## **3D Gradients of an Ellipse**

1. Find the equation of the tangent to the ellipse with equation  $\frac{x^2}{9} + \frac{y^2}{4} = 1$  at the point  $(3\cos\theta, 2\sin\theta)$ 

2. Show that the equation of the normal to the ellipse with equation  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$  at the point  $P(a\cos\theta, b\sin\theta)$  is  $by\cos\theta = ax\sin\theta + (b^2 - a^2)\cos\theta\sin\theta$ 

Notes on tangents and normals to an ellipse

- 3. The point  $P\left(2, \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2}\right)$  lies on the ellipse *E* with parametric equations  $x = 4\cos\theta$ ,  $y = 3\sin\theta$ .
- a) Find the value of  $\theta$  at the point *P*.

b) Find the equation of the normal to the ellipse at point *P*.

4. Show that the condition for y = mx + c to be a tangent to the ellipse  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$  is  $a^2m^2 + b^2 = c^2$ 

5. The ellipse *C* has the equation  $\frac{x^2}{5^2} - \frac{y^2}{3^2} = 1$ . The line *l* is normal to the ellipse at the point *P* and passes through the point *Q*, where *C* cuts the *y*-axis, as shown in the diagram. Find the exact coordinates of the point *R*, where *l* cuts the positive *x*-axis.

