

# Why maths?

We need maths to...

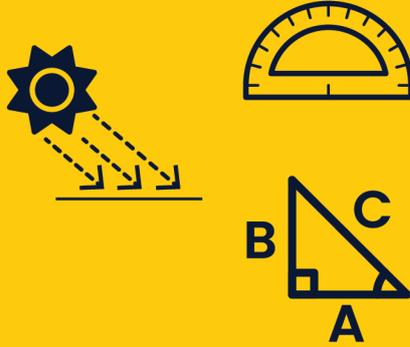
Describe



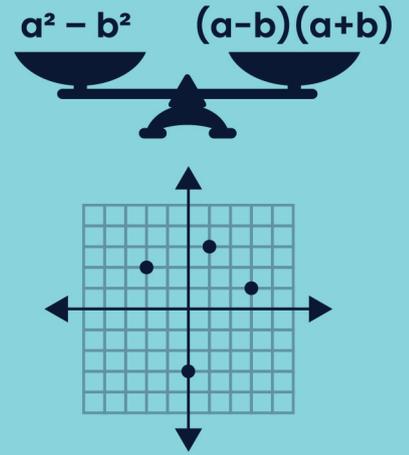
Make decisions



Measure



Show relationships



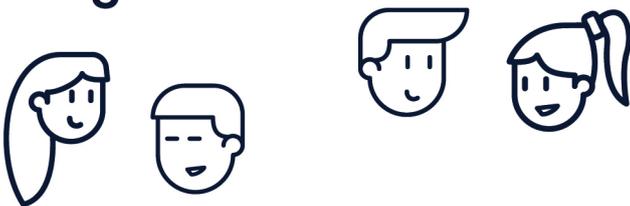
Hypothesise and predict



Solve problems



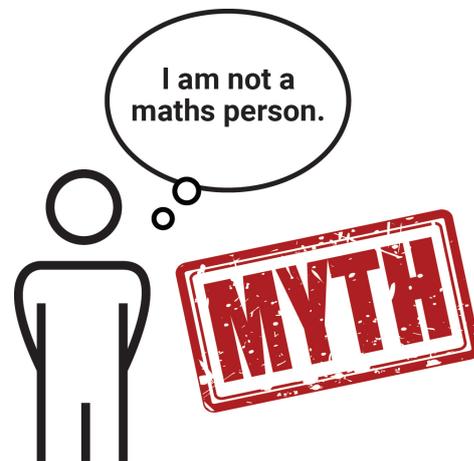
We discuss our world using maths



So, how should we talk about maths?



# How should we talk about maths?



There are a lot of myths that influence the way we talk about maths. For example:

- Myth 1: You're either "good" or "bad" at maths.
- Myth 2: You're either a "maths" person or a "language" person.
- Myth 3: If you don't know the answer right away, you're not good at maths.

These myths can encourage people to think about maths in a very rigid way. These myths are dangerous because they stop people from putting effort in to improve.



Persisting with maths in secondary school can help ensure your child has more career options in the future.

Positive maths attitudes help children persist with maths. We can help shape children's attitudes towards maths by talking about maths in a positive way in the home. Below are some tips to help; they may be things you are already doing:

- Encourage your child to keep trying in maths, even when they make mistakes. Making mistakes is a normal part of learning.
- Think about how we forgive mistakes in other areas: how can we treat maths mistakes in a similar way?
- Tell your child they have done a good job when they put effort into their maths learning.
- If your child asks for help while doing a maths problem but you don't know how to find the answer, tell them that! Discuss with your child who you could ask for help to find the answer. It is important that your child sees examples of people asking for help in maths and that not knowing the answer straight away is OK.

*Do you react to making a mistake in maths the same way that you do when you play sport or when you are doing something creative? Are you more likely to try again after making a mistake when playing sport or doing something creative? If so, why is maths different?*

*You don't need to know the answer to maths problems to be able to have a positive impact on your child's maths learning!*