To: The Management Authorities of all Post-Primary Schools

The Leaving Certificate Mathematics syllabus for examination in 2015 and subsequent years.

The Junior Certificate Mathematics syllabus for examination in 2016 and subsequent years.

Your school is being issued with Mathematics syllabuses for Junior and Leaving Certificate. These syllabuses apply to students beginning first year junior cycle and the first year of Leaving Certificate in September 2013, respectively. These syllabuses apply to the cohorts sitting examinations in the Junior Certificate in 2016 and thereafter, and in the Leaving Certificate in 2015 and thereafter.

Leaflets outlining the changes in the syllabuses are enclosed with this letter. More detailed guidance for teachers of Mathematics, together with electronic copies of the syllabuses, are available at www.ncca.ie/projectmaths.

I would like to draw your attention to changes relating to the Leaving Certificate syllabus:

- Foundation level is no longer a subset of ordinary and higher levels. Ordinary level remains a subset of higher level.
- In Strand 1, at ordinary and higher levels, material dealing with inferential statistics, which had been deferred for an interim period, is now included and will be examinable in 2015 and thereafter.
- The choice in respect of geometry (Strand 2) available for the 2012-2014 examinations will no longer be available in the examinations of 2015 and thereafter.

Continuing Professional Development for all teachers of Mathematics

Professional development for teachers of Mathematics will continue in the school year 2013/2014. Management should encourage and facilitate their teachers of Mathematics in availing of the continuing professional development (CPD) programmes provided. The Project Mathematics
Development Team, hosted by Drumcondra Education Centre, will provide CPD for all teachers of Mathematics both at junior and senior cycles and will maintain contact with all schools in this regard throughout the year.

- Workshop 9, scheduled for the first term, will address the connections within and between the syllabus strands. This will enable a more integrated approach to be adopted in the teaching and learning of Mathematics and will ensure greater continuity between junior cycle and senior cycle.

- Special attention will be paid to inferential statistics in Workshop 10, which will be delivered in the second term of the school year 2013/2014. In addition, resources and support material for statistics, which were developed in collaboration with the NCE-MSTL, are available on the support website www.projectmaths.ie and on the NCE-MSTL website www.nce-mstl.ie.

- Workshops 9 and 10 are intended for all teachers of Mathematics. It is most important that those teachers not currently teaching Leaving Certificate Mathematics attend these workshops. This is to ensure coherence of approach to the teaching and learning of Mathematics at all levels.

- The Professional Diploma in Mathematics for Teaching, which is aimed at “out-of-field” teachers of Mathematics at post-primary level, continues to be available in 2013/2014. All queries on eligibility or on applications should be made to the University of Limerick (see www.ul.ie/graduateschool).

Schools are asked to provide optimum support and encouragement to as many students as possible to take Higher Level Mathematics in junior cycle and to continue to study the subject at Higher Level in senior cycle.

Please bring this Circular and accompanying leaflets to the notice of all teachers of Mathematics in your school.

Please also provide a copy of this Circular to the appropriate representatives of parents and teachers for transmission to individual parents and teachers.

Breda Naughton  
Principal Officer  
August 2013