CfE Third Level Maths & Numeracy

Project: Research a Famous Mathematician

I have worked with others to research a famous mathematician and the work they are known for, or investigated a mathematical topic, and have prepared and delivered a short presentation. ***MTH 3-12a***

There are a great number of famous mathematicians who have contributed to the modern world as we know it. During this project you will research a famous mathematician and the work they are known for and produce a presentation, which may then be presented to your class.

Task 1: Choose a mathematician

There are many great mathematicians throughout history, some examples are in the list below:

- Pythagoras
- Euclid
- Fibonacci
- René Descartes
- Pierre de Fermat
- Blaise Pascal
- Isaac Newton
- Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz
- Leonhard Euler
- Carl Friedrich Gauss
- Florence Nightingale
- Albert Einstein
- Amalie Emmy Noether
- Alan Turing

Either choose one of the mathematicians from the given list or select another.

Task 2: Begin your research

(a) Before beginning any research, open a Word document, or a Google Docs document and save it. If you are using Google Docs, your document will save automatically. Name the document *Mathematician Project*. Put the name of the mathematician you have chosen at the top of the document. This will be your research document.

An online search engine is a great starting point for any research project, although you must take care to ensure that the information you use is from a reliable source. Avoid citing information from online blogs, chat rooms or web pages that are editable by the public, as they may not be accurate.

Books are also a valuable tool to reference when researching history. Your school library/teacher may have some relevant ones.

(b) Start researching your mathematician. You will be required to list any sources referred to in your presentation. It is good practice to make a record of any resources used as you come across them. You should at least the following information:

- The name of your chosen mathematician (with picture if possible)
- Background information (date of birth/death, country of origin, occupation, etc.)
- An explanation of the work they are known for
- How they have contributed to everyday life
- Any suitable trivia you can discover

If you copy anything from any website, or book, copy the URL of the website or the name and page of the book where you gathered the information.

Task 3: Create a resource to present your findings

Decide which format you will use to deliver your presentation. You could use one of the following:

- Google Slides/Microsoft PowerPoint
- Poster
- Digital resource (webpage, etc)
- Video

The presentation should contain all the essential information listed in Task **2** and should reference any sources used.

Whilst you should ensure your presentation is visually appealing to your audience, the focus of the presentation should be on the content. If your resource is digital, consider how it should be accessed - perhaps using a QR code.

Task 4: Present your findings

Present your findings to your class. This should take no more than five minutes. Make sure to cover all the essential points.

Practice how you are going to deliver your presentation beforehand. Do not go over the time limit and ensure your presentation flows in a logical manner. If you are using PowerPoint or have a poster, avoid reading the information from the slides or poster. If you are presenting as part of a group, have a clear plan of how each of you will contribute to the delivered presentation.

You should consider providing for audience participation where possible, you should consider audience participation, e.g., by allowing time for questions at the end, or including a short quiz.