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Maths parent workshop

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The idea for the workshop came to me because of the amount of times students said they did not know how to complete their homework and their parents couldn't help them either because they didn't understand. I thought why not teach the parents the basics so they could help their children.

The first maths workshop, I had 9 or 10 parents, but what was more surprising was that the students came along too. This was totally unexpected as I didn't think for one moment that students would want to come back in to school for extra Maths! The students being there gave their parents a much needed confidence boost as I know that it must have been quite a scary thing I was asking them to do, to come back to school to learn or relearn as an adult, a subject that terrifies lots of people.

As the workshop got underway, the nerves decreased and the parents engaged with the lesson and me. I taught it exactly how I would have taught it to their children, showing them the same methods and why we use them.

It was great to see the students sat alongside their parents helping them and working through the problems together. Sometimes the student became the teacher and the parents took the help willingly. It also sparked a bit of team rivalry, some becoming quite competitive to finish the questions first.

Unfortunately, due to the lockdown, we only managed to meet up a couple of times but within a short space of time the parents felt more at ease in the classroom, they were able to ask and answer questions without feeling silly and humour was often apparent.

One comment I had from a parent after the workshop had ended, really summed up what the workshop is all about. They said, "That was so easy, yet I spent all my school years never knowing how to do that" I was so pleased with that comment.

I want parents to go away from my workshop, not scared of maths, finding confidence in themselves through learning and ultimately that they now have the skills/methods to help their children with their homework.

Written by Debs Leggett

