

## DCBEAGLE Challenges

BEYOND THE TEXTBOOK = April 2018



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The best term is upon us with the thought that in a few months' time there will be a long break from the humdrum of teaching and / or institutions. Summer is also time when it is easy to take maths teaching into the school grounds and with the use of modern technology such as tablets and cameras it can be exciting teaching.

### Bring maths teaching to life

Of course, this is my pet subject trying to encourage educationalists that maths is not confined to the textbook and "an hour" a day of sums. I always try and look for real life situations where the topic covered could be related. Simultaneous equations, for example, is not just find the values of two or more unknowns but could be used in a burger joint to discover the prices of the burgers and the chips.

The following websites give you many ideas and material for your lessons:

**Architecture** – click [here](#) – many exciting activities for art and maths

**Maths in music** – click [here](#).

**Maths and money** – click [here](#) – for 11 – 14 year olds

**Practical uses of maths and science** – click [here](#) – for 11 – 14 year olds

### Puzzle of the month

**The Four Bags** - In how many different ways may 500 counters be placed in four bags? Order makes no difference, so that 50, 100, 150 and 200 would be the same as 100, 50, 200, 150. And 1, 2 or 3 bags may be empty.

### Mathematics and art

This website gives references to many ideas with regards to origami and mathematics. N.B. one or two of the links are not functioning. Click [here](#).

David Mitchell, an expert in origami, has a fascinating website giving you and the pupils the opportunity to create several mathematical shape. Click [here](#).



## The five minute lesson plan

The website Teacher Toolkit (click [here](#)) describes the great five-minute lesson plan – involving brainstorming and sharing ideas. “Toolkit” make use of Twitter (@TeacherToolkit) to distribute ideas.

## DCBEAGLE Challenges

Thursday 19 April	Year 5 Maths	The Paragon School, Bath	Full
Tuesday 24 April	Year 4 Maths	Aldwickbury, Harpenden	Full
Thursday 26 April	Year 5 Maths	Junior King's, Canterbury	Full
Friday 27 April	Year 4 Maths	(Old Hall) Wrekin College	Few spaces
Tuesday 01 May	Year 5 Maths	Davenies School, Beaconsfield	Full
Friday 04 May	Year 4 Maths	Wolverhampton Girls High	Few spaces
Tuesday 08 May	Logical	Dragon School, Oxford	Private
Thursday 10 May	Year 4 Maths	Christ's Hospital, Horsham	Few spaces
Tuesday 15 May	Year 4 Maths	Brighton Grammar School	Full
Thursday 17 May	Year 6 Maths	St Faith's Cambridge	Few spaces
Friday 18 May	Year 4 Maths	St George's Junior Weybridge	Full
Tuesday 05 June	Year 5 Maths	Luckley House, Wokingham	Full

## Words of wisdom

“You don’t have to be a mathematician to have a feel for numbers.” – **John Forbes Nash, Jr.**

“Mathematics is not about numbers, equations, computations, or algorithms: it is about understanding.” – **William Paul Thurston**

“Mathematics is the music of reason.” – **James Joseph Sylvester**

“There should be no such thing as boring mathematics.” – **Edsger Dijkstra**

“Arithmetic is being able to count up to twenty without taking off your shoes.” – **Mickey Mouse**

## Puzzle solution – the four bags

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## And finally ...

The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

Enjoy the summer term. Once assessments are over the shackles and chains will be removed and then you can go “Beyond the Textbook” without any guilt.