

# The *Mathematical Gazette*

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## The future of the *Gazette*, and our futures

My first task as editor is to record my immense debt to Victor Bryant. He has edited the *Gazette* brilliantly for a decade, and anyone who has contributed to it will know the amount of work he has put in to every column centimetre. I shall try to continue to produce a readable and balanced *Gazette*, thankfully aided by Victor as Associate Editor.

I hope the *Gazette* will focus partly on the problems and pleasures of teaching sixth form mathematics. The future of the sixth form curriculum is very uncertain, and especially so in mathematics where pressures from many sides are beginning to bear: from computing science departments in universities to teach more discrete mathematics and more proofs; from emerging client subjects like economics and geography; from the rapid changes in calculator design that will mean every pupil can do the technical manipulations of the calculus; from the changes in teaching strategies further down the school; from the desire to widen the curriculum; from the desperate shortage of teachers and the growing market for numerate people.

The March 1991 *Gazette* will be devoted to the future of sixth form mathematics. I would like contributions no matter how short, opinionated, radical or conservative in answer to any of these questions: "what do we want?", "what do we need?" and "how do we get it?". *Gazette* deadlines mean that copy should arrive by 31 August 1990.

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