



# KING'S MATHS SCHOOL

## AUTUMN TERM 2020

### Strong together

This year has been unlike any other. Responding to the constantly evolving situation created by Covid-19 has not always been easy. We are proud of the way in which our school community has come together. We thank each and every one of you for the incredible contributions you have made in supporting one another.

Our new ways of working, learning and communicating have sparked impressive displays of creativity, strength and resourcefulness. This has included organising virtual Open and Taster Days and a slick new 360 film and tour. Our Year 13s delivered outstanding presentations in our King's Certificate virtual conference in September. Whilst we missed the opportunity to celebrate their achievements in Bush House, it was exciting to learn from their months of research. Our students' powerful presentations encapsulated their resilience and innovation.

### Maths competitions

Sixteen of our students took part in the UKMT Maths Olympiad for Girls (MOG). Their results were outstanding - our best ever! Ten students' scores placed them in the top 25% of participants, 8 of whom were in the top 10%. Special congrats to Carys in Year 12 who attained full marks - an achievement matched by only 11 others in the UK.

Despite being held during remote schooling for Year 13, we also took part in the Senior Mathematics Challenge. Half of our students attained Gold awards and 24 automatically qualified for the BMO1.

### New slates

We are grateful to corporate partner XTX for our new digital slates (pictured right). They have made a big impact on our students' online learning. Our teachers are also benefitting from the mobility and flexibility this product introduces.

### Honouring BHM

We celebrated Black History Month (BHM) in October and the immense impact that Black people have had, and continue to have, on the world. In the context of the Black Lives Matter movement and anti-racism protests, BHM felt more symbolic than ever. For our school community, our Year 13s compiled an arresting array of articles, podcasts, books and more focusing on black history. Our students also chose to shine a light on distinguished black mathematicians via our Twitter page, highlighting their astonishing achievements.





Left: Carys who attained full marks in MOG. Right: our students showing their flair for origami.

## UK maths schools

The maths schools network is growing! Imperial College London will open a specialist maths sixth-form school in North Finchley in 2023. Taking up to 100 students each year from across London and beyond, Imperial College Mathematics School will look to boost the number of maths students at top universities from disadvantaged or under-represented backgrounds.

It is fantastic to see the creation of another unique learning environment for A-level maths students who have a real passion for the subject. Mr Abramson dedicated an assembly on the importance of embracing our network of maths schools and the pride we should feel being part of this family. We will do all we can to support Imperial in its journey to become the 8th specialist math school in the UK. We look forward to welcoming them and are excited to face a bit of healthy competition in the London area.

## Speakers circuit

We were thrilled to host virtually Dr Amy Mason and Dr Shefaly Yogendra. Dr Mason shared her experiences as a disabled queer mathematician and provided an interactive seminar on Bayes Theorem. Dr Yogendra considered the concept of failure and its meaning. We also welcomed Dr David Manheim, a super forecaster, who explained the value of information. Kalu Onwuka, XVA trader at JP Morgan, introduced CVA and the mathematical constructs used for pricing. Stay tuned for other brilliant virtual talks.

## New outreach

Launching next Spring, our new outreach scheme, Extensions, is for students in Years 10 and 11 who enjoy maths. They will be introduced to fun ideas that are beyond the GCSE syllabus such as graph theory and strategy games. We hope it will inspire them to take on tougher Olympiad-level problems and give them a sense of the wider world of maths.

## Cultural spotlight

We had a blast celebrating Cultural Afternoon, which was all about broadening our horizons and challenging perceptions. We were entertained, informed and inspired through various forms of culture. Highlights included online theatre and art and virtual workshops on animation, photography and poetry. Dr Chu gave a fun lesson in Origami, the Japanese art of paper folding.

### WEEKLY MATHS CHALLENGE

Mrs Green is teaching a class of eight students. Four pairs are "best friends". She wants to divide them into pairs, but knows that putting any pair of best friends together will lead to chaos in the classroom. How many ways can she put them into productive pairs?