

## REPORT Sept 2015 – July 2016

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This year more than 15,000 teenagers and teachers attended Maths Inspiration shows across England and Wales, in seventeen locations.

One of our most important aims is to reach teenagers who are not particularly engaged with maths, and for whom the cost of attending is an issue. To achieve this we have attracted sponsorship from a range of companies and funders, and we have worked closely with the Further Maths Support Programme and the Maths Hubs, several engineering Institutions and a number of universities to help us to reach our target schools.

We use the shows to demonstrate to teenagers how maths connects to 'real life' in areas as diverse as structural engineering, animation and medicine. We also aim to make our shows topical, and have been able to attract some celebrity names to help us. Here are some highlights from the year:

- We linked up with the Rugby World Cup and ran a special show for schools at the Rugby Fanzone in October 2015 with special guest and former England star **Paul Grayson**.
- Our shows at the Sheffield Crucible Theatre featured **Guy Martin**, talking about his attempt to beat the world record for riding around a 'Wall of Death' (which he went on to achieve live on TV in April 2016).



Ex-England rugby player Paul Grayson discusses with Rob Eastaway where best to locate the ball for a conversion



Ben Sparks picks out volunteers at the Everyman Theatre, Liverpool

When appropriate, we tie in content that is topical to a particular location:

- We ran three Year 9/10 summer shows in Brighton during Women in Engineering week, and themed them around the new i360 Tower.
- Our show in Leicester tapped into the remarkable and improbable success of Leicester City in the Premier League.
- Our Winchester show included animation work from students at Bournemouth University, the leading centre for teaching digital effects.

We have also been developing a new show based around the book *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*. There is more about this on the back page.

Rob Eastaway, July 2016

“ Maths Inspiration in Manchester changed my mind-set. I started to think about doing maths as not just a degree, but maybe as a future career too, as I saw how it has so many uses in life. ”

AS student, Manchester

## MATHS INSPIRATION

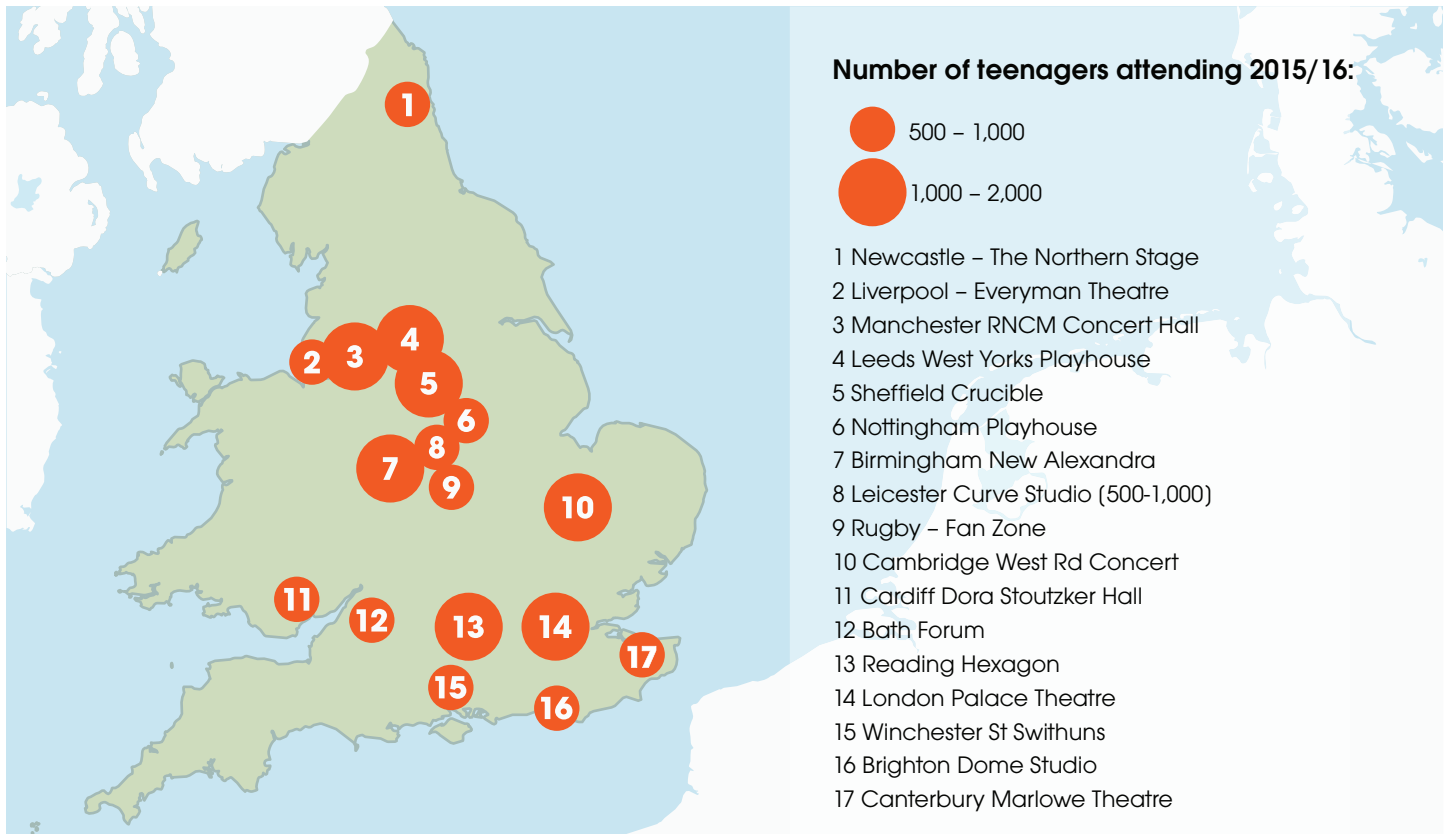
Maths Inspiration was founded by Rob Eastaway in 2004. It has grown to become one of the largest out of school maths enrichment programmes for teenagers in the UK. Our theatre-based shows feature inspiring maths speakers who combine maths with humour, demonstrating how the maths teenagers are learning links to the real world.

Our range of venues means that any school in England or Wales is in reach of one of our shows. This year, we worked with seventeen different venues (with multiple shows in several of them). We only use theatres that can offer a competitive rate, as good value for money is a priority. We aim to increase the number of teenagers who go on to study mathematical subjects to AS Level and beyond.

## OUR PROGRAMME

This year we ran a total of 29 shows attended by more than 13,600 teenagers and 1,400 teachers. Of these, 84% were from state schools.

## ATTENDANCE FIGURES 2015-16



ATTENDEES	Teenagers	Teachers	TOTAL
<b>Autumn Shows (Year 11-12)</b>	7,475	625	8,100
<b>Spring Shows (Year 11-12)</b>	4,275	575	4,850
<b>Summer shows (Year 9-10)</b>	1,900	175	2,075
<b>TOTAL</b>	13,650	1,375	15,025

**“Our students always really enjoy the show and it actually does what it says on the tin – they are genuinely inspired by it”**

Teacher, London

## TEACHERS ADVISORY PANEL

This year we set up a Maths Inspiration Teachers Advisory Panel. This panel of up to twelve teachers from around the country gives us feedback on speakers and the content of shows, helping to ensure that the shows are current and relevant to teenagers and schools.

The full list of teachers is on our website:

[www.MathsInspiration.com/teachers](http://www.MathsInspiration.com/teachers)

## PRESENTERS AND GUEST SPEAKERS

Maths Inspiration sees the speakers it uses as important role models. We provide training, mentoring and support for all our speakers.

Our speakers this year were as follows (most frequent speakers first).

Matt Parker  
Ben Sparks  
Jen Rogers  
Helen Pilcher  
Colin Wright  
Hannah Fry  
Paul Shepherd  
Hugh Hunt  
Rob Eastaway  
John Roberts

Alex Bellos  
Paul Shepherd  
Katie Steckles\*  
Jon Macey\*  
David Acheson  
Helen Arney  
Timandra Harkness  
Steve Mould  
Emily Grossman\*

GUESTS:  
Guy Martin  
Lisa Collins  
Neil Riley  
Paul Grayson



Jen Rogers talks about statistics

\*New speakers



Matt Parker conducts the Q&A at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, with Hannah Fry, Guy Martin and Hugh Hunt.

**“We've had our biggest ever uptake of Maths at AS Level this year thanks to Maths Inspiration”**  
Teacher, Bath

## MATHS INSPIRATION IN AUSTRALIA

We were invited to run shows in Sydney in May 2015. Those shows proved extremely popular and achieved coverage on national TV news. As a result we have been invited back to run more shows in August 2016 in three locations in NSW, with 3,000 expected to attend. These shows are self-funding, with the administration handled by the Mathematical Association of NSW.

## SPONSORSHIP AND FUNDING FOR THE 2015-16 PROGRAMME

Our shows are financed through a combination of sponsorship, grant funding and ticket revenue. The mix of finance is essential to subsidise the cost of the shows and allow us to keep ticket prices low. We would like to thank all our sponsors and supporters for their commitment to promoting maths to the next generation.

Sponsor/grant funder/supporter	Involvement with Maths Inspiration
Admiral Insurance	National sponsor, exclusive sponsor of Cardiff show
Further Maths Support Programme	Delivery partner of the year 9/10 summer shows
Sheffield University	Sponsor of the Sheffield show
Northern Powergrid	Co-sponsor of the Newcastle and Leeds shows
NFT	Sponsor of the Nottingham show
Institution of Structural Engineers	Grant funder of the Winchester and Bristol shows
Q Step Centre, University of Kent	Supporter of the Kent show
Newcastle University	Supporter of the Newcastle show
IMechE, IET and ICE	Joint sponsor of one of our Cambridge shows

Our special thanks to **The Clothworkers Foundation** who supported Maths Inspiration for nine years, and to the **UK Maths Trust** who help us each year in promoting and staffing our shows in Leeds.

## 2016-17 AND BEYOND

We will be continuing to run shows across the country for Year 11/12s and Year 9/10s, adapting content in line with the new curriculum in GCSE, Core and A Level maths.

## FREE TICKETS TO EXTEND OUR REACH

- For our Year 11/12 shows we are setting aside 10% of our seats to be made available free to pupils in state schools that do not have a strong history of attending maths enrichment events.
- We also set high priority on reaching teachers. We have decided to make ALL teacher seats free from 2016. For our Year 9/10 shows in November, this offer of free seats will be extended to all PGCE maths teacher trainee groups.

## NATIONAL THEATRE CURIOUS COINCIDENCE SHOWS

We would like to thank the National Theatre, who have made it possible for us to run a series of special shows in November 2016 called *The Curious Coincidence of Maths in the Day Time*. These shows explore the maths in Mark Haddon's bestselling book *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*, as well as the maths behind putting on the award-winning West End production. For full details of this and all our upcoming shows, see our website.

