MARTIN NEWTON

Maths Education Support Lead

MEI®
Because maths matters!

FE Maths Challenge 2025-26

Sponsored by
AQA
Questions matter

Let’s play!

Kahoot!

https://play.kahoot.it/v2/lobby?quizId=9ee6a7ec-70df-44af-9a9d-5ee2a486d3a5

How it started…

- Started in Stoke
- 3 colleges
- 1500 students

How it’s going…

Last year across England and Wales

- 10 regional centres
- 92 colleges
- Over 40,000 students

Why???

What the students have said…

"I enjoyed participating in the challenge and representing my college"

"Wonderful people running the competition. The environment was very fun and welcoming i really enjoyed the competition."

"I loved the thrill of it being able to do maths but in a fun way, really got the adrenaline pumping."

"The vibe of Maths in a different context, the food , the people..."

More Feedback

- 96% of students stated that, “Overall the FE Maths Challenge” was “Good” or “Excellent”.
- Feedback showed that 82% of students feel that the FE Maths Challenge has improved their confidence in maths.
- 80% of students feel that the FE Maths Challenge has improved their confidence in taking the maths exam this summer.

FE Maths Challenge 2025-26 timeline

**** NEW ****

Induction Lesson

September or later

Location: In class

Content: Introduction to FE maths challenge PPT

Training Rounds

November 2025

Location: In class

Content: Kahoot quiz per category (work individually)

First Rounds

November/ December 2025

Location: In class

Content: Kahoot quiz per category (work in pairs)

College Finals

January 2026

Location: Held in the college sports hall, theatre or other large space

Content: Kahoot quiz and one Tarsia jigsaw puzzle per category (work in pairs)

Regional Finals

March 2026

Location: At a large venue e.g. college sports hall or local venue

Content: Kahoot quiz and one Tarsia jigsaw puzzle per category (work in teams of 4)

**** NEW ****

National Final

Tuesday 21st April 2026

Location: Solihull College

Content: Kahoot quiz and one Tarsia jigsaw puzzle per category (work in teams of 4)

Regional Centres 25-26

MEI

Three categories

1

The Funkies

Students whose highest GCSE grade is a grade 1, or studying FS entry

2

Ein2steins

Students whose highest GCSE grade is a grade 2, or studying FS Level 1

3

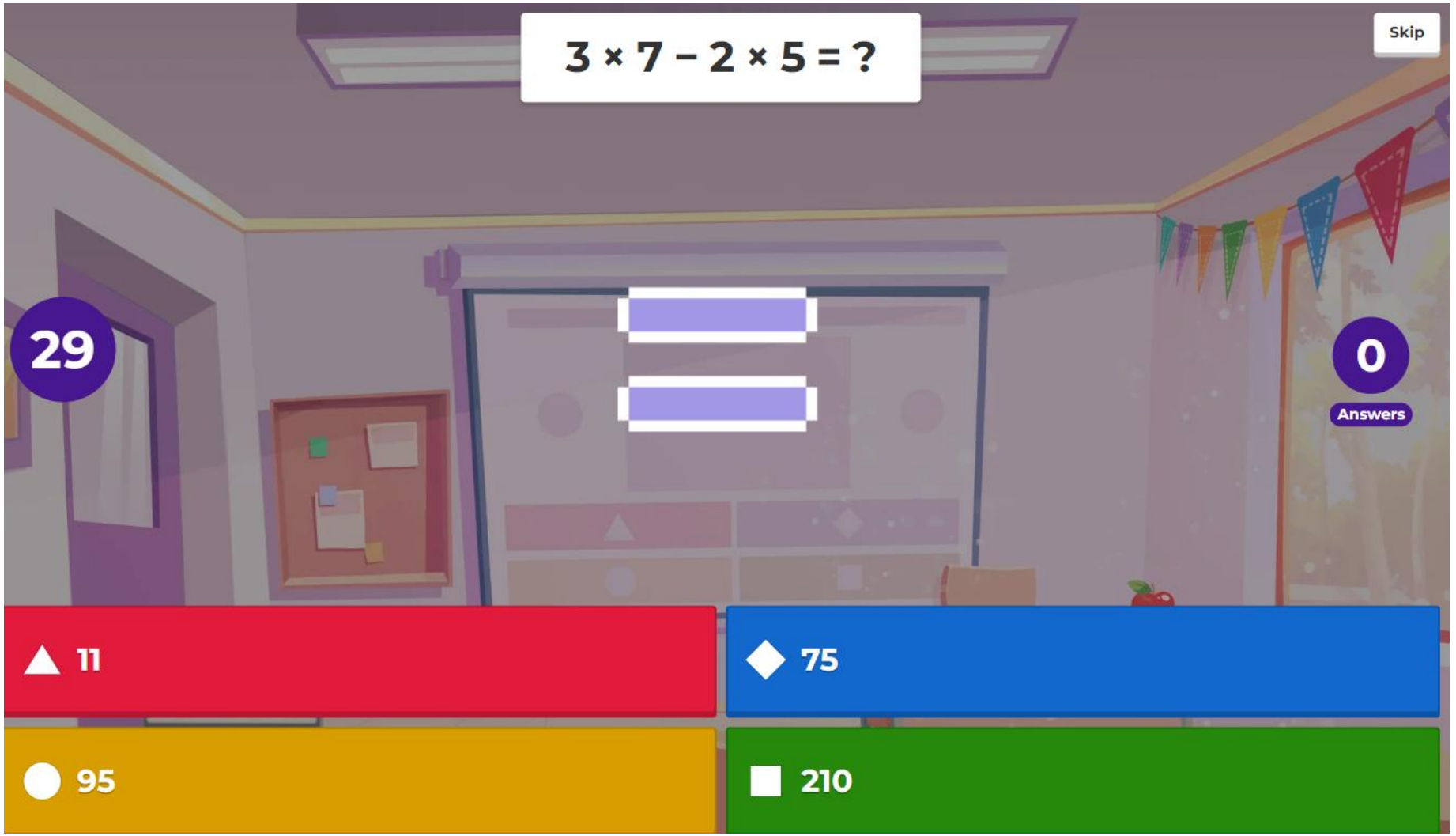
Go Forth

Students whose highest GCSE grade is a grade 3, or studying FS Level 2

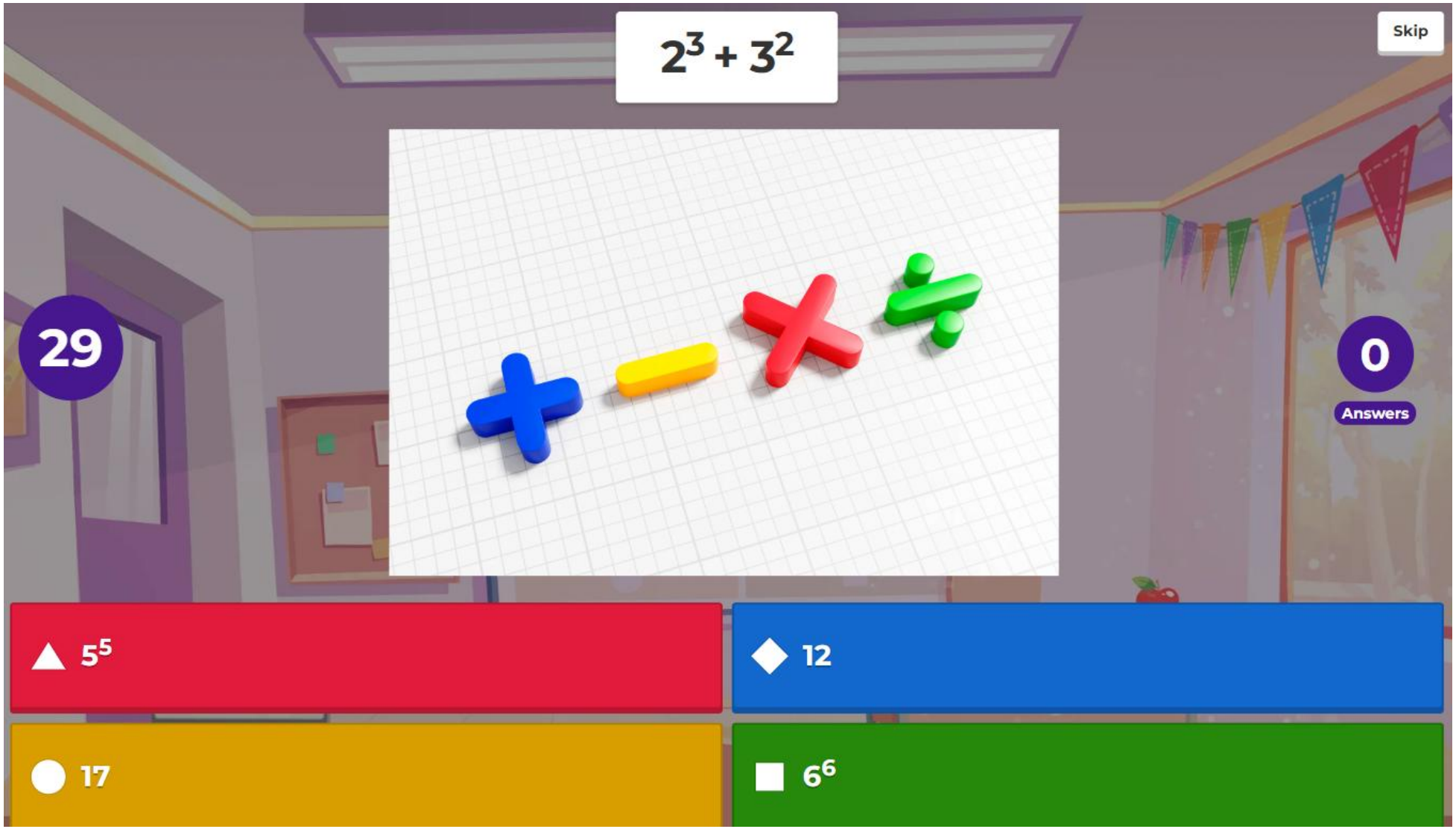
Kahoot Quizzes

- ❑ Designed to identify common misconceptions
- ❑ Key topics-retrieval practice
- ❑ Practice quizzes-revision
- ❑ 15 questions, 3 levels
- ❑ In pairs/groups – collaboration-discussion
- ❑ Use as a teaching/ assessing tool
- ❑ Aos 1, 2 & 3 emphasis on fluency and reasoning
- ❑ Engaging in competitive setting
- ❑ Strategy

Spot the misconceptions

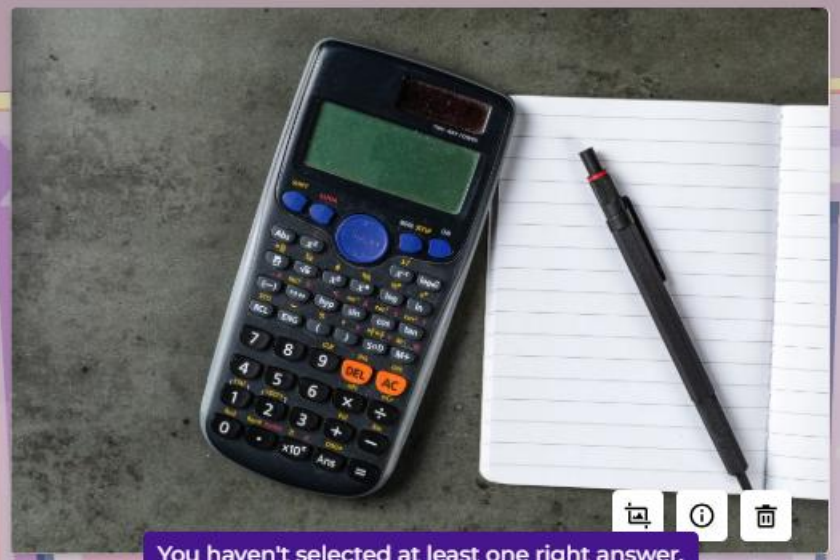


Spot the misconceptions



AO1 Fluency (Go Forth)

Calculate $\sqrt[4]{100 - 1.7^3}$. Give your answer to 3 decimal places.



You haven't selected at least one right answer.

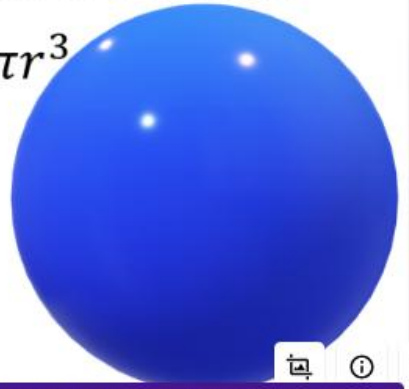
- 3.122
- 3.123
- 9.751
- 31.219

AO2 Reasoning (Go Forth)

If a sphere has a radius of 6cm, calculate its volume? Use the value of π given by your calculator.

Volume of a sphere

$V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$

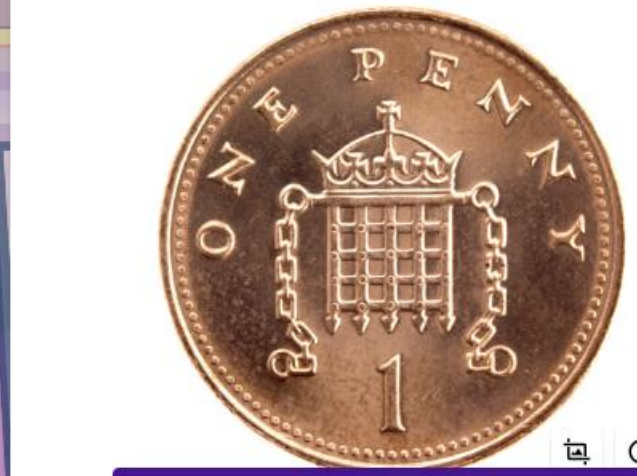


You haven't selected at least one right answer.

- ▲ $\approx 150.8cm^2$
- ◆ $\approx 904.8cm$
- ● $\approx 904.8cm^3$
- ■ $\approx 904.8cm^2$

AO3 Problem Solving (Go Forth)

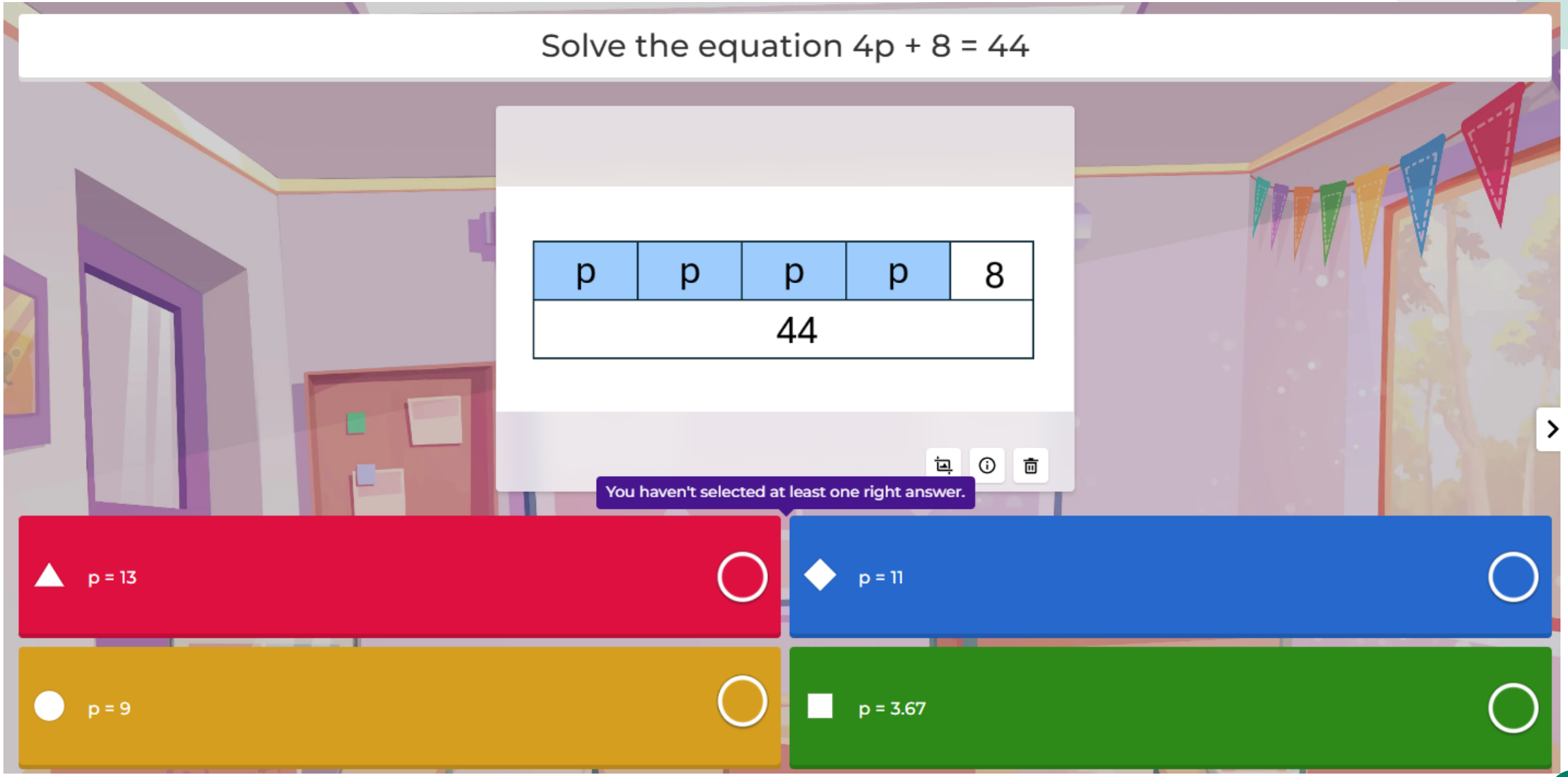
If you save 1p on the 1st June, 2p on the 2nd, 4p on the 3rd, 8p on the 4th etc, how much would you save on 30th June?



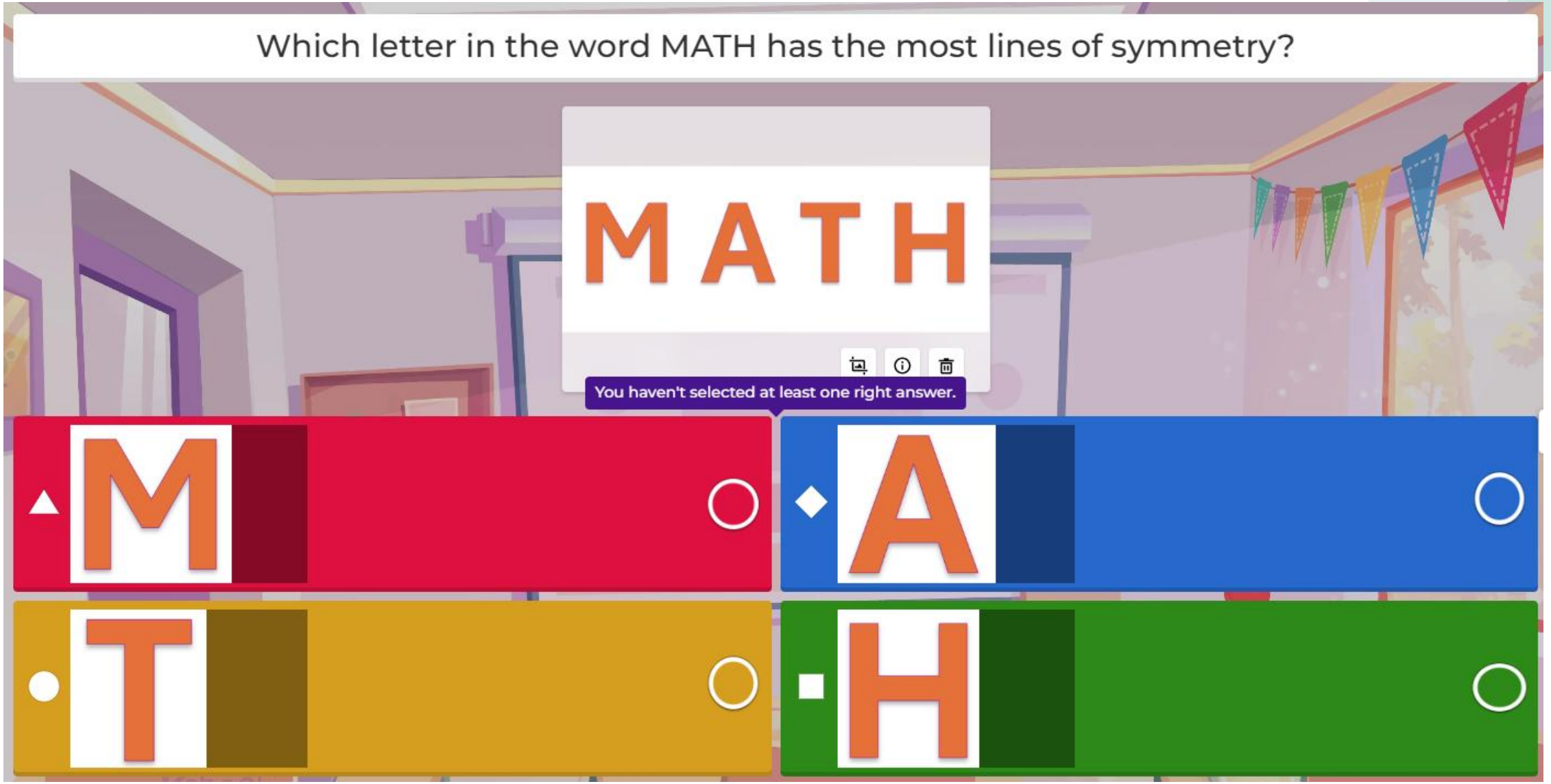
You haven't selected at least one right answer.

- £450
- £2 684 354.56
- £5 368 709.12
- £10 737 418.24

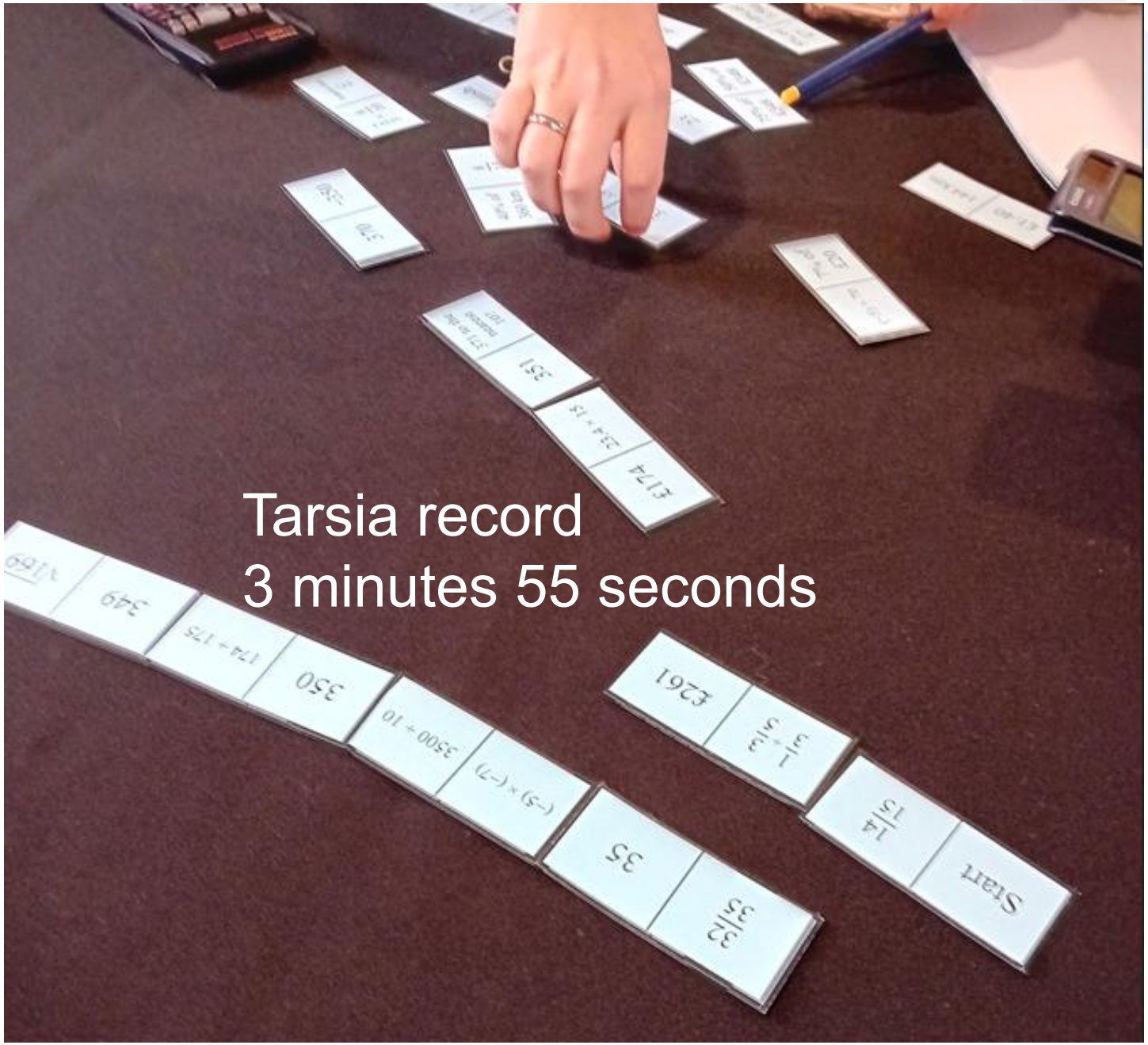
Ein2steins


Solve the equation 4p + 8 = 44
p
p
p
p
8
44
You haven't selected at least one right answer.
p = 13
p = 11
p = 9
p = 3.67

Funkies


Which letter in the word MATH has the most lines of symmetry?
MATH
You haven't selected at least one right answer.
M
A
T
H

Tarsia Puzzles



Have a go…

Tarsias

Breakout room 20

Complete the dominoes

Start	2
$V=\pi r^2 h$	Factorise x^2-9
First 4 terms of $3n^2-6$	7^{15}
$(x-3)(x+3)$	$78.3\div 0.1$
$(7^3)^5$	Formula for area of a circle
$16-5n$	$7^8\div 7^3$
$y=7-2x$	783
Solve $3x-5=-26$	Equation of line with gradient of -2 and y intercept of 7
Finish	7^5
16^0+64^0	$x=-7$
$A=\pi r^2$	The nth term of 11,6,1,−4
Formula for the volume of a cylinder	−3,6,21,42

https://padlet.com/meifecpd/my-sumptuous-sandbox-kgpyb8f83z4vz04l

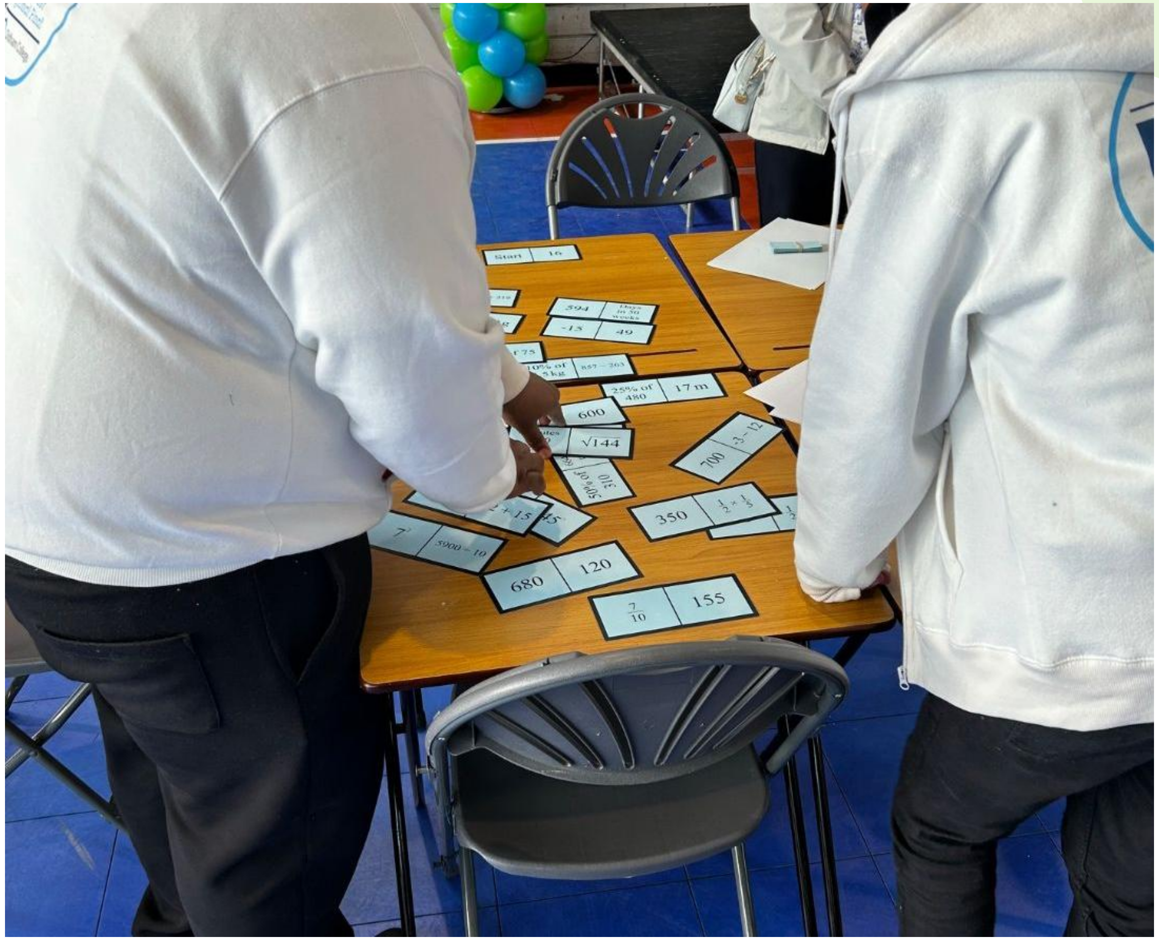
MEI®
Because maths matters!

Regional Finals 24-25

Engaged students and smiling students!

Entertainment

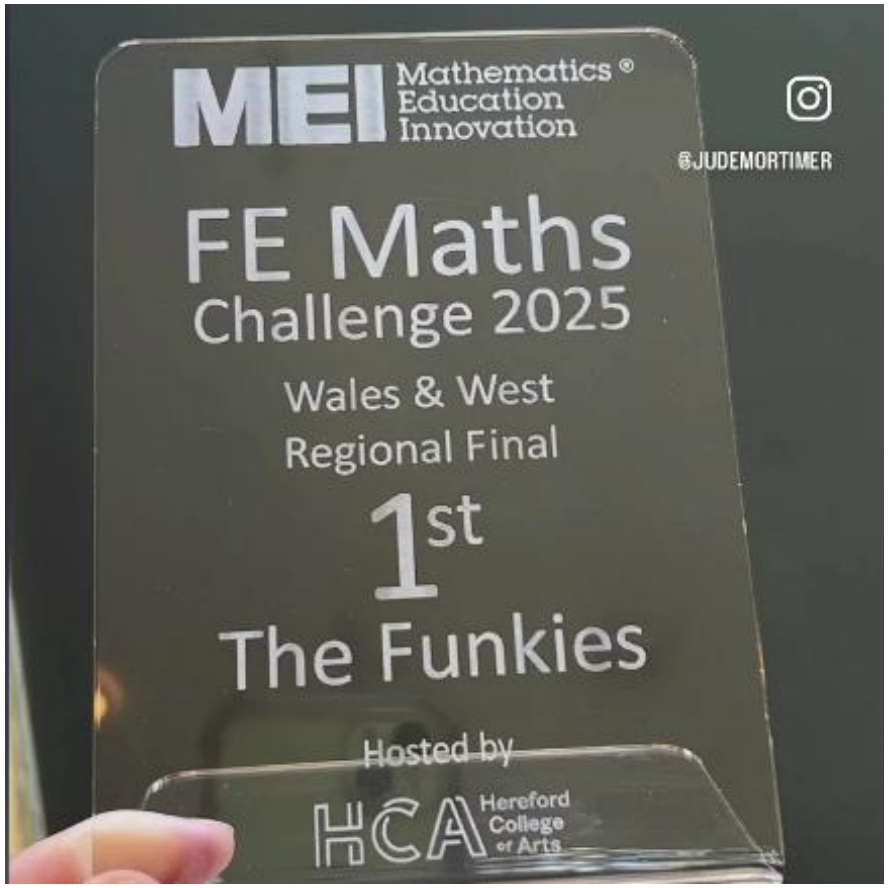
In action



MEI

The merch

Medals made in-house




Solihull College
& University Centre


MATHS
West & North

Sponsored by…

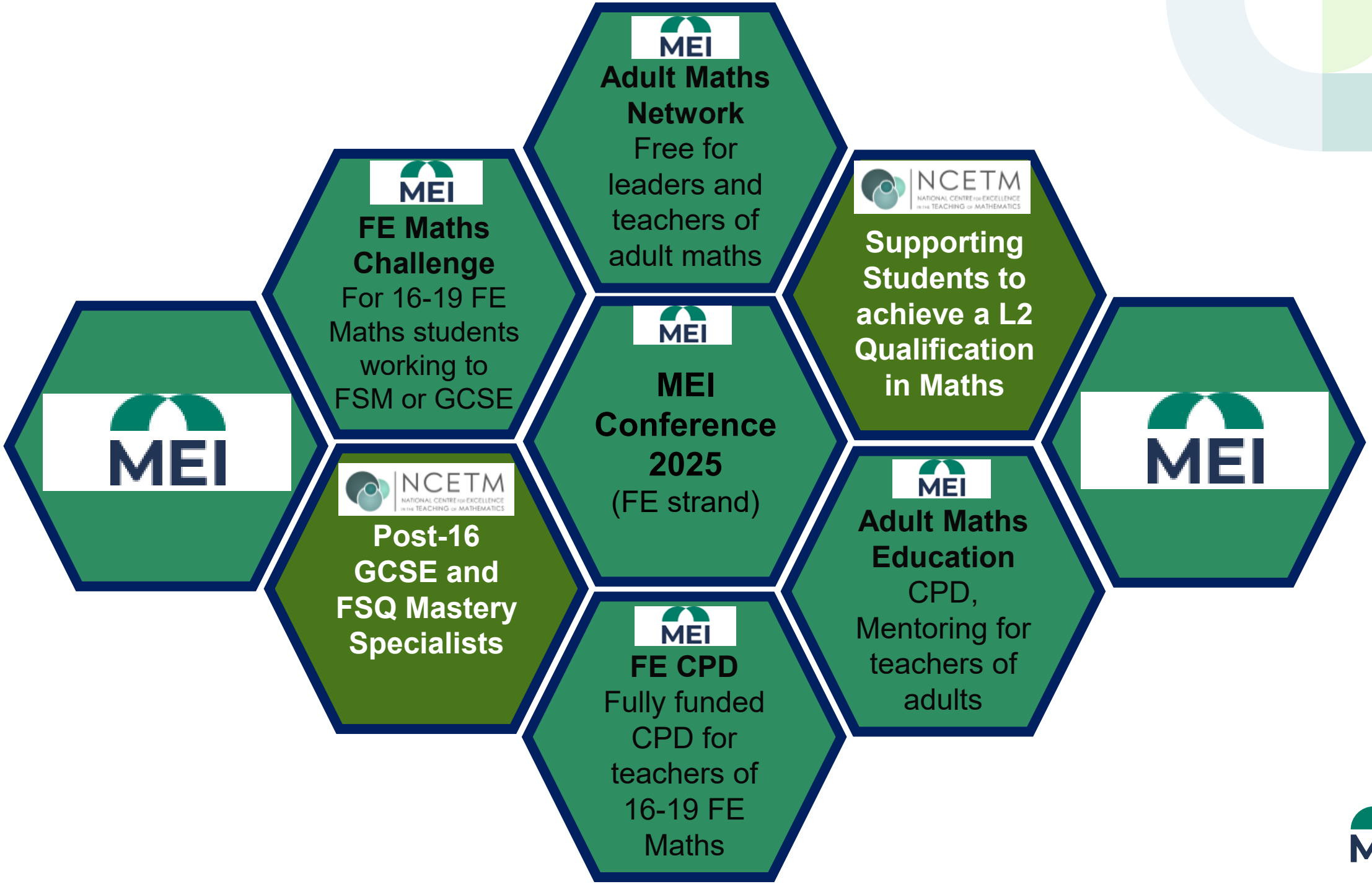
New Initiatives

1. National Final
2. Induction Lesson
3. Mini SoL
4. Extra practice kahoots and tarsia
5. National participation league

Aiming for 100 colleges and 50,000 students

FE Maths Challenge 2025 - 26

Register for the FE Maths Challenge 2025-26 here ….


MEI
Adult Maths Network
Free for leaders and teachers of adult maths
MEI
FE Maths Challenge
For 16-19 FE Maths students working to FSM or GCSE
NCETM
Supporting Students to achieve a L2 Qualification in Maths
MEI
MEI Conference 2025
(FE strand)
MEI
NCETM
Post-16 GCSE and FSQ Mastery Specialists
MEI
Adult Maths Education
CPD, Mentoring for teachers of adults
MEI
FE CPD
Fully funded CPD for teachers of 16-19 FE Maths
MEI
MEI