

Review of LMS events during the year 2013/2014

1. Open Challenge

As in previous years, this year's Open Challenge competition was synchronised with the MEM Challenge competition. The competition was posted in late January for completion during the February half term week. The competition was sent to every one of the 250 schools or colleges with a sixth form in the North West, resulting in some new schools taking part who had not done so previously. There were 62 individual entries from 27 schools and entries from 8 teams comprising of a total of 28 students which gives a total of 90 students from 28 different schools, the standards of which were very high. This year's theme was Vikings, with questions created by Alison and Tony Carter with input from Peter Newstead. Next year's competition will follow the same pattern, and will be based on Charles Lutwidge Dodgson as it will be the 150th anniversary of the publication of 'Alice in Wonderland', and offers of questions will be gratefully received.

2. CPD programme

There have two CPD events in this year for Secondary, with no Primary events scheduled.

1. 23 November 2013 9:30-1:30, Liverpool Hope University, Using Real Life Problems To Support Mathematics Learning For Higher-Tier GCSE Algebra And A-Level Core.
The event was led by Stella Dudzic, MEI and Chris Robbins, Grallator. The event aimed to develop knowledge and skills of how mathematics is used in the real-world, enable participants to give learners ideas of where and how maths is used in meaningful real life contexts and to enable participants to help their students to solve problems arising in such contexts
2. 5 July 2014 9:30-1pm, Liverpool Hope University 'Problem Solving For KS3'
This event has not yet run, but full details are on the website together with an application form.

A complete programme for 2014/15 will be presented by the end of the 2013/14 Academic Year.

3. PopMaths Quiz

The LivMS PopMaths Quiz, held on Saturday 1st March 2014, attracted 147 sixth-formers in 37 teams from 20 schools/colleges supported by 25 staff.

First-prize: a team from The Blue Coat School, Liverpool and a team from Winstanley College

Third prize: a team from Stockport Grammar School

Many thanks to:

- LJMU for their excellent hospitality
- staff of LJMU maths department for their support at the event
- the members of LivMS who gave up their Saturday morning to help with the event

4. Ordinary Meetings

There were two public lectures in 2013/14.

1. Ben Sparks 'Creation Of Number', 30 October 2013, 5.30-6.30 at the University of Liverpool.

Ben asked interesting questions such as Where do numbers come from? His talk involved a whistle-stop tour of some of the exciting bits in the development of number, from integers, rationals, irrationals, all the way to complex numbers - with some proofs and fractals thrown in... Along the way: Is maths created by us, or are we discovering eternal truth?

2. Thomas Woolley 'Diffusion Of The Dead', 6 March 2014, 5.30-6.30 at the University of Liverpool.

Thomas Woolley gave an enjoyable talk on the mathematics of disease proliferation. "Knowing how long we have before we interact with a zombie could mean the difference between life, death and zombification. Here, we apply the same mathematical models to zombies that you would use to describe flu, or measles. We use this

model to derive exact and approximate interaction times and use these to develop strategies which allow the human race to survive impending doom.”

All events for the forthcoming year will appear on the LivMS Website.

5. Roadshow Development

Version 6 of the FunMaths Roadshow was released on 1 January 2013 via a new online delivery method as a Digital Download (with the option of a CD for those who can find the right button to click). This is selling very well. Welsh was released in the year in both Primary, Secondary and complete (Boxes -1 to 8) form. Various discounts were available for a limited time following release, based on criteria.

Lonnie Readioff
Secretary, 3 May 2014