

MEP Pen Portraits

Michael – FE College

“There is an excellent introduction to using a variety of activities, the key to helping the increasing numbers of 16+ learners who are resitting GCSE Maths. I’m on Day 4 of 6 and the programme has improved my current teaching greatly. Before this I was a traditional type of teacher who originally taught in a similar style to my teachers who taught me years ago.

I’d say the programme is an excellent vehicle for getting teachers together with the common objective of teaching GCSE in innovative and interesting ways to meet the needs of today’s students. There are plenty of very good new resources and ideas, with a lot of sharing on how to use them effectively.”

Denise - Adult Learning

“The course explains various approaches to teaching and learning maths, and also enables participants to fill any gaps in their own mathematical skills. Working with other participants and exchanging ideas has and will be a great help to my teaching of GCSE maths. I have already used the probability of events on the probability line. Learners really enjoyed getting up and talking through their ideas.

The programme provides participants with lots of very useful ideas and approaches to teaching GCSE maths. The collaborative working approaches are particularly useful for learners who did not achieve GCSE previously using traditional methods of teaching and learning.”

Edith - FE College

“There has been a variety of teaching and learning methods, such as tactile hands-on activities, collaborative & explorative approaches. All members of the group have been keen to share ideas and good practice. It has encouraged me to use a variety of approaches in the classroom, to maintain interest and motivation. The programme develops/refreshes knowledge around a number of maths topics. Very positive learning environment which caters for a number of abilities. Definitely worth attending. Take away: resources for teaching as well as new ideas to motivate & stretch students. “

Ian - FE College

“There are excellent resources, well planned and timed, excellent group discussion. Its created lots of ideas that can be used at all levels of maths. I’ve observed a very good teaching style focused on learner involvement with peer and tutor support. Its fantastic to brush up on your maths skills but also to develop teaching strategies and ideas.”

Karen - WBL provider (hairdressing tutor teaching maths and English)

The programme helped me to highlight and fill my own knowledge gaps. I have also been able to identify the requirements for GCSE. I have gained confidence in my own knowledge and the ability to explain maths to my learners. I have started to introduce mathematical terminology within functional skills sessions. The activities I have been able to take away and enrich the learning experience for students.

Nick - FE College

“It has been a great way of highlighting areas in mathematics that I have not used for a while & could do with development. It has provided many useful resources and techniques that are new to me which are very relevant to my teaching. It is a well planned and thorough programme. Excellent tutor who engages & interacts with ease. It can provide you with new ways to teach maths to your students and it is invaluable if you are thinking of teaching GCSE in the future. A great opportunity for personal development.”

Charlotte - MOD - British Army Education centre

“This course not only provides the opportunity to improve my personal mathematical skill set but also provides the chance to develop & test different teaching and learning approaches that are required for learners to succeed at GCSE. For example: extending the stereotyped boundaries of maths delivery & looking at discussion and enriched tasks as an alternative. This course has enabled me to confidently explore different approaches to delivering maths GCSE and share best practice. This has had an immediate impact on my teaching. For example: allowing students to ‘explore’ answers to problem solving questions, using trial and error approaches with students.”

Denis - Local authority adult education

“It has been challenging, engaging, fun, and reinforced that learning can be enjoyable and high level. The course stimulates your brain, explores aspects you might not consider. Good range of activities and resources. There’s an opportunity to meet & work with colleagues in different settings.”

Jackie – FE College

“I’ve enjoyed learning by doing through group activities and discussions. By day 4 I already feel a lot more confident about teaching GCSE next year. In short, there is a wide range of activities and topics and it is a hands-on approach to developing knowledge and skills.”

Susan – Work with NEETS

“This programme gives sound knowledge base and then inspires to develop both own mathematical skills/knowledge and pedagogy. The course has opened up the fascinating ‘world of mathematics’ to me and this has encouraged me to want to develop skills and explore maths and its links to life! I have used some of the activities in lessons; both in English and maths. It is useful to develop language of maths and also to phrase questions and responses to learners’ answers. This is a solid, well run course. There are a variety of skills that will be developed, such as language of mathematics, communication skills, pedagogical skills, engaging others and use of

a variety of approaches to learning in general. It is a shame that I have not been taught using this type of learning. I have only recently begun to enjoy maths. Thank you.”

Nicola - Work based learning provider

“There are excellent teaching methods that consider everyone’s levels, peer networking and peer support learning. I’ve gained a better understanding that tangible learning – diagrams & doing – assists learning more thoroughly. There are excellent resources that can be used in diverse teaching situations. This is not an A-level maths course; it is facilitating the teacher with resources and course content. It is an excellent support to tutors at all levels that teach maths. A thoughtful enjoyable course for all – our tutor is brilliant.”

Della – County Council Learning Service

“There are lots of practical resources and it is an opportunity to discuss ideas with colleagues. The programme has already improved my confidence and given me new teaching strategies and resources. I’d say this is good for improving confidence to teach the most challenging aspects of the GCSE course.”

Penny – FE College

“It has been good to network with FE teachers working in different settings. I have had the opportunity to explore learning activities and discuss ways of adapting them for different groups of students: food for thought and fresh ideas. I’d say that this programme will give you a rare dedicated time to reflect and learn away from the busy everyday environment.”

Helen – FE College

“We’ve been able to revise core areas of GCSE Maths and look at different resources, useful websites and Maths software. The resources have encouraged me to look at different ways of learning. I’d say ‘revise before starting the course because that way you’ll get the most out of looking at GCSE topics in detail’.”

John - FE College

“There have been lots of practical examples of maths teaching techniques that could be applied in the classroom. It has shown me ways to teach the harder maths topics not currently covered in functional skills maths, with example class practical tools, computer based online tools and ways to differentiate the tasks. Collaboration between the groups is supportive and encouraging, enabling you to feel you can make mistakes, have a go and not worry about it.”

Ruth – ACL

“It has given me new ideas, made me think about making activities within lessons more varied. It has taught me to allow students to think for themselves more. The course helps allay your worries re your abilities to deliver maths at a higher level to that you have previously taught at.”