# Reflections on setting up a sigma supported centre

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## What I wish I had known!\*

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# Background

- Established March 2012
- Drop-in Centre model
- Open afternoons term time
- Aligned with wider institutional developments – Curriculum Review & Academic Skills Centre
- Transition focused open to all
- 'Owned' & led by College of EPS
- Substantial School of Mathematics involvement
- Staffed by PGTAs











# Engagement to date

- Initial 'on the road' support:
  - Main & supplementary exams (2012): 64 visits
- Drop-in Centre:
  - 2012/13: 501 visits (163 students)
  - 2013/14: 344 visits (178 students)
  - Visits up 70% in 2013/14 compared to same period in 2012/13





#### **Evaluation**

- "I have grown in confidence since attending the Support Centre": 77%
- "My mathematical skill has improved since attending the Support Centre": 82%
- "The maths centre has helped me for my final exams"
- "I have learned a lot of new maths method[s] in the maths support centre and it really helped me to improve my maths skills. I did not study A-level maths...."





- 1. Delivery of interim provision
- 2. Drop-in support provision available
- 3. Online support portal available
- 4. Bookable statistics support
- 5. Electronic delivery and resources
- 6. Impact upon institutional practices





### Points to consider

- 1. Be clear of your 'target audience' what support do you need/can provide?
- Academic 'buy in' what links/interaction with academic schools?
- 3. Delivery model who, when and how?
- 4. Tutors be selective. Provide training and mentoring





#### Points to consider

- Administrative support handling tutor payments, scheduling, data capture
- 6. Think about the future can you expand?
- 7. Getting started begin early. Lead-in time can be significant
- 8. Get some activity underway as soon as possible.





#### Points to consider

- 9. Raising awareness takes time: Staff and students. Development of promotional materials & website, developing a visible profile, the role of students as ambassadors
- 10. Provide stakeholder reports and updates
- 11. Senior level-buy is essential: Role of an institutional champion
- 12. Mainstreaming: Embedding your Centre as part of institutional practice/business





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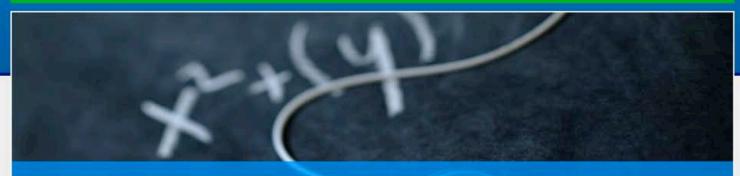
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## **Questions & Discussion**

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