



Partnership News

Dear Colleagues,

A Happy New Year to you all.

2015 was another brilliant year for the Teaching School Partnership. The busy calendar climaxed with our conference in November attended by more than 300 delegates. Bob Cox in his Keynote speech spoke engagingly about '*Opening Doors to Achievement Across the School*' followed by workshops around his theme of '*Pitching High*'. Many thanks to everyone who presented. We were delighted that this year the whole teaching staff from Maidenhill School were in attendance and four other partner schools were there en masse. The planning for the conference next November is already well underway, with David Didau and Professor Robert Coe in place as keynote speakers. Partner schools who can offer other exciting workshops will be warmly welcome to join the programme!

2016 already looks set to be another remarkable year of events in the partnership. Regular features such as the senior leaders forum, sixth form network and maths events are in place and in addition, we are introducing a new **middle leaders forum**. Please encourage both your curriculum and pastoral middle leaders to come along to the first meeting in March.

This year sees a significant change in the leadership of the partnership, with Dominic Burke stepping aside and Liz Hunt taking over the reins. Dominic has led the partnership since its inception in 2012. He has been instrumental in creating one of the most successful alliances in the country and will be a very hard act to follow. On behalf of all of us in the partnership I would like to thank him for the superb job he has done.

We can look forward to another busy and productive term and I hope you will share this newsletter with all your colleagues. If you would like to book places for your colleagues on any of the non-maths activities please contact Nicki Harrington. Her email address is: njh@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk Details on how to book any of the maths events are given below each event. If you would like any more information about the events or the partnership in general, contact Liz Hunt. Her email address is: eh@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

Chris Healy

Mathematics News – Spring Term

Many thanks to all subject leaders, teachers and pupils who got involved with the mathematics events last term.

It was great to see so many teachers taking up the unique opportunity to be part of Teacher Research Groups to work with Jessie and Min from Shanghai to discuss teaching for mastery (schools can access, download and use the PPTs designed by Sunny, Julia, Jessie and Min using this link

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B47FeDAsQCB70VRWTHRxWkZnZ1E>)



.... and teams of Year 5/6 pupils working with our special guests from GCHQ exploring the mathematics behind Cryptography at the Y5/6 Enrichment Day.

It was also a perfect way to end the term with our annual Christ-Maths Tree competition.



Maths Subject Leader Network Meeting (Cross Phase)

LEADERS

Date: Thursday February 25th 2016, (Lunch from 1pm) 1.30pm – 4.00pm

Venue: Pittville School, Cheltenham

Cost: FREE

Please note: These meetings are designed to support the leadership of mathematics in the Balcarras Teaching School community. Schools are welcome to send more than one person with leadership responsibility for mathematics to these meetings.

On this occasion, the primary and secondary mathematics community will meet on the same day at the same venue but the majority of the meeting split into phase specific discussions (of course, colleagues are welcome to join the discussion that meets their need)

Provisional Agenda:

Balcarras Teaching School Mathematics Community Updates, including plans for #MathsFest16 and 2016 Balcarras Teaching School Mathematics Conference (SL)

Primary Session

- T&L Focus: *It worked for me!*
Sharing a resource/idea that's worked for you in the classroom
- Curriculum and Assessment Discussion: **Helping children to 'know' the times tables**
This session will focus on the discussions following the Professor Jo Boaler 'Maths, Mindset and Mastery' event, discussions with National Numeracy and explore the recent NCETM Calculation Guidance (<https://www.ncetm.org.uk/resources/48070>).

Please come prepared with examples of systems, strategies and resources you are currently using to help all children 'know' their times tables.
- Teaching for Mastery Update

Secondary Session

- T&L Focus: *It worked for me!*
Sharing a resource/idea that's worked for you in the classroom
- Curriculum and Assessment Discussion: **Addressing the new GCSE**

This session will focus on reviewing progress to date with Year 10 classes, discuss ways to teach some of the new/harder topics and assessing/tracking using 9-1 system.
- Teaching for Mastery Update

Please email Jo Newman jmn@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk to book a place.

TEACHERS

- **Primary/Secondary:** Numicon Workshop

The workshop will aim to:

- explore how *Numicon* can help all your pupils achieve in mathematics
- exemplify how this approach enables you to formatively assess mathematical knowledge and understanding accurately
- model how *Numicon* captures all pupil's ability to apply their knowledge and understanding of mathematics across the curriculum

Date and venue to be confirmed depending on interest.

If you are interested, please email Jo Newman jmn@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk by **February 1st 2016** **Cost:** FREE

Secondary: Improving the Teaching of A-level Maths

Dates: Day 1: Thursday February 25th 2016
Day 2: Tuesday April 19th 2016

Venue: Balcarras School, Cheltenham
Cost: FREE

Note: Two teachers per school/college are welcome to apply for this course.

For further details and online application form, see mei.org.uk/cmep or email cpd@mei.org.uk.

Mathematics in Education and Industry
Cambridge Professional Development National Centre

CMEP: Using the resources effectively in your A level classroom
Free sustained professional development for mathematics teachers

Hosted at Balcarras School
Starting February 2016

Course aims:
For participants to:

- Explore a range of resources on the CMEP
- Understand the philosophy for teaching and learning mathematics which underpins the CMEP project
- Maximise the impact of the resources in the classroom

A free two day course introducing A level Mathematics teachers to the new Cambridge Mathematics Education Project online resources, the thinking behind their design and their use in the classroom.

The course requires active participation at two face-to-face study days:

- Day 1: Learning about the resources and the CMEP philosophy
- Day 2: Using CMEP to enhance students' learning

Course dates:

- Day 1: Thursday 25th February 2016
- Day 2: Tuesday 19th April 2016

Venue: Balcarras School, East End Road, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL53 8QF
www.balcarras.sch.uk

Course fees and application:
The course is free of charge to all teachers of A level Mathematics in state-funded schools. Refreshments, lunch and resources are included. Two teachers per school/college are welcome to apply for this course. For further details and online application form, see mei.org.uk/cmep or email cpd@mei.org.uk.

MEI Mathematics in Education and Industry
MEI is a registered charity, number 1058811

PUPILS

KS4: Enrichment Day in partnership with FMSP

http://go.gl/forms/cE6L4eJB20. For more information please contact Patrick Cobb, patcobb@furthermaths.org.uk. The poster also features the FMSP logo and the text 'Sponsored by MEI Mathematics in Education and Industry'."/>

The Further Mathematics Support Programme

Cheltenham Year 10 Mathematics Enrichment Morning

Monday 29th February 2016, 9:30 – 12:30
at Balcarras School,
Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, GL53 8QF

The event will feature

- **The Creation Of Number**
A mathematics talk by Ben Sparks (FMSP)
- **A short session on "Why do A-level Maths?"**
- **A team competition with prizes**

This event is suitable for Year 10 students who might benefit from studying Maths or Further Maths at A-Level.
Student and teacher places at this event are FREE.

Booking details
You need not pay to be able to bring a group of up to 16 who would benefit from this mathematics enrichment event. We anticipate that the event will challenge the students whatever their ability, but that middle ability students and above should find the content accessible and stimulating.

To book please complete the online booking form <http://go.gl/forms/cE6L4eJB20>

For more information please contact Patrick Cobb, patcobb@furthermaths.org.uk

Sponsored by MEI
Mathematics in Education and Industry

This mathematics enrichment event is suitable for Y10 and 11 pupils. Schools are invited to bring up to 16 pupils and the event is designed to challenge students whatever their previous attainment, but previous middle/high attaining students should find the content accessible and stimulating.

Date: Monday February 29th 2016, 9.30am – 12.30pm
Venue: Balcarras School

To book places please complete the online booking form
<http://goo.gl/forms/cE6L4eJB20>

For more information please contact Patrick Cobb, patcobb@furthermaths.org.uk

KS2/KS3: The Balcarras Teaching School 24 Challenge



Start practising now!! – details of the challenge will be shared at the network meeting on February 25th 2016.

GLOWMaths Hub Events (Cross Phase)



www.ncetm.org.uk/glow
@GLOWmaths

Balcarras Teaching School is the lead school of the **GLOWMaths Hub**

We are delighted that so many pupils, teachers, subject leaders and Headteachers have already seized the opportunity to get involved with our unique face to face and online events this year

Support • Research • Innovate

GLOW

Enjoy • Participate • Achieve

Please encourage all teachers of mathematics to register their details with the GLOWMaths Hub using this link: <http://goo.gl/forms/ah7ava8KwZ> to receive to regular bulletins and termly GLOWMaths Hub newsletters containing information about the GLOWMaths Hub programme and the many opportunities to get involved with action research, support and innovation.

Dates for the diary:

Thursday February 4th: An introduction to 'Teaching for Mastery in Mathematics'

9.30am – 12.30pm: **Primary** Schools

1.15pm – 4.00pm: **Secondary** Schools

Venue: Balcarras

An opportunity to explore the principles of teaching for mastery in mathematics including case studies from schools who have started to teach for mastery in mathematics and will share what's working well and what not to do!!

To book a place - <http://goo.gl/forms/Jpo61q7jDA>

Monday March 14th: #MathsFest16

The GLOWMaths Hub Annual Mathematics Conference

Important Reminder:

All teaching school partners have **one free place** at the GLOWMaths Hub #MathsFest16 plus **50% discount** on additional places.

Book your place now

<http://goo.gl/forms/DTC1r8QMEF>

Miss it, Miss out!

#MathsFest16
Cotswold Water Park Four Pillars Hotel
14th March 2016 10:00 – 15:30

The annual GLOWMaths Hub mathematics conference provides a unique opportunity for the primary and secondary mathematics community to explore and discuss the big issues in mathematics education with leading national, and international, CPD providers of mathematics including:

- + Professor Mike Askew (@mikeaskew26), previously Professor of Education at King's College London, and recently been appointed Distinguished Professor of Mathematics Education, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
- + Charlie Stripp (@CharlieStripp) NCETM Director and Chief Executive of MEI
- + Bruno Reddy (@MrReddyMaths)

Delegates will have the opportunity to get involved with keynote speeches and two phase specific workshops.

Teaching for Mastery, Times Tables, Assessing without (NC) levels and much, much more ...

Cost: £150 per delegate (10% discount for schools registered with GLOWMaths)
When: PI Day - 14th March 2016 (10:00 – 15:30)
How: Book online: <http://goo.gl/forms/DTC1r8QMEF>

Miss it, Miss out!
www.ncetm.org.uk/glow
@GLOWmaths

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Middle Leaders Forum (Cross Phase)

What are the challenges and opportunities of middle leadership? Setting the Agenda

Date: Thursday March 3rd, 4.00pm – 5.30pm

Venue: Balcarras Library

This is a new exciting addition to the Teaching school program which we hope will become a termly fixture. It is an opportunity for both curriculum and pastoral middle leaders from both phases to meet, be informed and discuss current issues in middle leadership.

This first session will be an opportunity for all delegates attending to discuss what the major challenges and opportunities of their role are. The hope would be that everyone would be able to share at least one idea. We can then discuss and use these ideas to decide upon what topics you might like us to focus on in later meetings.

Senior Leaders Forum (Cross Phase)

A discussion of the new Appraisal system

Date: Wednesday March 9th, 4.00pm – 5.30pm

Venue: Balcarras Library

Richard Gilpin, head of Pittville, and Becky Atkin, assistant head responsible for performance management at Balcarras, will lead a discussion regarding the Appraisal system. The session will look at the policies across the partnership and the issues regarding setting and monitoring objectives and targets. Please bring a copy of your schools policy to the meeting so that we can compare notes and get a picture of the provision in different settings.

Improving the mental health of our pupils (Cross Phase)

Date: Wednesday February 3rd, 3.45pm – 5.30pm

Venue: Balcarras

Vicky Bull, Elen Derrick, Tom Derrick and Jeanette Hoskins have worked with GLL and 'Mental Health First Aid Youth' and developed strategies to improve the mental health and well-being of the students at Balcarras.

During this session they will share easy to use strategies that can be used by tutors and classroom teachers as well as whole school strategies that can be developed to meet the needs of schools in the partnership.

This is an issue causing increasing concern in all schools and a cross-partnership sharing of ideas may prove very helpful.

MFL Network (Secondary)

Date: Wednesday February 3rd 1.30pm – 4.00pm

Venue: Balcarras

Our next network meeting will take place on Wednesday February 3rd in the Pavilion. Coffee and tea will be served from 1.30pm. The actual meeting will run from 2.00pm until 3.30pm. The main item on the agenda will be teaching methods for the new GCSE. Our chair is Stuart Glover, senior examiner for AQA in French.

Sixth Form Network (Post-16) (Secondary)

Date: Monday March 14th, 4.00pm – 5.30pm.

Venue: Balcarras, 6th Form Common Room

For our next meeting we will have a presentation from **Unifrog**.

Unifrog is a system which connects students to the best courses and apprenticeships, and lets teachers track their progress. Its many features are:

- Helps students find the right course or live vacancy quickly
- Saves teachers' time
- Uses to make informed choices
- Compares courses and vacancies by lots of different factors including distance from home, social life and salary
- Helps teachers meet their statutory duty to provide careers information

NQT Programme (Cross Phase)

Session 2: Reflections on the year so far

Date: Friday February 12th, 11.30am – 3.30pm

Venue: The Bell Hotel Tewkesbury

Coffee on arrival from 11.30am. Course begins 11.45am. Lunch included.

This course will be led by Pete Remmer, former Deputy Head at Tewkesbury School. It will focus on the following areas:

- Pastoral care
- Identifying and solving problems (including pupils, parents, colleagues etc)
- Reflections on classroom management

Stretching gifted and talented students (Secondary)

Date: Thursday March 24th, 11.30am – 12.20pm

Venue: Balcarras

Before joining Balcarras in September 2015, Nick taught at an inner London comprehensive for 7 years and was responsible for leading the school's programme for the most able students. His session will focus on sharing ideas that can be used in the classroom to stretch and challenge students. This is a repeat of the session that Nick ran at the conference on November where it was extremely well received.

Full meeting of the Partnership (Cross Phase)

Date: Wednesday April 13th, 3.00pm – 4.30pm

Venue: Balcarras Library

Every year we invite all the headteachers of partner schools to attend the **annual meeting** to review the progress of the partnership and discuss our targets for the year ahead. This gives every school the chance to shape the provision offered by the Partnership.

The agenda is as follows:

- Review of 2015-16
- Activities for Summer term
- Discussion of programme for 2016-17

The Summer Term

We have a range of events and conferences planned for the summer term. These include:

- The Annual Mathematics Conference
- Pastoral Care Conference
- History Conference
- Geography Conference
- Computing Conference
- English Conference
- Governors network
- Middle leaders forum
- Senior leaders forum
- Sixth form network
- NQT network

- And other events too....