

Promoting Active Learning in Mathematics

Background: Many teachers of mathematics continue to use ‘chalk and talk’ approaches, while learners continue to adopt passive learning strategies.

Focus: To make mathematics teaching more effective by encouraging learners to become more actively engaged in their learning.

Solution: During this whole day workshop participants have the opportunity to explore rich tasks and activities that promote discussion and collaboration. We consider approaches that encourage learners: to analyse and evaluate; to challenge one another and to explain their reasoning; to create problems and solve one another’s problems; and to infer and make connections. Participants will be encouraged to reflect on how the dialogue, tasks and activities may provide teachers with evidence of learning which if used appropriately to modify their practice can have a powerful impact on learning.

Feedback from tutors on what they learnt:

“To make maths more vibrant by encouraging more discussion & group work, to feel confident working ‘outside the box’, open ended questions.”

“Use more effective active learning strategies, confidence to teach to mistakes as well as good ideas for differentiation.”

“Multiple methods for teaching same topics. Pupil created displays rather than teacher-created/bought.”

“Enjoyed the experience and will use ideas with my pupils, would love a follow up day.”

“Be experimental and how to use group work effectively”

Other comments

“Thank you, it was a very worthwhile and encouraging class, I got lots of ideas to take back to the staff & classroom”

“Excellent tutor – fast pace, plenty of good ideas and a lot of prep has obviously gone into the course”

“An enthusiastic, expressive and energetic presentation”

“Thank you, very enjoyable day”