

May 4th, 2022

Submission re. Junior Cycle Maths Curriculum

Dear Minister Foley,

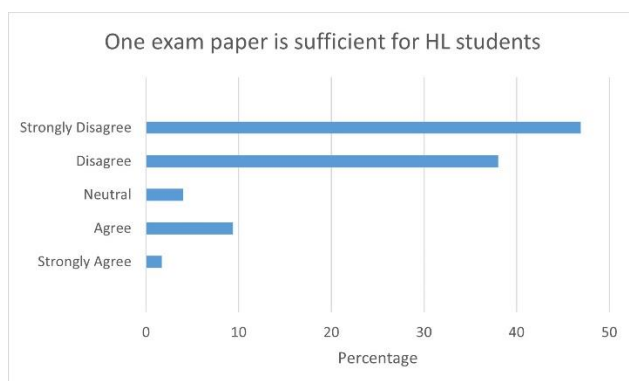
The IMTA surveyed its membership recently around the new Junior Cycle Mathematics specification, the changes that have been introduced over the past few years in terms of assessment, implications for senior cycle and other relevant issues that have been causing us some concern. We also surveyed students to get their opinions on classroom based assessments and their level of satisfaction with their mathematics education at Junior Cycle.

The last two years have been difficult for us all in education, and implementing a new specification during a global pandemic is not without its challenges, but it is true to say that the results of our surveys, both teacher and student are overwhelming in what they have to say.

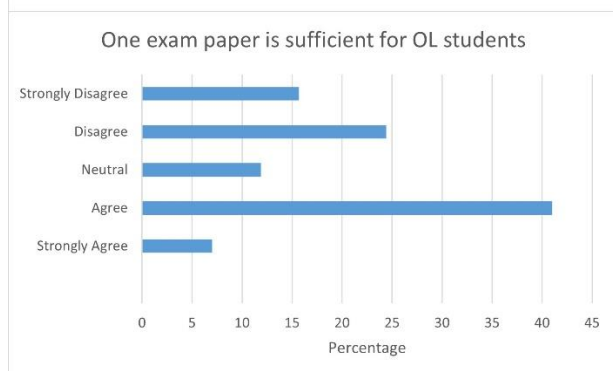
331 students completed our survey and 360 members completed the teacher survey. When asked to state their level of agreement with the statement Higher Level JC maths prepares students appropriately for LC maths, only 25.7% of teachers agreed or strongly agreed. As a country focusing its attention on STEM and all it has to offer, this is a most worrying statistic. At the other end, 87.7% of teachers either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the removal of Foundation Level as an examination option for JC students.

Teacher Survey

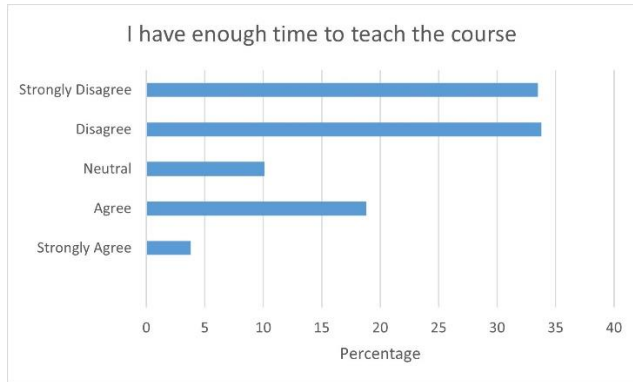
The following are the questions posed in the survey and the results.



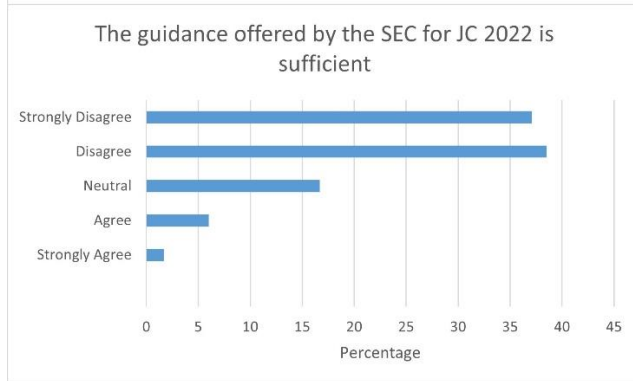
84.7% either disagreed or disagreed strongly with only 11.2% agreeing.



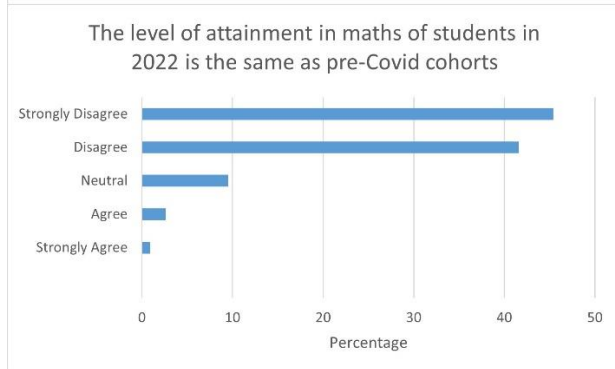
48.4% of teachers agreed/strongly agreed that 1 paper is sufficient at Ordinary Level.



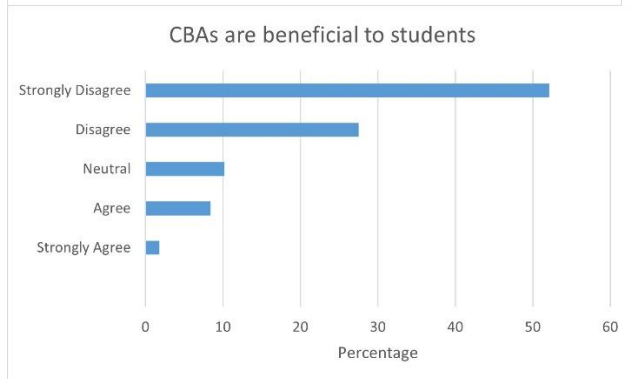
66.9% of respondents believe that do not have enough time to teach the course. Conversely, only 22.9% believe they do have enough time to complete the course.



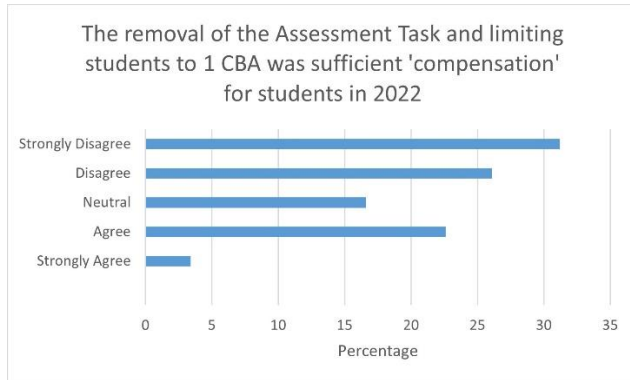
75.9% disagreed/strongly disagreed with this statement



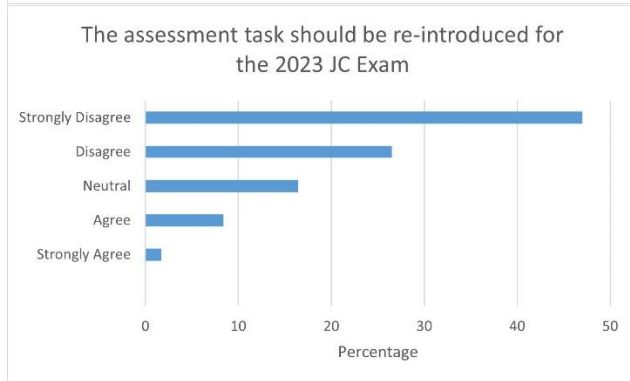
87% of teachers either disagreed/strongly disagreed with this statement



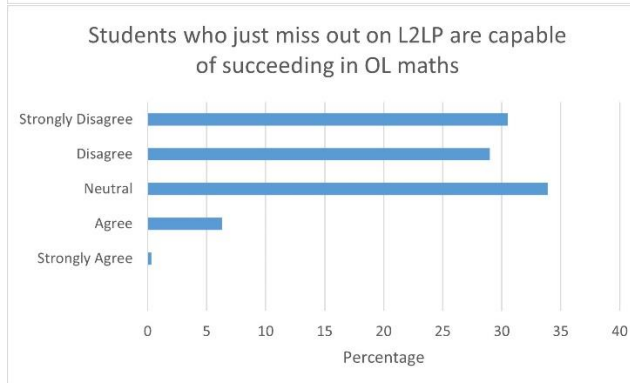
80.1% disagreed/strongly disagreed with the idea of CBAs being beneficial to students with only 10% agreeing/strongly agreeing.



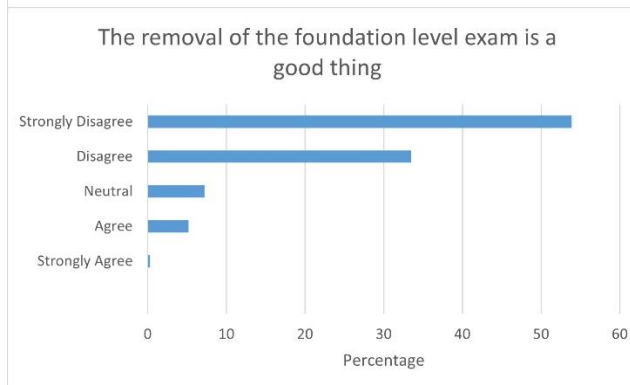
Only 26.1% agreed with this statement



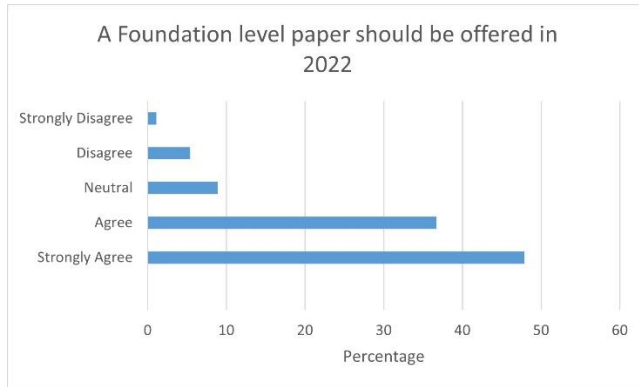
73.8% of teachers do not want to see Assessment Tasks back again from next year



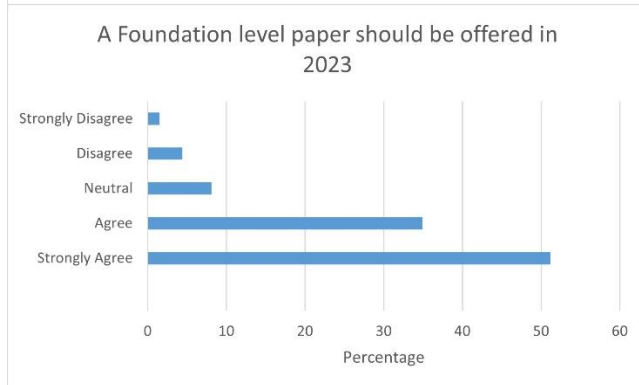
Almost 60% of teachers disagreed/strongly disagreed with the idea that students who are just above the threshold for L2LP are capable of succeeding in OL maths.



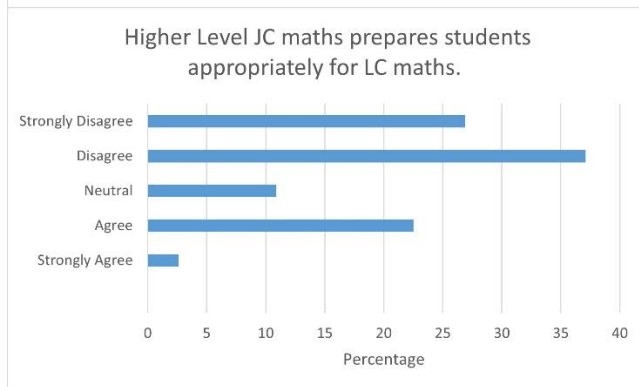
87.7% disagreed/strongly disagreed with the removal of the Foundation Level Maths examination at JC.



84.8% of teachers want a Foundation Level option for the JC 2022, with only 6.4% disagreeing/strongly disagreeing.



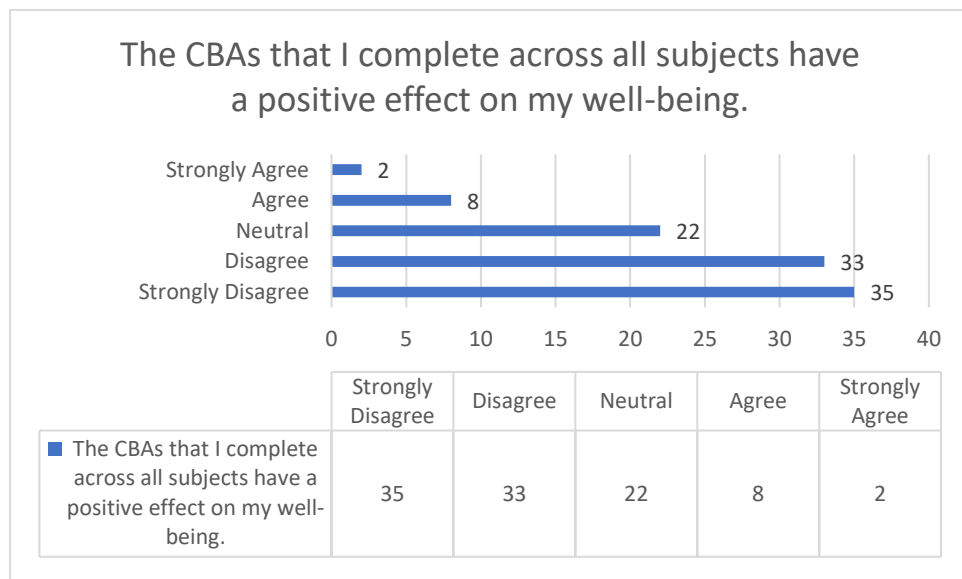
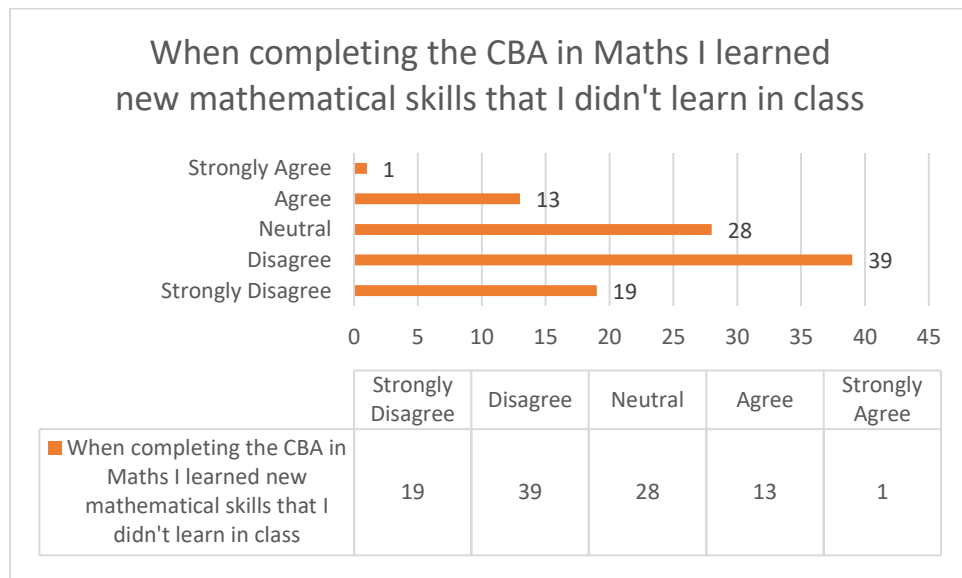
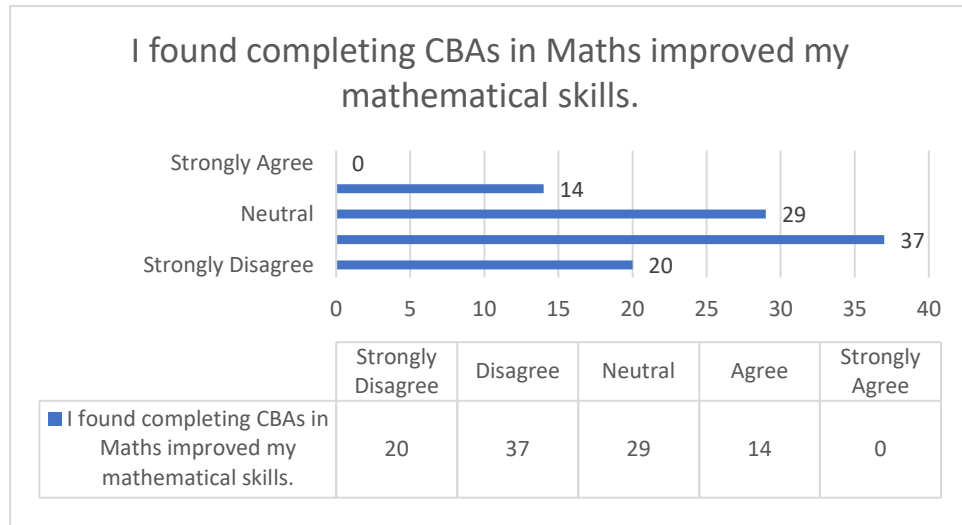
86.4% of teachers want FL from 2023 onwards



25.7% of teachers agree/strongly agree that JC HL maths prepares students well for LC maths.

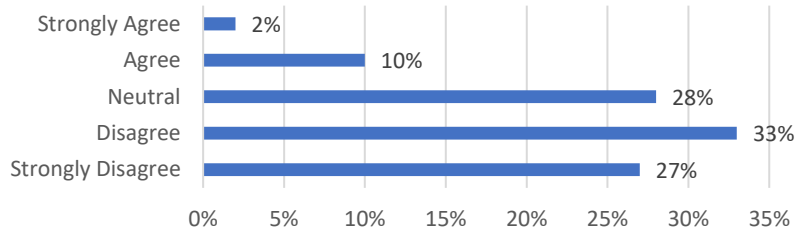


Student Survey



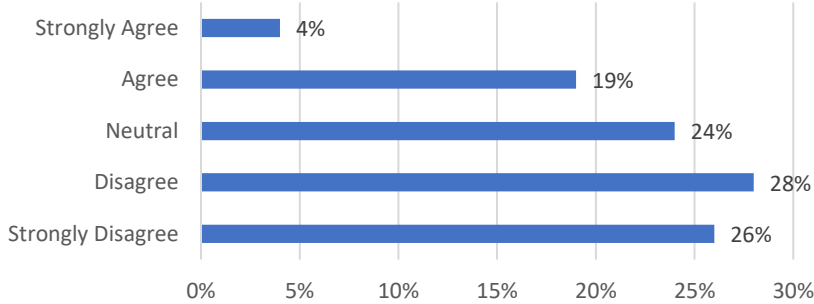


The removal of foundation level Maths has made Maths more challenging for me.



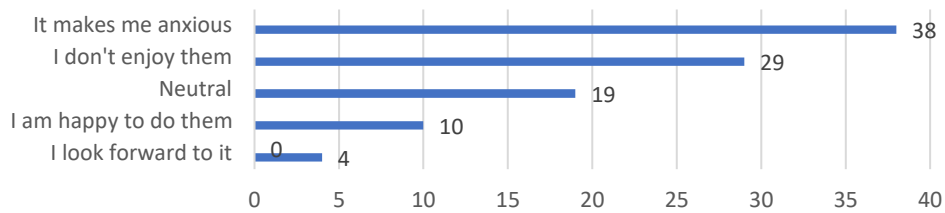
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
■ The removal of foundation level Maths has made Maths more challenging for me.	27%	33%	28%	10%	2%

I enjoyed doing my CBA in Maths



	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
■ I enjoyed doing my CBA in Maths	26%	28%	24%	19%	4%

When my teacher says we are doing CBAs in Maths my reaction is..



	I look forward to it	I am happy to do them	Neutral	I don't enjoy them	It makes me anxious
■ Series2	0				
■	4	10	19	29	38



The following are the key points our members and students have expressed to us:

1. An exam paper at Foundation Level must be reinstated immediately
2. Serious thought is required as to the inclusion, worthiness and time-investment of classroom based assessments and the assessment task. The message from teachers and students is clear – CBAs must be removed from JC mathematics.
3. Consideration must be given to the re-introduction of a 2nd exam paper at HL, with appropriate choice to reduce stress on students.

We trust that you will take these points on board. We are always ready to talk with you on any aspect of this submission should it be necessary. The full results of our surveys can be found on our website – www.imta.ie .

Yours Faithfully,

Ciarán Duffy

Chairperson IMTA