Roles

Facilitator
Make sure that the task is clear to everyone, that the group is working together towards the agreed goals, and that everyone is participating and has their ideas heard.

“Does everyone understand what we are doing?”
“Does anyone have any good ideas?”
“Does anyone see it differently?”
“Can you explain your ideas to the rest of the group?”
“Are we ready to move on?”
“Are we on track? What do we need to do next?”

Recorder /Reporter
Make sure important ideas and results are recorded. Record strategies and methods as well as solutions, and be ready to share the group’s mathematical journey. Make sure that the team is ready to report at the end.

“That’s a good idea/conjecture/question – write it down/make a note of it!”
“How shall we record this?”
“Let’s make a note of this and come back to it later!”
“What are the different ways of representing this?”

Resource manager
The team is the most valuable resource! Make sure everyone has a useful task to work on, and that they have the tools and information they need to complete the task. You are the only one who can call the teacher over to ask questions but you must make sure that all questions are team questions.

“Would it be useful to have some cubes/squared paper/a spreadsheet/a calculator…?”
“Is there anything we would like to ask the teacher?”
“Is everyone ready for me to call the teacher over?”

Understanding coordinator
Make sure that calculations are checked and mathematical reasoning is justified. Make sure the group is making connections between ideas.

“Has somebody double-checked that calculation?”
“Does everyone understand the explanation?”
“Can everyone explain that bit of mathematics?”
“How do we know this makes sense – how can we convince others?”
“Are we sure about that? Tell me why… What if…?”

© University of Cambridge