

Email:



Welcome to the MA monthly newsletter

The Mathematical Association
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September 2017

Dear Member

Ems Lord elected 2019-20 President

The Mathematical Association is delighted to announce that Ems Lord, the Director of NRICH, is to be the 2019-20 President. Ems has taught across the key stages from early years to A Level Further Mathematics, has worked as a local authority consultant, led a large Mathematics Specialist Teacher Programme, and taught on initial and post-graduate mathematics education programmes.



Jo Morgan Co-opted to the Chair of Publicity & Media



At its recent meeting, MA Council also welcomed Jo Morgan to the role of Chair of the Association's Publicity and Media Committee. Her experience and expertise as a maths blogger will be hugely beneficial in presenting the modern face of the MA to younger teachers in particular. You can follow her @mathsjem.



Funeral of Sue Waring

The funeral of Sue Waring will take place at East Devon Crematorium (Whimple, Exeter EX5 2PT) on Monday 2 October at 2.30, and will be followed by a cream tea. Sue was a much-valued member of the Association, editing *MA News* and active in the Exeter Branch. She'll be sorely and sadly missed.



Branch Events in October

It's often helpful to intimate attendance, so please see [website](#) for details.

Birmingham Branch, Thursday 5 October, 7 for 7.15-8.45

Room G39 (Fourth floor), School of Education, University of Birmingham
John Mason: 'Scaling new heights to master multiplication'

East Midlands Branch, Saturday 7 October, 9.30 for 10 to 12.15

Fraser Noble Hall, University of Leicester
Gary Setchell: 'Bar modelling'

Liverpool Branch, Wednesday 11 October, 5.30 – 6.30

Venue TBC
Laura Bonnett: 'Driving is a risky business'

London Branch, Saturday 7 October, 10 – 12.30

The Institute of Education, Main Building, Room 822, 20 Bedford Way,
London Rob Eastaway presents an 'Arithmetricks workshop'

Yorkshire Branch, Wednesday 11 October, 7 for 7.30

Tom Roper, MA President:

'Mary, Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow?

With silver bells and cockle shells and Fibonacci all in a row.'

Tom comments, '2016 saw the RHS Chelsea Flower Show feature a Mathematics Garden and whilst I didn't go and see it, the articles about it that I read caused me to explore a little. The talk and activities therein won't improve your garden but it might add something to your mathematical diet.'



Primary Mathematics Challenge 2017/18

The PMC is a nationwide challenge for pupils who want to get involved in some interesting and stimulating mathematics. It consists of multiple-choice problems which interest pupils and are mathematical. Aimed at the top 60% of pupils in Years 5 and 6 in England and Wales, P6 and P7 in Scotland, and Years 6 and 7 in Northern Ireland, the PMC is taken by thousands of children every year.



Orders are now open for the 2017/18 Primary Mathematics Challenge. Buy your packs today via

<http://entrants.primarymathschallenge.org.uk/PMC-Registration>



A single association for Mathematics education?

Arising from discussions at the extended Council meeting in June, the MA has urged all five professional associations for Mathematics, AMET, ATM, MA, NAMA and NANAMIC to discuss the possibility of coming together into a single, more-powerful body. We hope to learn of positive outcomes.



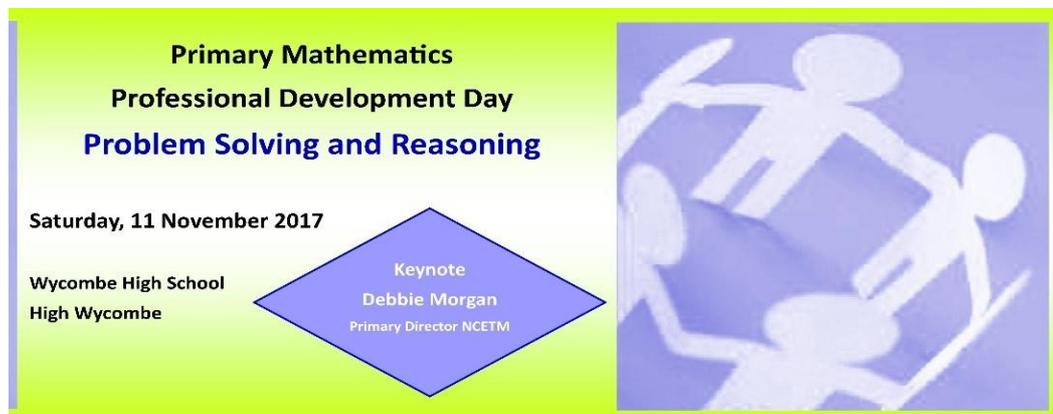
Teaching Committee survey

Teaching Committee is currently gathering the views of mathematics teachers on what are your greatest challenges in your jobs and what might the Mathematical Association do better to support you in your work. Please take a moment to let them know.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeF2tJlpr3FODoGQF6YJvgEkirtEkYUub8U_Lg6Nk-HzTDPwZQ/viewform



Primary Mathematics PD Day, *Problem Solving and Reasoning*



The poster features a green background on the left and a purple background on the right. The text on the green background reads: 'Primary Mathematics Professional Development Day Problem Solving and Reasoning', 'Saturday, 11 November 2017', and 'Wycombe High School High Wycombe'. A blue diamond shape contains the text: 'Keynote Debbie Morgan Primary Director NCETM'. The purple background features a white silhouette of three people sitting around a table, engaged in a discussion.

The sixth Primary Mathematics Professional Development Day will be held in Wycombe High School, Marlow Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP11 1TB on Saturday 11 November, 10 am to 4 pm. Speakers include:

Debbie Morgan: 'Mastering problem solving'

Julia Brown: 'Working with parents'

Ruth Bull: 'Promoting mathematical thinking through opening up problems' as well as Sue Keith, Jane Liddle, Brenda Robertson and Rachel Walters.

And remember that we provide a lovely lunch and refreshments!

Members £70; Non-members £95, including a £25 voucher towards membership. For an application form, go to www.m-a.org.uk/events/?id=106



Mathematical Association Calendar 2018: Coming Soon!

Another fabulous selection of mathematically inspired photographs and problems to solve. There is a space for notes next to each day. When folded the calendar is A4 size, but opens out to A3 when hung on the wall. Suitable for the home, school and office, it is intended that the calendar will encourage teachers and young people to think about the wide variety of context in which mathematics can be found in the world around us.

Price: £6.99 each or £5.99 if two or more ordered (prices inclusive of VAT).



'Pisa-envy'?

The term is Michael Rosen's. Writing in *The Guardian*, he argues that ministers are completely fixated on Pisa standings to the detriment of education.

www.theguardian.com/education/2017/sep/26/chinese-school-results-pisa



Zero symbol

It appears that the use of a symbol for zero occurred 500 years earlier than previously thought. The find was made in a manuscript found in Peshawar and housed in the Bodleian Library.

www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/zero-first-used-when-300-ad-3rd-century-number-symbol-british-library-university-oxford-bakhshali-a7949051.html

Also check out what India has given to mathematics, including this early zero, at <https://phys.org/news/2017-09-ways-ancient-india-world-maths.html>



Two infinities proved equal

Maryanthe Mariallis (University of Chicago) and Saharon Shelah (Hebrew University, Jerusalem) have made the stunning discovery that the infinities usually labelled \mathfrak{p} and \mathfrak{t} are equal. *Quanta Magazine* has the story:

www.quantamagazine.org/mathematicians-measure-infinities-find-theyre-equal-20170912/

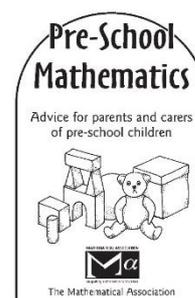


Pre-School Mathematics Leaflet

This A5 eight-page booklet is intended to show how everyday situations can be used to develop a child's mathematical understanding. It provides information and explanations, encourages questioning and helps to provide challenge and develop confidence.

Prices are £4.99 for 10, £14.99 for 50, £26.99 for 100.

Buy online at <http://members.m-a.org.uk/Shop/product/1116>.



Compiled by Chris Pritchard, Tom Roper, Jo Morgan and Lucy Rycroft-Smith