Dear Parents

Maths at Eltham College

I hope that your child is excited by the prospect of continuing their mathematical journey with us here at Eltham College. To welcome them to the Maths Department during the first week, we would like them to bring their solutions to the "Four 4s" problem that is attached.

In the Michaelmas term, maths is taught within tutor groups. During this term, in addition to ensuring that they have a sound basis to their mathematical understanding, we will also be exploring some new topics. From January they will be placed into one of two ability bands. These are designed to meet the mathematical needs of all, with every pupil feeling comfortable and working alongside peers of comparable ability. Setting will be reviewed on a regular basis as your child progresses through the school, but the same core course is followed by all and, ultimately, all will be entered for Higher Tier IGCSE.

Your child should come to every maths lesson with the following equipment:
- pens, pencils, a pencil sharpener, and an eraser
- a ruler, a protractor, and a pair of compasses

During the first half term, we will be introducing the use of the scientific calculator. Each pupil will require the Casio fx-85GT PLUS scientific calculator. You may purchase this independently or from the Maths Department once term has commenced.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on thb@eltham-college.org.uk if you have any further queries. Otherwise, I look forward to meeting your child in September.

Mr T Brook
Head of Maths

The Four 4s challenge!

You have four 4s, all of which you must use, along with some mathematical operations, to generate the other numbers - example: 4 + 4 x 4 + 4 = 24.

Watch this video for tips and inspiration but try to get from 0 to 10 before you watch!

For those that are keen, it would be great to get up to 20 - this will require learning a handful of new operations (listed at 2:18 in the video, but explained from 1:35), but should be okay if you listen carefully to the video and maybe search for them on the internet.

Good luck!