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How to get students excited about maths?

Now we're discussing maths wars, and how to engage students in the subject.

Greg Ashman, the head of mathematics at Ballarat Clarendon College is arguing students need to have the tools to be good at maths to make them excited about it.

“If they're good at maths, and they think they're good at maths, then they'll be more motivated to do maths.”



The Maths Wars panel (left to right): Greg Ashman, deputy principal and head of research at Ballarat Clarendon College; Alfred Deakin Professor Russell Tytler, Dr Karen McMullen, learning leader of mathematics at Kilbreda College. Moderated by Madeleine Heffernan, Education Reporter of *The Age*. *CREDIT: JOE ARMAO*

Dr Karen McMullen, learning leader of mathematics, Kilbreda College said she was building up basic skills for students she teaches in grade seven who have

had two years of remote learning and may have forgotten things that were not relevant while studying online only - such as that they may need to turn a page over.

She goes on to say: "I think students need to be active participants in their learning. You don't want them to be passive and continually tell them what to do. So if you can give them explicit teaching, and give them the skills, which I think are extremely helpful, then you can see what they can do because they've probably got passions that you know nothing about, and it's an opportunity for them to showcase that."