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MATHEMATICIANS ENCOURAGED TO HELP GCHQ STAY AHEAD OF THE GAME

GCHQ, in conjunction with Bristol University, is enlisting the help of the brightest minds to help stay at the forefront of mathematical understanding.

GCHQ, working with Bristol University, is to establish a new maths institute to carry out a theoretical research programme into key areas of mathematics of interest to GCHQ. A small team of high calibre academics will be engaged on research which will help GCHQ keep pace with the latest thinking in mathematics.

A GCHQ spokesman said: "Although we have many first-rate scientists and technologists 'in house' working to protect the security of the UK and its allies, we also have many long-standing relationships with their counterparts in academia. This new partnership presents the opportunity to encourage some of the best minds to help the UK retain its place at the forefront of mathematical understanding by adding to the overall pot of resources available for mathematical research and university teaching."

Adrian Smith, the Principal of Queen Mary College, London who has recently conducted an inquiry into maths education in the UK, felt that the new initiative: "could lead to a greater number of interesting jobs for young pure mathematicians and provide more ways of keeping them in the system."

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