

TSST Learning together through Problem Solving

An invitation to do some mathematics



Students learn from the kind of work you ask them to do in class. If students are only asked to practise prescribed procedures by completing sets of exercises, they think mathematics is about following a set of directions. Consequently, many of our students find mathematics dull and boring. Almost inevitably they switch off and make little progress in the five years they are at secondary school.

There is a growing belief across the world that an essential part of learning mathematics should be “doing mathematics” where “doing mathematics” means solving problems. Traditionally in the UK and in much of the West we have used “problem solving” as a means of reinforcing previous taught work but this is not the case in some of the most successful countries in the world. In Japan, for instance, students solve problems not just to apply mathematics but to learn new mathematics.

In the TSST course we will open each Strand with a thought provoking activity for you to tackle which is designed to make you think for yourself. Hopefully, you will get stuck! That’s great – because, as you will soon find out, real learning starts when you get stuck!