



MATHEMATICS: BEYOND THE TEXTBOOK – February 2016

DCBEAGLE Challenges ~ Douglas Buchanan ~

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As some of you are wallowing in the beginning stages of half term others are returning refreshed, I hope, from their break. At least you know that the days are getting longer and before we know it the Easter break has arrived.

Involving parents

This can be a sensitive issue but if handled sensibly there are wonderful rewards as I experienced when teaching maths. Make the subject and the teaching transparent and do inform the parents what methods are used and be honest with them that incorrect guidance at home can unstitch the good work. I know this last statement is hard to deliver but it must be done.

Holding sessions with parents and also inviting parents to take part in their child's maths lesson are all positive. Below are wise notes from our friends from NRICH (<http://nrich.maths.org>) and also activities which work well in parent and parent / pupil workshops.

Take the plunge! You will be rewarded.

Notes on workshops for pupils and parents: [Link 1](#) and [Link 2](#)

Paper folding: [Link 1](#) and [Link 2](#)

The Sweet shop: [Link](#)

Tangrams: [Link](#)

River crossings – I make placards for the children and they move from one part of the room to the other [Link 1](#) and [Link 2](#).

I cut and paste the above material and put it on Powerpoint slides acknowledging the source.

Puzzling cards can be obtained from MathSphere [Link](#) and Liverpool FunMaths Roadshow [Link](#).

This month's puzzle

A Reversed Number

A certain number is composed of two digits. The number is equal to five times the sum of its digits, and if you add nine to the number the position of its digits will be reversed. What is the number?

DCBEAGLE Challenges (<http://www.dcbbeagle.com/dcbportfolio.html>)

I am coming to the end of a very busy period but it has been rewarding.

There are three new locations next term: **Elmhurst School in Croydon** (Wednesday 3 May - [link](#)), **Headington School for Girls**, Oxford (Tuesday 23 May – [link](#)) and **Dulwich College, Cranbrook**, Kent (Monday 12 June – [link](#)).

Year 5 mathematics challenge material

I have created an activity involving playing cards and pairing them and it has become very popular. This is an adaption from an NRICH activity. Many people have asked me for examples and so here are the links to them and other material:

Envelope cards: [Link](#)

Make 24: Data for the 24Game – all the values have to be used and only the simple four operations can be used - [Link](#)

This month's puzzle: A Reversed Number solution

45

I have had a wonderful honour bestowed on me (that sounds too posh!) to host a Year 5 mathematics challenge in The Guildhall, London on behalf of Christ's Hospital for London Primary Schools – what a location. I need to rehearse!!!

Enjoy Springtime!