Danny Brown’s Activity Book Trial

Danny Brown delivered another exciting session for the ATM London branch which was full of thought provoking mathematics and intriguing activities to try in the classroom. He commenced the session by aligning the chairs in a row and playing a quick mental maths game to warm us all up on Saturday morning.

Next, we placed our chairs in a 3 by 3 grid. The aim of the game was for everyone to move one space away from our original seat (not diagonally). We could move as many times as we wanted but were restricted by horizontal and vertical movements only.

After a few minutes of maths teachers thinking, discussing and moving around in what was starting to look like a very strategic version of musical chairs, we began to question whether the task we had been given was possible. Eventually, we came up with our own solution which I will leave out for curiosity purposes and just leave the diagram below as a hint:

Danny then introduced his booklet on parity. This offers 26 different investigations and activities which employ oddness and evenness to solve and explore mathematical problems. The room was full of buzz as we worked in small groups on any problem we liked. We explored mathematics in numerous ways and then discussed our thoughts with the group.

The activities were all part of the book Danny is writing and it was exciting to be able to offer feedback that would help develop the booklet. As always, we all left the session feeling like we had done some proper mathematics in addition to being equipped with ideas for the mathematics classroom for any age group.

Kate Gladstone-Smith