Functional Skills Maths Introduction Day

Functional skills maths covers entry level 3, level 1 and level 2 qualifications. The exam board that we use is Pearson Edexcel. There is one exam, which has a non-calculator and calculator part.

The first thing we are going to do is look at our past experiences in maths, whether this is at school or another provision.

Think back to the last time you did maths in an educational setting. Was it a good experience? Did you enjoy it? If you did enjoy it what was it that made it enjoyable?

Write down 2 good things you can remember. It could be a teacher or LSA, some projects, games or tasks you completed, anything at all.

Now the bit you might find easier. I would like to write down 2 things that you disliked about maths. 'I hate maths' is not an acceptable answer. Nor is 'it's boring!' Please try to be specific. If you hate maths, why do you hate it?

Next I would like you to think about your own ability in maths. What things do you think you are good at? You are not allowed to say 'nothing'. Whether you believe it or not there will be some maths skills that are your strengths. This could be being good with money, knowing and understanding shapes or you might be good at graphs and charts. There will be something. Write down at least 1 thing. If you have more than one, that's fine, write them all down.

Next give me an example of something in maths that you think you are bad at. You are not allowed to write 'everything!' Make it specific. Some examples might be division, fractions, ratio, times tables. I have given these examples as these are the most common areas that people struggle with but if there are other things, write them down as well.

Final Bit. I would like you to work on your maths vocabulary. The written questions in the exams use lots of different words that mean the same thing so I would like you to find different words that could be used instead for these maths operations:

Addition;

Subtraction;

Multiplication;

Division;

And Equals.

Find as many different ones as you can.

Extension task:

Write down as many sums as you can that give you 30 as the answer, using these 9 numbers

1, 2, 4, 5. 10. 11, 7 ,8, 3

I.e. 3 x 10 =30. You can be as simple or as fancy as you like. You can only use each number once in each sum, but you can use it again in another sum.