



MULTIPLY

Hello from the Multiply Team

We're excited to share the fourth issue of our Multiply Newsletter! Whether you're a longtime reader or new to our community, we're glad you're here.

This edition features summer project updates, new learning opportunities, and insights from our partners, including a coffee break chat with numeracy tutor Louise Ballantyne. Don't miss our new feature: The Cheeky Challenge!

Your feedback is important to us, so let us know what you think. We're here to share the numeracy news that matters to you!



Meet the Multiply Partner

In a bid to help protect planet Earth, Big Wild Life (BWL) aim to build a community that not only wants to preserve wild places but has the skills and knowledge to do so.

That's why BWL create rich and meaningful opportunities for people to learn.

Research supports that being in a woodland environment promotes many health benefits such as improved sleep, reduced anxiety and depression, lower blood pressure and reduce stress.

BWL want to share these benefits with as many people as they can. This is why they run Forest School, Forest Play, Community Projects and the Forest and Outdoor Learning Award (FOLA).

BWL are also partnering with the SBC Community Learning and Development SQA centre to combine an Enterprise Skills qualification with the FOLA 4 qualification.

This Autumn, Big Wild Life are offering an outdoor course at Wooplaw Community Woodland, in partnership with Cyrenians and Borders in Recovery.

Participants can earn two qualifications while learning about woodland resources, crafting, and marketing, with opportunities to sell their work.

The course includes a campfire cookout and focuses on practical math skills like budgeting and profit calculation.

Email Donna at business@bigwildlife.uk to learn more. For course dates and times, visit [Multiply - Scottish Borders Helix](#).



Interested in Scientific Research & Development?

Want to boost your numeracy skills?

Join Micrea's **FREE** 10-week course combining numeracy with real-world science, exploring groundbreaking alternative energy solutions!



Who Can Join?

Everyone is welcome, no matter your background or skill level. We're committed to inclusivity.



Course Perks

- Learn essential numeracy and gain lab experience
- Work with top scientists and engineers
- Get personalized support and network with industry pros.
- Finish with a solid reference and maybe a job offer!

**Micrea Labs, Crown
Business Centre, 20-22
High Street, Hawick, TD9
9EH**

Cost: Free

To register email
philip@micrea.co.uk



Goat Willow Pottery

Current Learning Opportunities

Eleven new grant-funded projects *and* the second Multiply Adult Learning Programme are now underway. Explore all available opportunities at [Helix.Scot](https://www.helix.scot.nhs.uk/) and sign up by completing a registration [form](#), stating your course of interest.

Opportunities include:

29 short workshops to boost your confidence with numbers including stone carving, drawing, DIY, and more

Numeracy Support for Parents and Carers from First Class Learning

Money Advice and Wellbeing from Money Advice Scotland

A Stitch in Time at Birkhill House CIC
And more!



Summer Sports Sessions with the Multiply Team

This summer, the Multiply Team had the pleasure of hosting engaging numeracy sessions for our Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Young people here in the Scottish Borders. The young people have been supported by The Promise Team, Social Work colleagues and a CLD worker from the Eildon area.

We initially met the group during one of their sessions at the Focus Centre to talk about what Multiply sessions might look like for them. Our purpose was to be led by the group's interests, recognising that maths alone might not have been enough of an incentive to work with us.

Inspired by the Euros and the Olympics, we chose a sports theme for our sessions, which complemented their other summer programme activities, including football training and a tournament.

Our first session took place at Tweedbank's Sports Complex, where participants engaged in various track and field activities. They recorded their resting heart rates, measured distances, and calculated maximum heart rates while learning basic maths skills. This practical approach made numeracy relevant and helped build confidence, even in a second language.

The following week, under a bright sunny sky, the group participated in workout exercises. Paired up with stopwatches, they competed to tally up the number of exercises completed in a set time, showcasing their competitive spirit while counting in their native languages.

These sessions clearly demonstrated how incorporating numeracy into activities like sports can create an effective learning experience. The group will continue their numeracy journey with Multiply, exploring new opportunities, including drumming with Where's the One. We look forward to more engaging ways to learn together!



family fun!
Explore

NUMBERS

through play

23-28 September

1 - 4.30pm (Mon 23rd - Fri 27th)
10am - 4.30pm (Sat 28th)

FREE
drop-in
sessions

Learn alongside your child!
Build Numeracy confidence together
with fun games + activities!

Stations with a wide variety
of games and puzzles from
Montessori wooden games,
Whizz electronic games,
3D printing and more!
Open to all ages!

www.greattapestryofscotland.com

THE
great
tapestry of
scotland

Resource of the Month

The Open University offers a **free** course *Everyday Maths* which is designed to make maths learning engaging and practical.

It's perfect for improving your skills or refreshing forgotten areas. The course includes examples and interactive activities to help with tasks like running a household or advancing your career. You'll need a calculator, notepad, and pen to complete it.

Get started [here!](#)



Cheeky Challenge

Can you work out how many triangles there are in this figure?

Need a hint?

Remember that the triangles might point down instead of up.



When you are finished, click the triangle for the answer.

What do you think learners enjoy most about your tuition sessions?

I think learners enjoy that in my sessions, maths isn't scary or stressful. My sessions are relaxed and fun, but with the right level of challenge. Learners say that they really enjoy that lightbulb moment when we learn a new concept and they "get it" and can apply it. Achieving qualifications is the icing on the cake of our sessions.

Confidence in numeracy is so empowering and tuition can help you achieve that confidence.

Congratulations

The results are in!

Congratulations to the 8 learners who have earned their National 4 Mathematics qualification.

Good luck to those advancing to National 5 studies!

A big thank you to tutor **Jen Harkness** for her unwavering support.



Coffee Break With....

Louise Ballantyne
Multiply Numeracy
Tutor



Hi Louise, tell us how you came to be a numeracy tutor?

My teaching journey began nearly twenty years ago after I left university with a degree in Finance and French. I travelled to South Korea and taught English as a Foreign Language. Three years later, I came back to Scotland to qualify as a secondary school teacher. I taught in high schools, most recently in Peebles, before moving into Community Learning and Development, where I tutor numeracy and ESOL. I'm passionate about supporting people to develop and grow. I love making learning accessible.

What does a numeracy tuition session look like?

When I receive contact details for a student, I get in touch via their preferred method – call, text, or email. We arrange a time to meet at a date, time, and place which is comfortable for them and their needs. The first session is always getting to know the learner, their goals and aims, and working out where they are with their numeracy. I think it's so important for the learner to feel at ease. All our sessions are learner led, with the skills they want to practice and improve at the forefront of our lesson plans. The most asked for topics are budgeting, percentages, fractions, scaling up and down recipes, and understanding interest rates.

What's the best thing about being a numeracy tutor?

I love how inspiring the learners are. The best thing about being a numeracy tutor is all the amazing people I get to know and work with. Watching learners grow in confidence with their numeracy and seeing them progress and achieve their goals is the best part of the job. I love making real life maths accessible and hearing how students have successfully and confidently used something from our sessions in their daily life. Their stories always finish with "I'm so chuffed I was able to do that", "I'm so proud of myself for doing this", "I felt so good about myself".

Maths in the Bath!

Workshops for Parents and Carers of Children Aged 0-5

Discover the Magic of Early Math Learning

Join Elisabeth Kelly for a 1hr relaxed, hands-on workshop to explore maths learning and help you support your child's early maths development through everyday activities and play.

Children Welcome!



Cost: FREE

Galashiels Library
Tues 24th Sept 10-11am

Hawick Library
Thurs 10th Oct 10-11am

Peebles Library
Tues 5th Nov 10-11am

Eyemouth Library
Thurs 5th Dec 10-11am

Kelso Library
Tues 21st Jan 10-11am

To Reserve Your Spot Email:

libgalashiels@liveborders1.org.uk