

## Multiply Newsletter August 2023

Hello and welcome to the second addition of our bi-monthly newsletter from the Multiply Team at Wiltshire Council. We would like to share our latest information, courses, and events with you.

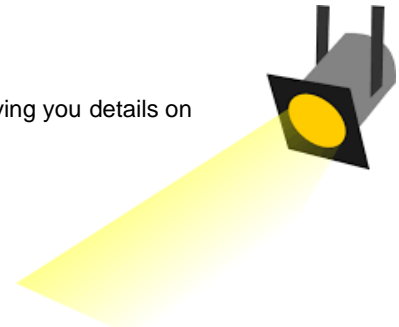


### What is Multiply?

Multiply is a new government funded programme to help adults improve their numeracy skills. If you're aged 19 and over and don't have maths GCSE at grade C (or equivalent), you can access free courses through Multiply to build your confidence with numbers and perhaps gain a qualification.

## Monthly Spotlight – What's on this Month

Each month, we will be shining a spotlight on some of our fantastic Multiply Providers, giving you details on what courses they are delivering and anything new they have coming up soon. Introducing this month's selection:



### *Building Bridges*

Building Bridges help people overcome barriers to education and employment across Wiltshire and Swindon. They offer guidance and support to those who feel ready to enter/re-enter into the workplace. As a Multiply partner, they will be having conversations with individuals about the emphasis that employers put upon the importance of good numeracy skills in the workplace, with a view to supporting individuals to access maths courses to improve their skills as needed.

Go to [www.buildingbridgessw.org.uk](http://www.buildingbridgessw.org.uk) for more information.



### *Wiltshire College*

Wiltshire College are now taking applications for learners to enrol their new course, **Basic Maths**.

Basic Maths is a **flexible, part-time** course which can be taught **online** by a tutor and **in-person** at one of their 3 campuses, Chippenham Community Hub and Calne Library.

The Basic Maths: Multiply programme will give you the confidence and upskill in various maths topics. You'll gain knowledge by building basic numeracy maths skills that you use in everyday life situations such as, banking, shopping, money, utility bills. DIY projects, cooking, gardening, driving, holidays, self-employment/business, childcare costs, maths games or travel. With the topics covered being tailored to your learning groups needs.

To find out more or enrol on the course please visit: [Basic Maths: Multiply | Wiltshire College & University Centre](#)

## Case Study



### *Fairfield*

Our partners at Fairfield started delivery of their pilot Multiply project in May. The project aims to improve numeracy skills and confidence for the adults that work in the café at Fairfield Animal Centre in Southwick, Trowbridge. The project has already had an extremely positive impact on those involved and we'd love to share an example of how the learners are getting on:

### Case Study 1 – 'Kate'

Before Kate started the multiply project, she knew the value of different coins and notes but did not have the numeracy skills required to be able to do calculations with money. Kate is now able to use coins and notes to make different sums of money. Even better, she knows multiple ways of making different amounts, so if the till runs out of 50p's it isn't a problem! Consequently, Kate is able to work on a till independently and has recently secured a part time job in a local café.

## What else have we been up to?

The Multiply Team have been really busy over the last two months continuing to get the programme off the ground and promoting the provision we have. Here are a couple of things we've been up to:

### Multiply

#### Multiply Events



Two members of our team attended the **'Growing Up and Moving On'** professional networking event held at County Hall on 11<sup>th</sup> July. It was a great opportunity to meet other services and discuss how our offer can complement the provision that they already have available.

Look out for more upcoming events, at [Upcoming Events – Work Wiltshire](#) including National Numeracy Week in November!



#### Picnic on the Pitch

Through the summer holiday's the Multiply team have been attending **'Picnic on the Pitch'**, family fun days held at Warminster and Westbury Football Clubs. We created family activities, including a maths themed treasure hunt, to hand out during the day and it was wonderful to see children and parents having fun with maths. We took the opportunity to chat to parents and families and further advertise the courses and support that we offer in Wiltshire.

## How can you get Involved?

Did you know, **49%** of adults of working-age have the maths skills of a primary aged child?

Maths anxiety is one of the reasons why many people avoid revisiting their maths. They may shy away from talking about their maths skills due to a bad experience in school or feel that they are 'not a maths person'. If this is you, then you are definitely not alone.

Having confidence in your maths skills can help you in many practical ways, such as helping your child with their homework, managing your own personal finances, budgeting and boost your employment opportunities.

If you think you could benefit from upskilling in maths but don't know where to start, why not take the numeracy 'Challenge'. The Challenge is a short quiz that focuses on your maths confidence, look at your current skills and then identify where you might need to start on your learning journey.

Get started by visiting [www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/challenge/wcaq](http://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/challenge/wcaq) or scan the QR code.



Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.

For more information about Multiply please visit our website [www.workwiltshire.co.uk/multiply](http://www.workwiltshire.co.uk/multiply) or email us at [Multiply@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Multiply@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Our next bi-monthly newsletter will be available in October.

*The Multiply Team*

