

# DUBAI COLLEGE

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# كلية دبي

ص.ب. ٨٣٧، دبي، الإمارات العربية المتحدة

هاتف : ٣٩٩٩١١١ (٩٧١٤+)

فاكس : ٣٩٩٩١٧٥ (٩٧١٤+)

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Headmaster : Peter Hill BSc MA

Bursar : Captain R. Higgins OBE RN

3<sup>rd</sup> January 2012

Dear Parents,

## Year 7 Mathematics

During their first term at Dubai College your son/daughter has been taught Mathematics in their mixed ability tutor group. This is done for many reasons, such as helping your son/daughter settle into Dubai College socially and for us, as a Mathematics Department, to get to know them both mathematically, and as a person. This information, together with results from the assessment taken on December 13<sup>th</sup>, has helped us place your son/daughter into a 'band'.

There are 3 bands (A, B & C). The three 'A band' classes are the largest groups, where students generally work at the fastest pace, the three 'B band' classes are slightly smaller, allowing for more teacher interaction and input whilst the two 'C band' groups are the smallest where the students can gain confidence by working at a pace targeted at their needs and receive more individual attention. The students will mostly cover the same syllabus content at varying depths and will sit common assessments. We feel that banding, and eventually setting students, improves their progress in Mathematics and builds their confidence, helping them to achieve their full potential. Last year in the GCSE examinations 96% of the students attained an A or an A\*. These are outstanding results showing that all the students we have at Dubai College are academically very able mathematicians.

Year 7 students are often worried about the band they have been placed in as they do not appreciate the bigger picture of overall success. We would be grateful if you would reassure your son or daughter, as we have been doing, that the banding procedure is there for them to be able to produce the best mathematics of which they are capable.

Now that students have been placed in bands we will continue to monitor their progress closely, both in class and with common assessments across the Year group. The next assessment will be around half-term next term; we would not expect to make many changes between bands for the remainder of the year. However, students should be aware that classwork and assessments during the remainder of the year are contributing factors towards the 'setting' process at the beginning of Year 8.

In Year 8, students are placed in 8 sets according to ability. Each child's progress is considered carefully and individually as well as against each other and baseline test results, so that we can place them in a set which will optimise their learning and confidence. Students, should not be anxious about the process, but should be aware that having been in 'A band' in year 7 will not automatically result in them being in sets 1 to 3 in Year 8 as there may be students in 'B band' who have gone on to perform better than them. Similarly, there will be overlap between students in 'B band' and 'C band'.

Your son/daughter will now know which band they have been placed in and will have met their teacher for the remainder of the year. I hope that this letter has been informative as well as reassuring you that we are committed to providing the best environment possible for each of your children to thrive in.

Yours sincerely

Miss P. Tragett  
Head of Mathematics

*MathsSetLetter*