

THE AWARDS 2021

Widening Participation or Outreach Initiative of the Year

Institution name	Waterford Institute of Technology
Submission title or project name	Maths Week Ireland 2019 and Maths at Home for Covid 2020
Nominee/key personnel	<p>Calmast at Waterford Institute of Technology: WIT has developed a strong record in outreach, especially in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). In 2002 the STEM Outreach Centre Calmast was established, the first such centre in HE in Ireland.</p> <p>Maths Week Ireland was founded by and is coordinated by Calmast. Maths Week has consistently shown impact and reach through internal and external evaluations. The directors of Calmast are Dr Sheila Donegan, PhD, BSc CChem, CSci MRSC MICI, and Eoin Gill BE, MEngSc, MIEI, Chartered Engineer.</p>
URL	www.mathsweek.ie
Submission	<p>Maths Week Ireland (2019) and Maths at Home for Covid (2020) were two connected and very impactful initiatives of Calmast STEM Engagement Centre at Waterford Institute of Technology.</p> <p>Maths Week is a joint Northern Ireland-Republic of Ireland event that encourages all to reach their potential in maths. It also promotes cross-border cooperation and cross-community engagement. It works as a partnership of all HEIs working together for a common aim.</p> <p>In October 2019, 416,000 participated in Maths Week on an island of 6.6m people. On the sudden closure of school due to Covid, the team pivoted online to support teachers, learners and parents, from March 2020 to the end of the school year, with hands-on activities promoting a growth mind-set.</p> <p>Activities were accessible to all families via mobile phones. The team helped found Maths Week England in 2019, which reached 250,000, having previously assisted establishing Maths Week Scotland in 2017.</p>