

For immediate release

Top UK Students Love Doing Maths

At the Camden Centre in London last week, 252 of the best Mathematics students in UK schools and colleges worked in teams to solve challenging mathematical problems for over 3 and a half hours. It was the final of the Senior Team Maths Challenge, which is run jointly by the UK Mathematics Trust and the Further Mathematics Support Programme and sponsored by HP Calculators. This year over 1000 schools and colleges from around the UK entered, competing in over 50 regional heats. 63 teams progressed to the Final, held in London on February 1st. The overall champions this year were a team of 4 students, 2 boys and 2 girls, from Alton College in Hampshire, who were presented with the trophy by Mark Higgins of HP Calculators.

Girls three times more likely to win Mathematics prizes than boys

Of the 252 students who competed in the final a greater proportion of girls were in the top three teams compared to boys. 20% of the girls and 7% of the boys won prizes.

The Senior Team Maths Challenge

The National Final of the Senior Team Maths Challenge involves teams of 4 students from the eligible year groups (*see note 3*), competing in:

- a group round where the team works together to answer as many questions possible in the allowed time;

- a mathematical crossnumber with two members of the team working on the across clues and two on the down;
- a relay where answers from one question feed in to the next;
- a poster competition to design a poster on a mathematical subject.

The challenges test mathematical skills and also teamwork and communication skills.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Rachel Greenhalgh (or Shona Raffle), UK Mathematics Trust, telephone: 0113 343 2339.

Richard Lissaman (or Lynne Redman), Further Mathematics Support Programme, telephone: 01225 716492

Notes to Editors

1. The UK Mathematics Trust is a registered charity whose aim is to advance the education of children and young people in mathematics. It organises national mathematics competitions and other mathematical enrichment activities for UK secondary school pupils. Further information about the Trust and its activities is available at www.ukmt.org.uk.
2. The Further Mathematics Support Programme (FMSP) is a national DfE-funded programme, managed by MEI, an independent educational charity. The aim of the FMSP is to give every student who could benefit from studying Further Mathematics the opportunity to do so. It supports students, teachers and schools, providing tuition, professional development, and enrichment opportunities. Further information about the FMSP is available at www.furthermaths.org.uk.
3. Year 13 and below (England and Wales), Year 14 and below (Northern Ireland) and Year S6 and below (Scotland).
4. An image of the winning team accompanies this release (see below). Further photographs are available on request.



The winning team from Alton College in Hampshire