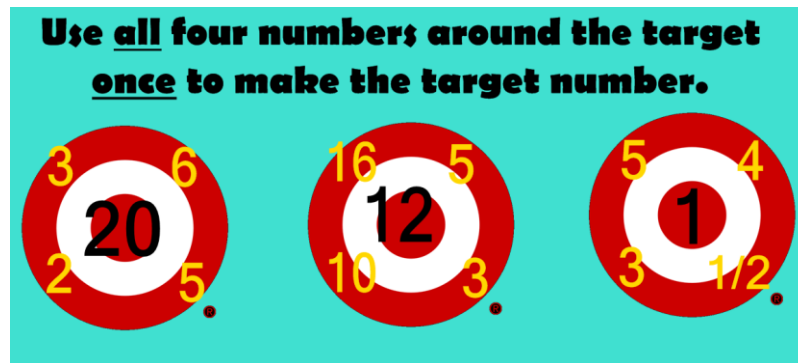


## The New National Curriculum for Mathematics

The first meeting of the year for the ATM London took place last Thursday. The session aimed to discuss and pick at the new National Curriculum which will first be examined in 2017.

Schemes of works in schools are having to be addressed to focus on fluency, problem solving and reasoning along with the new content that the curriculum introduces. Some nice ideas were shared to encourage this sort of thinking. For example, the starter below which I used the following day with a year 7, 10 and 11 class which went down well.



Although ideas to address new content and types of questions were happily shared, there was a feeling of the national curriculum "going round in circles" with Venn diagrams and quadratic sequences being put back in. Further to this, there was a lot of uncertainty regarding the new exams, grading system and grade boundaries. This new curriculum is claimed to be "tougher" to "catch up with the world's best" ( see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-23222068>), however concerns were expressed for students sitting the foundation paper. We were all in agreement that the specimen papers that go alongside the new NC offer good challenge to high attaining students - students you would expect to work towards a degree in mathematics. However, there are students where achieving a current grade E is a big achievement and there was little to no content to address their needs in the exams. The experience of taking an exam for some is bound to become completely demoralising. Leading on from this uncertainty was the talk of the new A-level mathematics which we currently know very little about.

A lot of the discussion concluded that teaching mathematics to students hasn't changed and with so much uncertainty regarding exams and grades it is important to stay focussed on teaching the subject of mathematics to students as soon as they join us at secondary school in year 7. If we do that well then we will have less to worry about when they reached year 11.

The dates for the rest of the ATM sessions will be confirmed shortly and will cover the following topics:

- No level assessment
- The new Foundation Paper
- Problem Solving Resources
- NC New topics
- Danny Session
- Bring your own whacking manipulative!

And don't forget to visit <http://www.londonmaths.org.uk/> for up to date details of the ATM London sessions