

About the school

Mandeville is a school rated as “good with outstanding features”. The intake is similar to Marlborough, and they embrace multicultural diversity. The school site encapsulates an enclosed green space, which all classes are able to access. There is also a reading hut on the field, to be used at break or lunch.

Curriculum changes

The staff have been positive about the changes to the KS2 curriculum, and have overcome the difficulties with subject content and new teaching methods. They have devised a new scheme of work for each year group. Students achieving the national standard (100) in the SATs this year were 63%, which was down from about 80% last year. However with the complete change in the content, as well as the levelling has led to the same situation nationally. They are expecting steady progress for next year.

Displays

The displays are designed to incorporate all aspects of the curriculum. They are eye catching and attempt to generate learning and discussions.

Pitch

The students are used to more rigour with regards to reasoning and explaining their maths work. They have a “reasoning afternoon” on a Friday, where students are set investigative tasks in small groups. The students really enjoy having the autonomy of structuring their own tasks and working together and towards a goal. One of our concerns is the students’ lack of resilience, but having been exposed to this style of questioning in primary school, this will support the new curriculum.

Marking

Student's books are mainly peer and self assessed. Teacher comments are used to direct students to see them for further help during morning reading. There is written communication between student and staff visible in books.

Literacy

Students are encouraged to keep a maths journal alongside their work in their maths books. They are used to this, so may be a nice idea to consider for next year.

Teaching pedagogy

The students are used to a system labelled “I do, we do, you do, you do”, where the teacher demonstrates a question to the whole class, followed by a whole class working on a question. The students then have a go at a question in a pair and then individually.