

Jo Walters Trust – Maths Grant

Final Report from Aberdeen Science Centre, Maths Exhibit Refurbishment

Through Jo Walters Trust funding, we have been able to refurbish six of our old maths exhibits, making them fit for purpose again.

The refurbished exhibits include Nim, Pentominoes, Matchsticks and 3D noughts and crosses. These exhibits cover a range of maths concepts including counting, combinations, spatial awareness, measurement, and patterns.

The maths exhibits will all now have appropriate signage so visitors to the Science Centre know what to do at each activity station. They also now have all the working parts required to make the activity possible. We were also able to purchase some ratchet straps so we can now take all these maths exhibits to our community engagement outreach sessions, engaging even more children and young people with maths.



Engagement

The refurbished maths exhibits have been on rotation on the exhibition floor since November 2023, during this time over 19,000 visitors have had the opportunity to engage with them. This has included Nim, Matchsticks and Shaking Hands. The addition of these exhibits enhanced our Maths Week Scotland activities which took place December 2023 to January 2024 when we engaged with 5,586 people.



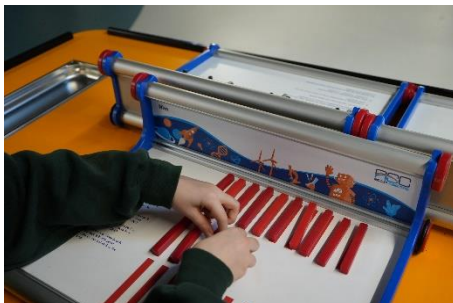
They have also travelled to two Brownie units during British Science Week 2024, engaging with 32 Brownies (aged 7-10), 3 young leaders and 7 adult leaders.

Due to the delay in getting the spare parts 3D printed the engagement numbers for the initial year are lower than expected as we never managed to take them to outreach events during the summer of 2023, however our plans for summer 2024 include taking the exhibits to Aberdeen Highland Games, Fife Family Fun Day and Newburgh Gala which will give an opportunity to engage with thousands of people.

Feedback

A selection of the comments relating to the exhibits whilst in the science centre and on outreach include:

"We had a great time as a family trying to work out the maths puzzles, the kids really got into playing with the sticks without knowing they were working on their maths and logic skills." - Parent, in reference to Nim.



"We are regular visitors to the science centre, having the additional exhibits are great as it gives the children something new to engage with – even better that they are learning whilst playing." – Parent.

"I've been to the science centre a few times, so I was excited that we were learning about science today. I sometimes think maths is boring but this was fun maths" – Lexi (9), Parkway Brownies



"I have borrowed a few boxes from the science centre in the past, but this was the first maths based one. I wasn't sure how the girls would find them, but they have loved challenging each other during Nim and 3D noughts & crosses." – Gwen, leader Scotstoun Brownies