

## IMPORTANT DATES

- Centre Manager training 2. November 4th Arden House Warwick University
- Training for Centre Managers starting in January 2006. January 20th and 21st 2006 and 3rd March

## GREAT NEWS

- FM Centres are beginning to organise Revision Days for January Examinations.
- fmnetwork comes up top of the page on Google.
- The Coventry and Warwickshire Centre now has students from virtually every school in Coventry. It has new schools in Kenilworth and Warwick.
- Birmingham FM Centre had their second Wednesday afternoon session for over 20 students.

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## Message from Charlie

### Welcome to our first Further Mathematics Network Newsletter.

The Further Mathematics Network has got off to a great start, with over 20 Centres up and running already and a similar number to start-up during this academic year. By September 2006 we expect to have full national coverage for England.

The Network can have a huge positive impact on Mathematics education, not only increasing dramatically the numbers of students taking Further Mathematics qualifications, but also helping to promote Mathematics to pupils in KS4 and contributing to teachers' CPD.

We aim to produce one Newsletter each term, edited by Sue de Pomerai. The Newsletter will be posted on our website, [www.fmnetwork.org.uk](http://www.fmnetwork.org.uk), and each Further Mathematics Centre will be sent a small number of hard copies.

It is vital that each Centre feels part of the National Further Mathematics Network and that Centres support each other, sharing their experiences and ideas. It is also important to publicise the Further Mathematics Network both locally and nationally. The Newsletter has an important role to play both in helping to link the Network together and in raising awareness of the Network.

We hope to receive articles from many different Centres. Articles can address anything relevant to the operation of the Further Mathematics Centres and the Network. We would be happy to consider articles from students, as well as Centre Managers and teachers/tutors.

Charlie Stripp, Programme Leader, Further Mathematics Network

## Centre Manager Training

The first training course for Further Mathematics Centre Managers took place at Warwick University on the 16th and 17th September. Prior to this two Centre Managers who have been involved in the pilot scheme, Bob Francis from the Devon Centre and Krys Gobalek from Hertfordshire, volunteered to act as guinea pigs in a practice run. Their help and advice in putting the final course together was invaluable.

The course was attended by 27 people representing 23 Centres which are operating from September 2005. The course covered administration, use of the FM network national database and a chance to become familiar with the online resources. Everyone had to work very hard, but were rewarded with superb food and accommodation in the Scarman Centre at Warwick University.

The event was very successful not only in achieving the learning objectives but also in giving the Centre Managers a chance to meet their colleagues, exchange ideas (and issues) and form links with neighbouring Centres. The training programme for the year can be accessed via [www.fmnetwork.org.uk](http://www.fmnetwork.org.uk)

There will be more initial training for Centre Managers as the new Centres start up, and there will be an ongoing programme of training events to support Centre Managers and tutors.

Sue de Pomerai, Assistant Programme Leader, Further Mathematics Network

## Our new office

After a difficult summer for the administrative staff, we are delighted with the new MEI office. It's light and airy with storage and a small kitchen. There's even a room which we can use for meetings.

If the builders ever finish the rest of the building, it will be perfect!



## Online Resources

Online resources to support students studying Further Mathematics through the Network

The MEI Online resources at [www.resources.mei.org.uk](http://www.resources.mei.org.uk) are available to support all students studying through the Network. These resources feature study plans, extensive notes, multiple choice tests, worked solutions to many textbook questions, end of chapter assessments, interactive materials and much more. They are also available to schools who have registered with their local Centre. A breakdown of what is available is given in the following table:

User	Resources	Teachers' Resources	Student Record System
FM Centre Tutor	✓	✓	✓
Registered School/College *	✓	✓	✗
FM Centre student †	✓	✗	✗

The access to the resources does not include C1-C4.

\* If schools/colleges want full access to the resources (including C1-C4) the annual subscription is £200. They will then also have the option of accessing the Student Record System at an additional cost of £3 per student.

† This access is not available for students at registered schools who are not studying through the Network.

Tom Button, Online Learning & IT Co-ordinator, Further Mathematics Network

## Working in Partnership

### Further Mathematics at Teign School



Chris with some of his FM students

Teign School is an 11 to 18 comprehensive school in Kingsteignton, Devon, with a medium size 6<sup>th</sup> Form. After just five years with Year 12 and Year 13 classes, we took our first steps in offering AS Further Mathematics in 1999. However, this took on a new dimension in 2001 when we linked up with a Distance Learning Project run from Exeter College, the forerunner of the Devon Further Mathematics Centre.

In the 4 years that Bob Francis, now Devon FMC Manager, has worked with us we have always seen the delivery of Further Mathematics as a partnership. In all modules, ranging from Decision 1 to the current Further Pure 2, we have split the teaching of a module between traditional and distance learning. This has had many benefits:

**Student's learning skills:** In using the MEI Resources website for study plans, multiple choice tests and various other resources, students have gradually become better independent learners. Knowing that they meet up with their distance tutor just once a week, for a tutorial, has kept students on their toes, with weekly targets to focus on.

**Video conferencing:** For the first two years of our collaboration, desk-top videoconferencing was the main form of communication between distance tutor and students. The one hour slot was used effectively for teaching, tutoring and target setting. We are now looking for ways of sharing practice with other schools through video conferencing.

**Expansion to a full A Level in Further Mathematics:** We used Bob's experience of teaching Further Mathematics, together with valuable resources from the website, to expand our provision to A Level. The year 2003 saw our first 'graduates' with an A Level in Further Mathematics.

**A culture of shared staff involvement:** Because of the expansion of further mathematics at Teign, Julie Roberts, new to teaching mathematics at AS and A Level, was enabled to take on part of Decision Maths 1. Bob supported Julie in this by teaching the other part and passing on to Julie hints and tips about teaching 'her chapters' as well as 'his own'. A great example of CPD supporting staff development!; Julie is now also teaching Statistics.

**Expanding the Further Mathematics teaching team:** With support from the Devon FMC, we now have six staff on our mathematics team involved with delivering some part of AS or A2 Further Mathematics modules. This has made a real contribution to the positive mathematics culture within the department and within the school.

With the establishment of the Devon Further Mathematics Centre, we look to continue our partnership with them, expand provision to enable more students to take Further Mathematics, and expect to be involved in innovative ways of communication between schools through the medium of video-conferencing. The whole experience has been a positive one which has involved students and teaching colleagues in developing different approaches to learning.

Chris Marchant, Head of Mathematics, Teign School

## NORFOLK FMC LAUNCH

The official launch of the Norfolk FMC took place at the University of East Anglia on Tuesday 18th October. The event was attended by the Vice-Chancellor in addition to several other guests from the Mathematics Faculty at the University and representatives from Norfolk LEA. Charlie Stripp, Norfolk's link person with the Central Team, gave a short talk on the Further Mathematics Network and its development.

A meeting recently took place between myself, Steve Wall (Suffolk) and Chris Saker (Essex) - we are setting up the East of England Branch (!!). The outcome was a joint D1 revision day to be held at the UEA on Friday 16th December from 11am to 3.20 pm.

Finally, I am working on the Norfolk area of the FMN Website. It seems most appropriate at this time (200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar) to post a picture of Norfolk's most famous son, Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson, and his ship, the Victory - dare I post a picture of myself next to one of England's greatest heroes? Watch this space!!

*Robin Huggins, Norfolk Centre Manager*

### Launch events

**Bournemouth,  
Dorset and Poole:  
9th November**

**Lincolnshire:  
14th November**

**Essex:  
16th November**

## BERKSHIRE FMC

The Further Maths Centre in Berkshire has got off to a flying start! After submitting a proposal at the tail end of the summer term we already have our first students thanks to some nifty leg-work in those last couple of weeks in July. The first two schools to request tuition have differing needs. Whilst one requires the full teaching programme at AS for their students, the other can provide a limited timetable covering two modules, with the FMC making up the deficit. In both cases a teacher from the school attends the lessons for their own CPD and to act as a support for the students.

And ... latest breaking news is that in addition to the five students from the two schools already mentioned, we are have just been approached by a third school. And all of this BEFORE we have even held a launch event!

*Jeff Trim, Berkshire Centre Manager*

## SUSSEX FMC

Sussex Further Mathematics Centre launched in April 2005, so the Summer term saw me travelling around Sussex on a crusade to increase uptake of Further Mathematics across the county. In September nine schools and over 30 students joined the network. A further two schools chose to register with MEI directly to access modules C1 - C4. Tuition is provided according to individual needs and circumstances. Some students are receiving all tuition through the Network, some are partly tutored by the Network and partly in school, some are being taught completely by their school.

The first Revision Day will be in December for D1 at Brighton University delivered by Keith Parramore and Sue de Pomerai.

*Jayne Kranat, Sussex Centre Manager*

## CORNWALL AND WEST DEVON

The Cornwall and West Devon FM Centre will be taking students on in September 2006...we are in the process of appointing a FM Centre Manager.

*Sharon Tripconey, Cornwall*

## DEVON FMC LAUNCH

**The Devon Further Mathematics Centre was launched to schools and colleges in Devon on Wednesday, 5 October at Exmouth Community College.**

More than 20 colleagues from across Devon and Torbay attended a meeting where the guest speaker was Charlie Stripp, Programme Leader of the FM Network – he described the development and aspirations of the Further Mathematics Network, both nationally and locally. Chris Marchant, Head of Mathematics at Teign School (Kingsteignton) then spoke about the evolving partnership between his school and the Centre, and how, through working together, Further Mathematics teaching had now blossomed from a standing start six years ago.

Our first Revision Days are taking place at the University of Exeter at the end of the Autumn Term.

- Core Maths 3 (MEI and Edexcel) - Wednesday, 14 November, 12 noon to 4 pm
- Statistics 1 (MEI and Edexcel) – Thursday, 15 November, 12 noon to 4 pm

Further details will be sent to all secondary schools and colleges in Devon, but everyone is welcome – see our website page or contact me direct.

*Bob Francis, Devon FMC Manager*



**Teachers attending the Devon launch**

## The Further Mathematics Network Mission Statement

The Further Mathematics Network aims to give every student who could benefit from studying Further Mathematics the opportunity to do so.

The Further Mathematics Network will work to increase the number of students studying AS/A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics.

The Further Mathematics Network aims to provide training and support to teachers of AS/A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics.

### Contact

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The Further Mathematics Network website has been launched. Please visit

[www.fmnetwork.org.uk](http://www.fmnetwork.org.uk)

for the latest from the Network and information about your local Further Mathematics Centre.

#### MORE GREAT NEWS

- Wiltshire, Berkshire, Hampshire and Dorset came back from training so inspired by the message of cooperation that they are holding a regional meeting to co-ordinate provision in neighbouring areas.
- Somerset has appointed Dick Russell as Centre Manager. He starts work in January.
- We are now featured on the 'mathscareers' website [www.mathscareers.org.uk/post16](http://www.mathscareers.org.uk/post16)
- The Universities of Durham and Cambridge are to be involved with their local FMN Centres.

### Recreational Mathematics

- Find all the positive integer solutions of the equation

$$(1+1/a)(1+1/b)(1+1/c) = 2$$

- SIXTH + FORM = MATHS

What value must H be?

Submitted by Jo Hawkin, Northumberland

**And Finally**—a mechanics joke also submitted by Jo Hawkin.

Two cats are sat on a roof. Which one falls off first?

**The one with the smallest mew!**

Thanks Jo!