

Numeracy Update for Argyll and Bute

October 2016

In my role, as Education Officer, having the strategic remit for Numeracy and STEM, I would like to provide an update and overview of the plans for the session ahead.

On Wednesday 21st September, I met with some practitioners, from across the Authority, who have been leading developments in Numeracy within the past 3 years. We discussed where we are, where we want to go and how we want to get there. Donni MacLeod, HMIe, was also in attendance and provided validation for our considered route.

Raising attainment in Numeracy is multi-faceted and, this session, we want to build on the ongoing work within the Authority providing training and resources for all practitioners. Our approaches will be:

1. To purchase Progress Test Maths (GL Assessments) centrally for P1, P4, P7 and S2 pupils. These will be made available to schools, to use when appropriate during the session, providing external assessment, being an effective, analytical tool for planning and reporting. If schools used the GL assessments last session and found them valuable, we can also provide papers for P2, P3, P5, P6 and S1, which will give a year on year progress picture. Schools who are interested, please get in touch with Mary Hughes and we can order these papers.
2. To provide a blanket licence for Sumdog, a progressive numeracy online tool, for Early, First, Second and Third Level. Regular, 10-15 minute practice, has shown marked improvement in mental agility. Please take the time to read the recent report, focussing on Glasgow City Council, <http://www.sumdog.com/en/1606_research/>. This resource, with associated training, will be available in November. Dependant on area internet coverage, Sumdog can be used as an extremely effective home learning tool, involving parents in education. Additionally, all schools will be encouraged to take part in bi-annual, Authority, Sumdog competitions. Training will take place on **November 29th** in Inveraray, please phone Emer Flett to book a space.
3. Provide training in Mental Agility and the resource, Number Talks, teaching pupils mental maths and computation strategies. This resource and training will be available on **November 29th** in Inveraray. Please phone Emer Flett to book a space. Please read this overview - <http://www.mathsolutions.com/documents/NumberTalks_SParrish.pdf>. A number of Local Authorities have piloted this resource and it has had a marked improvement on mental agility. This would work alongside Sumdog with pupils accessing 5-15 minutes of Number Talks **or** Sumdog each day.
4. To develop an Argyll and Bute Numeracy and STEM Hub on SALi. This will provide valuable information for pupils, staff and parents to support learning, including CLPL. Included on this site will be digital stills and scripts clearly demonstrating mathematical computations, using clear, explicit mathematical language. The sixth year pupils at Hermitage Academy will be supporting this work. This website will start to be developed in October. It will provide support for our school communities, particularly parents, allowing easy access to supportive materials.
5. Provide progressive milestones within levels, BGE, to support assessment and moderation. We aim for these to be available by January. From February to April we shall provide drop in opportunities for moderation activities on a Cluster basis.
6. Encourage schools to participate in an Authority Maths Week as recommended in Making Maths Count, <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00505348.pdf>. To support this, we will provide a suggested programme of work with associated links to IDL and STEM. We will encourage schools to take part in Hour of Code.
7. An Area PT for Numeracy has been appointed, Maria McArthur, who will support schools with Numeracy. There will be opportunities for Clusters to bid for specific support, for example Maths Recovery, Problem Solving, Mental Agility, teaching of FPD, training for support staff, Numicon, Cognitive Guided Instruction, using Progression Frameworks etc., tailored to need.
8. In January, I shall concentrate on developing STEM, providing links, making relevant connections to digital learning and suggest ideas for assessing numeracy across learning. We shall also consider how to support Secondary Schools with developing systems to clearly and simply identify Numeracy across the curriculum. In April, we shall develop links with DYW, colleges and employers.
9. On 6th and 7th March Lynda Keith will offer two seminars, one on leadership and policy around Numeracy and the second on theory and practice of teaching number.
10. On **29th November**, we shall be holding a Maths Day event in Inveraray. This will provide training in Sumdog and Mental Agility. Where possible, can the Numeracy Co-ordinators please be released for this event. Additionally, places will be available for all schools to send a member of staff. Please contact Emer Flett by 4th November if you wish to book a place.

We shall continue to have termly meetings with our group and if any practitioners wish to join us, please let us know. Presently we have no members from Bute or Cowal region. If there are any interested practitioners, please let us know. Read, Write, Count is a new national gifting programme for P2 and P3 pupils and all schools should have received goodie bags for the pupils. These are planned to be sent out during Book Week, 21st-27th November. There are useful resources within the bags for parents to use at home with their child – they could even be used for homework activities. For more information, have a look at the website, Readwritecount@scottishbooktrust.com.

As Head Teachers, I am asking for your support to try and affect as big an influence on raising attainment as possible. I am aware that staffing is a consideration and I plan to provide training sessions during the November inset days, and hope that you can free at least one member of your staff to attend. I do hope you can support our efforts in this matter.

Kind Regards

