

ONE-TWO-THREE...MATHS PLUS DANCE = LEARNING



Students have taken part in a maths session with a difference. **SARAH FOSTER** finds out more.

Dancing and maths might not sound like they belong with each other. But students from across the area have been putting the two together.

More than 100 pupils took part in an innovative new educational programme designed to help them get to grips with maths through contemporary dance.

A workshop took place at The Atrium in North Harbour, Portsmouth, called Maths and Dance, Give it a Chance.

Learning about equations, trigonometry and algebra through taking part in dance workshops may seem an unorthodox method of teaching, but for these year 10 girls it was a new approach that had a dramatic effect.

'The combination of maths and dance might seem very bizarre, however, when you start to look closely at dance, mathematical concepts are inherent; for example use of shape, ordering of movement, and the use of parallel lines,' says Caroline Bintley, Director of Dance at Brune Park School, Gosport.

The one-day workshop, which culminated in an evening performance for family and friends, was supported by the Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Education Business Partnership.



Year 10 students from Brune Park Community College, Brookfield Community College, Bridgemary Community Sports College, Cams Hill School, Henry Cort Community College and Portchester Community School with Caroline Bintley, Director of Dance at Brune Park Community College, Suzanne Lewis, Project Co-ordinator of the EBP and Andy Grice, Director of Maths at Brune Park Community College

'We loved the concept of something really original and groundbreaking,' adds Suzanne Lewis, Project Co-ordinator for the EBP.

'It was just one of those things we simply had to get involved in.'

Girls from different schools were divided into groups of 10, each with

a dance tutor from Brune Park's year 11 pupils who had finished their final exams and come back for the day.

'Maths may be seen by some as a very dry, academic subject,' says Andy Grice, director of maths at Brune Park.

'Anything that can make students see the subject in a different way, feed their motivation and inspire them to learn is a very powerful teaching tool.'

Future events are being planned for later in the year to keep the movement going.