



Funmaths Roadshow Newsletter

September 2007

For general information about the Liverpool Mathematical Society's Funmaths Roadshow visit www.maths.liv.ac.uk/lms/funmaths/.

Version 4 of the Roadshow CD-ROM is now in production, priced £20 for individual copies. An order form can be found on the website. Some minor, largely cosmetic, changes have been made to most of the Boxes. More substantial alterations have been made to the multilink activities in Box 1 while, in the English version, the two pentomino 'build a block' 3D jigsaws 94 and 244 have been swapped. The old 244 is considered to be rather easier to do.

Version 4 has a number of new features, notably the full Spanish translation of Boxes 1 - 8, and two new Boxes of activities, Boxes 11 and 12, which we have called 'Reality Maths'. These are aimed at GCSE or A-Level pupils who may not go on to study maths, but will surely use it in day to day life. Most of the activities are set in 'real-life' contexts, with topics ranging from stopping distances and packing boxes to loans and tennis. These have been well-received in trials.

Version 5 is at an early planning stage, with versions of Boxes 1 to 8 in Portuguese and Mandarin Chinese, and also a new Box 0, aimed at Years 1 to 3 (see below for more details).

Future consideration may also be given to redesigning some of the resources to make them more adapted to use in countries which may not have the ready access to many of the things that we take for granted. Thought continues to be given to using IT to promote similar activities.

Several institutions across the country are now actively promoting the Roadshow and will shortly be offered the status of 'affiliate' of the Liverpool Mathematical Society, in return for which they will receive complimentary copies of any updates, and will be encouraged to keep us informed from time to time of the ways in which they are using the material for outreach. If you would like to have your institution added to the list, just let one of us know.

The summer term saw outreach activities in many schools, mainly across Cheshire and Merseyside. Early trials of Box 0 have been very successful, not least because we are using Year 5 or 6 pupils to work in small teams with Year 1 and 2 pupils. This has helped to bring out the younger pupils' mathematical abilities and empowered the older pupils by giving them the opportunity to teach mathematics to their peers.

We have continued to expand our range of workshops and especially our new, team-based, activity 'The Dragon Quiz' (Special thanks to Sally Hughes and Martin Bamber for the inspiration).

The May 2007 edition of The Teachers Magazine carried an article about the outreach work we are doing, both in primary and secondary schools, from which there has been a huge response, and our diary for the coming year is filling rapidly. But don't let that stop you from contacting us if you are interested in us visiting your school for a Roadshow and/or workshops. Just email either of us at one of the addresses below.

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