

Press Release December 2013

The GeoGebra Institute of MEI: empowering students and teachers to learn and teach mathematics with easy-to-use free software and interactive materials.

The education charity Mathematics in Education and Industry (MEI) is now a GeoGebra Institute. MEI will provide schools with access to high quality training and resources for GeoGebra – free dynamic mathematics software that can revolutionise the teaching and learning of mathematics. It can be used by students from primary level through to university and has millions of users worldwide.

The international GeoGebra Institute (IGI) is a rapidly growing network of non-profit organizations around the world. There are over 140 GeoGebra institutes in over 75 countries worldwide. GeoGebra has a strong presence in many countries but is currently not used as widely in the UK. MEI has the potential to reach many more teachers both in the UK and abroad. Through this partnership between MEI and GeoGebra, teachers across the whole of the UK will have access to high-quality materials and training.

Ofsted's *Mathematics: made to measure* report (2012) reported on how "the potential of ICT to enhance learning in mathematics continues to be underdeveloped". There is a grave concern that ICT is not well-used in all schools. MEI in partnership with GeoGebra is keen to address this. The MEI staff includes experts who have been using GeoGebra and developing resources with it for a number of years. MEI has great experience of encouraging the effective use of ICT in the Mathematics classroom through initiatives such as the new A level Further Mathematics Unit: Further Pure with Technology, which was developed with the full support of OCR and Texas Instruments. This unit is an exciting and innovative new A level unit that requires students to have access to technology for the teaching, learning and assessment.

In September 2013 a GeoGebra app was released for tablets, both iPad and Android. Many schools and colleges are introducing tablets into the classroom for the first time. Unfortunately there is not always a clear plan how technology will enhance teaching and learning when it is introduced and a lot of the hype surrounding the introduction of tablets is not reflected in useful activities for the classroom. The MEI GeoGebra institute, through training and production of resources, will help mathematics teachers maximise their potential of using these tablets in the classroom.

MEI is also providing Live Online Professional Development for teachers: this takes place in an online classroom in the evenings meaning that teachers do not have to take time out of school or travel to get access to high-quality professional development. This model is also being used to deliver professional development to teachers in other countries.

End

For more information contact:

Tom Button

MEI Learning Technologies Specialist

Phone: 0113 2661411

Email: tom.button@mei.org.uk

Notes for Editors

Ref: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/mathematics-made-measure>

MEI is a mathematics education charity with a strong record of curriculum development, delivering profession development for teachers, creating innovative resources and managing large programmes such as the Further Mathematics Support Programme.

<http://www.mei.org.uk>

<http://www.mei.org.uk/?section=teachers&page=geogebra>

<http://www.mei.org.uk/?page=fmt>

GeoGebra is free and multi-platform dynamic mathematics software for all levels of education that joins geometry, algebra, tables, graphing, statistics and calculus in one easy-to-use package. It has received several educational software awards in Europe and the USA. The mission of the GeoGebra project is to empower students and teachers at all levels to learn and teach mathematics with our easy-to-use and freely available software and interactive materials.

<http://www.geogebra.org/cms/en/>

<http://www.geogebra.org/cms/organization>

Live Online Professional Development (LOPD) is a programme of innovative online courses. The courses are designed to enable teachers to teach A level Mathematics and A level Further Mathematics with confidence.

Courses are delivered using a web-based platform that allows participants to collaborate online in real time. The courses aim both to cover subject content common to all current specifications and to facilitate the exchange of teaching ideas. Rather than attending a one or two day course away from school or college, delegates will use the internet to meet weekly online.

<http://www.furthermaths.org.uk/?section=teachers&page=lopd>