

# The Benefits and Challenges of Team Teaching

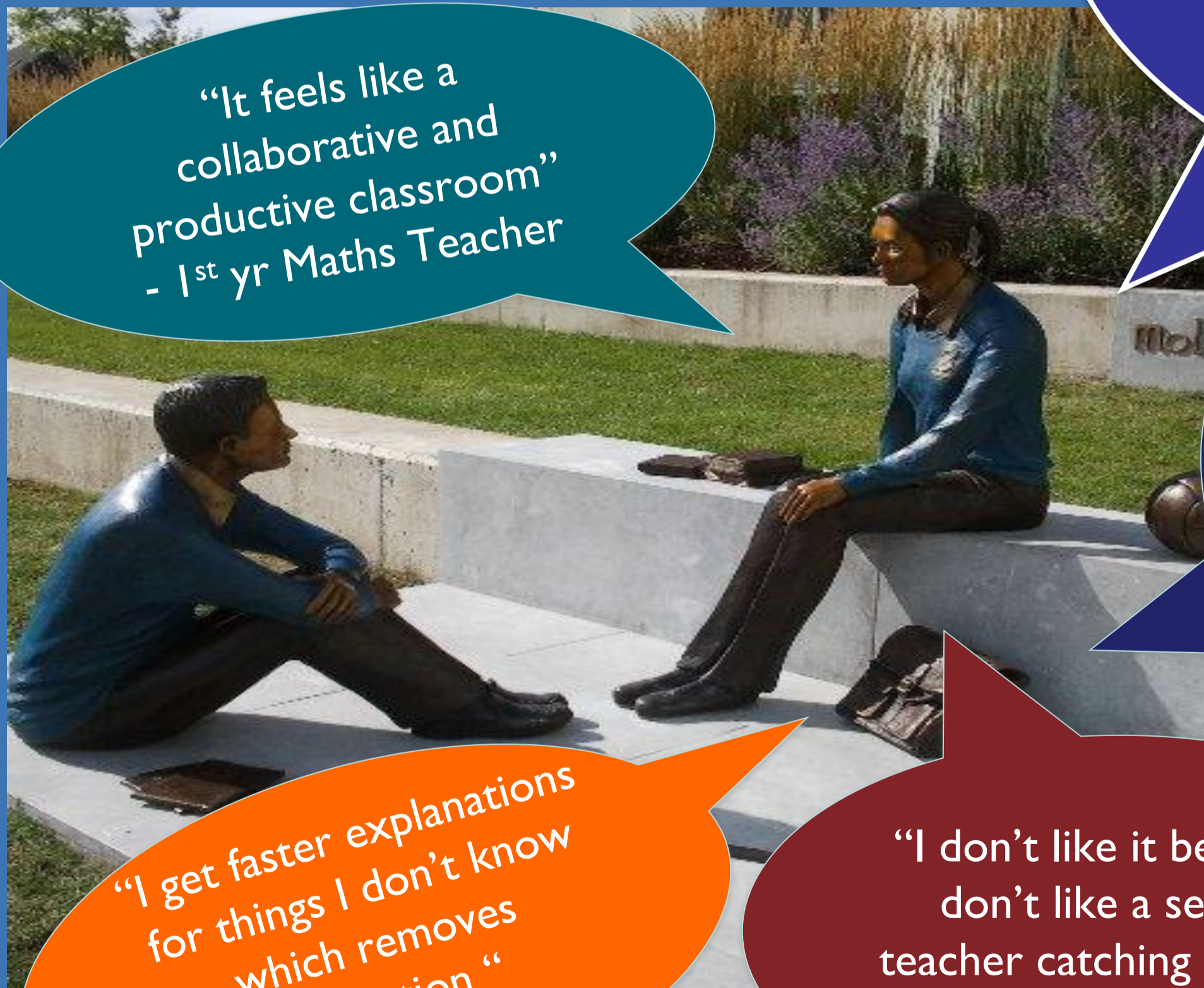
*Maria Mahony – Athboy Community School,  
Co. Meath*

## The Benefits of Team Teaching

- Students get more one to one time to help them through difficulties in the subject.
- It is not only for the weaker student as it gives more time to challenge the more able student with one to one.
- Students get to experience the way in which teachers can collaborate and work effectively together.
- Students learn alternative methods.
- Teachers learn from each other - new activities/methods.
- The workload is shared- correcting work, exams etc.
- In general a positive experience for both student and teachers involved.

## The Challenges of Team Teaching

- Not a lot of time for collaboration and planning for the lessons.
- Personality clashes between teachers can make team teaching difficult.
- Teaching styles can differ and as a result confuse students.
- Classroom layout may not be suitable for group work.
- Students/Parents not knowing who is the main teacher for meetings, filling in reports etc.
- Some students feel it's just an extra pair of eyes in the room.



“It feels like a collaborative and productive classroom”  
- 1<sup>st</sup> yr Maths Teacher

“I like it because when one teacher is busy the other teacher can help”  
- 1<sup>st</sup> year Student

“Team teaching has helped me in maths as it keeps me focused because now I have two sets of eyes watching me!”  
1<sup>st</sup> Year Maths Student

“I get faster explanations for things I don't know which removes frustration”  
- 1<sup>st</sup> Year Student

“I don't like it because I don't like a second teacher catching my eye”  
- 1<sup>st</sup> Year Student