

## **MATHAGONY AUNT® WENDY COUNTS ON FUN AT THE MALL AT CRIBBS CAUSEWAY**

Do you struggle dividing a restaurant bill amongst 10 people? Well help is at hand from the UK's Mathagony Aunt®, Wendy Fortescue-Hubbard, when she visits The Mall at Cribbs Causeway from 8th – 12th July with her new roadshow, Maths on the Menu – which aims to take the fear out of maths.

The event coincides with the launch of a new project which sees MathAgony Aunt Wendy hosting a series of maths workshops throughout Bristol

The project, funded by the Learning and Skills Council, aims to make maths more accessible through workshops held in 'real-life' locations, such as community centres, pubs and even people's kitchens and living rooms.

Wendy plans to recruit an army of 'MathAgony Aunts and Uncles' who will continue with the workshops around Bristol and hopes that the event at The Mall will help to publicise the project.

"There are so many people out there who can do maths but they just don't realise they can," says Wendy. "I want to switch them on by teaching it in a way that makes sense to them.

"Maths is magic, it has such power. I want to share that buzz. After all, it's part of our everyday lives, whether you're checking your supermarket receipt or calculating how long it will take you to drive somewhere. So rather than be afraid of it, it's better to learn some simple tips. You'll be surprised at how easy and fun it really is," says teacher Wendy.

As well as giving maths tips, the Maths on the Menu event features a variety of interactive games and puzzles, including Perfect Times, Wendy's successful online game ([www.perfect-times.co.uk](http://www.perfect-times.co.uk)) which collects people's reaction times to their nine times tables. There will also be twice-daily quizzes, with a total of £500 of Mall gift cheques to be won as prizes over the four days.

**-More-**

Wendy will be supported by a team of local Mathagony Aunts and Uncles who will be at The Mall to help visitors. Leading mathematicians will also be there to talk about their work and how it relates to everyday life.

A maths teacher for the past 15 years, Wendy lives in Swindon and has been devoting much of her time to developing alternative approaches to teaching the subject to both children and adults. Her talent for teaching and creativity was acknowledged when she was awarded a NESTA (National Endowment for Science, Technology and Arts) Fellowship in November 2001.

“I’ve always been searching for ways to make maths fun and accessible for pupils and for adults. But as a teacher, my responsibility was, quite obviously, to those students in my class. Here is an opportunity to help many more people, to take maths to the masses,” says Wendy.

**-ends-**

**Notes to editors:**

Wendy’s title as the nation’s Mathagony Aunt® comes from her weekly Mathagony column in the Times Educational Supplement, in which she answers questions from maths teachers across the UK. She has also appeared on the BBC Tomorrow’s World Roadshow.

The game which Wendy devised in 1995 has been used successfully by tens of thousands of learners of all ages and abilities throughout the UK and abroad to learn fluency of both multiplication and division tables.

The MathAgony Bristol project is being funded by the Learning and Skills Council and aims to create a network of mathsagony aunts and uncles across the city across the city to open up maths to the masses and dispel any fears through flexible, interactive, practical and enjoyable learning.

NESTA (the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts) was set up in 1998 by Act of Parliament to pioneer ways of supporting and promoting talent, innovation and creativity in science, technology and the arts. To find out more visit [www.nesta.org.uk](http://www.nesta.org.uk)

