Email:

August 2017

Dear Member

Focus on Scotland

With schools in Scotland already in session, we focus on two items of interest to our colleagues north of the border:

(1) MA Secondary Mathematics Conference at Stirling University

12th Annual One Day
Secondary Education Mathematics
Conference
Saturday 30 September 2017
Pathfoot building, University of Stirling

Opening Plenary
Tom Roper
MA President 2017-18

The MA's stimulating one-day conference for secondary mathematics teachers returns to Stirling University on Saturday, 30 September. Come and hear Tom Roper on mathematics subject knowledge, Rachael Horsman on developing geometrical thinking, Stuart Welsh on blended learning, Charlie Gilderdale on NRICH and of course, the irrepressible Adam McBride. Details and booking portal at www.m-a.org.uk/secondary-events.

(2) Adam McBride prominent in 'Maths Week Scotland'

The inaugural 'Maths Week Scotland' will run from 11-17 September. On Tuesday 12 Sept., former MA President, Adam McBride will speak on 'Maths is Best' (see https://mathsisbest.eventbrite.co.uk.) at the University of the West of Scotland. For the complete Maths Week Scotland programme go to www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/curriculum/MakingMathsCountScotland/MathsWeekScotland/MathsWeekEvents

Underground Mathematics Project:
ATM and MA critical of decision to cease funding

The outstanding Underground Mathematics Project is not yet complete. Ceasing funding at this stage in the project is an extraordinary decision and makes no sense in terms of the government's declared priorities, including the emphasis placed on the development of Level 3 mathematics. The MA has joined the ATM in condemning this action in a joint letter to the Secretary of State for Education, Justine Greening. Read the letter at
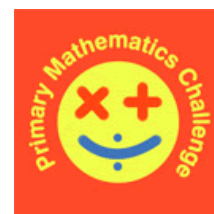
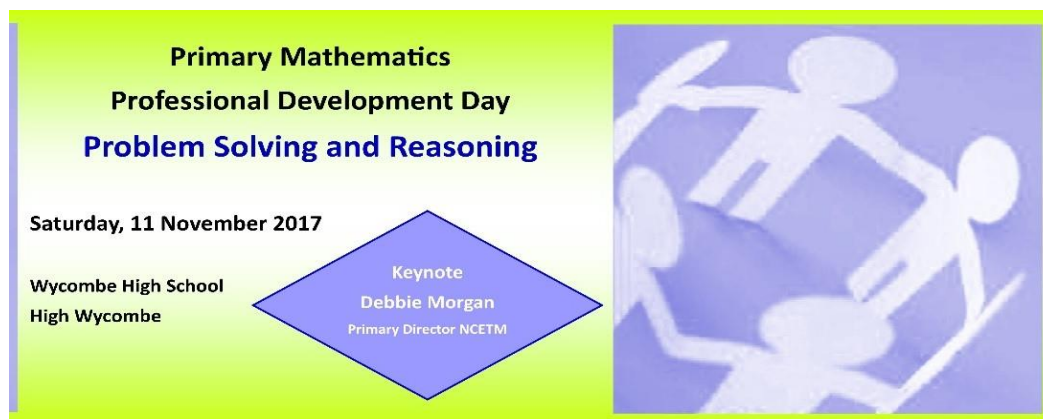www.m-a.org.uk/resources/Letter-Justine-Greening-Underground-Maths-Aug-2017.pdf.

Primary Mathematics Challenge 2017/18

Orders are now open for the 2017/18 Primary Mathematics Challenge. Buy your packs today via http://entrants.primarymathschallenge.org.uk/PMC-Registration

Primary Mathematics Professional Development Day

Primary Mathematics Professional Development Day
Problem Solving and Reasoning

Saturday, 11 November 2017

Wycombe High School
High Wycombe

Keynote
Debbie Morgan
Primary Director NCETM

The next Primary Mathematics Professional Development Day will be held in Wycombe High School in November. Bookings opening soon via www.m-a.org.uk/one-day-events.

Pre-School Mathematics Leaflet

Mathematics surrounds children from the earliest age and they need to make sense of the world into which they have been born. This A5 eight-page booklet is intended to show how everyday situations can be used to develop a child's mathematical understanding,

- providing information and explanations
- encouraging questioning
- developing confidence to ask for help
- providing attainable, challenging experiences

From our online shop at http://members.m-a.org.uk/Shop/product/1116 with prices at £4.99 for 10, £14.99 for 50, £26.99 for 100.
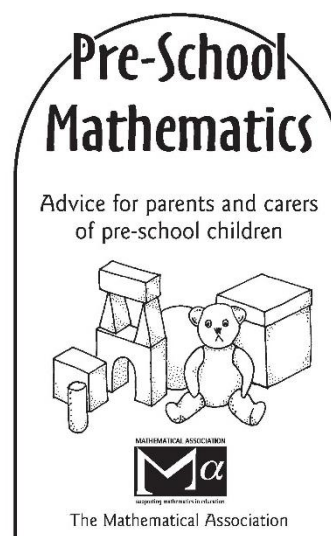
Featured book:

The Aliens Have Landed and 174 Other Problems
by Mary Ellis

… is a collection of illustrated mathematics problems aimed at pupils in secondary schools from Year 7 upwards, although many of the questions are accessible to bright ten year olds and to anyone who likes problem solving.

£7.59 to Members, £9.99 to Non-Members. Shop now at http://members.m-a.org.uk/Shop/product/1115
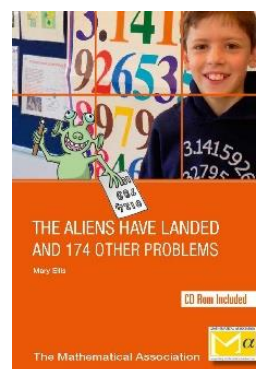
Copley Medal for Andrew Wiles

Sir Andrew Wiles, who famously cracked the proof of Fermat's Last Theorem, has won the Copley Medal for 2017. This is the Royal Society's oldest and most prestigious award and has been won previously by a glittering array of mathematicians and scientists, including Gauss, Poisson, Faraday, Darwin, Pasteur, Pavlov, Mendeleev, Planck, Hardy and Einstein. Details at:

https://royalsociety.org/news/2017/05/mathematician-andrew-wiles-wins-royal-society-copley-medal/

'Brilliant steadiness' as a golf strategy

The CUP blog has an article about golf from *The Mathematical Gazette*. This is freely available for one month at

http://blog.journals.cambridge.org/2017/08/10/the-steady-golfer-vs-the-brilliant-golfer-who-would-win-over-72-holes/?utm_source=Hootsuite&utm_medium=Twitter&utm_campaign=golf%20blog

Harvard's forgotten female 'computers'

Between 1885 and 1927, an army of women 'computers' carried out a myriad calculations at the Harvard College Observatory and discovered galaxies and nebulas. Their story is being uncovered by archivists and is told in a BBC article online at www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-40879870.

Plimpton 322 Reinterpreted

The Babylonian tablet known at Plimpton 322 has long been seen as evidence of early understanding of Pythagoras' Theorem (it contains a list of Pythagorean triples). Studied in the past by such eminent historians as Otto Neugebauer and Eleanor Robson, all its secrets were thought to have been discovered, but Daniel Mansfield and his team at the University of New South Wales believe a form of proto-trigonometry is also to be discerned in its cuneiform strokes. See www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2017/08/24/3700-year-old-babylonian-tablet-rewrites-history-maths-could/.

Compiled by Chris Pritchard, Tom Roper & Lucy Rycroft-Smith