

# LEARN YOUR WAY

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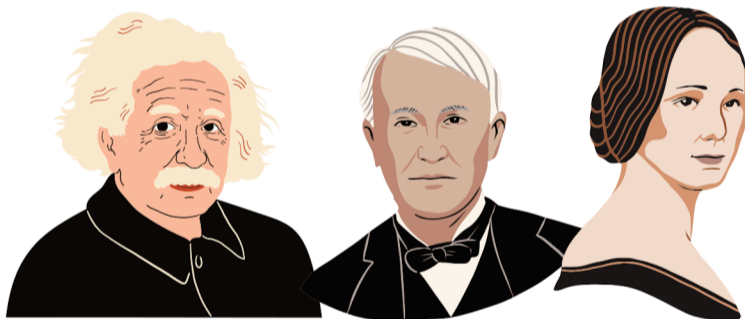
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Michael Maser

## **Hello and welcome to the first instalment of 'Learn Your Way.'**

I hope this column helps you see that you have the same potential to learn math, or anything for that matter, as any 'genius' that might come to mind: Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, Ada Lovelace ...



I know that might seem like a stretch - Einstein is considered one of the smartest dudes ever, Edison changed the world with his inventions (light bulb, phonograph, etc.) and Lovelace helped pioneer 'computer thinking' 75 years before the first computer was built.

But they all possessed the same 'brainware' as you, and believe it or not, their school teachers thought they were odd and had limited potential. School, in fact, had little to do with helping nurture their 'genius.' That happens too often so it is important to distinguish between schooling and learning. They aren't the same thing.

Recent insights into human learning confirm that each person learns lifelong and uniquely. Yes, we

share basic brain structure but no two of us learn in the same way. And most learning and learning potential reflects your life-events and whether or not you're interested in learning something. If you're good at some activity - and everyone is good at something - chances are that is an area of learning 'strength', and that's important to recognize because you can grow that strength and apply it to other things you want to know.

For too long, schooling and mainstream education have advanced bone-headed ideas about learning—for example, that 'intelligence' is best determined by one-size-fits-all curriculum and testing, and who you are as a person isn't important. This limiting belief excludes many people who think 'differently' or tune out schooling. Einstein's teachers said he was 'mentally retarded' in his middle school math class. A few years later he was awarded the Nobel Prize for the 'Theory of Relativity' he figured out while working as a clerk. He later related that in the back of his math class he was daydreaming, but this was actually how he began to 'see' and test his award-winning theory. In his imagination. By thinking differently.

Now I'm not suggesting you might be the next Einstein. But I hope to provide you with some keys to unlock the 'prison of your mind' and 'fly free' to learn the things you really want to learn or didn't know you had the potential to learn.

You start on this path by deputizing yourself as a 'learning detective.'