

MULTIPLY



Advancing Numeracy Skills in the Scottish Borders

Hello & Goodbye from the Multiply Team!

January 2025

As we reach the end of January 2025, we mark the conclusion of the Multiply project. Over the past months, this initiative has made significant strides in enhancing learning outcomes and providing valuable opportunities for our participants.

In this final edition of our newsletter, we will reflect on some of the remarkable impacts the Multiply project has had on our learners and partners. We will share insights into the achievements of our learners, outline their next steps for continued growth, and highlight some of the final learning opportunities of the project.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the many partners and learners who have been an integral part of this journey. Your dedication and collaboration have been instrumental in the success of the Multiply project. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Drumming Up Numeracy in Burnfoot!

Mat Clements is back at it, bringing his drumming magic to Burnfoot!

This is Mat's fifth group, and he skillfully incorporates concepts like area of a circle, angles, note beats, and rhythms into his engaging sessions.

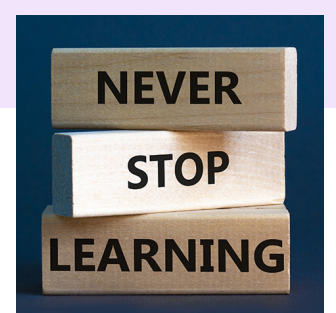
The creative energy has been electric, with participants effortlessly picking up the rhythms while having a blast! Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and learners are already eager for more!

Where's the **One?**
the 



Resource of the Month

Since the beginning of the Scottish Borders Multiply initiative in May 2023, we have been collecting a wealth of numeracy resources for all ages. You can continue to access these here: [Multiply Numeracy Learning Resources](#)



Learner Q&A: Harris Beattie, Micrea Ltd



As an ongoing participant of Micrea's Multiply funded project: *Numeracy and its Applications in Science and Technology*, Harris has had the opportunity to improve his numeracy knowledge whilst receive hands-on work experience in a professional lab settings.

Furthermore, Harris also joined Professional Performance Association's one day course: *Presenting Data with Confidence*. So lets find out how things have been going...

How has your understanding of numeracy improved since starting with Micrea?

I feel like I have a better understanding of and more confidence in converting different units of mass (e.g. grams and kilograms) and volume (e.g. millilitres and litres).

Can you provide an example of how you applied numeracy skills in the work placement?

I needed to calculate the combined weight of substances, subtract the new weight of a dried substance from its original weight to calculate its water content, calculating ratios, budgets and temperature changes, etc.

How have these skills helped you in your work placement and daily life?

I feel that the maths skills I'm learning are helping me make calculations in my head faster, which is always helpful for experiments at work and baking at home.

How would you describe the overall impact of the course on your personal and academic growth?

I frequently use a brain training app called "Elevate" on my phone, which features several maths exercises, and since I've started my Multiply course I've noticed my speed and performance in them, and my use of maths in everyday life, has noticeably improved.

How do you think the skills and knowledge from this course will benefit you in the long term?

I think what I'm learning now will hopefully help me finally get a good grasp of the maths skills that I struggled with in school.

What long-term goals have you set for yourself as a result of this course?

I'm planning on continuing to try any new local courses on things that interest me, so I can gain valuable experience in a variety of fields that would make my CV more attractive to any potential employers.



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BORDERS



Multiply your Digital Numeracy

FREE ONLINE TRAINING

**BOOK YOUR FREE
PLACE TODAY!**

Excel in Excel

**Enhance your
Potential**

Are you looking to enhance your Excel skills and boost your career prospects? Join our region-specific online Excel training sessions.

Sign up now and start your journey towards excelling in Excel.

Foundation in PowerBI

**Enhance your
decision-making**

Use Power BI and enhance your decision-making skills? Join our region-specific online Power BI workshops.

Embrace PowerBI and discover a world of possibilities—let's get started!

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Funded by
UK Government



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FIND OUT MORE:

www.borderscollege.ac.uk/multiply

Email: enquiries@borderscollege.ac.uk





What impact has taking part in a Multiply course had on your daily life?

"I'm more confident with talking to people and being sociable."

"More confident in cooking - using times and measurements."

"It has improved my daily life when I have been in shops trying to calculate the total of what I've spent."

"I'm more confident around numbers."

"It has helped me with anxiety of several kinds."

"Helped me understand some calculations and excel and what they can be used to do."

Boosting Numeracy and Well-Being: The Impact of the Multiply

The Multiply programme has been instrumental in transforming the lives of individuals by empowering them to improve their maths and numeracy skills while enhancing their overall well-being. Designed to address various barriers to learning, the workshops foster a supportive environment where participants can engage socially within diverse communities, setting them on the path to successful learning journeys. Through these programmes, individuals are not only gaining essential numeracy skills but also building confidence and personal growth.

Participants have reported significant improvements in their numeracy skills, leading to increased confidence. For example, one learner, who initially struggled with maths discovered newfound abilities through creative pottery sessions, integrating maths into her artistic pursuits. Similarly, another learner, overcame her maths anxiety during the "Felt and Weaving" course, leading to heightened self-esteem and increased social interaction.

Beyond numeracy skills, the programme has benefited participants' mental well-being. Many expressed that these workshops provided a supportive community, reducing feelings of isolation and enhancing social networks. Steve shared that his Multiply group became a "real aid" in dealing with stress and change, demonstrating the positive impact of social connection.

The skills learned extend into everyday life. Participants now apply their newfound confidence in various activities, such as cooking and volunteering, positively influencing their independence and personal growth.

Overall, the Multiply programme has not only enhanced numeracy confidence but also significantly enriched participants' lives, paving the way for them to access future educational and career opportunities.

I am writing to thank you for the multiply funding which has enabled my recent Nat 5 Maths adult learning.

It has been very supportive regarding my maths anxiety around supporting my daughter with her maths learning.

Learner with First Class Learning



'I didn't think I'd be able to do all this – I can't believe how much cooking I can do!'
'Everyone has been really friendly, I was so nervous about coming along but now I feel safe and welcome with this group.'

Learner with Out of the Box

What are your next steps now that you have completed a Multiply course?

"I'm going to find a job and hopefully get my own home."

"Using numeracy whilst volunteering at a charity shop. I'd like to do something sports-related."

"Go to the bank to get online banking on my phone."

"Look for opportunities for work experience or job."

"To volunteer whilst also open my own mechanics business modifying and doing vinyl wraps for cars."

"Get back to school and finish qualifications."

"To continue learning and being able to support my daughter with her National 5 coursework."

"Work on a farm or as builder."

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A Journey of Numbers: The Multiply Legacy

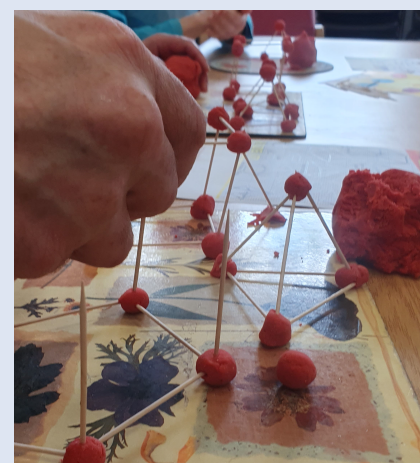
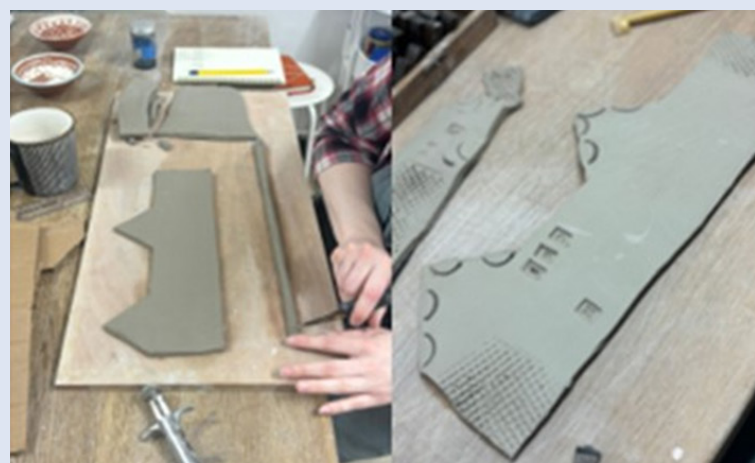
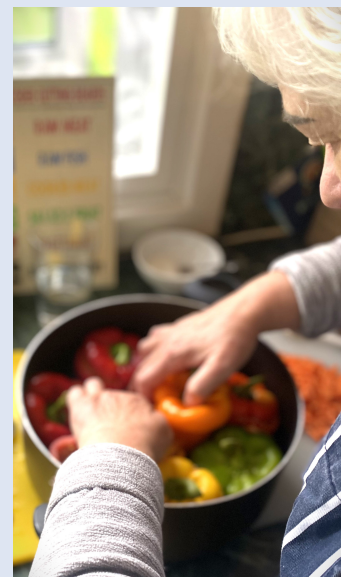
In the land of the Borders, where numbers entwine,
The Multiply Programme makes learning divine!
With 131 courses, there was much to explore,
For 644 learners, knowledge at their core!

Two Multiply Workers, like math's dynamic duo,
In five localities, they helped you grow!
Forty-five partners lend a hand with cheer,
While five savvy tutors make learning clear.

At Borders College, joy in numbers unfolds,
With two online courses, a treasure to behold!
A resource bank for all your numeracy quests,
And family workshops, where learning invests.

A training course for practitioners to rise,
Two pieces of artwork—a visual surprise!
With over £600,000, the investment is grand,
In learning and numbers, we took a stand.

But now as the programme comes to a close,
We cherish the journey and all that it shows.
Though we put down our calculators and say our goodbyes,
The memories we've made will continue to rise!



Special thanks to...

The success of Multiply owes much to the committed partner organisations and colleagues who have contributed to delivering a diverse range of creative and engaging learning across the Scottish Borders. This programme would not have been possible without your invaluable support. Thank you to everyone who encouraged learner participation and assisted with various aspects of the programme.

Abundant Borders • Acting Out Drama School • Alison Heaton • Allanbank Arts • Ana Petrusevski • At Birkhill House CIC • Beyond Earlston • Big Wild Life • Borders College • Brothers of Charity • Burnfoot Futures • Bytesized Learning • Cafe ReCharge CIC • Cameron Hall • Capital City Partnership • Coffee End • Crailing Community Orchard • Creative Coathanger • Earlston Primary School • Eddy Richards • Elisabeth Kelly • First Class Learning • Focus Centre • Gary Silver • Go Wild Scotland • Goat Willow Pottery • Happy Mind Life • Harbour Arts • Instinctively Wild • Jag Art 82 • Jo Pringle • Jules Bradbury • Julie Veitch • Laura Farrimond • Laura Robertson • Live Borders • Louise Ballantyne • Lynda Cramb • Marina McMillan • Melanie McEwan Studio • Micrea • Money Advice Scotland • Natasha Stone Carving • Newcastleton & District Community Trust • Orchard Development Group • Outside the Box • Ozzy MacKinnon • Patsy Watt • Pete Carthy • Professional Performance Association • Rachel Lewis • Sarah Downie • SBC's Communications Team • SBC's Community, Learning and Development Team • SBC's Local Area Coordinators • Scottish Borders Maths Tuition • Splash • Susie Hopewell • The Crafty Creative • The Education Academy Scotland • The Frangipane Bakery • The Great Tapestry of Scotland • Tim Stead Trust • Transform Arts CIC • Tweeddale Youth Action • West Linton Village Centre Trust • Where's the One • Wooplaw Community Wood • Workers Education Association • Wright Diving (Scotland) Ltd.