

## **‘Interview with Simon Mazumder: Recruiting for TGM courses**

Altrincham Grammar School for Girls has hosted MEI’s Teaching GCSE Mathematics (TGM) course every year since September 2012. Back then Simon Mazumder was the Head of Mathematics. Nowadays Altrincham Grammar School for Girls is part of the Bright Futures Education Trust and lead school for the North West 1 Maths Hub. Simon is now the NW1 Maths Hub Lead as well as a Maths SLE and a Core Maths lead.

In September 2016, MEI’s Debbie Barker interviewed Simon about how he sees the role of TGM in the local professional development landscape and how he has continued to successfully recruit for the TGM course hosted each year at this venue.

### **Local context**

Simon started the interview by describing the local situation in terms of professional development providers. He explained that local organisations have an open and collaborative outlook. Simon sees the Maths Hubs as having an important role to play in facilitating schools, colleges and other establishments in working together cooperatively. For example, both Manchester Metropolitan University and Manchester University are partners in current Maths Hub projects. In this way, Simon aspires for the Maths Hub to have a clear and up-to-date picture of both local professional development needs and opportunities, rather than the Maths Hub lead school being a sole provider of professional development. He views key aspects of his role, as the Maths Hub Lead Teacher, as identifying gaps in provision and putting the right people in touch with each other.

### **Use of networks**

As for many Maths Hub Leads, Simon divides his time between several roles. As well as being the lead teacher for the NW1 Maths Hub, Simon is an SLE, supporting schools in the Greater Manchester area, and has participated in various projects with the Open University, Manchester University, Manchester Metropolitan University and the NCETM. These roles complement and inform each other, and have helped Simon to develop a rich network of mutually beneficial relationships that he can draw on when needed to support his work in widening opportunities for teachers and their students.

### **Proactive recruitment**

Simon’s network of contacts means he is well-placed to promote TGM when it opens for recruitment. He knows which departments have a high proportion of non-specialists looking for support, and which head teachers and principals are prioritising retention of mathematics teachers. Through involvement with local teacher training routes he knows who to contact in terms of offering support to trainees and NQTs. Simon’s investment in developing and maintaining his network and local knowledge pay off with consistently high uptake of TGM, helping to ensure teachers in local schools make the most of the professional development opportunities available to them.