



# Cardinal Wiseman

## Catholic School

Part of The Romero Catholic Academy

March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you of an exciting opportunity we are giving to all of our Year 11 students by entering them for a GCSE in Statistics. This very valuable qualification will support your child's progress in Mathematics, as well as providing them with an additional numeracy qualification. In fact, the Statistics GCSE is accepted by some universities in place of a Mathematics GCSE if the grade in Statistics is higher than that in Mathematics.

For those of you who are wondering why we are doing this, I need to draw your attention to the questions often asked about various areas of Mathematics such as "Circle Theorems" or "Trigonometry" – "Why do I need to know this?" or "When will I ever use it?" Statistics is one of the most functional areas of Mathematics. It transfers into various A Level subjects, not just Mathematics such as Psychology, Economics or Biology. In a previous role as a Head of Mathematics, I saw our percentage of A-A\* grades rise from 3% to 33% after we introduced the GCSE Statistics as an additional qualification. It also supported uptake and outcomes at A Level Maths putting our school in the top 10% in the country.

In addition, in many job roles we are asked to produce reports or make presentations based on data. A GCSE in Statistics will provide your child with the academic know how to do just that. There will be very little demand made of your child, as we will support them fully. They will be closely supervised to produce a piece of Controlled Assessment. There is some crossover in the topics taught for Mathematics GCSE and Statistics so prior to the Mathematics exam we will be focusing on these topics in the main, hence we will not be introducing too much new material. The Statistics exam is not until Thursday 21 June. As it is one of the last exams, we will therefore be using the 5 – 7 days before the exam to focus on those topics not covered in Mathematics. We will be sending out a timetable outlining what will be covered in the days leading up to the exam.

In the meantime, if you do have any queries please feel free to contact me.

Many thanks in advance for your support.

Yours faithfully

Bridget Morris  
Senior Assistant Principal

