

Increasing participation of girls in mathematics

Work Group Information Sheet

WRK 212229

Overview:

There is a distinct gender gap in the performance at GCSE level mathematics highlighting a lack of engagement in the subject by females. This has impacted on the uptake of mathematics at KS5 with far fewer girls than boys choosing to study Core Maths or A level. This work group aims to understand some of the causes of this gender gap and to investigate strategies to increase participation of girls in maths.

Who should attend?

Teachers of secondary and post 16 mathematics from schools keen to understand and address the gender gap.

What is involved?

Participants will attend 4 half day workshops (1-4pm) throughout 2019-20 with 3 gap task activities between each workshop. Each workshop will involve a review of current literature, examples of good practice and essentially group discussions around the main areas for development.

Gap task activities will be an extension of the areas discussed in the workshop – an opportunity to share with others in their department and try out ideas in the classroom which can then be refined at the following workshop.

Dates have been confirmed as

- Mon 9th Dec 2019
- Thu 27th Feb 2020
- Thu 26th Mar 2020
- Thu 11th June 2020

Intended outcomes:

Professional Learning – teachers will

- familiarise with the statistics around girls and maths at KS4 and KS5, looking broader at STEM subjects also
- have an appreciation of the main reasons for the lack of uptake and KS5
- consider the research around girls and mathematics and evaluate how this can impact on their approaches to the subject

Practice Development – teachers will

- carry out their own research in school to contribute to the workgroup
- try out a variety of approaches to engage and motivate females in their school
- evaluate individually and collaboratively the strategies implemented, adapt and refine for maximum impact in the classroom

School Policy/Approaches – teachers will

- share findings with their own department following each workshop
- involve colleagues in their research by participating in gap task activities between each workshop
- work collaboratively with other STEM subjects within their school to produce their own policy on increasing the participation of girls in these subject areas

Expectations of the participants and their schools:

- Schools will need to commit to the release of the same nominated teacher(s) for all four workshops and to support them in the gap tasks. This will include supporting wider staff and department engagement between each workshop.

Funding:

There is no charge for participating in this Work Group.

Who is leading the workgroup?

The workgroup will be lead by Lindsay Porter, NW3 Maths Hub's Secondary Lead. Lindsay is an experienced maths teacher, subject leader and NCETM PD Lead. She has worked with NW3 since 2015 leading national projects and local innovation work-steams.

How to get involved:

If you are interested in getting involved in this workgroup, please contact Paula Foster at paula.foster@three-saints.org.uk to request an EOI (expression of interest) form quoting

Girls Maths WRK212229.