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Abstract 3A

Personalised Mathematical Student Support through Innovative Use of Technology

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The flexible, open faculty entry system of Glasgow University results in the majority of first year students studying three Level 1 subjects. This mechanism has many obvious, well documented advantages. Despite the abundant positives, the nature of this system can unfortunately exacerbate many of the traditional issues of the 'jump up' from Secondary School into Higher Education. This can result in a difficult, rocky road for some students on the path from the flurry of excitement of Fresher's Week through the potentially formidable first Semester. In this talk we discuss the various ways that innovative technologies have been employed to enhance both the academic and social integration of students who have a Level 1 Mathematics course in their curriculum. We present an outline of how both staff and students make use of the automatically generated feedback gained when students attempt the 'Skills Test', Glasgow University's own sophisticated Computer-Aided Assessment system. We also describe the use of on-line student social networking and web access to short welcome films that have been created by senior students for the new Level 1 students. We will speak about our experiences of the use of SMS messaging (texting) to keep in touch with students. Finally, we discuss how Moodle is integrated with the current Peer Assisted Learning scheme and by the Maths Support service within the SLS to manage appointment bookings and to distribute student support material.