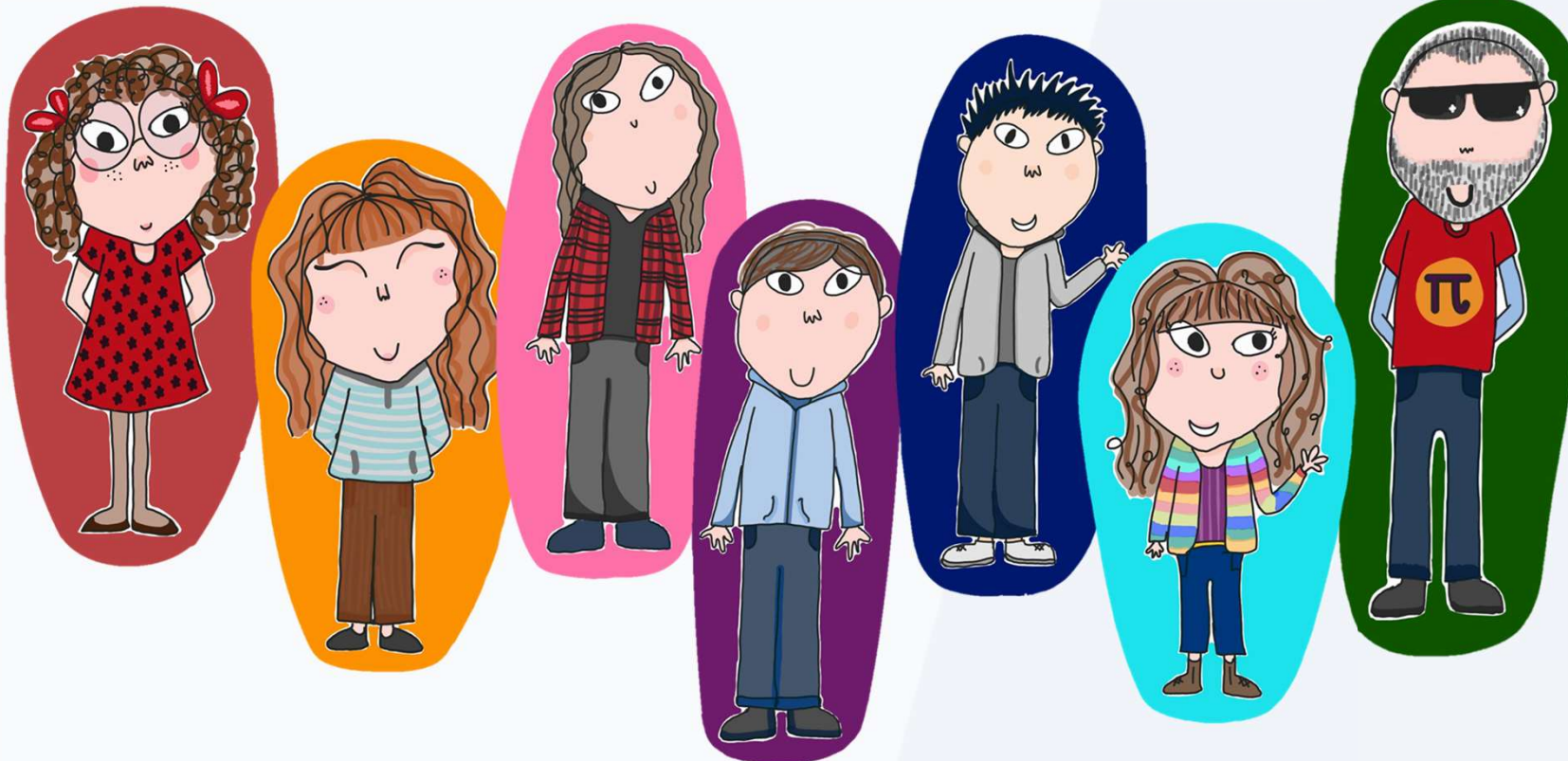


SMEG

student partners to forge bonds and foster belonging



Ailsa MacLeod	Hoon Kim
Holly Bryan	Mairi Blok
Sam McWhinnie	JB Gramain
Jack Beechey	

SMEG: an experiment with student partners

September 2025: Induction sessions in Welcome Week

I want to put together a group of students with an interest in education (SMEG), who will have a number of discussions on various topics with the objective to improve the provision of Maths courses in Aberdeen.

The nature and timing of the discussions, as well as the topics, will be decided by the group themselves (but are likely to include items such as Assessments, GenAI, Lectures, Flipped Classrooms, ...).



15 October 2025: First SMEG meeting, with 10 SMEG-Heads

How to get people together, talking, working?

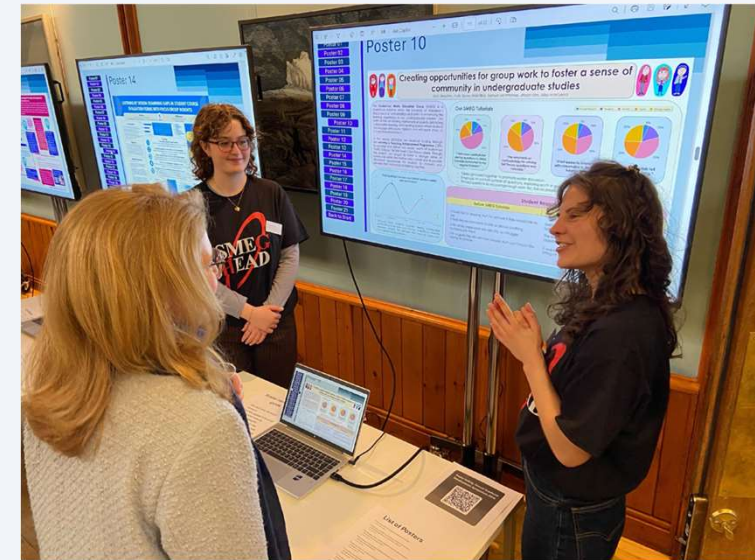
Forge bonds and foster belonging

- Weekly meetings, for catharsis and for work
- Bring the Maths Society back to life
- Learning & Teaching Enhancement Programme

Creating opportunities for group work to foster a sense of community in undergraduate studies.



Working in partnership ...



17th Annual Academic Development Symposium (29 April 2026)

From Participation to Belonging: Exploring Student and Staff Perspectives on Student Engagement

1495
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In the session 2025/2026 we received funding through the **Learning & Teaching Enhancement Programme (LTEP)** to develop and deliver two weeks' worth of student-run 'SMEG Tutorials' for the Level 1 Set Theory course. Through this project, we sought to foster a stronger sense of community within the mathematics cohort and to provide structured opportunities for students to connect and develop their mathematical thinking together.

Participation Level	Anxiety Level
Strongly Disagree	4
Slightly Disagree	7
Neutral	2
Slightly Agree	5
Strongly Agree	2

Response	Percentage
None	50%
1-2	20%
3-4	10%
5-6	10%
7+	10%

Number of Children	Percentage
1	30%
2	30%
3	20%
4	15%
5	5%

Number of Children	Percentage
1	25%
2	20%
3	15%
4	15%
5	5%

**AWARD
WINNER**

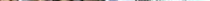


The Student-led Mathematics Education Group (SMEG) was launched in October 2025 with 10 SMEG-Heads, students from Level 1 to Level 4 on degrees with mathematics, all interested in improving mathematics courses.

Since then, SMEG-Heads have discussed and worked on projects. In a complete pedagogical study, they designed and implemented new strategies to run maths tutorials, and evaluated their impact on students. They suggested new teaching methods, developed new skills, improved their employability and are already making next plans...

thinking about their

ads



29th Oct 2009
29th Oct 2009
29th Oct 2009

Working with stud...

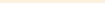
They wanted to make sure students

talk and help each other during classes. They showed they

are part of the same learners' community

and can offer advice. Our community is connected and resilient.

heads getting students engaged



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SMEG-Head perspective

Student-to-
student
relationships

Trust and
support
given by JB

Confidence
to engage

Sense of
community
in maths

Staff-
student
links



Màiri Blok



Holly Bryan



Why, What, & How.....

- *Aim of SMEG*: How to get people together, talking, working
- Found that everyone has experienced the same social struggles in maths
- Social Games night
- Tutorials



Sam
McWhinnie

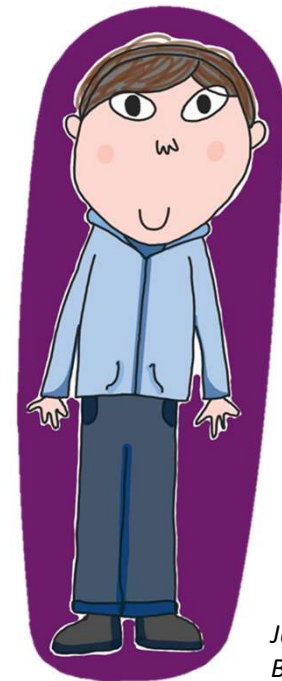
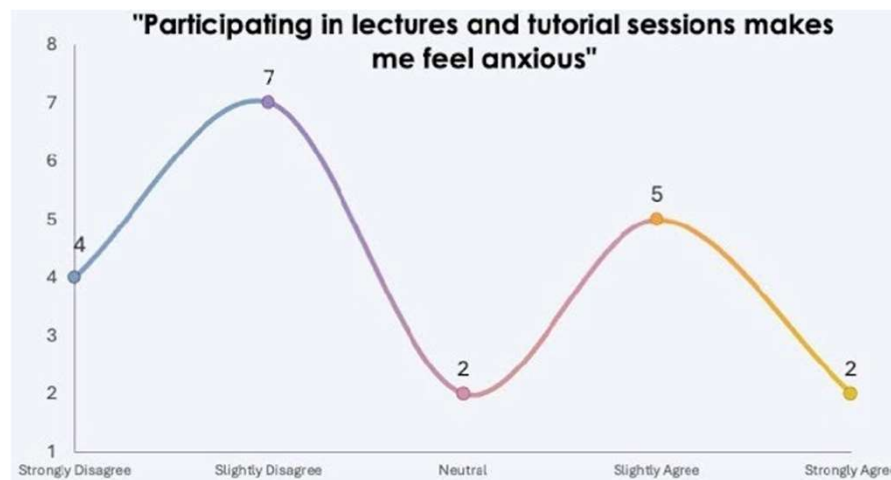
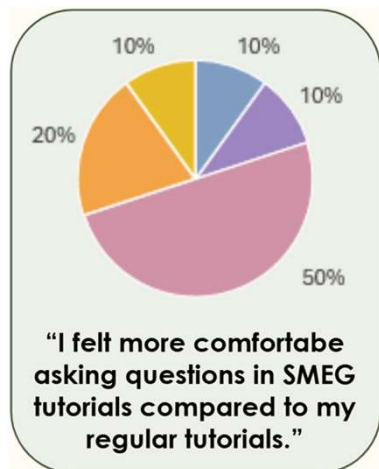
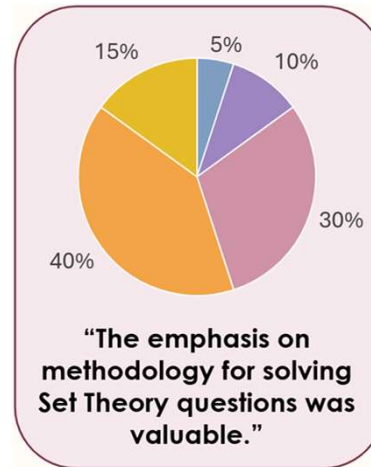
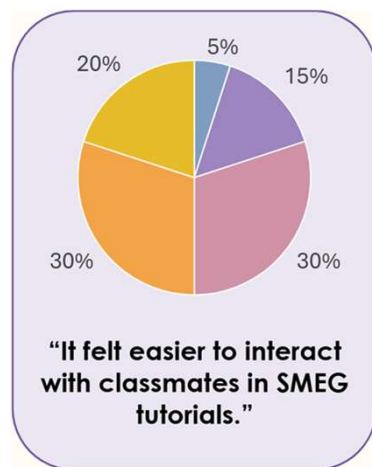
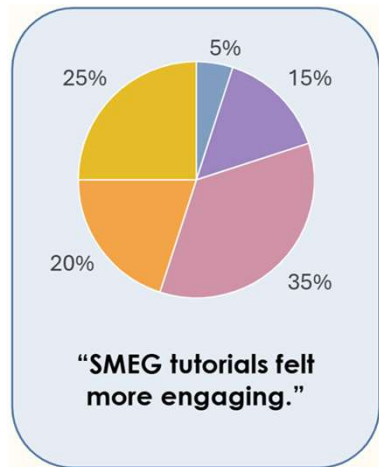
Tutorial Activity

- Changing table layout to promote group work
- Emphasising methodology rather than solutions
- Breaking barriers between students and tutors
- Relating to fellow students



*Sam
McWhinnie*

Tutorial Results



Jack Beechey

Our Takeaways

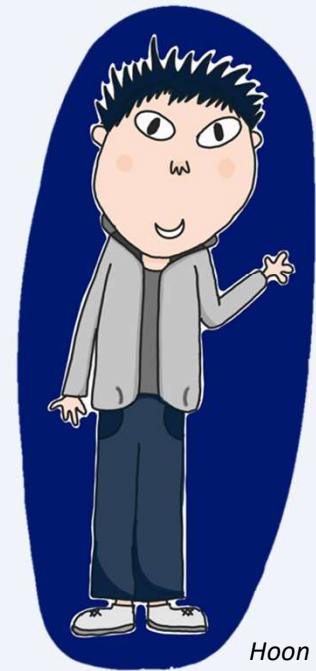
- Increasing engagement from the front of a class is tricky – try sharing the struggles you had with the content!
- Creating a sense of community does increase confidence and engagement
- Not all students will engage immediately - some need more encouragement (*and that's fine!*)



Alisa
MacLeod

Conclusion

- Why and How SMEG was successful
- SMEG's plans going forward
- Student-led model in other disciplines



Hoon
Kim



Thank you!