

DCBEAGLE Challenges

BEYOND THE TEXTBOOK = April 2019



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The reluctant student 5 Ways to Engage Reluctant Students

Of course, this is universal for all subjects in a school and other areas of education but probably more prominent in our maths teaching. Dani Sorensen's article covers the following procedures:

- Find Things They're Interested In
- Move Them to the Heart of the Class
- Ask Them to Help You With Something (Anything!)
- Pull Them Aside and Offer to Give a Second Chance
- Send a Positive Note to Their Parents

There are two points in the list which stick out for me – ask them to help and informing parents about progress. If one gives a pupil ownership to a task, a creation, a chore (a pleasant one!) it lifts their spirits. For those who know my Domino Jigsaws all the networks have been created by pupils. Giving parents snippets of good news does not go amiss.

The article can be found [here](#). An ideal starting point looking at the welfare of the reluctant pupil.

April Fool!

[April Fool Math](#) – a great equation resulting in a topical answer.

[The weirdest maths lesson](#) – very clever technology and imagination

Puzzle of the month

A fruity dilemma

A farmer arranged young trees in rows so as to form a square and it was found that 146 trees were not planted. To enlarge the square by one extra row each way he had to buy 31 additional trees. How many trees were there in the orchard when it was finished?

Teaching activities using counters

No, these are not just for Early Years and KS1. Do not pack up the “toys” too early in a pupil's maths education:

- Eight counter activities and free resources – click [here](#).
- Ten frames and counters to teach number sense - click [here](#).
- NCETM echo my thoughts about abandoning “practical” maths lessons too early – click [here](#).

Booklet of the month – Making Math More Fun

Sixty-one practical activities with a great deal of puzzling. KS 1 and 2. What an ideal publication for holiday work this Spring! Click [here](#)

DCBEAGLE Challenges

Thursday	25-Apr	Year 5 Maths	Junior King's, Canterbury	3 places left
Monday	29-Apr	Year 4 Maths	Aldwickbury, Harpenden	2 places left
Tuesday	30-Apr	Year 5 Maths	Davenies School, Beaconsfield	2 places left
Friday	03-May	Year 4 Maths	Wolverhampton Girls High	Private event
Monday	13-May	Year 4 Maths	Yardley Court Tonbridge	A few places left. A new venue.
Tuesday	14-May	Year 4 Maths	Brighton College Junior School	Very short waiting list
Wednesday	15-May	Year 4 Maths	Old Hall (Wrekin College)	Waiting list
Friday	17-May	Year 4 Maths	St George's Junior Weybridge	4 places left
Tuesday	21-May	Year 5 Maths	Yardley Court Tonbridge	A few places left. A new venue.
Monday	03-Jun	Year 5 Maths	Luckley House, Wokingham	Very short waiting list
Thursday	06-Jun	Year 6 Maths	St Faith's Cambridge	2 places left

This Spring term has been hectic but rewarding for me and in the end I hosted 30 challenges around the country. Visiting new locations is always a pleasure and it is uplifting that most venues are at or near capacity. The one downfall is that schools are now withdrawing at the last minute which is a shame when there was a waiting list. At a location I had nine schools on the waiting list but four empty desks at the challenge!

Puzzle solution – a fruity dilemma

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And finally ...

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