MATHS LANGUAGE

It’s easy to get confused and put off by the ‘language of maths’ but it’s worth remembering that every area in work and life has its own special language and vocabulary:

- How about football – backheel, booked, offside, marked, reverse pass, marker
- How about golf – birdie, par, divot, wedge, iron, tee
- How about construction – plate, first fit, second fit, oversite, fletton
- How about sewing – baste, running hem, overlap, bias, back stitch, tack
- How about catering – barista, brulée, au gratin, baste (not the same as for sewing!), sauté

It’s a never-ending list – think of your own work and interests and consider the vocabulary you use.

Here’s something worth doing:

Buy yourself a maths dictionary

There are plenty to choose from and the ones aimed at schools are often the best. Have a flick through before you buy. Ones with pictures and examples will be the most help. You may never use some of it but it will be there for you to refer to.

We all know that the best way to learn a language is to speak it. The more you use maths terms, or check them out when you don’t know them, the more confident you’ll get. It won’t be long before you can ‘get by’ or even become ‘fluent’ in maths speak!
Some financial terms

There are many terms that are always cropping up in the news, the papers and in advertising. Here are a couple of them:

The **official bank rate** is the interest rate charged by the Bank of England on money it lends and it is set by the Monetary Policy Committee. All other interest rates are based on it but are not necessarily the same as it.

**Fixed-rate interest** means just what it says. The interest rate offered will stay the same over the period of time of the contract. It allows you to work out exactly what a loan would cost you or how much you would earn if you are investing money. But you have to judge whether it's a good rate to go for.

**Variable-rate interest** means just what it says too. If you have a variable-rate mortgage for example, your repayments will go down if the bank interest rate goes down but they will also go up if bank rate goes up. In this case you don't know what your liability may be in the future.

It's a complex world and it's important to be sure what you are doing.

**Always** check out any financial terms before committing yourself to buying financial products such as investments, mortgages, insurances or pensions.

**Always** make sure you know how much something will cost you in total if you buy it over a period of time.