

WORDSLEY PUPILS SHINE IN ANNUAL UK MATHS CHALLENGE

This morning the Headteacher of The Wordsley School, Mr Burton and Teacher of Maths, Mrs Smith, met with 20 pupils who took part in the UK Junior Mathematics Challenge earlier this year.

The national, annual challenge enables pupils across the country to test themselves against a range of mathematical problem solving activities. The challenge takes the form of a written examination lasting 60 minutes and comprising 25 questions. The questions are not the type that you would typically see on a GCSE maths paper; the aim of the challenge is more focused on opening the minds of young people to the breadth and depth of mathematics.



Mr Burton and Mrs Smith pictured with the Year 8 pupils

Mrs Smith, who leads this and other mathematics enrichment activities in the school, joined Mr Burton to meet with every pupil who took part in the challenge, offering their congratulations. They paid tribute to the pupils' depth and breadth of mathematical knowledge, far beyond what would reasonably be expected at their age and also their resilience and determination, to have performed so brilliantly whilst at home during lockdown. One pupil commented "I am absolutely delighted to have received a Headteacher's Commendation and can't wait to have another go at the challenge next year".



Year 9 pupils delighted with their certificates and commendations

#believeachieveinspire



If you are wondering whether you might be able to answer one of the 25 questions, the challenge can be found on the website of the UK Mathematics Trust at:

<https://www.ukmt.org.uk/sites/default/files/ukmt/junior-mathematical-challenge/JMC-2020-q.pdf>

To give you a taster of the level of difficulty that the pupils had to contend with in a very short space of time, one of the 25 questions is copied below; can you solve this in just over 2 minutes?

Harriet has a square piece of paper. She folds it in half to form a rectangle and then in half again to form a second rectangle (which is not a square). The perimeter of the second rectangle is 30 cm. What is the area of the original square?

Good luck with the above question and our sincere congratulations to each of the 20 pupils.



Mr Burton presenting Bethany (Year 8) with her Gold certificate. Bethany achieved the highest points total in the school (103 out of a possible 135)