

Secondary MathsFest26

Maximising Key Stage 3 – Powering Progress

19 June 2026



"KS3 should be the intellectual powerhouse of the secondary school. The phase where pupils encounter demanding ideas, develop disciplinary habits of mind, and build the secure knowledge that makes later learning possible." **Mary Myatt, Schools Week Oct 2025**

Secondary MathsFest26

Maximising Key Stage 3 – Powering Progress

It's been 10 years since Ofsted's landmark report: [Key Stage 3: The Wasted Years?](#)

Join us to explore the challenges and opportunities for all learners at this critical stage and how to power up your practice to maximise outcomes in the classroom.

Event details

Date: 19 June 2026

Time: 08:45-15:30

Location: Sixways Stadium,
Worcester, WR3 8ZE

Register your free place!

All sessions, workshops and refreshments (including lunch) are provided **free** of charge.

[Click here to register for Secondary MathsFest26](#)

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Secondary MathsFest26 is open to any state secondary school within the GLOW Maths Hub region, whether your school is currently working with GLOW Maths Hub or is yet to get involved.

Registration is open until 5 June 2026.

08.45	Arrival
09.15	Welcome
09.30	Keynote
10.45	Break
11.00	GLOW speaker
12.10	Workshops A1-3
13.00	Lunch
13.45	Workshops B1-3
14.35	Break
14.45	Closing session
15.30	Depart

Keynote speaker: Tom Manners



Tom is an Evidence Lead in Education at St Matthew's Research School, part of the EEF Research Schools Network, and has worked across primary and secondary schools and multi-academy trusts in various positions including Trust Maths Lead and Assistant Head. He is an NCETM accredited PD lead and Mastery Specialist. Alongside these roles, Tom trains the next generation of teachers at Arthur Terry SCITT in Birmingham as an Associate Lecturer for Birmingham City University.

The journey from EYFS to KS4 and why you need to know it!

When students join us in Year 7, they have already been in maths lessons for seven years. As practitioners, we need to know about their previous experience and expectations so we can build on them and create a coherent journey through school for our young people. But then there is also the journey that we create for them from years 7 to 11 - how can we ensure its coherence too?"

GLOW speaker: Steve Lomax

Firing up the KS3 Engine Room

What are the big ideas of KS3 mathematics that all departments need to pay attention to?

In this session, Steve Lomax explores the big ideas that all students need to secure for success in secondary mathematics and achieving at least a GCSE Grade 4. He will also discuss how we can build resilience and confidence in all students through equitable classrooms and highlight how the work of the GLOW Maths Hub can address the issues raised, including addressing gaps in foundational knowledge and skills from KS2.



Workshops: On the day, we'll be running two rounds of practical workshops. An overview of each workshop can be found below / overleaf.

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Workshops A

A1: Better questions, better thinking

Presenter: Jenny Cains - GLOW Secondary Assistant Maths Hub Lead and Assistant Head of Maths at Chipping Campden School

How can we move beyond 'What's the answer?' to questions that genuinely promote mathematical thinking? In this interactive workshop, participants will explore a range of questioning styles designed to uncover reasoning, challenge assumptions, and develop deeper understanding. Through discussion and collaboration, participants will leave with practical tools to support richer classroom dialogue and more effective questioning across departments.

A2: Checkpoints - The way to make a great start in Year 7

Presenter: Tom Manners

How can we best understand what students really know as they transition into Year 7? This workshop focuses on effective use of the NCETM's Checkpoint resources to assess prior learning and retrieve key understanding. Through exploration of the fully resourced, thought-provoking tasks, participants will consider how Checkpoints can support a positive and purposeful start to secondary mathematics.

A3: Represent to understand

Presenter: Sam Brace - Christopher Whitehead Language College

What do students really understand when they get the answer right? How can manipulatives and representations move beyond 'nice extras' to become central tools for learning? In this practical session, we will explore how carefully chosen representations support deep understanding and reduce cognitive load, in line with guidance from the EEF. Participants will engage with tasks, discuss common misconceptions, and leave with strategies ready to use in the classroom.

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Workshops B

B1: Better questions, better thinking

Presenter: Jenny Cains - GLOW Secondary Assistant Maths Hub Lead and Assistant Head of Maths at Chipping Campden School

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B3: The power of proportion

Presenter: Tom Harper - North Bromsgrove High School

This workshop focuses on the teaching of proportion at KS3, a key concept that underpins success across much of secondary mathematics. Participants will explore the pedagogy behind developing deep, secure understanding of proportional relationships and consider how teaching can be refined to maximise impact. The session will focus on building conceptual understanding rather than procedural fluency alone.

“Key Stage 3, Years 7, 8 and 9, are the most crucial years in secondary school maths education. Those students who achieve below a grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics at the age of 16 do so because they did not gain a secure understanding of the Key Stage 3 maths curriculum”

**Charlie Stripp (NCETM)
National Director 2021**