

CHALLENGES

FACING

MATHEMATICS

- A greater number of pupils remaining engaged with mathematics at school.
- More students reading mathematics or related courses at University.
- Ensuring adequate regional HE provision in maths.

Obstacles

- Lack of appreciation of relevance of maths coupled with failure to understand its value both in the economy and personally.
- Shortage of qualified, informed and motivated teachers.
- Frequent changes in the curriculum and in its assessment.
- Awarding Bodies!

- Apparently ‘more exciting’ courses in HE.
- Poor careers guidance.
- Departmental mergers and closures in HE.

...As demonstrated by...

- Newspaper articles (getting better?)
etc. Popular misconceptions.
- 24% of maths classes taught by teachers
without specialist qualification...and
this may be an underestimate.
- Functional Maths. Introduction of
Diplomas, two GCSE's (..just what
proportion of pupils will the second
one be available to?).

- Possible restructuring at 'A' level.
- Competition between AB's ...what is the effect?
- Business Information Technology, Disaster Management....
- Shortage of careers information, and seemingly few attempts by 'professionals' to find out where a maths degree might lead....

-together with the view that studying mathematics is only for the very best.
- Closures of small departments...but
Wolverhampton has restarted!

Actions by the Institute.

- School speaker scheme, bringing interesting maths into the classroom, and sometimes demonstrating possible career paths. MPU. School Affiliate Scheme.
- Support for the NCETM and local initiatives eg Bath. Chartered Maths Teacher. Trying to involve teachers in the 'community'.

- More Maths Grads.
- Responding to consultations and attending meetings at various bodies trying to make sense prevail. May not bring desired stability!
- CMS careers website, collaboration with Centre for Science Education at SHU on STEM careers promotion.
- CMS report

How members can help.

- The Institute *is* its members supported by the professional staff.
- Could you help with the school speaker scheme, or perhaps developing the Bath project or within MMG?
- Do you have particular expertise we could call on? Would you consider joining one of the committees at some time?

- **Don't hesitate to keep us informed!**