Mathematician Marcus du Sautoy is using his passion for the subject to inspire a new generation of genius.

He is an EPSRC senior media fellow and was appointed University of Oxford’s Simonyi Professor for the Public Understanding of Science in 2008 – succeeding Professor Richard Dawkins.

“Maths is a way of understanding the way the world works,” says du Sautoy. “It’s about seeing where you are coming from and, more excitingly, predicting what happens next. It is the language of nature and it is a way of unlocking the secrets of the universe.”

He recently wrote and presented BBC4’s The Story of Maths, and has presented a number of Horizon programmes. He is a regular contributor to newspapers, including a weekly column, Sexy Science, for The Times. His books include The Music of the Primes and Finding Moonshine.

And his own inspiration? “One of my heroes is Sir Christopher Zeeman. He’s a first rate mathematician but also a great communicator. I went to see the Christmas Lecture he gave when I was 13 years old and I came away saying ‘I want to be him when I grow up’.”

Thirty years later, du Sautoy is at the top of his field. His career accolades range from the Berwick Prize of the London Mathematical Society to being listed as one of Esquire Magazine’s 100 most influential men under 40.

“Without EPSRC’s support there is no way I could have made the same impact,” he says. “The senior media fellows scheme is so inspired that I am pushing for more positions to be created.”

“IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT SCIENCE HAS AMBASSADORS TO COMMUNICATE THE EXCITEMENT AND IMPORTANCE OF SCIENCE IN SOCIETY.”