

# The UnLocke Project: Learning counter-intuitive concepts in primary maths and science

## STOP AND THINK!

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019

13.45 to 15.45

**Exeter Mathematics School**

Rougemont House, Castle St, Exeter EX4 3PU - parking available in city centre car parks

**Professor Denis Mareschal (Birkbeck College University of London), Principal Investigator of the UnLocke project**

**Professor Derek Bell (Learnus) Co-investigator of UnLockeProject**

Children (and adults) often find learning counter-intuitive concepts difficult. This is particularly so in maths and science. Educational neuroscience research indicates that in order to learn these concepts successfully children need to be able to inhibit their intuitive, pre-existing ideas. This workshop will outline the outcomes the UnLocke Project, a random-controlled trial funded by EEF and based on the research into how the brain works. In particular it will:

- outline the findings that demonstrate the Stop and Think software activities had an **impact on children's learning showing "the equivalent of one additional months' progress in maths and two additional months' progress in science, on average"**
- reflect on teachers views that "Stop and Think had a positive impact on the mathematical and science abilities of the pupils in their class" and 'It allowed me to develop my understanding of how the children in my class learn and to analyse what they know, how clearly they understand concepts and to identify misconceptions that some/most or all children in my class have'<sup>1</sup>.
- discuss potential implications for teaching strategies in maths and science.

**The workshop is free to all teachers but you are asked to register for a place by emailing: Dr Ruth Trundley at [Ruth.Trundley@babcockinternational.com](mailto:Ruth.Trundley@babcockinternational.com), giving your name, role and school by 13 December 2019.**

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<sup>1</sup> Quotes are from the UnLocke Evaluation Report published September 2019 at: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/projects-and-evaluation/projects/learning-counterintuitive-concepts/>