

Multiply Newsletter March 2024

Hello and welcome to the March addition of our bi-monthly newsletter from the Multiply Team at Wiltshire Council. Multiply is now at the end of its 2nd year and so far, we have helped over 1000 people feel more confident with maths!

What is Multiply?

Multiply is here to support adults (aged 19+) without GCSE maths at grade 4 (previously known as a C grade) or for those with a Grade 4/C or above, if they feel they are not working at that level anymore.

All our courses are FREE and can help you to build your confidence with numbers and perhaps gain a qualification: www.workwiltshire.co.uk/multiply

Spotlight – What's on this Month



Wiltshire Citizens Advice

Through Multiply, Wiltshire Citizens Advice offer bespoke budgeting and debt management support. They can help with your finances through the current cost of living crisis. If you feel that you or someone you know may need some help and support this spring please visit citizensadvicewiltshire.org.uk to find out more or telephone 0800 144 88 48.



Inspire by Wessex Chambers

Inspire will be holding free one day 'Introduction to Managing your Companies Finances' courses from April. The course is aimed at people in your business who you would like to better understand the financial fundamentals of running the business. It would suit bookkeepers, up and coming, rather than experienced, financial controllers or any other staff who would benefit from a greater understanding of business finances.

The first course is on 17th April 9:00-17:00 follow the link to book your space: [Visit Eventbrite](#)

The next course will be on 8th May with more dates to follow, email team@inspirebiz.co.uk to be added to the mailing list.



Rebel Business School

From Monday 3rd to Friday 14th June, Rebel Business School will be running 'Build a Business for Free' as an online course via Zoom. The course runs over 10 days with a new subject every day and it's for anyone and everyone who wants to start or grow their small business!

"Our FREE business courses show a new way of thinking and practical ways to get your business idea off the ground and how to sustain and thrive as a business. Whether you are at the beginning of your start-up journey, or you are an already established business, our course will give you the information, inspiration, and practical advice to teach you how to build and evolve your business."

Please follow the link to find out more and book: [Visit Eventbrite](#)



Case Study

Our partners at Fairfield run a maths project that 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:

Joe is in his late 20s and has severe learning disabilities. When he started the numeracy project, he was of the belief that he could not do maths and if asked would say he hated it. He struggled to count to 10 and did not know the value of any coins. Joe now knows the value of all coins and notes and can make amounts up to 10p in many ways. We are now working on different ways to make £1! Joe is also able to use a thermometer. He can record the temperature of the fridges and freezers and knows to check the daily temperature outside so that he knows what to wear and whether to apply sun cream. Joe has learnt to identify the numbers 1-20 so is now able to deliver food to customers in our café. Most importantly, if you ask Joe about numeracy now, he says "I love it! I rock at it!"

What else have we been up to?



Careers Fairs

The Multiply team attended several careers fairs during January and February. We love going out to promote our offer and hearing about people's experiences with maths.

We'll be at [The Trowbridge Jobs Fair](#) at the Civic Centre on 8th May. There will be a variety of exhibitors with vacancies, apprenticeships, training, and support services to offer. Pop in to visit our stand and say hello!



Stop Loan Sharks

Multiply at Wiltshire Council are now partnering with the Illegal Money Lending Team – Stop Loan Sharks. If you have borrowed from a loan shark or are worried about someone else, their specially trained staff will provide you with emotional and practical support that is tailored to your needs.

Visit [Home - Stop Loan Sharks](#) for more information. They offer a 24-hour helpline or Live Chat option on their website, which is available 9-5 Monday to Friday.

How can you get involved?

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



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, will look at your current skills and then identify where you might need to start on your learning journey.

Get started by visiting [Numeracy Challenge](#) 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 May 2024.
The Multiply Team