

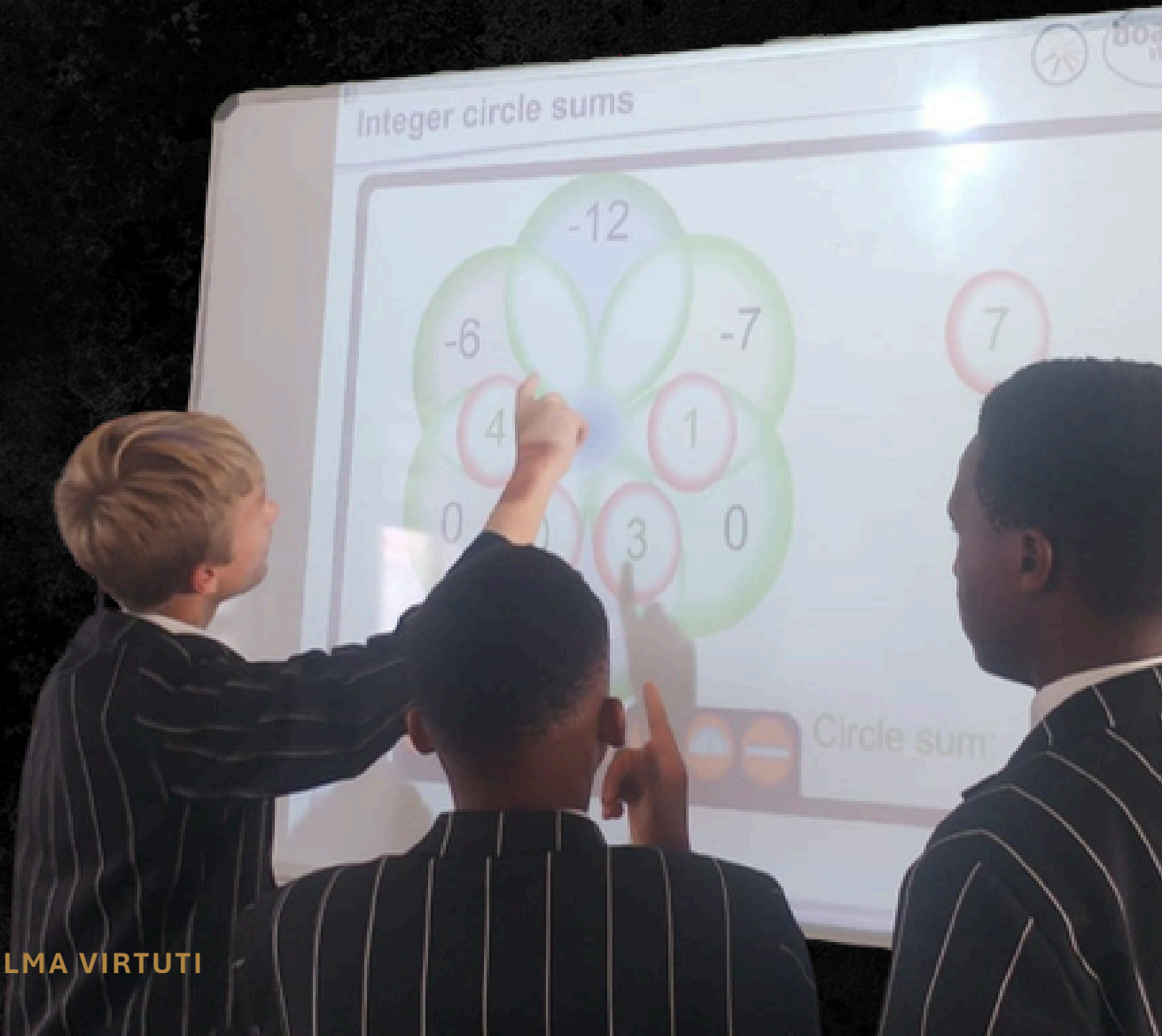


SELBORNE
COLLEGE

2026

MATHEMATICS

HEAD OF MATHEMATICS: MR B MONA



PALMA VIRTUTI



MATHEMATICS

MORE THAN A SUBJECT

Mathematics is far more than numbers on a page. It is a language through which we describe patterns, relationships and structures in both the physical and social world. At Selborne, Mathematics is valued not only as a subject, but as a discipline that shapes the way a boy thinks.

Through Mathematics, Selbornians develop logical reasoning, accuracy, perseverance and structured problem-solving. These habits of mind strengthen decision-making and build intellectual resilience. Regular engagement with challenging mathematical problems exercises the brain in much the same way that physical training strengthens the body.

When a boy wrestles with a complex problem, he is required to hold information in his working memory, test strategies, sustain focus and adapt his thinking. These processes strengthen the executive functions of the brain, which are essential for leadership, academic success and responsible citizenship. In this sense, Mathematics forms part of the intellectual training ground of the Selbornian.

THE SELBORNE APPROACH

The Mathematics Department is committed to excellence in both teaching and learning. Our aim is to cultivate a culture of responsibility and high expectation, where boys take ownership of their progress and teachers provide consistent academic guidance.

We strive to:

- Provide specialised and experienced Mathematics teaching.
- Prepare boys thoroughly for university study.
- Strengthen performance across all ability levels.
- Bridge the transition from primary to secondary school Mathematics.
- Build meaningful partnerships with universities and educational stakeholders in the Eastern Cape.
- Lead in the effective use of technology in Mathematics education.

Each grade is offered a weekly Mathematics Enrichment session. These classes are open to all boys, whether they require support or seek additional challenge. The intention is to create an environment where growth is expected and assistance is accessible.

Since 2007, the generous sponsorship of Optima Trusts has enabled the department to invest significantly in technology and appoint an additional teacher, reducing the teacher-to-learner ratio to approximately 1 to 20. The Trusts' Teacher Learnership Programme has also contributed to the development of staff, with one graduate still serving in the department today. This sustained support has contributed to measurable improvements in results, including an increase in the number of boys achieving 60 percent or higher and a rise in the number of learners choosing Mathematics rather than Mathematical Literacy.



EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

Selborne Mathematics has maintained a strong tradition of academic excellence over many years.

Our results reflect not only high performance at the top end, but consistent achievement across the cohort.



Highlights include:

- Two Grade 12 learners placing in the Top 100 nationally in 2012.
- A learner recognised as the top Mathematician in the country in the same year he ranked first in the Eastern Cape.
- Consistent 100 percent pass rates in recent years.
- Learners regularly placing first in the district and province.
- Sustained growth in both participation in Mathematics and the quality of passes over the past 18 years.
- Being the only school in the district to offer Paper 3 Mathematics when it was available.
- Ongoing participation in the South African Maths Foundation Olympiad, with many boys progressing to the second and third rounds.

These achievements are underpinned by dedicated teachers who create calm, focused classrooms and give generously of their time and expertise.

	%	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Grade 8	Pass Rate	95%	97%	91%	92%	94%	95%	98%
	As	20%	23%	21%	24%	17%	21%	25%
	Average	63%	64%	62%	63%	62%	65%	65%
	>60%	56%	63%	60%	56%	56%	58%	60%
Grade 9	Pass Rate	82%	83%	92%	94%	96%	90%	96%
	As	10%	19%	20%	25%	31%	17%	28%
	Average	56%	60%	63%	64%	66%	62%	66%
	>60%	43%	53%	62%	62%	63%	62%	64%
Grade 10	Pass Rate	97%	96%	96%	99%	98%	96%	99%
	As	15%	17%	15%	26%	25%	24%	26%
	Average	57%	59%	57%	64%	64%	64%	63%
	>60%	43%	50%	43%	62%	61%	60%	60%
Grade 11	Pass Rate	94%	96%	100%	98%	96%	95%	100%
	As	23%	22%	34%	20%	18%	17%	27%
	Average	60%	60%	62%	60%	58%	60%	60%
	>60%	54%	51%	62%	54%	54%	54%	60%
Grade 12	Pass Rate	100%	100%	95%	No data	98%	98%	100%
	As	8%	19%	21%		15%	20%	20%
	Average	58%	63%	63%		61%	61%	61%
	>60%	41%	59%	59%		51%	55%	53%



BEYOND CALCULUS

Selborne College has enjoyed a long and productive partnership with Optima Trusts. Through this relationship, the department has consistently been ranked among the top 10 Optima-supported schools nationally, reflecting both academic performance and programme strength.

The department recently hosted a Primary Schools Mathematics Workshop led by the respected Dr Lynn Bowie, a specialist in primary and secondary Mathematics education. A number of East London primary schools attended, with discussion centred on reducing the gap between primary and secondary Mathematics and strengthening foundational understanding.

Beyond the school gates, members of the department are actively involved in community engagement. Mr Mona contributes his time to teaching Mathematics in underprivileged schools in and around East London, and the department regularly donates textbooks to local schools where there is need.

At a national level, Selborne Mathematics teachers have been appointed to examination marking panels in a range of senior roles, including Moderator, Chief Marker, Deputy Chief Marker, Senior Marker, Marker and Umalusi Moderator. These appointments reflect professional credibility and subject expertise recognised beyond the school.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate that Selborne Mathematics is not only committed to excellence within its own classrooms, but also to strengthening Mathematics education more broadly in the region and nationally.

TOP ACHIEVERS

Top Grade 12 Mathematics Performers in recent years:

Callum Cunliff – 2025 (93%)
Adam Rogers and Khaka Booi – 2024 (94%)
Joshua Carr – 2023 (92%)
Daniel Griffiths – 2022 (96%)
Riley Devan – 2021 (100%)
William Minnaar – 2020 (95%)
Gareth Griffiths – 2019 (94%)
Matt Dewar – 2018 (94%)
Kiran Joseph – 2017 (97%)
Michael Koning – 2016 (97%)
Chris Abrahams – 2015 (99%) and Bathandwa Mbadlanyana (97%)
Rohin Jain – 2014 (100%)
Alvin Reabow – 2013 (100%)
Febin Korula – 2012 (100%)
Frank Sanan and Rahul Sajeev – 2011 (97%)
David Morgan – 2010 (99%)

This record reflects a department that values both excellence and consistency, ensuring that Selbornians leave school academically prepared and intellectually confident.



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

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THE SELBORNE MAN

At Selborne College, we are not merely preparing boys to pass examinations, win fixtures, or collect accolades. We are forming young men.

A Selborne man is:

- **Intellectually Disciplined**
He thinks carefully. He questions respectfully. He pursues understanding rather than surface familiarity. He is not afraid of rigour.
- **Morally Grounded**
He understands responsibility. He acts with integrity when no one is watching. He knows that character is revealed in pressure.
- **Courageous in Effort**
He does not withdraw from difficulty. Whether in the classroom, on the field, or on the stage, he learns to persist.
- **Articulate and Thoughtful**
He can express his ideas clearly. He listens as well as he speaks. He engages the world with curiosity rather than cynicism.
- **Committed to Brotherhood**
He understands that strength is built in community. He supports others. He leads by example.
- **Prepared for the Future**
He leaves Selborne adaptable, capable, and ready to contribute meaningfully to society. Every subject, every sport, every society exists to shape these qualities.

That is the Selborne standard.

