

# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO 5, APRIL 2006

## **PRIMARY SCHOOL SUPPORT**

This year has seen further developments in the support given by TBSHS to our local community. Support provided to our feeder primary schools by members of the TBSHS maths department has been extended to include a further two schools, bringing the total to five; All Saints, Little Hallingbury, Northgate, St Michael's and Thorley Hill. Year 6 students are now benefitting from an extra hour of maths once a week, and in groups of 15 to 20 students. The lessons are intended to:

- encourage students to develop their interest in maths
- provide valuable practice in the run-up to their Key Stage 2 exams
- enrich students' experience of maths and its many applications
- extend students' knowledge by providing them with challenging work

The booster classes also ensure that the links between TBSHS and our feeder primary schools are becoming stronger than ever, with staff sharing their expertise and gaining experience of teaching at Key Stage 2. The TBSHS maths department is strongly committed to ensuring that our status as a Maths and Computing Specialist School continues to have a positive effect on the local community.

## **EASTER REVISION CLASSES**

I am pleased to announce that the Maths Department ran revision classes for Year 11 students during the second week of the Easter holidays. It was a two day intensive revision course for small classes and took place on Wed 12<sup>th</sup> and Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> April. We had restricted numbers to a maximum of twenty a class to ensure good teacher access and offered availability on a first come first served

basis. The courses were taught by two of our leading teachers: the excellent Mr Burani and the amazing Mr Greenwood.

We offered an Intermediate and a Higher class and both were full (the student interest was impressive). The materials covered all grades but the focus was on the middle two grades for each tier (C and D grades for Intermediate and A and B grades for Higher). The day was split into two morning sessions to run from 9:00-11:00 and 11:30-1:00, with an afternoon session from 1:30-3:00. The five hours covered all the various mathematical topics and focused each morning on algebra, as this tends to be the area that causes most problems for students.

97% of students said that they would recommend it to next year's students and were very appreciative of materials they were given. Students have quoted as saying it was "excellent—Simon Daley, enjoyable—Craig Dexter, spectacular—James Smith, very useful—James Halliwell who even got to grips with algebra at last!"

## **REVISION HELP ON THE WEB**

All TBSHS pupils are registered with the SAM Learning revision web site. Home users would normally pay £100 to subscribe. TBSHS pupils can use the site for free at home or at school.

The site is packed with examination activities and has sections for Key Stage 3 SATs, GCSE and A-levels.

Visit the site at <http://www.samlearning.com>

Learners need 3 details to login,



**School ID**

CM23 BS4

**User ID**

Date of birth followed by two initials; first name then last name. Example: **010885DJ** is the User ID for David Jones born 1st Aug 1985.

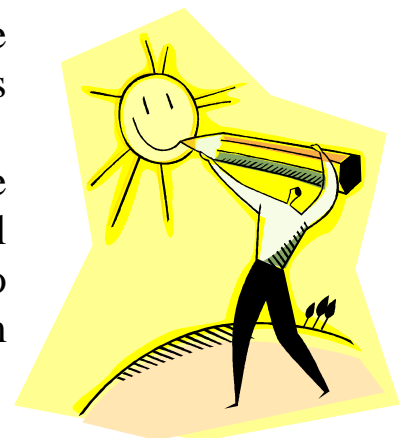
**Password**

Initially same as User ID, you should change your password as soon as you login.

Learner accounts were set up for all of our pupils during the last academic year. For these pupils, passwords have not changed. Forgotten passwords can be retrieved through the web site or by seeing Mr Atkinson at school.

**SUMMER SCHOOL**

The Maths Department has started to plan for its first ever Summer School! Although we are still planning it, it is expected to run towards the end of this August for two—three days. Amongst the opportunities on offer we hope to have a representative from Bletchley Park talking about the Enigma machine and its uses during the Second World War providing a valuable cross-curricular link with the History Department. We will then examine various code-breaking techniques and other related mathematics to extend the brightest students. As the Year 9 students have been working on WW2, it will be aimed at them but is open to older students too and places will also be offered to our consortium schools.



## **Dr Burani's Maths Clinic**



Do you have irritable primes?  
Are your square roots causing you concern?  
Do you suffer from pain in the quadratics?

If so help is at hand. Dr Burani is running a weekly drop in session for years 7-11 to help any pupil with their mathematics. The clinic will take place on Wednesdays from 3:50pm onwards. Pupils may only need to stay for 2 minutes to get their questions answered or longer if the answer is a little more complex.

## **Revision For KS3, GCSE and A level**

This is a very important time of year for pupils about to sit their KS3, GCSE or A level examinations. Revision will probably be the deciding factor between success and failure so the earlier pupils start their revision the better. In order to help pupils revise and study independently the mathematics department have put revision materials on the Virtual Learning Environment. This can be accessed through the school's website at: [www.tbshs.herts.sch.uk](http://www.tbshs.herts.sch.uk)

At the bottom of the page pupils will need to click on Login . Moodle. This will take them to the main menu where they can choose to subscribe onto a course. In subscribing to a course they will be asked for their user name and password – they should use their school user name and password. The following materials are available to students:

**KS3** – Past Papers from 1997 – 2004 for all tiers including calculator/non calculator papers and mark schemes.

**KS4** – Past Papers from last 3 years for all tiers including calculator/non calculator papers and mark schemes.

Revision papers by topic for Intermediate and Higher tiers

**A level** – Past Papers with mark schemes by module with course notes for some modules. Practice Papers are also available.

If pupils or parents can suggest any other materials they may find helpful for revision purposes please do not hesitate to contact the school and we will see if it is possible.

## **Year 11 Personal Finance Day**

On Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January TBSHS held its first Year 11 Personal finance day. This was an opportunity to teach the boys the finance skills they will need when they leave school. Whether they plan to go to university or straight into work the day was designed to help them develop an appreciation of the costs of living. The day involved pupils learning about:

- Earnings, Tax and National Insurance
- Bills, Budgeting and Saving
- Borrowing and Credit
- Renting and Buying Property



## **Maths Challenge Update**

The intermediate Maths challenge took place at the start of February and was another huge success with around 70 pupils taking part from years 9, 10 and 11. The breadth of mathematical talent within the school was again demonstrated with 7 gold, 14 silver and 15 bronze award winners which easily beats our 2005 total. In addition, we had a record breaking 5 qualifiers for the Kangaroo paper (compared to last years 2) which is a European wide competition. They were Robin Horgan, John Nevin, Simon McConnell and Oliver Dicks from year 11 and Fraser Elliot from year 9. The Kangaroo paper took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March and we await the results.

Also, for the first time ever, the school took part in the team section of the UK Maths Challenge. A mini qualification event was held in school and the winners headed to the University of Cambridge on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March to take place in the regional final. The team consisted of Fraser Elliot, Simon Dewhurst from Year 9 and Harry Owrid, Henry Bourne from year 8. They performed well but unfortunately were not outright winners and so will not be competing in the National Final. Better luck next year!

## Events

### **Year 10 – Stock Market simulation day**

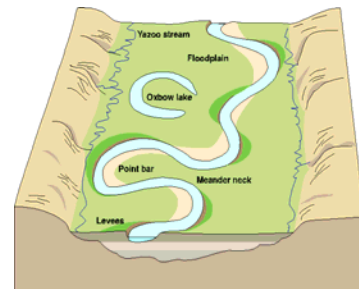
The aim of the Stock Market Simulation day was to show students how mathematics is used in the business world and also how the stock market works. The pupils were given a portfolio of shares and asked to react to market forces to maximise their return. This was done using ICT with news flashes to announce market news such as, “There has been an explosion at England’s largest oil refinery.”

Pupils then had to work out what effect this would have on share prices and decide whether to buy or sell their shares.

### **Year 7 – Maths and Geography day**

The aim of the Maths and Geography day was to use mathematics to help geographers understand the properties of rivers. During the day year 7 pupils took the following measurements on a river:

- river depth
- speed of flow
- shape of pebbles at the bottom
- river width



During their mathematics lessons pupils drew bar charts and line graphs to help analyse the properties of the river. These graphs were then used within the pupils’ Geography lessons to draw conclusions from their analysis.

### **Changes to ICT Curriculum**

As a result of the recent curriculum review there are to be some exciting changes within the ICT department. It is our view that pupils are joining the school with increasingly sophisticated ICT skills learnt from home or in Primary School. It is also our view that as pupils progress through the school ICT should be used as a tool within all subjects rather than just used within

ICT lessons. Therefore we are proposing the following:

- Increase the number of ICT lessons in years 7-9 and to sit a GCSE or equivalent qualification at the end of year 9.
- Remove compulsory discrete ICT lessons from years 10-11 and replace with optional AS level courses. These will be within the year 9 options scheme.

These proposals mean that at the end of year 9 all pupils should be able to achieve either a short or full course GCSE qualification in ICT. Pupils with an interest in further study of ICT will then have the option to study an AS in Computing or an AS in Applied ICT in years 10-11. Those who do not want to study ICT at a higher level will use ICT as a tool within their other subjects.

### **And Finally .....**

The Mathematics Department would like to congratulate the following students who have received offers to study mathematics at University.

Matthew Stemp

Daniel Collins

Jonathan Cozens

Daniel Faiers

Dominic Goulding

Matthew Paget

Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge

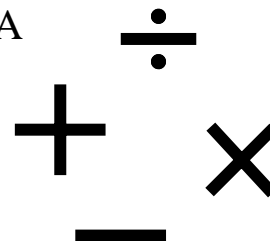
Durham

Bristol or UEA

Exeter

Durham

Leeds



### **Naacemmark**

The School has received confirmation that following the review of the evidence we provided in the impact self review we have now been assimilated from Naacemmark to the National ICT Mark.

We are one of the first schools to hold the new ICT Mark.

