

What are the benefits of engaging with the Great North Maths Hub?



Anna Bunce writes of her first hand experience with the Great North Maths Hub and talks about the benefits for you and your school.

Anna is an Associate Lead and Head of Maths at Meadowdale Academy. A trained Mastery Specialist, Anna is passionate about all children achieving in Maths and loves to support schools in developing Teaching for Mastery approaches.

“ This is something I have been pondering for a while. I was asked to write an article to encourage potential teachers and schools to get involved. Each time I consider this question, I come back to the same point - **conversations**.

Personally, what I have got most is the conversations with a wide variety of people, from beginners to specialists. These conversations are always food for thought, as aspects of CPD and idea generators. These conversations are encouraging, they can assure you that you are on the right track, or they can explain an issue you may have had for some time. These conversations keep the world of maths fresh in your routine and therefore on your agenda for your school. Conversations that you may have had with external people will generate ideas and resources for conversations inside your school. If you are responsible for maths, in any way, as a form teacher or a maths lead, you must want these conversations!

Secondly, I like the fact that these conversations lead to accountability. They make you reflect what is currently happening in your school and whether this is the best practice for your school, your staff and your pupils. Through working with the GNMH, we have changed and adapted our lesson design, our planning and our teaching styles. We have introduced more manipulatives, smaller steps in our planning and a greater emphasis on talk. We have looked at the mastery approach and truly understood variation and making connections though a coherent journey. We now use accurate vocabulary and stem sentences. However, we accept we are not done learning, as a school, we hunger for more and are constantly reflecting on what we do and looking for ways to improve.

Lastly, though this may not make you feel comfortable at the moment, you know you have someone checking up on you. You may have a mentor who will be in touch, a person willing to visit your school and may even watch you teach. Although, this may sound like your worst nightmare, this really gets you to scrutinise yourself. It makes you act on what you say you will do, you cannot coast and you cannot brush it aside for later. It will enable you to get things done. Alongside being accountable, you will find this is the best CPD. It doesn't just happen in a day, you will have time to learn, trial and develop, then time to check and evaluate before moving on. Remember, you will not be doing this on your own, you will become part of a Network, a group of like-minded schools and teachers. You will be able to share ideas and resources and possibly even visit different schools. All this for free. I cannot recommend working with

”

