

## Teaching Philosophy

As a Christian I believe as we learn mathematics we study the language of God. I think this means there is a beauty in mathematics and enjoyment can be found in pursuit of further learning. I therefore hope to help my students find a joy in studying mathematics but also equip them to be lifelong learners and honour the gifts they have been given. I also hope they would live balanced lives, knowing the importance and value that can be found in things other than mathematics, whether that be sports, hobbies, societies or relationships with others and also that they would know the value of holidays and rest.

I would like my students to be diligent in their studies, but also know when to seek help from others and not to be ashamed to ask the 'stupid questions'! I want them to feel that the classroom is a safe space to share ideas and collaboratively work with others to both encourage yet also challenge the ideas they have.

I will consider myself a successful teacher if I am able to facilitate and empower my students so they are able to create and evaluate what they are learning in lectures, rather than being dependent on me to dictate their understanding to them, but also if my students value opportunities to teach their peers and reinforce their own learning.

To achieve this, I will make clear what expectations I have for my students, and similarly what standards they can hold me to. I will ensure my lessons are well planned, making clear the intended learning outcomes, and using suitably aligned learning activities and assessments, that promote active learning.

I will prioritise self-reflection both for my students and myself, and encourage my students to give me feedback, just as I aim to give them effective feedback. These are both of particular importance, since the research shows these have the greatest positive effect on teaching (Hattie, 2008).

I have seen the benefit of my own professional development as I have transitioned from a more didactic mode of teaching to a more student centered one. I will therefore continue to emphasise my own professional development, by continuing to study the latest evidence for good teaching practice, but also to welcome observations from fellow teachers, who can offer feedback to ensure the quality of my teaching remains high.

A particular area that I wish to study further and put into practice is using technology to teach using a flipped classroom. There is some evidence that student satisfaction is higher, academic attainment is increased, and it also creates greater flexibility for the students for the pace in which they cover the material, and so for these reasons seem worth investigating further.