



DCBEAGLE Challenges
BEYOND THE TEXTBOOK
March 2017

Five in five days

Last week saw a run of five maths challenges starting in London then to Great Malvern and the long journey to Newcastle for the final three. It was an honour to host a challenge in London's Guildhall on behalf of Christ's Hospital. Fifteen of their students travelled from Horsham to assist me with the marking and they excelled themselves not only with their prime task but also as ambassadors for the school. It was the first time I organised a challenge using round tables and it worked very well. Sadly, I will not do the domino round otherwise I would be sorting after every event.

Summer term's challenge news

The Elmhurst Year 5 challenge has moved a day later to Thursday 4 May. Click [here](#) to register.

Aldwickbury Year 4 challenge now has a waiting list – Tuesday 25 April.

Old Hall (Wrekin College) Year 4 challenge on Friday 28 April has only five places left. Click [here](#) to register.

Let's go Dutch: What is RME?

Realistic Mathematics Education was first created in Holland and it reflects real life tasks and detail and the maths they are covering in the classroom. I heard two teachers talking last week on my travels talking about the algebra work they are doing. I asked what context and examples you are putting forward to illustrate the importance of the mathematical work and they both said that had not thought of that. Their aim was to get the pupils to be proficient in solving simultaneous and did not consider putting them into real life situations.

There is a very good article and accompanying videos on this topic in the Mathematics Education Innovators website which can be found [here](#).

This month's puzzle

The Baby's Weight

At the railway station (remember this puzzle is from a 1950s book) Mr Dobson thought he would weigh his baby. The dog was rather a nuisance, as he insisted on being included in the operation, and these are the curious results that were obtained.

Mr Dobson and the baby together weighed 162lb more than the dog, while the dog weighed 70% less than the baby. All three together weighed 180lb. What was the actual weight of the dear infant?

Creative thinking in maths classes

When does $1 + 1 = 24$?

When does $7 + 60 = 8$?

What two numbers equal 136 when you add them and equal 24 when you subtract them?

Time is up – resources of the month

This is one of the concepts which I think is overlooked at times and it is probably the most important in our lives. Websites which I have found which will make teaching easier and give material to tackle in the classroom and at home:

[Transum](#) – some unusual activities relating to time and there is access to a stop watch and an analogue clock face.

TES resources – you have to register but it is free and there is no direct advertising.

[Baking](#) – problem solving with the baking of a cake.

Maths Games – [Time Games](#) – about ten interesting activities many online – ideal for homework.

Easter holiday work

To keep the mathematical brain ticking over during the Spring break encourage you pupils to try the Logic Problems in the website, [Math Playground](#).

More April holiday work – [Divergent thinking](#)

The Baby's Weight

30lb

Creative thinking solutions

Two dozen

7 o'clock plus 60 minutes

80 and 56

Can you and the pupils come up with any more ideas?

Finally ...

Do enjoy the Easter break – when it arrives.