



DCBEAGLE CHALLENGES

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BEYOND THE TEXTBOOK - MARCH 2019

Why teachers teach but kids don't learn

This TED talk, less than nine minutes by Ben Richards, clearly indicates that many teaching methods disengage pupils from the subject and his approach does make such good sense. My belief is that teachers discard the “toys” of maths too early and so making it difficult for many pupils to understand and grasp concepts.

Ben Richards is both an award winning playwright and an experienced teacher of Drama, Philosophy and Mathematics. He has spent the last ten years bringing together his different areas of expertise at a number of top UK schools, honing his unique approach to education.

When I began my teaching career Nuffield maths was the “in thing” and it was interesting, as far back as the early 1970s, their strapline was “I See, I Do, I Understand!”

Ben’s video hopefully inspires teachers to think about ideas to enhance their maths teaching – we do not have to all become puppeteers! Click [here](#) to view the video.

Advertisement of the month

It is not often one promotes an advertisement but this one enhanced my belief that diversity in maths teaching methods reap rewards. Click [here](#) to watch it. Notes in the advertisement: “*Problem solving skills will set you up for your future career. LifeSkills believe it’s important to introduce core skills into schools early to give children the best chance of a successful career.*”

Puzzles of the month

Missionaries and Cannibals

Three missionaries and three cannibals had to cross a river in a small boat that would only carry two men at a time. The missionaries could never allow their companions to be in a majority on either side of the river. How did they manage to get across? Only one of the missionaries and of the cannibals were able to row the boat.

Videos of the month

Prodigy – 20 engaging, skill building maths games – 8 – 13 year olds – click [here](#). This very much follows Ben Richards’ theme.

Maths Seeds – 7 activities to engage the pupils in lessons – 7 – 10 year olds. Click [here](#).

River crossing puzzles

[SNAP mathematics foundation](#) – [River crossing puzzles](#)

DCBEAGLE Challenges – Summer Term 2019

Yardley Court in Tonbridge is a new venue this year and I am looking forward to visiting them for the two challenges. Many of the events only have one or two vacancies so please register sooner rather than later.

Thursday 25 April	Year 5 Maths	Junior King's, Canterbury	2:00 - 4:00	Booking
Monday 29 April	Year 4 Maths	Aldwickbury, Harpenden	2:00 - 4:00	Booking
Tuesday 30 April	Year 5 Maths	Davenies School, Beaconsfield	2:00 - 4:00	Booking
Friday 03 May	Year 4 Maths	Wolverhampton Girls High	1:00 - 2:45	Private
Monday 13 May	Year 4 Maths	Yardley Court Tonbridge	2:00 - 4:00	Booking
Tuesday 14 May	Year 4 Maths	Brighton College Junior School	2:00 - 4:00	Booking
Wednesday 15 May	Year 4 Maths	Old Hall (Wrekin College)	1:30 - 3:30	Booking
Friday 17 May	Year 4 Maths	St George's Junior Weybridge	2:00 - 4:00	Booking
Tuesday 21 May	Year 5 Maths	Yardley Court Tonbridge	2:00 - 4:00	Booking
Monday 03 June	Year 5 Maths	Luckley House, Wokingham	1:30 - 3:30	Booking
Thursday 06 June	Year 6 Maths	St Faith's Cambridge	12:30 - 3:30	Booking

Puzzle solution

Let us call the missionaries M m m and the cannibals C c c,

C c row across; C returns; C c row across, C returns; M m row across; M c return; M C row across; M c return; M m row across; C returns; C c row across; C returns; C c row across, and all have crossed the river within the conditions stated.

And finally ...

- Talking sheepdog gets all the sheep in the pen for his farmer. He comes back and says 'All 40 accounted for.' Farmer says, 'I've only got 36!' Sheepdog replies, 'I know, but I rounded them up.'
- Hired an odd-job man to do 8 jobs for me. When I got back, he'd only done jobs 1,3,5, and 7
- What kind of tree could a maths teacher climb? = Geometry

Wishing you an enjoyable Spring break. It is getting warmer and the days are longer