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The Maths café at Brunel: year-long experience of effective maths support and assistance for students

Day 1 – Parallel I (12.00-12.30)

At Brunel University maths, numeracy and stats provision takes the form of small group workshops, drop-in, one-to-one sessions and revision sessions during the Headstart and Effective Learning weeks. Moreover, just before the end-of-year exam periods, the Maths Café has been extremely popular for the past six years. This talk will explore the ideas behind the setting up and running of the Maths Café, an overview of this form of student assistance and provide feedback from staff and students on the operation over these past few years. It is important to consider the costs and benefits, and to try to evaluate the effects on building students' confidence, the failure rate and retention of such provision and its possible future development given the changing face of the student population and the views of the various stakeholders in HE. It will be of interest to anyone who is considering how to engage and effectively support students from a wide variety of different backgrounds and with different levels of ability during their studies at the university.