At learning company Pearson, we believe in the power of maths and want to support maths teachers and learners with whatever comes their way.

Our **Power of Maths Stat-Shot series** highlights headline insights into different aspects of maths education based on the views of over 2,000 primary teachers and secondary maths teachers who took part in our Teacher Tapp survey in the 2020/21 academic year.

**Here's what teachers told us about perceptions of maths and some of the barriers to students feeling included and engaged in the subject...**

### Maths stereotypes and caricatures

Almost six in 10 (58%) **secondary maths teachers** believe that negative caricatures or stereotypes around mathematicians are impacting their students' interest in maths and/or maths careers.

Students who are disadvantaged, have **special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)**, or are **girls** are more likely to think that maths, and associated careers, are **not accessible or appealing**.

### Top three groups of students who are more likely to think that maths and associated careers are NOT accessible or appealing, according to teachers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disadvantaged</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEND</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In our Power of Maths Roundtable series, we asked a selection of students who they imagined when they thought of people who were good at maths. Here were some of their answers:

When I think of mathematicians or people who are really good at maths, I imagine them wearing big glasses, a long woollen coat and carrying a book in their hand.
Izzy – student

I think of a scientist who does weird things on a chalkboard. I also think of Archimedes!
Oliver – student

Einstein?
Sennen – student

The Pearson Power of Maths survey was carried out on 2,125 primary teachers and secondary maths teachers in October 2020 by polling organisation Teacher Tapp.

Top five things that would most help teachers to inspire students with the power of maths:

- **More positivity** about maths in popular culture
- **Greater access** to maths industries so pupils, teachers and parents can see real-life maths in action
- **More diverse role models** in maths
- **Greater promotion** of the ‘STEAM’ movement – i.e including the arts alongside science, technology, engineering and maths
- **Ideas to make maths more creative** in the classroom

Maths in popular culture

- **86%** of secondary maths teachers and **67%** of primary maths teachers think **more positivity** about maths in popular culture would help them to inspire students with the power of maths.
- **47%** of secondary maths teachers and **36%** of primary maths teachers also think **more diverse** role models in maths would inspire their students.