

# MULTIPLY



Advancing Numeracy Skills in the Scottish Borders

April 2024

## Hello from the Multiply Team

Last month was a busy one with our Multiply Adult Learning Programme coming to an end.

We are pleased to say that the feedback from learners and workshop providers has been overwhelmingly positive – more on this to follow.

The National 4 Maths course is well underway at Borders College, and learners are making great progress. Those undertaking National 4 Maths with Scottish Borders Maths tuition will soon be finishing their studies.

April means Springtime (although the weather tells us otherwise!) so as everything begins to come to life, maybe it's time to start your learning journey.

### In this issue:

- Key findings of our Multiply Adult Learning Programme Jan-March 2024
- Funding Opportunities
- Learning Opportunities
- National Numeracy Day
- Meet the Multiply Partner

As always, please reach out to us at [multiply@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:multiply@scotborders.gov.uk) with any feedback, suggestions, or enquiries.



## Resource of the Month

Have you tried the Microsoft Maths Solver Application?

The free app will help you to understand how to perform calculations perfectly.

Available in many different languages, with video tutorials and more.



Congratulations to the six learners who have now achieved a numeracy qualification

# Micrea: Applications of Numeracy in Science

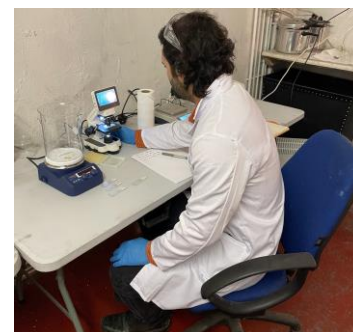


The Multiply Team had the pleasure of visiting learners at Micrea, a research and development company based in Hawick. Micrea were successful in their application to the Multiply Grant Fund last year, proposing to run a training course entitled Basic Numeracy and its Application in Science and Technology: A Practical Approach with Work Experience.

Chief Executive Officer Philip Duggan and Chief Technology Officer Danny Graham are providing a supportive and encouraging learning environment in which learners are strengthening their numeracy skills by carrying out basic calculations to support practical work.

One learner who has already completed a course with Micrea said: "I found the course to be very interesting and was good fun. We started off with remote courses that looked at excel data and then after a week I went on to do a project which worked out the water concentration of graphene. I liked the work experience and found the microwave engineering parts to be the most fun.

I have kept in contact with Philip and Danny as I would love to continue the work I was doing. I am now interested in courses that would allow me to do research as a career. I got to speak with a university teacher in engineering with Philip and they are trying to help me look at options for access courses to university."



## Staff Development

From the 6th of February-19th of March 2024, practitioners from across the Scottish Borders took part in a series of training sessions led by Robert Bray from the Workers Education Association.

Supporting Learners' Numeracy for Practitioners ran for 7 weeks, and included sessions on Maths Anxiety, Budgeting, Nutrition, Numeracy for Health, Numeracy and Citizenship and Supporting Parents.

Lots of meaningful discussion was had throughout the sessions, and practitioners gained access to a wealth of resources. 80% reported feeling more confident in their ability to support learners with their numeracy after participation in the training. One participant said: "The discussions in particular were thought provoking, they made me evaluate my own practice and learn from others."





# Multiply Adult Learning Programme January to March 2024

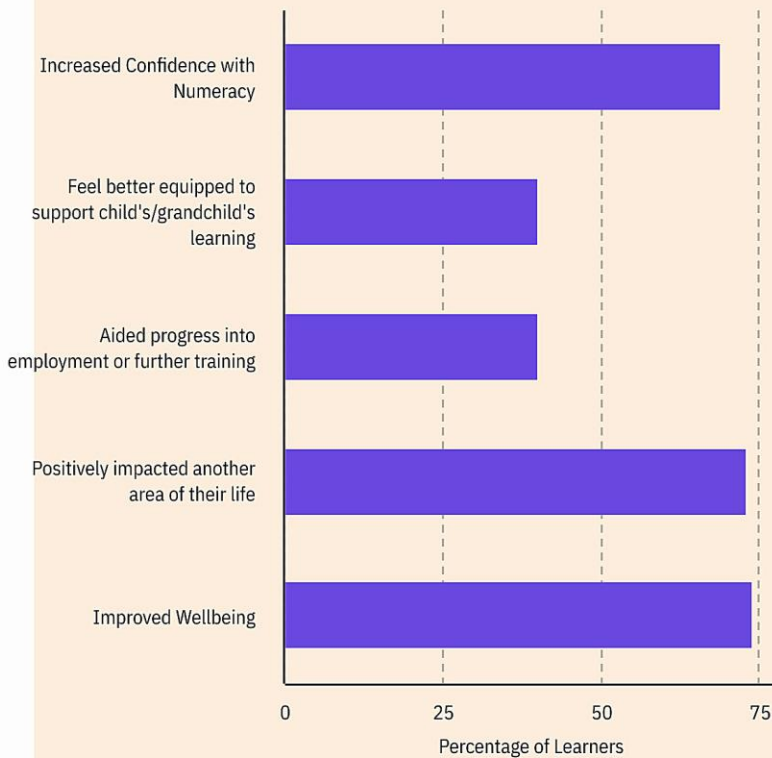
What our learners and workshop providers said...



of learners were satisfied with their workshop and would recommend it to family and friends

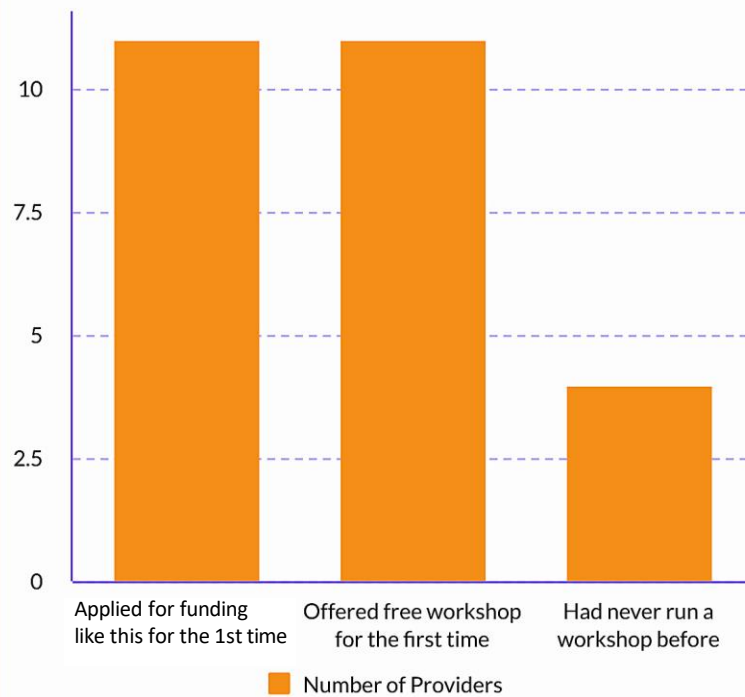
## Learners are growing in confidence...

Some learners reported feeling better equipped to support their child's/grandchild's learning, as well as experiencing a positive impact in other areas of their life.



## Funding for Workshop Providers

17 different providers in total delivered a workshop on the Multiply Adult Learning Programme Jan - March 2024



of workshop providers said that the funding has helped their business/organisation grow and develop

No. of Providers	Details
7	Sourced workshop resources from Scottish Borders suppliers
8	Accessed support or services from other local businesses
7	Employed a Scottish Borders resident to assist with workshop delivery
8	Worked in a Scottish Border's venue for the first time

# National Numeracy Day

National Numeracy Day is Wednesday the 22nd of May 2024. It's a day to celebrate numeracy and highlight its importance in all aspects of life.

There is no better day to start improving your numeracy! Anyone can celebrate National Numeracy Day, whether you are a teacher, own a business or run a charity organisation.

If you would like to do something special to celebrate National Numeracy Day, then contact the Multiply Team who would be happy to support.

Check out the National Numeracy website to catch up on all the news from last year's celebrations - just scan the QR code below.



## Multiply Workshop Fund Opens Again!

The Multiply Team are offering local sole traders, small businesses, community groups and organisations the opportunity to apply to the Multiply Workshop Fund to support the delivery of free, short-term workshops which will form part of the **second Multiply Adult Learning Programme**.

Organisations can apply for up to £3,000 to put towards the cost of developing activities that would allow adults to:

- feel more confident when using numbers in everyday life
- increase their confidence with numeracy
- improve their health and wellbeing through socialising, feeling included and learning a new skill or hobby.

Example workshops could include cookery, art, crafts, music, computing, orienteering or DIY. The second programme will run from Aug-Feb 2025.

For an application form, including detailed guidance notes, please contact [multiply@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:multiply@scotborders.gov.uk)

Applications close at midnight on the 11th of May 2024.



# Looking to Complete a Numeracy Qualification?

## Applications of Mathematics

The National 4/5 Applications of Mathematics course from the Saturday School is now on offer as part of Multiply's suite of accredited learning opportunities.

National 4/5 Applications of Maths allows learners to develop financial skills such as budgeting, getting the best deal, and explore income and interest rates, as well as developing skills in calculations for everyday use, interpreting graphs, and measuring.

This course is perfect for those who wish to develop the mathematical skills which are useful in the workplace and in further training, but also those which will support everyday numeracy. Saturday school also offer National 5 Mathematics **online**.

## Other Multiply Accredited Course on Offer:

National 4 and 5 Mathematics at Borders College in Galashiels – applications open June 2024.

Online National 4 Mathematics with University of Highlands and Islands – apply now! Course starts August 2024.

If you are interested in applying to any of these courses, get in touch at [multiply@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:multiply@scotborders.gov.uk)

# Ever Dreamed of Managing a Cafe or Restaurant?



## Profit Plates: Essential Numeracy for Hospitality

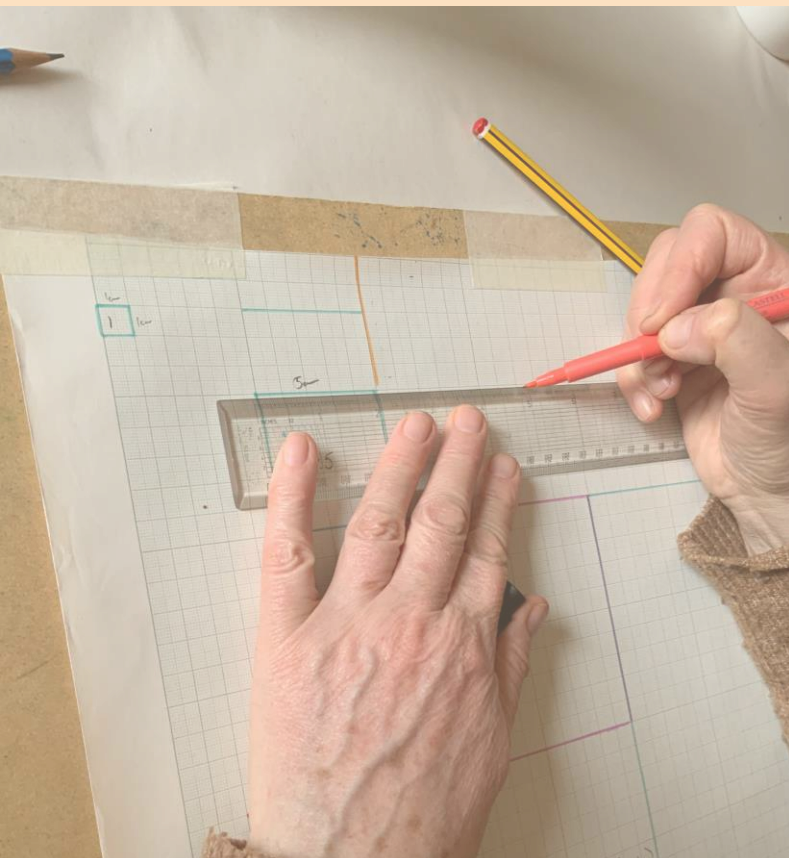
This concise yet comprehensive training course is tailored specifically for individuals managing or aspiring to manage restaurants and cafes.

Dive into the core skills of numeracy critical to the hospitality industry, where you will explore budgeting, pricing strategies, inventory management, and financial reporting.

Through hands-on exercises set in a dynamic cafe environment, you will learn how to analyse costs, optimize profits, and forecast business needs effectively. Join us to build a solid foundation in the numbers behind the hospitality scenes!

This course is led by Karolina Kral, who has a background in Marketing and now runs a cafe based in Hawick. Karoline is flexible in the delivery of this course and is happy to consider your needs.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the Multiply Team!



## Contact Us



[Multiply | Scottish Borders Council](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk)  
([scotborders.gov.uk](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk))

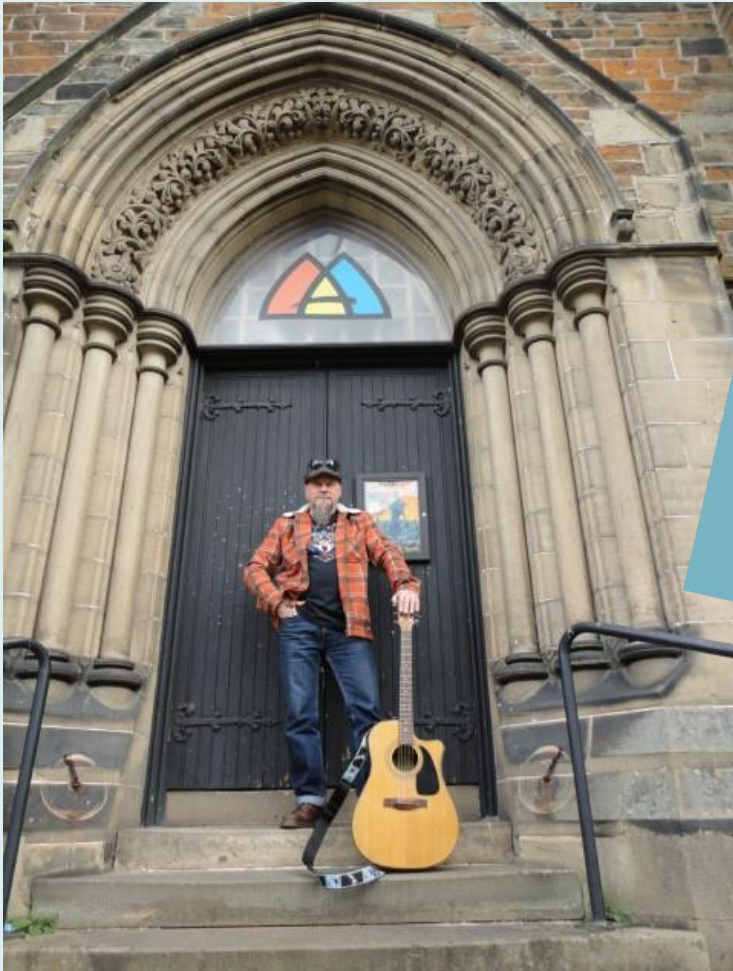
[SB Community Learning and Development | Facebook](#)

[Multiply - Scottish Borders Helix](#)

[Multiply@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:multiply@scotborders.gov.uk)



## Meet the Multiply Partner



My journey so far.....

From 'London's Calling' back to the 'Bonny Borders' (plus a few music venues & festivals in between)

Having studied a Music Degree at ACM - Academy of Contemporary Music in London and taking the Modules 'Education & Training' in my second year - I knew my new style of career would embrace some form of teaching.

An opportunity arose when I noticed some funding available through the MULTIPLY scheme. I gathered my ideas together and made an application to Multiply. After a few minor adjustments, which the Multiply Team were always on hand to help with, my application was accepted, and the award letter arrived soon after.

My idea was to have an adult group of 'Absolute Beginners' learning to play Acoustic Guitar. Guitar is a great way to explore numeracy with elements like tuning, chord construction using a number system for fingers, strings & frets.

I chose the MacArts in Galashiels as my venue for putting on this 6-week course as its centrally located in the Borders with great transport links. MacArts was ideally suited for the sessions as it is a prominent music venue in the Scottish Borders and provided excellent facilities for all levels of abilities. MacArts is a place I know well after performing there as well as volunteering too. The staff are so helpful and friendly, I knew my group would feel at home.

The group of adults who came to take part in the Guitar course were brilliant, which put me at ease during my first time in this role. The group, a mix of male & females, gelled well, and as we progressed through each session, the group became accustomed to following the rhythm & beats as the chords were played, and finally a song came - 'Knocking on Heavens Door' was played!

The weeks went by quickly and I thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience. I never thought I would get so much out of leading a group of adults in Beginners Guitar. I have learnt many things teaching this group which I will take forward into future courses. I have decided to start up my own thing now - Absolute Beginners Courses.

Keep on Rocking! Ozzy Mackinnon.