

Minster School - Maths Hub information for parents

The Minster School in Southwell, through its Teaching School status, has been selected as one of only 32 schools and colleges in England to take the lead role in a new network of school-based centres, or hubs, designed to improve maths education for children and teenagers of all ages across the country.

The Maths Hubs programme, backed by £11 million from the Department for Education, puts schools and colleges in the driving seat to tailor improvement initiatives in their locality, concentrating exclusively on one school subject: mathematics.

The Minster School has been chosen as one of only two East Midlands Maths hub lead schools. This affords the school an exciting opportunity to lead innovation in mathematics teaching, supporting UK students to develop world class skills and compete in a global marketplace. Matthew Parris (Headteacher designate) said, "Maths is an intellectually challenging subject and is widely recognised as a barometer for future success. We believe that every child in the UK should have the chance to excel in mathematics and develop a love for a subject which has historically been perceived by some as difficult and inaccessible. The Minster School and its partners are excited by the prospect of learning from the best and working in genuine partnership to improve the life chances of young people".

The essence of this new initiative is collaboration between a core group of schools, colleges, universities and individuals with proven expertise and experience in helping teachers improve the effectiveness of maths lessons for children of all ages.

To that end, The Minster School has already set up close working relationships with a number of educational establishments, including primary, secondary and special schools and academies, other Teaching School Alliances in the area, the University of Nottingham, Nottingham Trent University and Nottinghamshire Local Authority.

The Maths Hub led by The Minster School will work to improve maths education in the region in a number of ways, including:

- developing teachers' effectiveness in maths lessons
- providing a wider range of maths-related enrichment activities for pupils
- producing new materials for use in classrooms
- supporting teachers' professional development
- encouraging more young people to study maths beyond the age of sixteen
- attracting the best maths graduates into the teaching profession

Among the activities undertaken to start making these improvements will be an exchange of teachers between schools in the Maths Hub and schools in Shanghai. This research project will start with two teachers from primary schools in the local hub area travelling to Shanghai in the autumn term this year to observe outstanding practice in China. The Chinese teachers

will make a return visit later in the school year to learn from their English counterparts. Together, teachers will take the best practice from both countries to continue the development of innovative and exciting ways of teaching maths to children of all ages.

The entire Maths Hubs programme, linking all 32 hubs across England, is being coordinated centrally by the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM).

For details of all Maths Hubs, go to www.ncetm.org.uk/mathshubs