



The Association of Teachers of Mathematics
for mathematics educators
primary, secondary and higher



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Meeting of the General Council Saturday January 18th 2014 Room C17 Institute of Education, University of Durham

Letter to the Chair from PR

I've just got back from an amazing weekend in Plymouth and had to let you know all about it.

As this year we are having a joint conference at Easter, the ATM branches are running weekend and day conferences throughout the country spread over the year. So I've had two days of fun, sharing ideas and being creative in the workshop. We had sessions from some of the old favourites but I really enjoyed the one called 'Back to basics – Maths with just a pencil and paper'. Really interesting problems and ideas, all the more exciting because it was run by two NQT's from last year's conference.

Workshop has changed since I first knew it. Instead of the old trolleys we have boxes, each focused on a theme. At weekends like this the workshop is slimmed down but there are still plenty of resources to allow delegates to investigate the ideas that inspire them. This weekend we had the collection of strategy games and a seemingly endless supply of plastic pieces for constructing 3d models. You wouldn't believe some of the things we made – someone had a great time on the internet trying to find names for some of our creations. We posted some of them on the forum and soon got some interesting classifications from members all over the world.

We left some of our smaller models in the boxes so others can see them. The workshop resources no longer live all year in Derby but travel around the country being used by schools and branches. I've booked 3 of the boxes for my school in May. We'll use them in lessons and have arranged an Inset day for local primary schools on investigations. Some of our students have agreed to help with a maths fair in the town hall. I've found someone to cut large paper squares accurately so we're going to do some giant modular origami.

Do you remember Becky? She came to her first conference in Swansea when she was a student 5 years ago. I saw her again this weekend. She's been hosting termly support meetings for NQTs from her local schools. They are putting together an e-book on surviving your first year as a maths teacher. I've seen some of their ideas and I'm really impressed. There are lots of links to the online resources on our website with original ideas on how to use them.

Anyway, I must go now. Jenny is running tonight's on line problem solving session and I don't want to be late. Have you done any of these? There's usually about half a dozen members working together on a shared 'virtual' whiteboard trying to solve some fiendish problem. Great for keeping the brain cells working. If too many people turn up to work sensibly together we just split into groups then compare our results at the end.

Please send any contributions to 2014@atm-mail.org.uk before 30 Jun 09

See you at the Education Show next month. Have you finished planning the world record attempt for our stand?

Cheers

PR

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