

North West Further Mathematics Knowledge Network gets off to a flying start!

The first North West Further Mathematics Knowledge Network (FMKN) meeting was held on 3rd March 2010 with an impressive 20 participants attending. This is one of thirteen FMKNs that have been established around England supported by small amounts of funding from the NCETM.

The experience of the teachers varied from never having taught FM to many years (possibly too many to admit to!) of FM teaching.

The aims of the network are:

- To support both new and experienced teachers of FM
- To offer the possibility of subsets of the group studying FM topics via a web-based learning environment
- To investigate and share resources and good practice in FM teaching
- To investigate applications of FM teaching to inspire students to aspire to careers/degree courses rich in mathematics.

Abigail Bown led a discussion on applications of FM to real life including examples of applying Matrices to Google Ranking and applying 3D Vectors to computer games and online dating! There were posters available showing some of these applications.

Revision sheets and past papers were available and many other resources were given out on memory sticks.

Teachers had the opportunity to ask about specific topics, explore resources and share examples of good practise.

The next meeting will take place at the end of June. Mark Leffley (Pendleton College) is keen to offer participants a session on Mathematica. Resources will also be provided on Complex Numbers, Induction and Differential Equations.

A Further Meeting will be planned for the Autumn Term.

Abi Bown, Area Coordinator - North West