

Multiply Newsletter October 2023

Hello and welcome to the October 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?

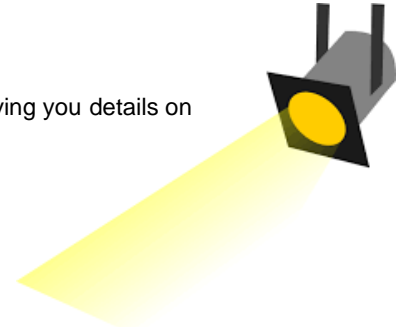
Multiply is a new government funded programme to help adults improve their numeracy skills. If you're aged 19 and over and don't have maths GCSE at grade C (or equivalent), you can access free courses through Multiply to build your confidence with numbers and perhaps gain a qualification.

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:



Skills Ladder



Skills Ladder are offering free courses on **Introduction to Spreadsheets using Excel**. The aim of this course is to give someone with little or no experience of using Microsoft Excel a good understanding of spreadsheets. After this course you will be able to create your own spreadsheets as well as inputting data into spreadsheets others have made. We will produce budgets, include percentages and a variety of other formulas/charts and graphs.

The course is delivered online and runs over 3 sessions. Please see below for the start dates of the upcoming courses and click on the link for more information:

Introduction to spreadsheets: [Tuesday 24th October 10:00-12:00](#)

Introduction to spreadsheets: [Tuesday 21st November 10:00-12:00](#)

Introduction to spreadsheets: [Wednesday 6th December 10:00-12:00](#)



Library Drop in Sessions

Everyday Maths sessions are now available at Melksham Library. If you're struggling to understand your budget, support your children with homework or wanting to improve your skills for work, our Library Multiply Development Officer will be holding drop-in sessions to help with everyday maths.

Find out more information about Numeracy Drop-in sessions [here](#).

What's on next month?

Number Confidence Week 6th – 10th November

The Multiply team are supporting National Numeracy's Number Confidence Week from Monday 6th November. During the week we will be running two Number Confidence Week Roadshows, giving you an opportunity to come and meet some of our Multiply providers and find out more about the free courses and support they offer and also have the chance to enter into a competition to win an Amazon gift voucher. The Roadshows will be running at:



Melksham Community Campus on Wednesday 8th November from 10:00-13:00
County Hall, Trowbridge on Friday 10th November from 10:00-13:00

Keep an eye on the Multiply website and our Facebook page for more information and updates!

What else have we been up to?

The Multiply Team have been 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:



Wiltshire Multiply on Facebook

Multiply have a new Facebook page! The page is called **Wiltshire Multiply**. Please like, follow, and share for all the latest information about our courses, support, and events we have coming up!

Don't forget you can also look out for more upcoming events on our website [Upcoming Events – Work Wiltshire](#) including Number Confidence Week in November!



'Checktember'

The Multiply team supported National Numeracy's 'Checktember' throughout the month of September. Checktember encourages people to use the [Numeracy Challenge](#) to understand their current numeracy level and quickly improve it with free tailored learning resources.



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 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 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 or email us at Multiply@wiltshire.gov.uk

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

The Multiply Team

Wiltshire Council