**NATIONAL HE STEM PROGRAMME – MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES STRAND**

The National HE STEM Programme is a 3-year, £21 million, initiative funded by the Higher Education Funding Councils for England and Wales (HEFCE and HEFCW) that commenced on the 1st August 2009. Building on the experience of the More Maths Grads project (MMG [www.moremathsgrads.org.uk](http://www.moremathsgrads.org.uk)) the IMA, the LMS, the RSS, HoDoMS, sigma and the Higher Education Academy MSOR Network will be collaborating to oversee and direct the mathematical sciences input to the Programme.

The MSOR Network are working within the HE curriculum innovation theme and aim to facilitate and support innovation within the mathematical sciences curriculum. A call for proposals for curriculum innovation mini-projects funding has been released and we look forward to announcing details of the successful projects in the next issue of connections.

**CALLING NEW LECTURERS – DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: 16/17 SEPTEMBER 2010**

Plans are underway for the Maths, Stats & OR Network Induction Course for New Lecturers 2010 which will, based on positive feedback from delegates, once again be hosted by the School of Mathematics, University of Birmingham. Sessions will cover approaches to teaching mathematics including lectures and example classes, as well as using technology to enhance education and an introduction to education research.

The fee for attending this event is £119.00 which includes accommodation and refreshments on both days, booking form and full programme details available soon.

**STIMULATING TECHNIQUES IN ENTRY-LEVEL MATHEMATICS (STEM) WITH THE STACK COMPUTER AIDED ASSESSMENT SYSTEM**

The STACK project team, led by Chris Sangwin has received collaborative practice transfer funding for the National HE STEM Programme to work with the University of Birmingham, University of Manchester, Loughborough University and the University of Leicester. The project aims to link existing computer aided assessment technology with available, tried and tested, practice materials in a way highly targeted to the support needs of an individual student.

This new project aims to provide tools through which we may help to stimulate the practice of techniques in entry level mathematics.

**MATHS COMES ALIVE WITH ‘MATHS IN A BOX’!**

Teachers are being offer some fresh ideas on teaching mathematics in schools through Maths in a Box, a collection of electronic and paper resources, including posters, DVDs, booklets containing careers profiles and even a book of magic tricks all tried and tested in schools around England and Wales as part of the More Maths Grads project.

Project Manager Makhan Singh said, “Maths in a Box is a vital resource for all maths teachers in secondary schools and FE colleges and also for university outreach departments. It shows that maths is used in a whole number of ways that school students may never have thought of. Maths comes alive with Maths in a Box!”.

Each secondary school and FE college in England has received a copy of Maths in a Box, along with every university maths departments – if you’ve not seen a box yet and would like to know more please contact HESTEmaths@ima.org.uk

**CETL – MSOR CONFERENCE 2010: CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

On the 6th and 7th September 2010, the Maths, Stats & OR Network will be hosting its fifth annual learning and teaching conference, at the University of Birmingham, organised in conjunction with the related Centres of Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETLs).

The abstracts received for posters, demonstrations, workshops and full papers are currently with the peer-review panel and we look forward to putting together what we aim to be an interesting and varied programme. For further information and to register to attend, please visit [www.mathstore.ac.uk/conference2010/](http://www.mathstore.ac.uk/conference2010/)

**SUPPORTING POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS WHO TEACH MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS**

The Maths, Stats & OR Network is once again pleased to announce that it will be running an extended programme of one-day regional workshops to provide discipline specific support, advice and guidance to postgraduate students who teach Mathematics and Statistics.

The workshops will be hosted by universities across the UK in the Autumn including Birmingham, Nottingham, Bristol, Cardiff, London, Sheffield, Durham, Manchester, Leeds and Glasgow.

Dates and booking information will be available shortly from [www.mathstore.ac.uk](http://www.mathstore.ac.uk)