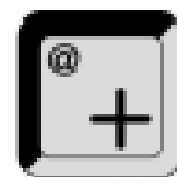


THE BISHOP'S STORTFORD HIGH SCHOOL
SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



Maths &
Computing

ISSUE NO 13, JANUARY 2009

Maths Challenge: Senior Group

A team of Will Sargeant, James Brierley, Laurence Cook and Matthew Tedder went to Cambridge at the end of November to take on the region's finest mathematicians. The opposition consisted mainly of expensive private schools (such as Oundle) but also included strong sixth form colleges like the eventual winners Hills Road. Despite the strength of the opposition, our young men went on to beat over half of the opposing teams and punched way above their mathematical weight. I would like to praise the boys for their efforts especially Will Sargeant who drove there and back and has been an inspiration all term to many students at Maths Clinic.

We are now looking forward to Herts & Essex hosting the Years 8 / 9 Bishop's Stortford challenge that we created last year. This event is expected to take place in February and we are now expecting Newport and hopefully Stansted to enter teams too.

Mr N Chamberlain

Functional Maths

The School has offered to help pilot the new Functional Maths scheme. This means that every student in Year 9 will take a paper in May 2009. We expect most students to pass the Level 2 qualification and a few to pass the slightly easier Level 1.

Mr N Chamberlain

Maths and Business Day

Year 9 once again had the opportunity to take part in the annual Maths and Business Stock Market Day. For those not familiar with the event, which has now run for four years, the day consists of teams competing to buy and sell shares in 16 real life companies. As the prices fluctuate the teams have to develop strategies to outwit their opposition, like watching the news and acting appropriately to what they think will happen so they'll make the most profit.

The day always proves to be incredibly enjoyable, if a little loud in the trading pit. Congratulations must go to Connor Lawrenson, Daniel Laycock and Conor Mahoney who ended up being overall winners. Thanks to Mr Beran and Mr Stone for their superb organisation and providing a fantastic insight into the world of market trading.

Working with Herts and Essex

As part of TBSHS's continued work with other schools in the consortium, since September we have been helping to deliver weekly Further Mathematics lessons at Herts and Essex. This has turned out to be very successful and the students will soon be taking their first modules in January.

Sixth Form Annual Lecture Trip to London

On 11 November Mr Dwyer and Mr Cahil escorted 25 sixth form students to the Institute of Education, Russell Square to see four lectures that showed off the wide ranging and fascinating applications of Mathematics. The lectures included *Crime Detection*, *Making a Million*, *Coin-Weighing and Pools of Blood*, *10 Ways to Win a Maths Bet in a Pub and Chaos*, *Kayaking and Crochet*.

All were delivered by university lecturers in a variety of fields and it was great to see our students enthusiastic about the possibilities of where their Maths may take them beyond secondary school.

Mr P M Dwyer

Young Enterprise

Last term saw the establishment of three new Young Enterprise Companies. Thanks must go to our three external business advisers (Ian Hudson, John Barfoot and Charles Payne) who come in each week to support the board of directors' meetings held in Room 19. Aaron Darnell, Joe Sumner and Ronan Laycock have been excellent managing directors. The teams have all tried hard to come up with good ideas some more successfully than others. There have been some mistakes, e.g. the young student who was injured by a friend when opening an aluminous band. The company sensibly withdrew the product from the market. Another company bought sweets for sale during Halloween and Christmas papers for December sales as well as running a very profitable raffle—three lucky students in Years 7, 8 and 9 were the winners. The third company has begun the process of setting up a teachers top trump card business. They should all make some money which the achievers will benefit from not to mention charities of their choice. The shareholders should get their money back but this is not always possible if the business fails to make a profit.

Mr F Beran, Link Teacher

TBSHS Enter Manchester University Animation Competition

Following the success of the 2008 National Schools Animation Competition, the University of Manchester will again be running the UK Schools Computer Animation Competition in 2009, in association with Electronic Arts and the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry.

The inaugural competition was held as part of the University's 2008 celebrations of the 60th birthday of the [world's first stored-program computer](#) - also known as "[The Baby](#)" - designed and built at the University of Manchester in 1948.

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Over [400 hundred](#) schools registered for the Schools Computer Animation event and over 500 children attended from all over UK on Digital60 Day to see the winners of the UK Schools Computer Animation Competition.

As computer animation now plays a large part in the curriculum at all key stages, TBSHS will be showcasing their talents and entering three teams into the competition and feel confident that we can make an impact on the results.

Students will be required to create a short (maximum length 1 minute) animated Computer Graphics film using either [Alice](#), a free computer animation system for Windows, Mac and Linux that requires no knowledge of programming or Adobe Flash. Entries will be reviewed by a panel of judges and the awards ceremony will take place at the University of Manchester in the summer.

Winners of the Individual Entries category will receive notebook PCs. Runners-up can choose their prize from: a Cannon IXUS digital camera, Apple iPod Classic, or a LEGO Mindstorms NXT robot kit. Each winning team in the Group Entries category will receive an Amazon voucher for the value of £500. Each Runner-up team will receive an Amazon voucher for the value of £150. Winning entries from last year's competition can be seen at: <http://www.cs.manchester.ac.uk/Digital60>
Mr S Abbott

Maths Enrichment Classes

Maths enrichment classes have now begun at Thorley Hill, Little Hallingbury, Little Hadham, All Saints and Northgate. St. Michaels and Hillmead will follow later in the year.

Adult Education Courses Spring Term

- Fusion Theatre
- Digital Studio Photography
- Understanding Ebay
- Yamaha Music School.

The School's state-of-the-art Turing Suite, containing quality ICT facilities, is available for hire.



Contact Claire Jonas on 01279 869568 for further details on all of the above.

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More details are available on the school website. Links; TBSHS Aspects; Community and Adult Learning.

Mr R Meredith, Director of Community Education