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To Headteachers of all Primary Phase Schools

Leading Mathematics Teachers in Norfolk

We now have approximately 40 Primary Leading Mathematics Teachers (LMTs) in Norfolk with a considerable range of skills and expertise which they are willing to share with colleagues as a way to develop their own practice as well as that of others.

Demonstration Lessons

The LMTs will provide a demonstration lesson for another teacher (or often two teachers together) with their own class. If a specific element of the Daily Mathematics Lesson is to be focussed on, then this can be discussed and arranged if the LMT knows well in advance. For example, if teachers would like to see a particular type of plenary session such as solving a problem using the knowledge gained during the lesson, then the LMT would be able to suggest a suitable lesson to observe.

The most valuable part of the demonstration lesson has often been the discussion that takes place both before and after the lesson. This is most effective if teachers arrive at a school expecting this to happen. 'I don't know why I've been sent,' is a comment made more often than you would expect!

Extension Scheme

An extension to the LMT Scheme was trialled last year, and will continue during the academic year 2002/3. This is targeted support for Newly Qualified, Returners or less experienced teachers and involves more comprehensive support than the single demonstration lesson.

Once support has been requested, an appropriate LMT (matching year group taught and local where possible) will be linked with the member of staff. Two sessions follow, although the order depends on what is decided between the LMT and NQT. One session will be a demonstration lesson by the LMT with their own class. The other will be a half day at the NQT's school during which the LMT will spend one session either observing the NQT or sharing a lesson with them. The other session is likely to be outside the classroom discussing an area identified in advance by the NQT. For example, this could be planning or an aspect of classroom organisation. Supply cover for the LMT for the half day will be funded by the NQT's or Returning Teachers School. For NQTs, this money could be taken from the allowance for NQT induction. It would also be possible to organise a further half day of support should it be requested.

There may be some oral feedback to the teacher's school; it will focus on positive aspects of the work done and possible areas for future development.

If you have a member of staff who would benefit from support of this nature, or you wish to ask any further questions, please contact me at the Professional Development Centre in Norwich on the number above to make arrangements. We hope that you will find this support a useful addition to the packages currently available.

Mathematics Helpline

This facility may be of interest to all staff within your school. From 3.30 – 5pm every Thursday during term time, a member of the Norfolk Mathematics Team will be available at the Professional Development Centre, Norwich to answer any questions you may have about either the National Numeracy Strategy or mathematics in general. Even if we are unable to provide the information immediately, we will log your query, find out what we can, and come back to you. This will be a trial for 2002-3 so that we can determine whether it is a useful service for schools across the county.

Yours sincerely
Micky Harcourt-Heath
Numeracy Adviser