

Numeracy

Basic numeracy skills are fundamental in all areas of Mathematics. Without these, gaps can begin to form in your child's understanding of Mathematics. Some students come to high school with gaps in their basic numeracy such as not knowing their times tables or lack confidence in the basic number operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. The best way to support your child is to practice these basic skills with your child as much as you can at home to close the gap in their numeracy skills. A 1/2 hour of numeracy each can make a huge difference.

Sumdog

Online Resources

Each child in S1 to S3 at Balerno High School has access to **Sumdog** which is an online resource that students can use both at school and at home. Teachers can assign specific tasks for students to complete that will support their learning in the classroom.

Setting out of Maths work

Teachers in Maths explicitly teach to students the process of setting out work. When completing any task in Maths, it is vital that students set out their work clearly and in a set structure that demonstrates the process.

Having well laid out working out can support your child's learning and by allowing the teacher to quickly identify specific steps that a student may need to improve. To assist your child in completing Maths homework, always refer to examples in your child's jotter and/or textbook. It's important for students to follow the same steps that have been demonstrated in class. Go through the same steps that have been used and ensure that your child is using a consistent method.

Problem Solving & Literacy

Some students find transferring written language into mathematical language very complex. The most critical first step is for you to assist your child to develop their understanding of the language that is being used, and then decide what the question is seeking.

Encourage your child to:

- Identify in the question what specifically is being asked. "What do I need to find out?"
- Identify the information you do have. ie "What do I already know?"
- Underline key words that tells you what method, operation or formula you have to use to calculate the answer.

- In many cases drawing a diagram helps visualise the problem and bring all given knowledge together. Label the diagram with the information you have been given.
- Identify the steps required to solve the problem.
- Make sure working out is clearly laid out and calculations are accurate in each step—checking is important!

Completing Maths Homeworks

- Establish what you are being asked to do in each section/question.
- Draw diagrams or use the diagrams that have been given.
- Utilise the time given wisely encourage your child not to leave the assignment to the last minute..
- Encourage your child to refer to their jotter and/or textbook if they are stuck.
- Encourage your child to seek assistance from their teacher.

Prepare for tests

It is very important that students develop positive work habits such as properly preparing for tests. Make sure your child clearly knows what they are being tested on. Does he/she have a list of what to revise from their teacher? If no, ask your child to speak to their teacher. Students should review previous class work, look at the examples and practice completing similar questions. Make sure they allow themselves enough time to revise properly and more than once. Students can ask their teacher for additional work to practice from their teacher or use their textbook.