

Opportunity - FE sector Mathematics consultants

Background:

STEM Learning is seeking experienced consultants with mathematics expertise to support a new pilot project which seeks to build an evidence base, focused on demonstrating what works to improve confidence in mathematical attitudes and skills whilst at least maintaining outcomes in GCSE mathematics resit for young people in FE colleges.

The project aims to address the following challenges:

- **The ideal curriculum:** colleges are often trying to get through all the relevant GCSE content in a year. However, GCSE assessment objectives only allocate 50% of the marks to 'answering traditional maths questions' the other 50% for reasoning and problem solving.
- **Embedding differentiation:** maths is like a jigsaw, you need all the required pieces AND the skill to find the right piece at the right time and put it in the right place. Most students arrive with most of the pieces but will have pieces missing. Each student will be missing different pieces. Few students will have the skill, patience or perseverance to put the pieces together. This project aims to support teachers to provide the correct missing pieces to the right students and develop the skills required to apply their mathematical knowledge appropriately.
- **Approach to teaching:** building resilience in pupils who have "failed" and changing students' perception of mathematics and the job opportunities maths skills will open up for them. What implications does this have on what you offer in a retake course and how the course is approached by the teacher?
- **Length of retake course.** Does it have to be a year? Could it be two years? Content year one, skills year two.
- **The best frequency/length of lesson:** Some colleges have two one hour maths lessons per week, others have one two and a half hour lesson per week. What works best?
- **Is literacy of pupils** a limiting factor in maths attainment? Does comparing cohorts of pupils with level 3/4 in English highlight difficulties with maths attainment?

Each college taking part in the pilot will be assigned a consultant (a 'Mentor') to support the design and delivery of GCSE mathematics retake classes.

The Commitment:

- Attend one day of CPD during the autumn term 2020. This will be delivered by STEM Learning and will outline the aims and outputs for the project, including specific detail for the Mentor role.
- Deliver three half days of Mentoring and CPD to the mathematics staff of each FE college assigned in spring term 2021;
- Provide one half day of Mentoring and CPD support to each college FE college assigned in the autumn term 2021;
- Mentors will be expected to work with up to five FE colleges each. We anticipate that you will also play a role in recruitment of these colleges using your contacts / networks.

N.B. all delivery will be dependent on social distancing guidelines.

Key skills, knowledge and requirements:

Prospective Mentors will demonstrate the following:

- experience of teaching mathematics up to GCSE
- experience of the demands of mathematics GCSE resit students
- experience of Facilitating CPD
- experience of working with colleagues in an FE setting
- hold the NCETM CPD standard holders accreditation, STEM Learning CPD Quality Mark, or equivalent
- able to travel to FE colleges assigned to them

Fees and terms of engagement:

- Attendance at 1 day training @£450 plus reasonable travel expenses up to £100 during the autumn term 2020
- 3 x 0.5 day support in phase 1 @£250 per session inclusive of travel expenses
- 1 x 0.5 day support in implementation phase @£250 inclusive of travel expenses

Applications:

Applications should be emailed to: Stephen Lyon, Mathematics Lead s.lyon@stem.org.uk, clearly stating in the subject line **Application: Consultant – FE Mathematics Resit**. Please send from an email address that you can receive further correspondence.

The deadline for receipt of submissions **4pm Friday 2nd October 2020**. Late submissions will not be accepted. All submissions will be acknowledged with a notification of receipt.

All applications must comprise a minimum of:

- A CV of relevant work and experience.
- A covering letter outlining how your skills and experience allow you to meet the purpose of work, and key skills and knowledge requirements as above.
- Two references prepared to act as referees if required.

A decision will be made as soon as possible after receiving applications and interviews for shortlisted consultants arranged via online conferencing.

Enquiries

Enquiries should be directed by email to:

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