

CAMBRIDGE COLLOQUIA IN MATHEMATICS EDUCATION

Monday 24th October 2005 at 5.30 p.m., Room 205, Mary Allan Building, Hills Road

Dr Malcolm Swan, University of Nottingham.

LEARNING MATHEMATICS THROUGH DISCUSSION: CHANGING PRACTICES AND BELIEFS.

Teaching GCSE mathematics in Further Education is predominantly teacher-centred and transmission-oriented. It is also ineffective. I shall describe a design-research programme involving teachers from over 40 FE colleges, intended to challenge this situation. This has involved the design of teaching activities in which discussion and reflection play a central role, and a four day professional development programme. I shall present illustrations of the resources, and describe the results of the research with regard to both learning outcomes and to the evolution of teachers' practices and beliefs. The results of this research are currently having impact through the DfES 'Success for All' programme.

Monday 21st November 2005, 5.30 p.m., Room 205, Mary Allan Building, Hills Road

Dr Julia Anghileri, University of Cambridge

CAN REALISTIC MATHEMATICS EDUCATION WORK IN MANCHESTER SECONDARY SCHOOLS?

For one year now a group of teachers in Manchester have been using text books based on the Realistic Mathematics Education approach developed at the Freudenthal Institute in the Netherlands. This has involved teachers meeting with tutors at Manchester Metropolitan University to identify some fundamental principles of this approach and its practical application in the classroom. Enthusiasm is shared by teachers and pupils but compatibility with the National Numeracy Strategy is being questioned. At this colloquium the evolution of the project will be discussed together with some of the issues arising in this research.

Tea and coffee will available before each meeting. All are very welcome. For directions and any other information, contact Tim Rowland at tr202@cam.ac.uk