

# A day at the races ...

A group of 25 KS3 students (chosen for showing high levels of effort and commitment in maths) were given the opportunity to experience maths in the real world by visiting Newton Abbot racecourse to spend a day at the races! Organised through the British Horseracing Education and Standards Trust, the *Racing to School* programme is delivered across Great Britain at racecourses and trainers' yards and offers a practical and lively approach to enrich students' experience of maths and to open minds to the many different career opportunities it can lead to.

Students were excited to see how they could improve their own skills in the real world. Students were given their own jockey jackets to wear for the whole day and some even wore

colours that belonged to Princes and Knights! Once looking the part, the group were given unrestricted access to the entire racecourse and it was time to put their maths skills into action. The morning consisted of a tour around the paddock area as the students were asked to estimate, measure and calculate the average distances the horses have to parade before the actual races begin.

Then it was off to the weighing room where the jockeys' weights are carefully analysed before each race. Converting measures between imperial and metric units meant the students were again able to put their maths skills to the test. Some were even brave enough to assess their potential to be jockeys on the massive weighing scales!



The best thing was probably measuring the parade ring ...

learning how to use the trundle wheel like an engineer.



# ... for KEVICC Maths students

I would love to go again ...!

It was fun to find out how Maths is used outside school, and we learned how to measure fences with the trundle wheel.



After a morning of maths in the yard, students were given access to the jockeys' room, where they interacted with the jockeys – who were more than happy to discuss their experiences on the track. Students were in the company of champion jockey Richard Johnson and were amazed that another jockey they met had won nearly 1000 races!

They began the afternoon in one of the VIP boxes and then it was off to the track, firstly to become horses as they galloped up the finishing straight towards the fences and then examining the maths behind their track design. Back inside the VIP area,

students were exposed to the meaning of the race card, finding out how to work out which horse is most likely to win and what handicaps are put in place when horses are just too good! To finish, our students were treated to the live action of 2-horse races, as they tried to understand what all the odds meant and how to determine the probability of winning a fortune!

The day was a huge success and the Maths Department are hoping to run regular visits such as *Racing to School*, and other enrichment activities, for students who show a commitment to the subject and a desire to apply their skills in the real world.