



**THIRD SPACE
LEARNING**

Press release - Monday 2nd November 2020

National Tutoring Programme appoints Third Space Learning to provide subsidised maths support to disadvantaged children

Third Space Learning, the UK's largest online maths tutoring provider for schools, has announced it has been selected by the National Tutoring Programme to provide essential maths support to disadvantaged children across England as an approved Tuition Partner. From today, state maintained primary and secondary schools can access Third Space Learning's subsidised maths tutoring support, funded as part of the government's £350 million allocation to tutoring.

Third Space Learning works closely with schools to provide online tuition from professional tutors to children who are struggling with maths. Since launching in 2013, the company has delivered over 800,000 online maths lessons to more than 66,000 children in 2,300 schools across the UK.

Tom Hooper, Founder and CEO of Third Space Learning said: "Recent research* suggests that the social attainment gap is widening, particularly in maths, with children from poor backgrounds falling further behind than their peers. We've found that our model for online tutoring helps children to make significant progress in maths, often as much as seven months in just 14 weeks**. More than half of the children we support come from disadvantaged backgrounds and working with the National Tutoring Programme will enable us to extend this to many more. We are delighted to have been appointed."

To help close the maths attainment gap, Third Space Learning has pioneered a tutoring model which recruits graduates and undergraduates from across the world. This improves access to specialist one-to-one tuition so that schools can provide greater support to those disadvantaged children who are struggling with maths.

Third Space Learning tutors are all graduates and undergraduates who undertake a rigorous training programme covering subject knowledge, online tutoring guidelines and safeguarding policies. They are all vetted and meet the highest safeguarding standards, before joining one of the largest online communities of expert maths tutors.

"The progress made by the children since receiving Third Space sessions has been superb with children accelerating their progress and now closing the attainment gap, closer to desired outcomes."

- Daniel Nelson, Headteacher, Choppington Primary School, Northumberland



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“We have been using Third Space Learning in our Trust for many years now, introducing our school families to it as they join us. We tend to use it in Year 5 and Year 6, to meet the needs of individual cohorts. Why we like it is simple- it provides a bespoke additional diet of maths for our pupils. The children log on and meet with a personal tutor who teaches them individually, going at their pace, reinforcing learning that needs developing and allowing the pupils to ask questions, practise and perfect. At the end of the session the class teachers access an individualised report, detailing progress and next steps. This makes for continuity in the class learning and adaptations to planning being enabled.”

- Debbie King, Lead Practitioner, Extol Academy Trust

Third Space Learning’s sophisticated virtual classroom allows pupils to talk to their dedicated tutor through a shared screen and audio headset, including personalised online lesson plans to align with core curriculum concepts and classroom learning. Online delivery also means that if schools are partially closed, or a child needs to stay off school, their maths learning can continue and not be disrupted.

Rose Luckin, Professor of Learner Centred Design at UCL said: “We need new thinking and clever technology to address the huge educational challenges the pandemic has presented. Third Space Learning’s innovative and research-informed approach to widening access to one-to-one maths tuition is a great example of this. It is excellent news for schools and children that Third Space Learning is a part of this national initiative.”

Schools can learn more about Third Space Learning’s subsidised spaces by visiting:

<https://thirdspacelearning.com/national-tutoring-programme/>

ENDS

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Notes to editors

Third Space Learning is the UK’s largest online maths tutoring company for schools. Founded by Tom Hooper in 2013, their online one to one maths tuition programmes have supported 66,446 pupils across 2,288 schools. Over 55% of the pupils they work with are eligible for free school meals.



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Over the last 7 years, their community of specialist maths tutors have delivered 810,661 online one-to-one lessons in their interactive virtual classroom.

Third Space Learning uses intelligent adaptive diagnostic assessment to pinpoint each pupil's individual maths knowledge gaps as they progress throughout the programme. Lessons are chosen specifically to plug these gaps, with tutors adapting the pitch and pace of each lesson to suit each pupil.

As well as the impact on pupil progress and attainment, Third Space Learning also helps to build confidence with almost three quarters of pupils reporting their confidence in maths had increased.

References

*<https://www.tes.com/news/coronavirus-maths-will-see-widest-covid-attainment-gap>

**In a small independent trial with Rising Stars, pupils receiving one to one support from Third Space Learning made 7 months' progress in 14 weeks.

The National Tutoring Programme - Despite the considerable efforts of schools to support remote learning over the past months, many pupils will have fallen significantly behind in their learning. These pupils are more likely to be drawn from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds meaning the gap in attainment between this group and their classmates could almost certainly have widened. The National Tutoring Programme is using government funding to subsidise the cost of extra tuition for schools.

Updated in March 2021 to clarify the recruitment and training of undergraduates as well as graduates.