**Pair marking: Working together to improve our teaching**

Nigel

Kate Sim and I have worked together in this way for more than 10 years and we proposed this project to find out whether it might be of value to other ALs.

For each TMA, we share a copy of the marking guide and add comments that we have used in our teaching on student scripts, we do this as we mark. In this way we build a shared bank of comments, we learn from and use the shared comments.

We roll comments over to the next presentation where appropriate, for example, a comment about how to lay out a math sensor. We also roll over PT3 comments which are then personalised for each student.

To test the value of this practice, we recruited 12 ALs on TM111. Nobody was a new AL and experience ranged from less than five years to greater than 20 years. We had five colleagues in each of these ranges. We split the participants into six pairs and

provided them with a marking guide with some seed comments. They work together for the duration of the module across the three TMAs.

We had some simple rules adopted from our own experience; we don't criticise each other's comments, but we can praise them, and there is no boss this is a partnership of equals.

We used questionnaires and focus groups to get feedback to assess the project. Most participants felt that the project was a valuable experience and it brought about some changes to how they work. Most will continue to work with a partner in this way.

It was generally agreed that finding someone to work with would be better if it was organic rather than operating as 'speed dating' as we did.

If you would like to know more about this project, please do not hesitate in contacting us, our email addresses are on the poster.