



DCBEAGLE Challenges

BEYOND THE TEXTBOOK

November 2017

I started writing this newsletter in Dublin during the recent hurricane.

Here I sit in a “den” in The Gresham Hotel working through presentations we are going to put on the Facebook page. This due to the hurricane. Sadly all the schools are closed hence this activity. Once again the festival of maths has been very popular and may it change adults’ perception of maths teaching.

The children of Ireland and Northern Ireland have had a wonderful time having experiencing collaborative with puzzling involving a great deal of problem solving. In Dublin and Mallow in the first weekend it was good to see young mathematicians talking about their solutions and learning from their mistakes.

My argument is that children will not succeed unless they understand the concepts through concrete apparatus and real-life situations. When did you last use simultaneous equations? Not since you left school? You will be surprised. When you last went shopping were you comparing prices of items on the cost and sizes? If yes, you were following the concepts of simultaneous equations.

Video of the month – [Math Curriculum Makeover](#)

As you know I enjoy the quality of TED videos and this talk by Dan Meyer entitled “Math Curriculum Makeover” has a clear message that teaching needs to change – “... I am trying to sell a commodity to a customer who does not want it”

Puzzle of the month

Train teaser

There were some people on a train. 19 people get off the train at the first stop. 17 people get on the train. Now there are 63 people on the train. How many people were on the train to begin with?’

Book of the month

Andrew Jeffrey, an acquaintance of mine, travels the world with his professional training and development programme and he is an author of many education books. He is also a keen advocate of Numicon.

Bar Modelling at Key Stage One, A4 book

Bar Modelling 60pp A4 £15 This is the book that schools have been asking for. Glossy cover, full of content and everything you need to know to start bar modelling with Year 1 and Year 2 children. There are worked examples, solutions, background and even some pre-teaching tasks to help ensure mastery of this amazing problem-solving tool. Allow three working days for delivery by royal mail.

More details and ordering instructions can be found on his [website](#)

Lessons of the month

“Time flies”

The website www.educationworld.com has 20 activities dealing with the clock and time covering all age groups.

Think Maths - Mathematics workshops

Concentrating on 12 – 19 year olds, although they can accommodate 10 and 11 year olds. “Think Maths” has a team of experienced mathematics speakers who travel throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland. This company has been set up by Matt Parker, a well-known stand up mathematician. www.think-maths.co.uk.

DCBEAGLE Challenges – Spring Term, 2018

Monday 22 January 2018	Year 5 Maths	Portsmouth Grammar
Tuesday 23 January 2018	Year 6 Maths	Eagle House
Thursday 25 January 2018	Year 5 Maths	Bristol Grammar
Monday 29 January 2018	Year 4 Maths	St Gabriel's Newbury (Private)
Tuesday 30 January 2018	Year 4 Maths	St Faith's
Thursday 01 February 2018	Year 4 Maths	Ryde School, IOW
	Year 5 Maths	Ryde School, IOW
Friday 02 February 2018	Year 5 Maths	St Gabriel's Newbury (Private)
Monday 05 February 2018	Year 6 Maths	St John's Beaumont
Tuesday 06 February 2018	Year 4 Spell It!	Eagle House,
Tuesday 20 February 2018	Year 5 Maths	Belmont (Mill Hill)
Thursday 22 February 2018	Year 5 Maths	Langley Preparatory
Friday 23 February 2018	Year 6 Maths	Langley Preparatory Norwich
Thursday 01 March 2018	Year 4 Maths	Christ's Hospital, Horsham
Friday 02 March 2018	Year 5 Maths	Wrekin College Shropshire
Monday 05 March 2018	Year 4 Maths	Gayhurst, Bucks
Tuesday 06 March 2018	Year 4 Maths	West Hill Park, Fareham
Thursday 08 March 2018	Year 5 Maths	Elmhurst School, Croydon
Friday 09 March 2018	Year 6 Maths	St Gregory's, Harrow (Private)
Friday 16 March 2018	Year 5 Maths	Newcastle High for Girls
Monday 19 March 2018	Year 5 Maths	Abbot's Hill Hemel Hempstead
Thursday 22 March 2018	Christ's Hospital	The Guildhall, London (Private)

Trainer teaser solution

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And finally

[The Calculating Sheepdog](#)

After a talking sheepdog gets all the sheep in the pen, he reports back to the farmer: “All 40 accounted for.”

“But I only have 36 sheep,” says the farmer.

“I know,” says the sheepdog. “But I rounded them up.”

Q: Did you hear about the mathematician who's afraid of negative numbers?

A: He will stop at nothing to avoid them.

Q: Why should the number 288 never be mentioned?

A: It's two gross.