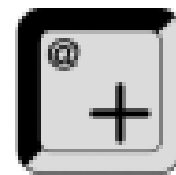


**THE BISHOP'S STORTFORD HIGH SCHOOL**  
*SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING SCHOOL*

# NEWSLETTER



Maths &  
Computing

ISSUE NO 7, DECEMBER 2006

## **MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT**

Work continues to try to achieve very demanding specialist school targets in Maths and ICT. Last year was a very successful year for the mathematics department.

At Key Stage 3 94% of students achieved level 5 or above with 84% of students achieving level 6 or above. The department also achieved its highest ever percentage of students achieving Level 8. At Key Stage 4 86% of students achieved GCSE grades A\*-C and 9% of students achieved A\* grades. At Key stage 5 100% of A level students achieved grades A-E while 75% of those students achieved grades A or B. At Further Maths level 100% of students achieved A or B grades in their A level examinations.

The Maths Department have also introduced a fast-track group at KS4. These pupils will sit their GCSE examination at the end of Year 10 and will study an AS level Mathematics qualification during Year 11.

In a new venture the Mathematics Department will be working with the Technology and Art Departments to look for areas where mathematics is used in other subjects. This, we hope, will help pupils realise that mathematics is all around us and not just confined to the classroom.

## **STOCK MARKET DAY**

In October the Maths and Business Studies Department held its annual stock market day with Year 9. The stock market day is an opportunity for all Year 9 or 10 students to understand and be part of a "virtual" stock market. It is designed to allow students to understand how the stock market works and what maths and ICT skills are needed to succeed in business. It is also designed to encourage teamwork and leadership skills.

## **SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE**

On Thursday 9 November, all the Sixth Form Mathematicians, around 80 strong, took part in the Senior Maths Challenge. This year we had 29 certificate winners with special mention to Andy Macdonald and Dan Ferguson from Year 13 who obtained Gold Awards. The Challenge continues to be an important event at TBSHS for all year groups and we now look forward to the Intermediate Challenge in February. Also for the second year running we will be entering the team event to take on the schools from around the country; the regional finals will take place in Cambridge around March.

## **MATHS AND DT DAY**

As part of furthering the cross-curricular links between Maths and other departments, plans are in place for a Maths and DT day hopefully to be held during the Summer Term. This will probably involve the

Sixth Form students in both subjects competing against each other in teams, having to use their ingenuity and skill to design a device to fire a projectile at a target. This has the potential to be an extremely enjoyable day that will hopefully focus both their Maths and DT skills in a positive way and highlight the connections between the two subjects.

## **MATHS AND ART DAY**

Discussions are underway to organise a themed day for some students across all year groups in the Summer Term entitled: 'Painting by Numbers'. Topics to be covered will include Fibonacci sequence / Golden ratio. The outcome is to learn the maths behind the golden ratio and then to produce a piece of art based on it.

## **THE HAPPY PUZZLE COMPANY**

The Happy Puzzle Company came to school to work with pupils from the TBSHS and Herts & Essex. Pupils from Year 8 - 11 spent about one and a half hours working with resources that tested their team working, logic and problem solving skills. The groups were mixed and the cooperation between the two sets of pupils was excellent.

The day was a success and the pupils were very positive about their experience.

## **BUILDING LINKS WITH OUR PRIMARY CONSORTIUM SCHOOLS**

During 2005 / 2006 The Bishop's Stortford High School supported four Primary Schools with extra-curricular Maths Clubs and also IT support.

The plan for this academic year is to build on what proved to be very successful and popular classes and to expand the opportunities given to the students.

## **MATHS EASTER REVISION CLASSES**

The Maths Department will be running revision classes for Year 11 students on Tuesday 3 and Wednesday 4 April. The numbers will be restricted to a maximum of twenty per class and so availability will be on a first come first served basis.

Initially the classes will be offered at the Intermediate level and the materials will cover all four grades but the focus will be on the middle two grades for each tier. The day will be split into two sessions, morning and afternoon, with a break for lunch which must be brought from home.

For more information and to reserve a place please contact the School as soon as possible.



## **ICT DEPARTMENT**

The ICT Department has also been working hard to achieve challenging targets at a time when the curriculum is changing in exciting ways. At Key Stage 3 93% of students achieved level 5 or above. At Key Stage 4 83% of students on the full GCSE course achieved grades A\*-C. At Key Stage 5 100% of pupils achieved grades A-E in A level computing with 56% achieving a grade A or B.

The ICT curriculum has been changed so that all pupils will take the GCSE short course in ICT at the end of Year 9. 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. This means that compulsory discrete ICT lessons have been removed for years 10-11 and replaced with optional AS level courses. These will be found within the Year 9 options scheme this year. 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.

## **TWELFTH ANNUAL BUSINESS LINKS LECTURE**

The Annual Business Links lecture and dinner was held on Monday November 20th 2006. Over 100 business people, staff and students enjoyed an excellent dinner followed by a lecture from Professor Tim Wilson, Vice Chancellor of Hertfordshire University.

Tim spoke about how the University were trying to improve communications and co-operation between academia and business.

His talk was followed by a lively discussion about how local business and the education sector could work together

## **2006 BUSINESS EXHIBITION, RHODES CENTRE**

Five Upper Sixth students who are studying Edexcel Applied Business had to plan the materials they thought would be appropriate to produce an exhibition stand at The Stortford Means Business Exhibition at The Rhodes Centre on Wednesday 18 October. The Exhibition Stand was advertising The Turing Suite and Rooms 28/29, the School's state-of-the-art ICT Suites, which the School is keen to promote for use by both schools and the local community.

They were supported by a professional photographer, Mr A Cook, who organised a photo shoot of The Turing Suite and Rooms 28/29. Tom Hewitt led the team ably supported by Chris Cray, Tom Rainey, Luke Westwood and Sam Carney. Sam was responsible for the display board layout. Luke, who is also a private film maker, shot the DVD film promoting the resources—particularly head shots of our IT support staff Mr Andy Field and his brilliant technicians.

They set up the display the evening before the day itself and represented the School at the exhibition. They were told by the Organiser that they performed really well and were given a place in the best stands review the Organisers presented at the end of the day.

Many of the guests were impressed by the students' approach, a credit to themselves and the School.

A big thank you to Mr Noble for making this education-vocational business link for us.

## **SIXTH FORM LAPTOP SCHEME**

It is pleasing to report that the plans in the last addition of the newsletter have resulted in the system going live from mid October. The result of which is that students are now able to gain access to the school network from their own personal computing devices. To date, sixth form students have benefited from the scheme by allowing wireless access to the school network servers and the internet.

The procedure for getting connected is very straight forward, it involves submitting your machine to the network technical team for a "health" check, and the installation of a small login routine, participants will also need to agree to some basic rules by signing a "proper use" agreement. The service is provided free of charge to students. If you wish to take advantage of the scheme you need to contact Mr Hood who will give you full details.

## **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 log in:

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 log in.

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.



## **VLE at TBSHS**

VLE is a Virtual Learning Environment at TBSHS. 750 people have created accounts and are increasingly using this internet base that can provide an extra dimension to enhance their learning. The system, which is accessible by clicking on the "Moodle" link from the school website front page ([www.tbshs.herts.sch.uk/moodle](http://www.tbshs.herts.sch.uk/moodle)), allows teachers to present learning materials to students both outside and inside the classroom. The huge advantage for students is that these materials are available to them anytime, anywhere, provided they have internet access. It is even possible to access these materials from a mobile!

In addition to this the system will allow discussion groups to be created which will allow students to join moderated debate situations that can support understanding of complex subjects. There are also modules that allow students to submit work online and get feedback from staff in the same manner.

Over the coming term further developments on the school website and the VLE should result in easier access and a more streamlined feel to the system. In addition, it is intended that the staff will be given further training opportunities in how the system can support their teaching and in turn student learning with more and more resources being added all the time.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

Each year we are keen to adjust our community provision to meet local needs. In this respect we have secured two new partnerships one with St. Elizabeth's College and the other with Kameleon 4 (Learn Direct).

### **ST ELIZABETH COLLEGE**

In September 2004 St Elizabeth's College was established to offer young people leaving Special Schools the opportunity to develop the skills needed to move towards adulthood and an independent, more fulfilled lifestyle. This approach has brought together education, health, care and housing, into a holistic, co-ordinated package of support and development for the young people on the programme. The move into Bishop's Stortford is radical and challenging and involves partnerships with local secondary schools, charities and various agencies.

We are delighted to announce that the College will be working with our school from January 2007 for one session each week in developing the learners skills in numeracy and ICT with teaching space (Turing) and tutor costs provided by the school.

### **KAMELEON 4—LEARN DIRECT**

LearnDirect is a national organisation with a good reputation for providing an extensive range of skills for life courses. With the great benefit of their national advertising network and team of quali-



fied tutors, we are extremely pleased to host a LearnDirect Centre at our school. The centre is open every Wednesday from 10am- 2pm.

## **STRATEGIC AREA PARTNERSHIP**

Our local Consortium is now designated as a Strategic Area Partnership Group (SAPG). The Deputies have constructed a three-year development plan to respond to the LEA's request to extend the opportunities for personalised learning across the Consortium.

Four schools – Birchwood High, The Herts and Essex, Leventhorpe and TBSHS – have met regularly to plan a shared Year 12 option block that commenced in September 2006. Thirteen subjects have been offered to students in this block. The take-up has been significant with over 50 students taking this opportunity.

At TBSHS we offer AS courses in Computing and Music Technology and at Key Stage 4 a Computer Upgrade and Build NVQ L2 course. In addition we are taking a lead role in developing the Specialised Diploma in ICT to come on line in September 2008.

## **STOP PRESS**

### **Friends of Stortford High Association**

**<http://www.fosha.org.uk>**

We are delighted to announce the launch of a web site for all former students and staff to remain in touch with each other and the School. A committee of former students will devise a programme of events for staff and students to encourage Friends to re-unite at different times of the year.

## **COURSES FOR ALL IN THE TURING SUITE**

TBSHS are offering a variety of courses at subsidised rates. For further details regarding any of the courses, please contact Sue Smith at the School, 01279 868686 or [susan.smith@tbshs.herts.sch.uk](mailto:susan.smith@tbshs.herts.sch.uk)

*The following three courses are commencing Monday 22 January at 4.00 p.m.:*

### **CompTIA A+**

CompTIA A+ certification is an international industry credential. Major hardware and software vendors, distributors and resellers accept CompTIA A+ as the standard in foundation-level, vendor-neutral certification for service technicians. Earning CompTIA A+ certification proves that a candidate has a broad base of knowledge and competency in core hardware and operating system technologies including installation, configuration, diagnosing, preventive maintenance and basic networking.

**CompTIA NETWORK+**

The CompTIA Network+ certification is an international industry credential; a typical candidate would have CompTIA A+ certification or equivalent knowledge. Earning a CompTIA Network+ certification demonstrates that a candidate can describe the features and functions of networking components, and possesses the knowledge and skills needed to install, configure and troubleshoot basic networking hardware, protocols and services. The exam tests technical ability in the areas of media and topologies, protocols and standards, network implementation, and network support. The exam also covers new technologies such as wireless networking and gigabit Ethernet.

**CompTIA Security+**

CompTIA Security+ certification is recognised around the world as the benchmark for foundation-level security professionals. The exam covers industry-wide topics, including communication security, infrastructure security, cryptography, access control, authentication, and operational security.

**DIGITAL IMAGING FOR EVERYONE—AN INTRODUCTION**

This free course, starting on Tuesday 23 January, 7.00 p.m. is aimed at anyone who has an interest in taking and manipulating digital photographic images. The course is suitable for either the experienced photographer who wishes to go digital, or anyone who has been given a digital camera for Christmas and would like to learn more about digital imaging.

Over the course we will cover:

- 1 Basic camera operations
- 2 Transferring your images to a computer
- 3 Filing your images
- 4 Retouching the image and adjusting exposure and contrast
- 5 Resizing the photographs for high quality printing or for the web
- 6 Straightening, cropping and resizing images
- 7 Adding text to an image
- 8 Restoring an old photograph
- 9 Sending images by email, or to a photographic printer

The course will be run by an ex professional photographer with many years experience of both film and digital photography.

