



With Mathematics high on the education agenda at the moment, we thought that we would devote this edition of the newsletter to...

Maths Matters!

To find out more about what the Kent and Medway Maths Hub is doing, register at www.kandmmathshub.org. If you have not already registered with the NCETM, visit www.ncetm.org.uk to access resources, CPD materials and links! Sign up today!

The aims of the National Curriculum for Mathematics are for pupils to:

- Become fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics, through varied and frequent practice with increasingly complex problems over time, so that they develop conceptual understanding and the ability to recall and apply knowledge rapidly and accurately
- Reason mathematically by following a line of enquiry, conjecturing relationships and generalisations, developing an argument, justification or proof using mathematical language
- Solve problems by applying their mathematics to a variety of routine and non-routine problems with increasing sophistication, including breaking down problems into a series of simpler steps and persevering in seeking solutions

As a result there some key themes that schools are grappling with at the moment such as fluency, conceptual understanding, mastery and how schools assess students' progress and attainment, particularly with life after levels and the expectation that the majority of students move through the programmes of study at broadly the same pace.

Maths Hubs

One of the biggest projects coming from the NCETM is the Maths Hub and we have one across Kent and Medway. The Maths Hubs' programme for the first time brings together all mathematics education professionals in a national network of hubs, each locally led by an outstanding school or college, and in partnership with neighbouring schools, colleges, universities, CPD providers, maths experts and employers. This is a new way of harnessing all maths teaching expertise within an area, to spread excellent practice even more widely, for the benefit of all pupils and students. The Kent and Medway Maths Hub is headed by Sir Joseph Williamson Mathematical School with the Maths Lead, Justin Dodd, from Highworth Grammar School.

The Hub is a running local projects or 'Work Groups' on manipulatives, bar modelling, the new GCSE alongside national projects such as the Secondary Shanghai Teacher Exchange, the use of textbooks in Year 1 and Year 2, mathematical reasoning at KS3 and post-16 participation of Level 3 Maths. The work is exciting and everyone knows that Maths matters! Make sure you and your school are involved so that your pupils benefit.

National Maths Project

Year 1/2 staff and children from Lady Joanna Thornhill and Smeeth Primary School are participating in a national Maths textbook project organised through the Kent and Medway Maths Hub. The aim is to promote a curriculum that deepens understanding through the use of concrete, pictorial and abstract activities and procedural and conceptual variation. The books are adapted versions of textbooks currently used in Singapore and help to develop and embed a mastery approach to Maths teaching. Teachers, TAs, children and parents are enthusiastic about attitudes to learning with good progress from the children.

CPD Opportunities

Would you like to be an SLE?

Venue: Highworth Grammar School
Date: Thursday 26 November 2015
Times: 4.00pm - 5.00pm

We are currently recruiting Specialist Leaders of Education. For further information, don't miss this twilight event!

Teaching Assistant Training Downs View Infant School Singapore Bar Method

Date: Thursday 26 November 2015
Times: 1.30pm - 3.15pm

Inspiring Children's Learning Through Display

Date: Thursday 14 January 2016
Times: 1.30pm - 3.15pm

Behaviour Management with Peter Hobbs

Venue: Highworth Grammar School
Date: Friday 4 December 2015
Times: 9.30am - 12.30pm

Peter will be focusing on a study of rewards and punishments as a motivator, including the "carrot and stick" approach. Don't miss out!

Train to Teach for Prospective Teachers

Venue: Highworth Grammar School
Date: Wednesday 9 December 2015
Times: 4.30pm - 7.30pm

15 exhibitors will be available to give more information along with presentations from a Teaching and Leadership Adviser from NCTL.

NQT Induction Programme

Venue: Aldington Eco Centre
Date: Wednesday 13 January 2016
Times: 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Behaviour Management for Newly Qualified Teachers.

Pupil Premium Network Meeting

Venue: Downs View Infant School
Date: Tuesday 26 January 2016
Times: 4.00pm - 5.30pm

A fantastic opportunity for Headteachers/teachers with a Pupil Premium responsibility to network and share strategies.

Outstanding Teacher Programme

This highly successful course aims to clarify the key concepts underpinning outstanding practice in the classroom. Feedback shows that the course has challenged and supported colleagues to own and develop their personal practice whilst raising their awareness of what outstanding looks like. **The course will run again in the Spring Term.**

National Professional Qualification for Senior Leaders

The next round for NPQSL will be opening at the beginning of January. Costs to be announced. Please think about potential participants!

Full details are available on our website - www.ashfordteachingalliance.co.uk