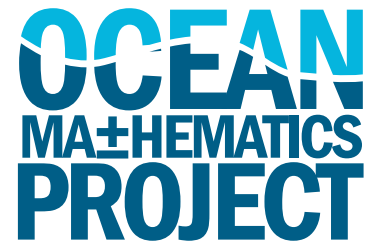


Engaging Parents Through Mathematics

National Conference: 14 June 2007, London



Dear Colleague,

I am writing to invite you to join the Ocean Mathematics Project to explore how parents can be successfully engaged with their child's education through mathematics with workshops, resources, games and specially designed homework.

The conference will focus on the good practice established by the Ocean Mathematics Project, and the launch of its website making its resources, expertise and homework packs available to everyone.

The Ocean Mathematics Project was started in 2001 with funding from the New Deal for Communities to work with schools in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. Additional funding in 2006 from the Neighbourhood Renewals Fund extended the project to more schools across the borough.

The project has had a direct impact on the standard of achievement at participating schools in KS1, KS2 and KS3. One primary school identified as having serious weaknesses raised its KS2 maths results from 47% in 2001 to 86% in 2006, and achieved a recent outstanding OfSTED report. One secondary school was in special measures for the first three years of the project, but since 2003 has seen an increase of 25% in the KS3 results Level 5+. In 2004, the school gained Maths & Computing specialist status and is now second in the Borough of Tower Hamlets in KS3 results and third in KS4 results A* to C grades.

"The greatest success... is that maths finds a place outside the classroom. When the children come back saying that they played the games with mum or dad, they were actually thinking and talking maths with their parents, not the most common home activity."

TES

"Ocean Mathematics Project has not only raised the attainment levels but also encouraged parents to be more involved in their education. Furthermore the project has also acted as a way to educate adults in basic maths skills which increases confidence and parental involvement in their children's education."

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister,
New Deal for Communities Award 2005

With its funding due to end in March 2008, the Ocean Mathematics Project is working to ensure that the best practice it has established is made widely available to schools, parents and children across the country.

By setting specially written homework for children to do with their parents and by delivering workshops where parents and children together engage with mathematical activities, the Ocean Mathematics Project has created a model for parental engagement that can work within every community. The materials are developed using familiar cultural references that match the social background of the child and parent, enabling the project to successfully engage with ethnic groups, in economically deprived areas and across rural and urban settings.

Achieving positive parental engagement is equally vital for gifted and talented students, the project offers resources that reflect the ability of the student helping the parent and school to ensure that the ablest students are stretched and supported. The project has also demonstrated that increased parental engagement in mathematics encourages engagement across the curriculum and wider school activities, enabling a school to establish a stronger, more effective community around it.

The conference will include contributions from Celia Hoyles, Chief Adviser on Mathematics for the Department for Education and Skills, primary and secondary heads and a parent and child who have been engaged in the project. I do hope that you will be able to join other teachers, LA consultants, academics, National Strategy representatives, mathematics and community organisations, policy makers, financial industries and the Ocean Mathematics team to discover how you can develop parental engagement.

If you have colleagues dealing with parental engagement, I would be grateful if you could forward this invitation to them.

Please reply by **4 May** to nicola@herncommunications.co.uk or call Nicola Hern on 01900 828629.

I look forward to seeing you in June.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Collins'.

Kevan Collins
Director of Children's Services,
London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Date: 14th June, 2007
Time: 11am (with registration from 10.30am) – 4pm
Venue: Reuters Head Office, Reuters Plaza, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AJ
The conference is free to attend

