VERULAM SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

EDITION 14 : 29/01/24

SPOTLIGHT ON MATHS

Here at Verulam our ethos as a department is to foster a love of mathematics, encouraging critical thinking and problem-solving skills. We want our students to be able to apply the skills they learn in our classrooms to other subject areas, as well as to non-academic areas of interest. We aim to offer a good balance of support and challenge, and we encourage our students to be independent and resilient learners.

"Being a good mathematician is not about knowing all the answers; it's about how you behave when you don't know."

We get up to quite a bit within our department, on Monday 22nd January, we held an A Level Maths taster lesson for our year 11's which was well attended by a lovely enthusiastic bunch. It was an introduction to calculus and we were very impressed - but we can't say surprised - with how quickly the boys picked up the topic and got on to the extension material. On the 8th and 11th January the year 11 boys sat their Number and Measure Award and Algebra Award respectively. We were so proud of our boys seeing their dedication and commitment to prepare for their exams, especially with the after school sessions on Mondays they attended and the mountain of past papers they completed.

We continue to challenge our students with the annual UKMT Maths Challenge and Wednesday 31st January will be the Intermediate Challenge for years 9 to 11. We have around 90 students taking part this year and we wish them good luck. Special shout out to Rico Chung in year 13 who after doing exceptionally well on the Senior Maths sat the second tier of the Olympiad on Wednesday 24th January. Finally, our boys not only challenge themselves in lessons but during Friday lunchtime in the maths hub in B3. Every week students can get help with any maths problems or homework they are struggling on and push their knowledge by sharing challenging problems or puzzles they have found.

Here is a maths puzzle you can try:

Four people need to cross a rickety bridge at night. Unfortunately, they have only one torch and the bridge is too dangerous to cross without one. The bridge is only strong enough to support two people at a time. Not all people take the same time to cross the bridge. Times for each person: 1 min, 2 mins, 7 mins and 10 mins. What is the shortest time needed for all four of them to cross the bridge?













COMING UP SOON:

Date	Event	Time
Monday 29th January	Year 11 & 13 Iceland Geography Trip	All day
Tuesday 30th January	Year 11 & 13 Iceland Geography Trip Under 13 Rugby Home	All day
Wednesday 31st January	Year 11 & 13 Iceland Geography Trip Year 11 Berlin History Trip Year 9, 10 & 11 Intermediate Maths Challenge	All day All day
Thursday 1st February	Year 11 Berlin History Trip	All day
Friday 2nd February	Sixth Form Application Deadline Year 11 Berlin History Trip Under 12 Football Away	All day
Monday 5th February		
Tuesday 6th February	Year 9 Options Evening	6pm
Wednesday 7th February	Under 18 Rugby Away Basketball Home	
Thursday 8th February		
Friday 9th February		

