



Ripon Grammar School

Dear Parents and Guardians of Y7 students,

Re: buying a calculator for Y8 students

Year 7 students in mathematics lessons have not needed a calculator because we wrote a scheme of work that would help build on the skills gained at primary school. However, with more difficult calculations ahead, they will need one for the start of Year 8, and I recommend buying a scientific calculator so they are familiar with it by Year 9.

Since new models are released frequently, the examination bodies do not publish a list of permitted calculators, but the following can be considered guidelines:

- Calculators must be of a size suitable for use on the desk and either battery- or solar-powered.
- Calculators must not be designed or adapted to offer language translators, symbolic algebra manipulation, symbolic differentiation or integration or communication with other machines or the internet.
- Calculators must not have retrievable information stored in them, including databanks, dictionaries, mathematical formulae or text.

The packaging of most scientific calculators indicates whether the model is suitable for GCSE and they can usually be purchased for about £20 (e.g. Casio fx-85GT CW Solar).

At A Level, students need an enhanced scientific calculator, and the department recommends the Casio fx-991CW Classwiz. However, I do not suggest you purchase this advanced model now as I cannot find definitive proof that says the fx-991 models can be used in GCSE examinations, and it would probably be too confusing for students at this stage.

I would also like to remind students that they need to bring a protractor (for measuring angles), a compass (for drawing circles) and a glue stick so that sheets can be stuck in straight away and not lost.

We look forward to continuing your child's mathematical education in the coming academic year.

Yours sincerely,
Mr N White
Head of Mathematics

Founded in Saxon Times, re-founded in 1555

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