

Annual Report of the Irish Committee for Mathematics Education

September 2021

Members: Ann O'Shea (Chair), Martin Kerin (Secretary), Julie Crowley, Ronan Flatley, Jim Grannell, Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin (on maternity leave until August 2021), Ciaran O'Sullivan, Kirsten Pfeiffer, Rachel Quinlan.

The committee held its first meeting via Zoom in February 2021. At the meeting, Martin Kerin was elected to the post of secretary.

Prior to this meeting, the chair met with Professor Anthony G. O'Farrell (chair of the previous IMS Education Subcommittee) to discuss outstanding issues.

The committee decided to focus on four areas during its first year. They are:

- **Textbook quality assurance:** Following on from the work of the previous subcommittee, we will endeavour to make sure that second level mathematics textbooks are subject to quality assurance.
- **Online teaching at tertiary level:** We plan on organising a workshop later this year on the role of hybrid/online learning in future teaching practices.
- **Supporting exceptional talent:** A subgroup has been formed which is considering measures to challenge and stimulate high-performing students newly arrived in third level. This subgroup will also investigate methods to raise the profile of mathematics in the media in order to encourage more students to study mathematics.
- **Developing links between mathematicians and researchers in mathematics education:** We hope to hold a series of online talks on aspects of mathematics education research relevant to those teaching at third level.

The committee welcomes feedback on these ideas as well as suggestions of other areas where we could be of help.

In addition, Jim Granell has worked with the Professional Development Service for Teachers and the State Examinations Commission in relation to the new Applied Mathematics Leaving Certificate course. He has developed and delivered a series of workshops for teachers on the new material.

Ann O'Shea

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