

MARCH 2021

NEWSLETTER

GREAT NORTH MATHS HUB

In this issue:

The role of the Work Group Lead, through the eyes of a Work Group Lead

The role of the Work Group Lead, through the eyes of a school

Opportunities with the Great North Maths Hub



The Spring term is nearly over and we couldn't let any more time pass in this academic year without celebrating our incredible Work Group Lead (WGL) Community. Our Work Group Leads are the smiling, energetic and enthusiastic faces of our Maths Hub work. They plan, deliver and evaluate all of our programmes, all while continuing to work in their own school, college or university. Without their dedication and commitment to the Maths Hub, we couldn't provide the professional development opportunities that we have on offer across our region.

As a leadership team we feel incredibly lucky to work with our Work Group Leads. Even in the current pandemic, whilst managing their other roles, they remain committed, they collaborate and they support each other. They demonstrate high levels of professionalism which go beyond professional behaviour and into a desire for personal and professional development. In short, without them, there would be no 'Great' in our name.

Over the years, we have worked with a large number of Work Group Leads. Some still work with us, some have moved to different roles, yet all of them have been pieces in the jigsaw that is our Great North Maths Hub community. In this newsletter, we want to celebrate the work of this community and also give a flavour of what it feels like to be a Work Group Lead. We have interviews with existing Work Group Leads and their schools to share what the role is like and the impact it has had on their own learning and practice. We hope that in doing so, you can share the admiration we have for our team and also be inspired to become a Work Group Lead with us. As such, we have included details of opportunities about how to work with us and how to contact us if this is something you would like to explore further.

The role of the Work Group Lead, through the eyes of a Work Group Lead

As part of a special feature celebrating our amazing Work Group Lead (WGL) community, Lindsey Hassan interviewed Anna Bunce to share the journey she continues to be on with the Great North Maths Hub and its impact both personally and professionally.

Training

"I loved being part of the TRG!"

Anna's first involvement with the Hub was through evening engagement events which she heard about through the mailing list. Through these meetings, Anna learnt about our Teaching for Mastery programme which led her to join a Teacher Research Group (TRG) led by the first cohort of mastery specialists. Anna's enthusiasm opened up a door of opportunities and she has since achieved PD Lead accreditation and delivered as a Work Group Lead for several programmes including; Primary Subject Knowledge for Teaching for Mastery and Mastery Readiness, and she has also trained as a Specialist leading TRGs in their developing and embedding phases.

"A massive plus to being a Work Group Lead is that you get this phenomenal state of the art training which is what all Primary teachers need to really understand from beginning in Early Years how they learn maths. My previous training had been focused on being a subject leader rather than the intricate details of how children learn maths from the early stages and right through Primary."



Anna Bunce is one of our amazing Mastery Specialists at Primary Level.

This Academic Year she is leading both our *Readiness* and one of our *Embedding Work Groups*.

Funding

Like most of our WGLs, Anna is school-based and manages her Hub role alongside her responsibilities in school. This commitment is funded by the Hub.

"As a WGL, the school is compensated for your time out. When school budgets are so tight it is important for Head Teachers to know that **schools will be funded** to release you. It's a difficult decision to allow a teacher the time out but the benefits to the school are phenomenal to allow your colleague to have that level of training and support and be equipped with a detailed knowledge of the curriculum."

Local Networking

Our GNMH hashtag is #EncourageSupportCollaborate and Anna talks really passionately about the opportunities for collaboration and networking within the WGL community. A **unique** aspect of the role is being able to co-plan, co-deliver and for leads to mentor and support each other.

"The uniqueness of a teacher being able to go into other schools... How rarely do we get that chance to go beyond our own classrooms?"

National Networking

"How wonderful an opportunity is it that we learn from Debbie Morgan herself!"

Our programmes are part of a wider, national network of projects delivered by Hubs around the country. At national training events, WGLs come together to share knowledge and experiences and to receive expert training from NCETM leads who Anna describes as 'wonderful role-models.' WGLs are also part of an online community (Basecamp) allowing leads all over the country to share ideas.

"I've been part of such fruitful conversations and it seems as if no question is a silly one. For me, as a maths lead in a school **to have that at my fingertips is phenomenal**. You can't not want to be working with the Hub. It's so beneficial!"

Personal Development

Whether WGLs are new to delivering or more experienced, most still get nervous at the thought of presenting to adults rather than being in a classroom with young learners. An enormous benefit to the Work Group model of CPD is that training is mutually supportive.

"I initially felt really out of my comfort zone but then you get out of the mindset that you have to be the expert. You learn together. Now, I find the experience a real joy as I'm sharing ideas and can point other teachers in the right direction. The beauty of the Hub is that WGL training is ongoing so **you develop confidence** and there's always something new to share."

Positive Impact on Pupils

There are many benefits to the WGL's own school with impact seen in children and colleagues.

"The role has given me the confidence to lead in a different way. I now know how to use CPD effectively. We went through a massive period of change moving from a middle school to a primary. Because of my training, I knew exactly where I wanted the children to be and exactly what I needed to tell the teachers. **Having the resources and the knowledge of maths learning and knowing how to disseminate that through my CPD, I was able to support teachers to get the outcomes we wanted for our children.** If I hadn't been involved with the Hub, I wouldn't have had so much to give as effective CPD. The research-based training has helped me to be able to tell staff where our children need to be but also strategies to use to get the children there and I can see **we have confident teachers developing confident mathematicians.**"

Professional Development

"On a professional gain the impact is massive and genuinely worthwhile. It's through having this networking and these conversations and this engagement with the Hub that's taught me the priorities as a maths lead. This experience has enhanced me professionally in more ways than I can say."

A Final Thought

"Teachers are so appreciative of support. Every conversation seems to make a difference to someone in some way. And it's just a joy. Being a Work Group Lead is the highlight of my week."

The role of the Work Group Lead, through the eyes of a School

As we have seen, the role of the Work Group Lead is supported by their school or organisation agreeing to release them. Their release covers not only the delivery of their programmes, but also the planning and evaluation. Our Work Group Leads attend meetings with other Work Group Leads from across the national Maths Hub network and our own Local Leaders of Maths Education Community meetings. As Anna highlights in her interview, this role is funded which is important to know in the current climate of school budgets. It's a big commitment and one that we are extremely grateful for.

We spoke to one headteacher about her perspective on the role of the Work Group Lead. Laura Baggett, headteacher of Monkhouse Primary School, has, over the years, supported two of her staff members to be a Work Group Lead with us. She reflected on the benefits that she has seen as a result of this.

We have had the benefit of working with the Great North Maths Hub since its beginning in 2014 and we are immensely proud of the development maths has taken in our school as a result. This year, we have a member staff who is a Work Group Lead and this has had a positive impact in a number of ways. As a Work Group Lead, he has had the benefit of accessing high quality training and current educational research which has impacted positively on his own knowledge and classroom practice; our school staff have benefitted from receiving this high quality CPD which has impacted positively on the progress our pupils make in maths. In addition, whilst planning and working with other schools, his leadership skills are further developed as he takes on the role of coach, both supporting and challenging maths leaders to improve their practice and leadership skills. Furthermore, having a member of staff who works alongside professionals in other settings enables them to observe great practice and bring new ideas to our school - it's a win-win situation to be in!

We would like to extend our thanks to all of the employers, head teachers and principals who continue to support their staff in becoming Work Group Leads. At the end of this newsletter you can see all of the schools and organisations where our 2020-2021 Work Group Lead team are based. Thank you all!



MATHSHUBS

GREAT NORTH

Thank
you!

*Meadowdale Academy
Swansfield Primary
Fordley Primary
Hudson Road Primary
Ponteland High
Whitley Memorial Primary
St Wilfrids
Wellfield Middle
NCEO
Stephenson Memorial
Parkhead Primary
Jarrow School
Northumbria Uni
Cramlington Learning Village
NTC
Cragside Primary
Shilbottle Primary
Front Street
Knap Law Primary
St Peters Catholic College
Valley Gardens Middle
Durham Johnston
St Thomas More Academy
Regent Farm First School
St Bede's Catholic Comprehensive School
Byron College
West Walker Primary School
Holywell First School
New York Primary
Churchill Community College
Jarrow Cross Primary
Manhouse Primary
Northumbria Uni
Sacred Heart High School
gateshead College
Grange First School
South Hetton Primary
Together for Children
Barbara Priestman Academy
New York Primary
Ponteland Primary School
Cardinal Hume
Prudhoe West Academy*



Opportunities with the Great North Maths Hub

This year, we will be continuing to grow our Work Group Lead community with the following opportunities. Please do get in touch to ask any questions that you may have!

Primary Mastery Specialist

Our Primary Mastery Specialists are classroom-based practitioners who develop expertise in mastery and lead Work Groups to support other schools and teachers locally. This is a fully funded programme. To find out more and to register your interest, please follow this link:

<https://www.ncetm.org.uk/maths-hubs-projects/primary-mastery-specialists/>

Secondary Mastery Specialist

Like the Primary Mastery Specialist programme, this is a fully funded programme. During the programme specialists receive fully funded professional development from experts, have time to develop their own expertise, and then to support others. To find out more and to register your interest, please follow this link:

<https://www.ncetm.org.uk/maths-hubs-projects/secondary-mastery-specialists/>

Professional Development Lead Accreditation Programme

NCETM Professional Development Lead Accreditation is designed for those who lead professional development for teachers of maths. It is the perfect programme for those colleagues who already have responsibility for designing, leading and evaluating maths teacher professional development. All of our Work Group Leads have been through this programme. If you would like more information, please contact us or follow this link:

<https://www.ncetm.org.uk/maths-hubs-projects/professional-development-lead-accreditation-programme/>

#EncourageSupportCollaborate