

MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION



supporting mathematics in education

Welcome to the MA monthly newsletter

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Happy New Year

A happy 2018 to you from everyone here at the Mathematical Association – wishing you a healthy, productive and hopeful new year, whatever your plans or aspirations may be. While 2018 is sadly not prime, it is composed of two primes multiplied together (2×1009) and is therefore semiprime.

ADVERT: Does your maths resource support maths mastery through problem solving?



Matific, an online primary maths resource that has proven to help improve maths test scores by 34%, is giving schools across the UK the chance to win over £50,000 in cash and prizes. It's free to enter, so [register today](#) and give your school the opportunity to win the prize of £1,000 cash!

Primary Mathematics online

You can read the new Spring 2018 version of the Primary Mathematics journal online – just log in to the MA website and look for 'Primary

Mathematics Journal' on the left hand side. The latest edition features an article by Debbie Morgan on Maths Mastery as well as an exploration of curriculum, a discussion of teachers and parents as partners in the maths classroom, and - as always - a plethora of ideas and resources for good practice in primary mathematics teaching.

Primary Mathematics



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Branch Events in February

MA ATM Birmingham Branch, Saturday, 10th February 2018, 09:30 – 13:00
Venue: School of Education, University of Birmingham, Room G39 (Ground floor)
Dave Hewitt and Tom Francome: *Practising Mathematics*

MA ATM Exeter Branch, Thursday, 22 February 2018, 18:30 -20:00
Venue: Exeter Mathematics School, Rougemont House, Exeter, Devon EX4 3PU
Tom Roper: *Adventures in Shape & Space*

MA ATM East Midlands Branch, Saturday, 24 February 2018, 09:00 -12:30
Venue: University of Leicester - Fraser Nobel Hall Leicester LE1 7RH
Don Steward (please book in advance [here](#))

Please see [website page](#) for further details.



BCME-9 Conference – book quickly for reduced rates

The ninth British Congress of Mathematics Education takes place at the University of Warwick, 3-6 April 2018, replacing mathematics subject association conferences next year. Do [get your booking in quickly](#) - the deadline for the Early Bird Offer is 31st January.



Personal Membership Renewals 2018

Please look out for your membership 2018 renewal reminder letter recently posted to you. Renew early (no later than 31st Jan 2018) to receive a £5 discount off your fee!



Next steps in your career

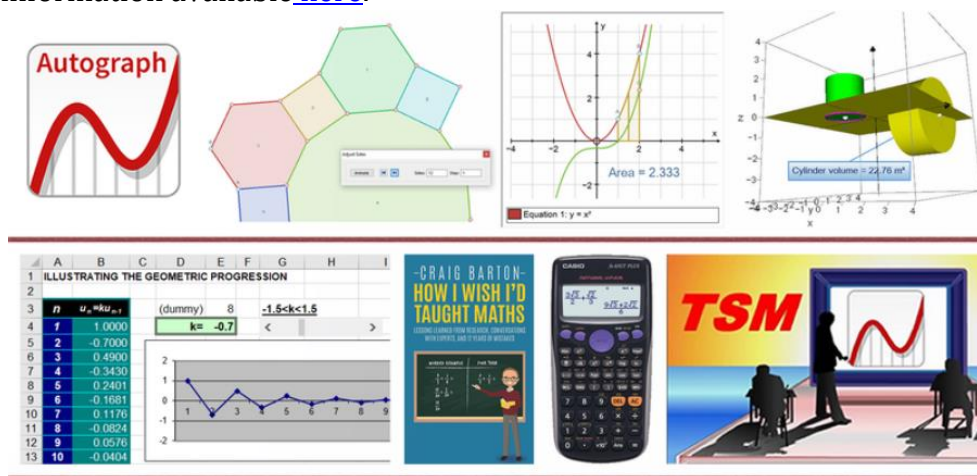
Thinking about becoming a chartered teacher? Teaching mathematics anywhere in the world, at any level? The MA supports applications for the mathematics-specific chartered teacher status, [CMathTeach](#). This is suitable for teachers with a particular interest or expertise in maths, or specialist

maths teachers at any level. The process of producing an application can be very developmental professionally (and MA members of the Registration Authority will be happy to support or answer your queries). Once you've been awarded the status, it's widely recognised, gives you confidence, and can easily lead to career progression. Its Privy Council Royal Charter status benchmarks you at the same level as chartered engineers and other chartered professions.

Another qualification you might wish to consider is the UCL Institute of Education's Advanced Mathematics Teaching in Early Career (AMTEC) – a short course designed to help early career maths teachers gain confidence and skills in teaching advanced GCSE/A level maths topics in an engaging and responsive way. See [here](#) for more information.

Technology for Secondary Mathematics Workshop

Secondary maths teachers are invited to attend a TSM workshop on Saturday 10th February, led by Douglas Butler, Craig Barton and Mick Blaylock at the Manchester Metropolitan University (Brooks Building), with workshops on Autograph 4, Large Data, Excel and Calculators. More information available [here](#).



Vacancies at the National Centre for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics

You may have become aware that the NCETM has recently secured additional DfE funding, under a number of headings, to take forward and expand the work of Maths Hubs. As a result they are currently advertising a number of new posts, including Director for Professional Development Leadership Regional Leads, Assistant Director (Primary) and Assistant Director (Secondary).

Full details and application information can be found [here](#). The closing date for all posts is 5 February.



New research on PISA scores casts doubt on reliability

[Research conducted at the University College London Institute of Education](#) has looked further into claims that moving from paper-based to computer-based testing has shown PISA data to be less reliable than some have previously thought. While the OECD carried out field trials which found significant differences in test scores when the two methods of testing were compared, they have been using an algorithm to adjust for this – but this study suggests governments should “carefully reflect” on how comparable the results are to both other countries and their previous Pisa assessments.



A question of questioning

An education bureau in China defended their choice of question in a primary maths test when it was revealed that the skills being tested were [less mathematics, more ‘critical skills’](#). Grade five pupils (10-11 year-olds) at a school in Nanchong, Sichuan province, were asked to determine the age of a ship’s captain if there were 26 sheep and 10 goats on the vessel. Answers included ‘The captain should be at least 18 years old because a minor is not allowed by law to operate a vessel’ and ‘The captain is 36 years old. He is quite narcissistic, so the number of animals corresponds to his age.’ The education bureau said there was no set answer to the question and its purpose was to test the pupils’ critical thinking.



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Compiled by Lucy Rycroft-Smith

