



KING'S MATHS SCHOOL

SPRING TERM 2016

UNIVERSITY OFFERS

Over 95% of year 13 students are holding an offer from a Sutton Trust 30 University. Eleven students have received an Oxbridge offer to read Mathematics, Engineering, Computer Science, Natural Sciences and Politics, Philosophy and Economics. All that remains is a term of hard work to make sure they get their grades! Staff and governors are excited to see the first cohort of KCLMS students complete their time at the school, and indeed become our first alumni.

VEX ROBOTICS

Following a generous donation from Frank Rogers, we are excited to be extending our Robotics program. Our current program involves Lego EV3 robots and will now include Vex Robotics, which focuses on the electronics and engineering aspects of robotics. This provides an exciting opportunity for students interested in engineering and problem solving.

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

The King's Maths School Drama Club staged a wonderful performance of 'Little Shop of Horrors' on the penultimate night of term. Daniel Clarke, Gabriel Musker, Michelle Lamptey, Rebecca Shantry Lauren Tidmarsh and Michael Udemba all dazzled on stage, and revealed previously hidden acting skills and impressive singing voices. An honourable mention must go to Louisa Le'Mon who was unable to perform on the night, but who was a central member of the team. Many thanks to Lucy Clark, our Drama teacher, for all of her support and direction.

PHYSICS CHALLENGE

Forty students entered the AS Physics Challenge, which tests student's ability to think through unfamiliar problems in Physics. An impressive thirty-four students achieved medal status: 7 Gold, 6 Silver, 21 Bronze and the remaining candidates were all awarded commendations.

OASIS OUTREACH

Three KCLMS students, Shaams Dally, Finnbar Keating and Kirsty Land, run a weekly extension club at the Oasis Academy Southbank. With help from Mr Robson, our students carefully plan each session, preparing their own materials or adapting other sources. They have covered a range of topics including the difference between area and perimeter, and elementary group theory via the medium of dance. Their contribution is highly valued by Oasis, and the club featured on the front page of Oasis' recent Outstanding Ofsted report.

NEWSFLASH!

Following a very positive article by Richard Garner in the Independent, KCLMS has seen an exciting wave of publicity. Students and staff featured on ITV News at 10, BBC London and Sky News, all within the space of a week! Andrea Cozza, Michelle Lamptey, Sebastian Monnet, Yemi Togun and Libby Walker were excellent ambassadors for the school, o

ENGINEERING DAY

On Friday 18 March, a group of 9 students attended an engineering careers awareness day, hosted by the Institute of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) in Westminster. The students undertook a variety of challenges throughout the day, such as building a tower out of newspaper and designing a cable car using paper, aluminium and drinking straws. They also had an opportunity to speak to a host of engineering professionals from a variety of companies including TFL, FirstCo and Crossrail. The students found the day incredibly useful and are now better equipped to pursue their future careers in engineering.

SATURDAY VOLUNTEERS

Between November and February, a group of four Year 12 volunteers, Andrea Cozza, Sebastian Monnet, Anna Stothard and Michael Udemba, hosted a series of 10 "Maths Challenge" workshops for children aged 10-14 at the Camberwell Library in Southwark on Saturday lunchtimes. They were given a brief of designing "fun and tactile sessions" to enable them "to engage with students who would often find maths a challenge". Initially supported by teaching staff at the Maths school, our students quickly demonstrated that they could produce high-quality resources and stepped up to the challenge of delivering these sessions to upwards of 25 children (and sometimes parents!) Topics of discussion included mathematical origami, the Mobius strip and strategy games. Congratulations to our volunteers for making these workshops such a success!

FURTHER MATHS FOR TEACHERS

This year KCLMS has run a course for 15 teachers aimed at developing subject knowledge and pedagogy for Further Maths A-level. The course involves six central training days held at KCLMS and two visits to each participant in their school. In this way we have been able to discuss the mathematical content and how to approach it, then help teachers to do this in their own classrooms. The course has been made possible this year, and for the next two years, by a generous donation from The Goldsmith's Company, to whom we would like to extend our deep gratitude. It provides a greatly valued opportunity: participants say that "I have gained an understanding into mathematics I have not previously understood", "I feel free to approach topics in a different way from that in the textbook" and "I have greater confidence in my own understanding".

WORK EXPERIENCE

At KCLMS, we consider work experience to include activities that prepare students for the world of further study as well as the workplace. Every student in year 12 has now made a good application for a week or more of preparatory experience in the summer; many have opted to apply for the Nuffield Research Placements, which provide students with an opportunity to work alongside professional scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians. If any parents, carers, governors or friends of the school are able to offer work placements, please email us at mathsschool@kcl.ac.uk.

TEAM MATHS

This term, Cameron Croucher, Andrew Dean, Tom Wilkinson and Iain Wright represented KCLMS in the national finals of the Senior Team Mathematics Challenge, organised by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust. This involved 84 teams from around the country competing in challenges that mixed tough problems with the need for speed, accuracy and collaboration. Our team was able to impressively balance all these skills to take a highly respectable 10th place.

LOLLIPOPS

King's College London have published an article about the challenges and delights of opening King's Maths School in their alumnus magazine, InTouch. The author asked our students to create a mathematical puzzle for their readers, and our students duly obliged! They challenged the readers to find the average number of steps required to travel a lollipop graph. So far no correct solution has been received...

WEEKLY MATHS CHALLENGE

The weekly Maths Challenge continues to be popular. Here is the latest from our website. The length of the perimeter of a right-angled triangle is 60 inches and the altitude (perpendicular height) of the triangle measured from the right angle to the hypotenuse is 12 inches. What are the lengths of the sides of the triangle? Generalise: what perimeters and altitudes are possible?

**WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY EASTER
AND A WELL EARNED REST!**