Student experiences of online study groups and drop-in mathematics support during COVID-19

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RESTARTING THE NEW NORMAL,
TEACHING MATHEMATICS AND ITS APPLICATIONS.
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MSC Services Background

- March – May 2020
  - Moodle Fora, Emails, and Online Drop-in through MS Teams
- Summer 2020 Review
- Primary 2020-2021 Services
  - Online Drop in and Study Groups

Tutor Hours (Per Week)	Semester 1
Study Groups	66
Drop in	32

Summary of Study Group Feedback (2020-21) (N=65)

Positives		Negatives	
Theme	**# Comments**	**Theme**	**# Comments**
Tutors	54	Anxiety	14
Working with Peers	34	Low Attendance	7
Motivation	17	Unsuitable Timetables	6
Small Group Size	16	Group Did Not Work Well	6
Social Aspects	9		
Student Led and Flexible	6		

Summary of Drop-in Feedback (2020-21) (N=39)

Positives		Negatives	
Theme	**# Comments**	**Theme**	**# Comments**
Tutors	37	Unsuitable Timetables	7
Motivation	6	Online not suitable	3
Student Led and Flexible	4		
Small Group Size	2		

Student Comments

'We would look forward to getting together to do maths each week it really was a highlight just to have that social interaction with students again instead of watching some recorded lecture alone in your room.'

- 2nd Year Student

'They gave structure to the maths modules because all of the lectures were recorded it was difficult to motivate yourself to watch them. Having the study group made me feel like I had to have them completed to benefit from it which was really good for my motivation.'

-1st Year Student

'I just find remote learning to be very unconducive to the MSC and mathematics in general.'

- 1st Year Student

'Apart from asking the tutor questions it was uncomfortable to engage with others on the group.'

-1st Year Student