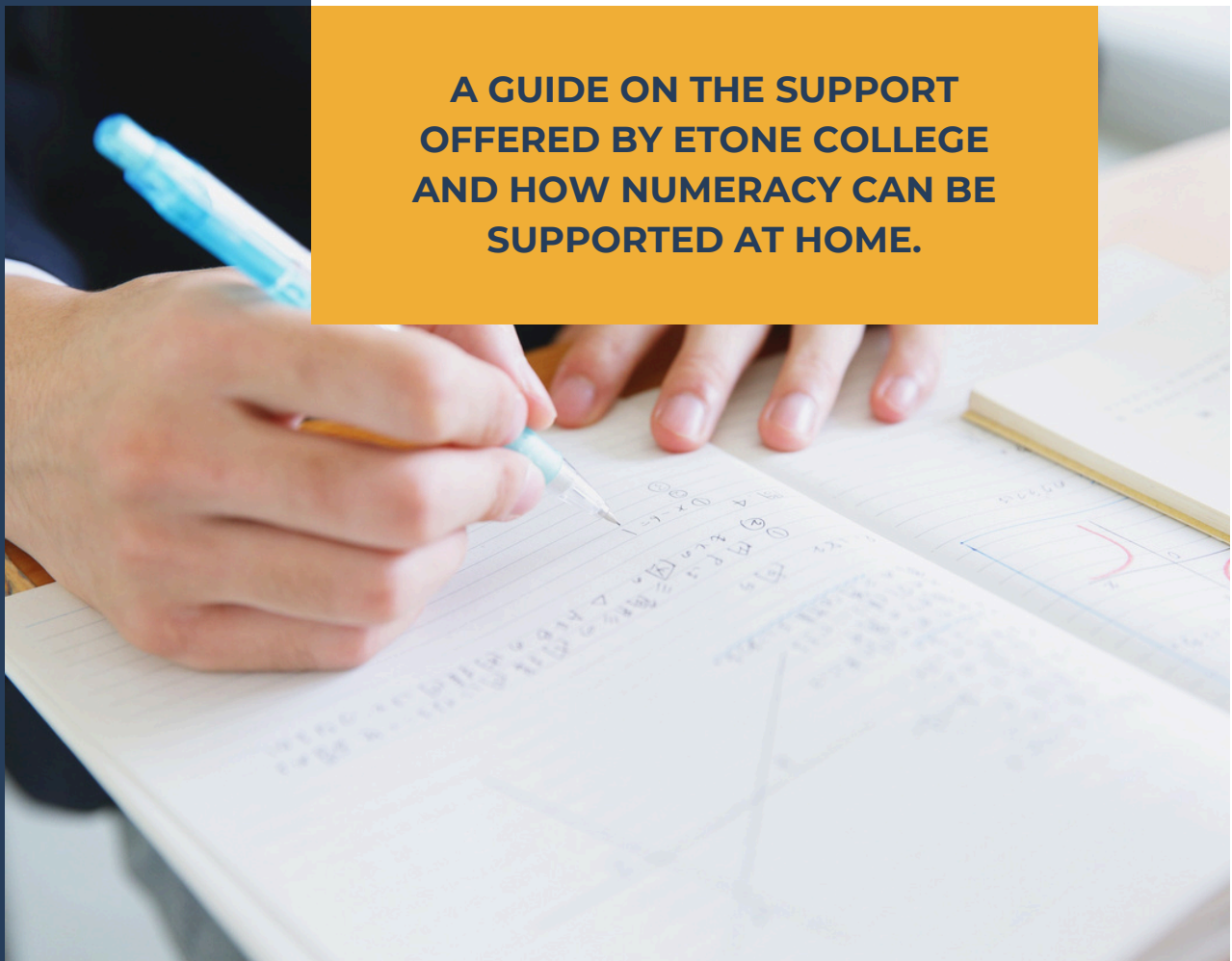




# NUMERACY AT ETONE COLLEGE

**A GUIDE ON THE SUPPORT  
OFFERED BY ETONE COLLEGE  
AND HOW NUMERACY CAN BE  
SUPPORTED AT HOME.**



## Why is Numeracy important?

Numeracy is not Maths, it is more accurate to describe Maths as a subject that uses Numeracy skills to answer more complex ideas. National Numeracy, a charity dedicated to everyday Maths, define the concept of Numeracy as:

“Numeracy is having the confidence to use basic maths at work and in everyday life.”

This means that Numeracy is simply about two concepts:

- Having basic Maths skills
- Feeling confident to use Maths skills in everyday life

From a practical perspective, Numeracy is therefore about being able to:

- Interpret data, charts and diagrams
- Process information
- Solve problems
- Check answers
- Understand and explain solutions
- Make decisions based on logical thinking and reasoning

Therefore, Numeracy helps us with day-to-day tasks, such as:

- Working out how many minutes until the train
- Increasing a recipe to serve extra, or fewer, guests
- Checking we have received the right change when shopping
- Working out how much to tip in a restaurant
- Setting and keeping to a budget
- Helping with homework
- Managing a diet and nutrition
- Measuring medicine doses
- Making sense of statistics and graphs in the news

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF), a charity focusing on improving teaching and learning through the better use of evidence, provides guidance detailing clear strategies on how to improve mathematics within Key Stages 2 and 3, allowing for a focus on Years 7 to 9 at secondary school and their transition:

1. Use assessment to build on pupils' existing knowledge and understanding.
2. Use manipulatives and representations.
3. Teach pupils strategies for solving problems.
4. Enable pupils to develop a rich network of mathematical knowledge.
5. Develop pupils' independence and motivation.
6. Use tasks and resources to challenge and support pupils' mathematics.
7. Use structured interventions to provide additional support.
8. Support pupils to make a successful transition between primary and secondary school.

## What does Etone College do to support Numeracy?

At Etone College, Numeracy is supported through several different initiatives and programmes;

### Form Time Activities

Key Stage 3 pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 take part in the Numeracy Ninjas activity during form time. This is a Numeracy programme which supports pupils in developing fluency with Numeracy skills, such as mental maths strategies, timestables and general key skills, that are prerequisites for success in their studies across the curriculum.

Each week, pupils have 5 minutes to answer 30 questions; 10 for each of the topics of mental strategies, timestables and key skills. Their score correlates to a ninja belt ranking that they aim to improve week to week as they try to become the Numeracy Grand Master. The consistent application of these skills helps to improve confidence with the skills that underpin the curriculum.

### Numeracy Pairs

This programme sees pupil leaders from Year 10 and Year 12 supporting Key Stage 3 students with their Numeracy skills. The Key Stage 3 pupils work through Numeracy questions, with the pupil leaders marking their work and guiding them on areas for development if required.



### Monthly Competitions

Every month, Etone College provides the pupils an opportunity to take part in a themed Numeracy activity. These activities are not only themed around a particular Numeracy topic, but also around a relevant event for that month, such as a Star Wars activity for May (May the fourth be with you) or a LEGO activity for January (International LEGO Day). All completed entries are marked and then the top scorers have the chance of winning a suitably themed prize.

Numeracy Calendar of Events			
September	October	November	December
<b>Harry Potter</b> Celebrated on 2 <sup>nd</sup> May, Etone College celebrate Harry Potter Day in September to coincide with the Harry Potter Science Unit. 	<b>Ada Lovelace Day</b> A famous Mathematician, Ada Lovelace Day is celebrated every October, recognising her contributions to STEM. 	<b>Bonfire Night</b> Celebrated on 5 <sup>th</sup> November, learn about the history of Bonfire Night and the Numeracy that's involved. 	<b>Winter Solstice</b> Celebrated on either the 21 <sup>st</sup> or 22 <sup>nd</sup> December each year, the Summer Solstice is when the sun is at its furthest south in the Southern Hemisphere. 
January	February	March	April
<b>International Lego Day</b> Celebrated on 28 <sup>th</sup> January, International Lego Day celebrates the first patent of the Lego brick. Explore the Numeracy involved. 	<b>Pokemon Day</b> Celebrated on 26 <sup>th</sup> February, Etone College are trying to 'catch 'em all' as Pokemon are naming the halls with Numeracy puzzles to solve. 	<b>Pi Day</b> Celebrated on 14 <sup>th</sup> March each year, or 3.14 in the USA, Pi Day is a celebration of its discovery and application to the world. 	<b>National Superhero Day</b> Celebrated on 26 <sup>th</sup> April, National Superhero Day is the chance to create a Numeracy themed superhero. What will their superpower be? 
May	June	July	August
<b>Star Wars Day</b> Celebrated on 4 <sup>th</sup> May, join Etone College as they celebrate Star Wars Day. Solve the picture puzzles with famous Star Wars characters. 	<b>Wimbledon</b> A highlight of the sporting calendar, Wimbledon, the only grass court Grand Slam tennis tournament, starts in the last week of June and finishes in July. 	<b>The Moon Landing</b> The first moon landing happened on 20 <sup>th</sup> July 1969. Join Etone College as they explore some Numeracy related facts and puzzles. 	<b>Battle of Bosworth</b> The last significant battle of the War of the Roses is marked on 22 <sup>nd</sup> August, explore some of the Numeracy involved in a day that changed Britain. 

### Employability Skills

Numeracy is one of the eight employability skills that are central to the curriculum at Etone College. Every subject awards Numeracy skills and associated House Points for pupils who demonstrate these skills.



## What can you do to support Numeracy?

National Numeracy offer the following tips for supporting children with feeling confident with Numeracy and Maths:

- **Talk positively about Maths.** Children learn from example, so avoid saying things like “I can’t do Maths” or “I hated Maths at school.” Keeping things positive is more likely to help children develop confidence with Maths. Instead use terms like “This problem is challenging, but we can figure it out together” or “Let’s break this down into smaller steps”.
- **Point out the Maths in everyday life.** Maths is all around us – it is not just something that happens in school. Showing children the numbers in things like cooking by seeing how much something weighs or using money by working out how much change you should get are simple ways to bring Maths to life. This will help children see the value of learning Maths.
- **Praise children for effort rather than talent.** Giving children praise is important, but the type of praise we use can have an impact on how they feel about Maths. Praising children for the hard work they have put in, or for working out the steps to get to an answer, is more helpful than simply telling them that they are clever. It helps them see that it is not about natural ability – but that by working hard they can always improve.

Remember that adults do not have to be Maths experts themselves. Maths abilities are a product of nurture and not nature. Helping support the children in your care, will help to improve your own confidence with numbers.

### Five top tips to for parents and carers supporting children:

1. Ability is not fixed; everyone can improve.
2. Maths used in the real world is different from the Maths we learned at school.
3. Not having a GCSE in Maths does not mean that you are bad at Maths.
4. Maths is used after school and our school performance is not an accurate reflection of our own Maths ability, as we use numbers in our day-to-day life.
5. You are not alone if you feel anxious or stressed when faced with Maths – it is more common that you may realise.

### For further help, support and guidance with Numeracy:

**Dr Frost Learning** – [www.drfrust.org](http://www.drfrust.org)

An online learning platform used by the Eton College Maths Department for homework and revision that provides video tutorials and practice questions with immediate feedback, as well as a points system to track progress for schoolwork and independent practice.

**Corbettmaths** – [corbettmaths.com](http://corbettmaths.com)

A Maths resource website that provides video tutorials and a collection of questions covering multiple topics.

**Oak National Academy** – [thenational.academy](http://thenational.academy)

An independent public body, working in partnership to improve pupil outcomes by supporting teachers to teach, and enabling pupils to access, a high-quality curriculum.

**National Numeracy** – [www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk](http://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk)

A Maths charity that looks to support individuals with the understanding and application of everyday Maths.

*All information adapted from:*

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2025/05/national-numeracy-day-2025-top-tips-for-helping-children-feel-more-confident-with-maths/>

<https://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/>

[https://www.sslcourses.co.uk/news/maths\\_vs\\_numeracy/](https://www.sslcourses.co.uk/news/maths_vs_numeracy/)

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/>