

MATHS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (MAP) WITH FUJITSU



**“FUJITSU VOLUNTEERS ARE A GIFT
WE’RE LUCKY TO HAVE”**

Preeti Devine, Head of Mathematics
Easthampstead Park Community School

What is the Maths Assistance Programme?

Fujitsu volunteers join year 11 in the classroom each week, they support maths lessons ahead of their GCSEs. Volunteers act as mentors for the students, supporting them throughout the lesson. Volunteers don't just give students the answers; they support, question and challenge students to work out the answer for themselves.

Why do you run this programme at your school?

We want to allow students to see what real life is like. Having Fujitsu volunteers in the classroom gives the students an additional role model to support them, and having an extra pair of hands is fantastic! We get the volunteers to explain what their job is when they first join us in the classroom – they're not a teacher or a parent, it's someone that's actually using this stuff in the real world!

What does it take to be a volunteer?

Our Fujitsu volunteers set a high standard; they really get the students to think! The volunteers support us for an hour a week and are really flexible, they enjoy the opportunity so much that they've even come along to presentation evenings to hand out students' GCSE certificates.

It's not all about the volunteer's experience of maths problems, Fujitsu staff help us to give students the skills they need to progress in maths, and all subjects really. They encourage students to focus on things like **problem solving**, **creativity** and **flexibility**, which will eventually support them in the workplace.

MRS DEVINE'S TOP TIPS FOR RUNNING THE MATHS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

Ensure **consistency**; this helps volunteers and teachers to plan their time properly
Provide a **toolkit** for volunteers with everything they might need; calculator, ruler, scrap paper, maths textbook etc
Build the **relationship** from the start; show the volunteers how school life really works, give the tour and explain the timetable
Make your volunteers feel part of the **team**, invite them to department lunches
Remember it's not all about the volunteer's ability in maths – **they bring much more than that to the classroom!**