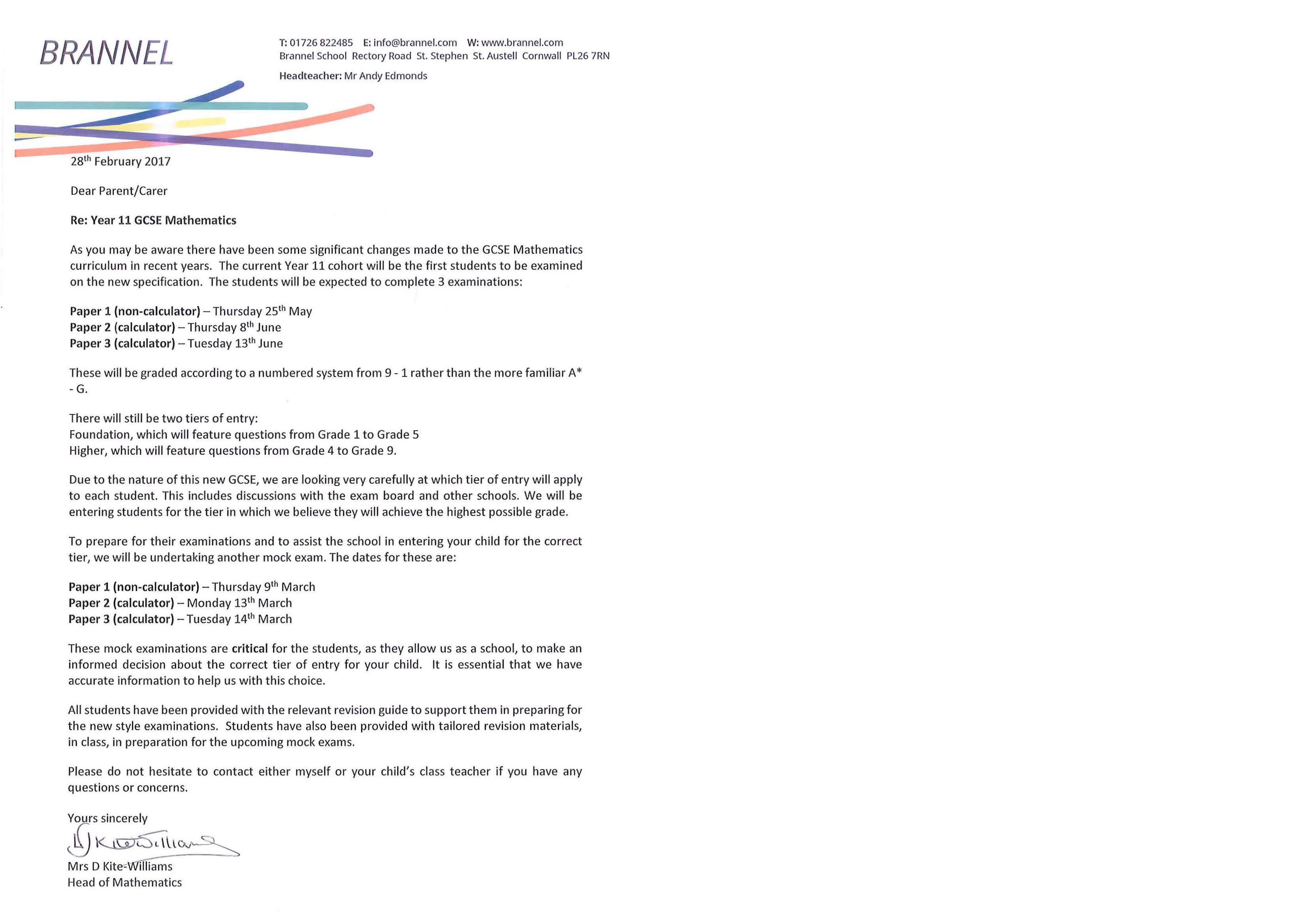
**Paper 2 (calculator)** – Monday 13th March

**Paper 3 (calculator)** – Tuesday 14th March

These mock examinations are **critical** for the students, as they allow us as a school, to make an informed decision about the correct tier of entry for your child. It is essential that we have accurate information to help us with this choice.

All students have been provided with the relevant revision guide to support them in preparing for the new style examinations. Students have also been provided with tailored revision materials, in class, in preparation for the upcoming mock exams.

Please do not hesitate to contact either myself or your child’s class teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Kite-Williams

Head of Mathematics