



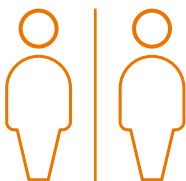
Power of Maths | Stat-Shot series


Perceptions, diversity and inclusion in maths

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.

Primary
Secondary

Group	Primary (%)	Secondary (%)
Disadvantaged	27%	44%
SEND	24%	32%
Girls	25%	27%

In our **Power of Maths Roundtable series**,

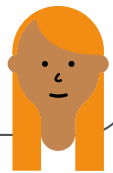
we asked a selection of students who they imagined when they thought of people who were good at maths

Here were some of their answers:



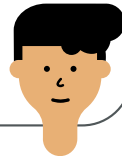
When I think of mathematicians or people who are really good at maths, I imagine them wearing big glasses, a long woolly coat and carrying a book in their hand.

Izzy – student



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

Oliver – student



Einstein?

Sennen – student



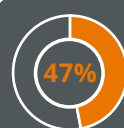
Maths in popular culture



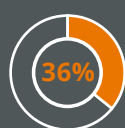
86% of **secondary maths teachers** and **67%** of **primary maths teachers**



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.



Top five things that would **most**

help teachers to inspire students



with the **power of maths**

75%

More positivity about maths in popular culture

55%

Greater access to maths industries so pupils, teachers and parents can see real-life maths in action

41%

More diverse role models in maths

38%

Greater promotion of the **'STEAM' movement** – i.e including the arts alongside science, technology, engineering and maths

34%

Ideas to make maths **more creative** in the classroom

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.



Here to support you

Visit our **webpage** for free guidance, podcasts, expert blogs and more.



Let us know what you're doing to champion greater diversity, inclusion and positivity in maths:

@PearsonSchools

#PowerOfMaths

Or join our **Power of Maths community**