Tutors' Forum 22/06/22 (from J.B.)

"Interactive" group's comments

Some were on the physical aspects : room space, timings of sessions
e.g. rooms in external venues (Castle St, FM House) were more spacious & so felt "safer" in Covid times than rooms in U3AC premises. SS could sit farther apart, or around separate tables.

Sessions could be longer e.g. 2 hours than in U3AC rooms where max time has to be 90 mins.

Extra time allowed an informal start or a break mid-session and either would help "sociability of class, getting to know one another e.g. through an "ice-breaker" or warm-up exercise.

BUT the great disadvantage of external venues was that no tech support was available….Could be a handicap. Whereas on U3AC premises, all tutors found tech support (I.e. from Gemma) invaluable.

Refs made to the different "teaching styles" described in the TSH.
Some chat about how to deal with very talkative SS and with disruptive questions e.g. during a tutor's exposition. Need for guidelines : the tutor to decide **when** to take questions. If at the end of the session, then he/she would need to make this very clear and possibly to repeat this instruction.

Query as to whether some very popular courses could be repeated by a tutor. Yes, in fact this has happened in the past (over two terms).

"Social" aspect of U3AC course attendance stressed. (Refs again to ice-breakers etc.)

Reminder that neither SS nor tutors are "professionals" but all are volunteers.