HEAD OF DEPARTMENT:  Sharyn Crookes

SUBJECT OUTLINE:
Mathematics A aims to provide the opportunity for students to develop skills and acquire knowledge essential for informed citizenship. The course caters for the development of a range of technological skills using computers and scientific calculators. At the personal level, students are involved in learning activities that enable them to see how mathematics assists in making informed decisions in areas such as:

- Buying and selling, financial security
- Loans and home maintenance
- Interpreting data such as media presentations.

The skills developed in Maths A are useful in other school subjects and provide a good general background for many areas of tertiary study.

The core topics studied are:
- Financial Mathematics
- Applied Geometry including Trigonometry and Land Navigation
- Statistics and Probability
- The extension topic is Networks and Queuing.

Students must cover the extension topic to be eligible for a rating higher than Sound Achievement. The topics are integrated across the two years and the development of problem solving skills is a major focus. Students should have completed Year 10 Core Mathematics and reached a standard of Sound Achievement in that subject. Students who achieve less than Sound Achievement may still study the subject but are likely to find it difficult. The Short Course for Numeracy is not adequate preparation for Mathematics A. Homework is set regularly and students should do 20 to 30 minutes per night after each lesson.

ASSESSMENT OUTLINE:
The course is assessed by exams and assignments. Students may be assessed in a variety of ways. The assessment techniques include supervised tests and problem solving tasks such as investigations, projects and written reports. There are three assessment items per semester. Student achievement will be judged on three criteria:

- Knowledge and Procedures
- Modelling and Problem Solving
- Communication and Justification

CAREER PATHWAYS:
A sound achievement in Mathematics assures students of entry level into various occupations. For specific subject requirements for University courses please consult the appropriate handbook.

COSTS:
Included in Resource Hire Scheme

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS/PREREQUISITES:
Scientific calculator, exercise pad, ruler, protractor, compasses and Mathomat.