

## **PRESS INFORMATION**

1<sup>st</sup> July 2008

### **BEDFORDSHIRE ADULTS ENCOURAGED TO IMPROVE SKILLS IN REGIONAL MATHS WEEK**

Regional Maths Week is taking place from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> July to show adults in Bedfordshire how they can improve their maths skills by taking part in free training provided by the Learning and Skills Council.

The campaign is being coordinated by the East of England Regional Maths Centre which provides short course funding, specialist advice and support for those teaching numeracy. Regional Maths Week aims to raise awareness that improving your maths skills can be enjoyable, there are many opportunities to learn at a time and place convenient to you and that it's never too late for people to learn new skills.

Currently, 13% of Bedfordshire adults do not have the level of numeracy skills that Government says are needed to cope with the everyday requirements of work and home life. Many of the courses offered will enable participants to gain a nationally recognised qualification equivalent to a GCSE pass.

Keith Middleton, Training Advisor for the Regional Maths Centre, said: "Maths is used in many aspects of daily life, even in places most people don't realise. It's important to make people in the county aware that they have access to free training and can improve their maths skills if they wish to."

"It could lead to increased confidence and make a difference in everyday life situations such as helping a child with their maths homework or even getting a new job."

The government has set a target of 95% of adults to achieve 'functional numeracy skills' by 2020. Currently, 84% of adults in the East of England have functional numeracy.

Regional Maths Week is supported by the Learning and Skills Council for the East of England (LSC) and is running in support of the government's national scheme to improve adults' numeracy: 'Get On and Get Confident'.

Any adult interested in improving their maths skills can visit: <http://geton.direct.gov.uk> to find their nearest course or call 0800 660 800 for more information

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**For more information about Maths Week, the Regional Maths Centre or the Learning and Skills Council, please contact Lucy Clegg or Suzy Hill at Tribe on 01603 417722 or email [lucy@tribepr.com](mailto:lucy@tribepr.com) or [suzy@tribepr.com](mailto:suzy@tribepr.com)**

### **Notes to editors**

#### **Regional Maths Week:**

Maths Week will run from the 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> July, and is organised by the Regional Maths Centre, managed by the Association of Colleges in the Eastern Region (ACER).

#### **Competition**

Please see 'Reader test' for sample questions

#### **The Regional Maths Centre**

EEDA research in 2005 recommended that the region needed to develop a robust infrastructure of providers and teachers/trainers able to deliver and support mathematics excellence across a range of contexts. This led to the formation in 2005 of The Regional Maths Centre, a virtual centre overseeing a county level network of clusters offering support to tutors providing numeracy/maths skills to learners. The centre aims to increase the capacity and quality of providers in the region to deliver high quality teaching and learning of maths/numeracy. The Regional Maths Centre is funded by the Learning and Skills Council for the East of England.

#### **Learning and Skills Council**

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) aims to improve the skills of young people and adults to ensure that England has a workforce of world class standard by 2020.

The LSC:

- provides free training programmes to young people and adults employed in local businesses
- plans and funds education and training in schools, colleges and sixth forms
- provides advice and supports people wanting to continue in, or return to, education
- provides financial support to young people and adults to allow them to continue in education.