



KING'S MATHS SCHOOL

SPRING TERM 2019

Alumni News

17 April 2019, an historic event: the first ever all-year alumni social! This was held at Mother Kelly's in Vauxhall and was attended by over 100 alumni graduating from King's Maths School in 2016, 2017 or 2018. The event was a heart-warming reminder of how lucky we've been to work with such inspiring and talented students these past few years. It was a delight to see them all, and to find out how their lives are panning out. King's Maths School has this year been working with Jennie Golding from the Institute of Education (UCL) to conduct some formal qualitative research into the impact that the school has had on our alumni's lives, and we are looking forward to sharing the outcomes later this year. Our first ever cohort is graduating: watch this space to see what amazing things our pioneers go on and do.

Engagement

As King's Maths School has grown, so has a need for us to

establish more formal links with a wide variety of individuals and organisations who are interested to provide opportunities to our current and past students. These include visiting speakers, career opportunities including internships and apprenticeships, and mentors for our in-depth collaborative "King's Certificate" research projects. We are hosting an event at the school on 8 May in the evening to welcome all those who have and may be interested to work with us to showcase our partnerships and the huge impact that they have on the lives of our students.

Speakers

We had a full calendar of speaker events over the term, beginning with Dunola Oladapo, FX Operations analyst at Goldman Sachs and recipient of the 20 UK Women of the Future Award for Community Spirit. Then, Jonathan Wolf joined us to talk about his work as CEO of Project Sapiens. As our last speaker of the half-term, we heard

from JueYan Zhang, a portfolio manager at BlackRock, who discussed his interest in how to 'do good well' as an effective altruist. Over the second half-term, we learnt about the peculiar deaths of famous mathematicians, courtesy of Ioanna Georgiou, followed by keynote speaker Merritt Moore to learn about how she manages to balance being a physicist with professional ballet. We then heard from our first KCLMS student speaker, Maggie, who premiered her EPQ documentary about Dragon Beard Candy and shared her research about the science of sugar. Then, we welcomed back former KCLMS teacher, Fiona Reid, to hear about her work at Christians Against Poverty. Our last speakers of the term were Marc Cohen, a Developer Advocate at Google, who walked us through some intersections between programming and maths, and Dominic Cummings, a political adviser and strategist, who joined us to discuss some 'unrecognised simplicities' of how politics and government work.



Tabs and Irina beside the 'Wall of Women', and student origami on display in the library

Cultural Activities

Students marked the end of the Spring term with a day of cultural activities. Highlights included a visit to the Cinema Museum, home to a remarkable collection of Hollywood memorabilia, and a tour of Vauxhall City Farm. Some students visited the Science Gallery, where an exhibition called 'Spare Parts' invited them to consider issues around medical technology. Meanwhile, Dr Chu and Ms Burdett ran an immensely popular origami class, while other students watched science fiction films projected in the main hall. Many also chose to visit the collections of artefacts from military history at the Imperial War Museum, and a final group went to see the permanent exhibitions at Tate Modern.

Gender Action

KCLMS have recently signed up to Gender Action, a new initiative that aims to challenge gender stereotypes in schools and make them more inclusive environments. This year, students have raised awareness about gender equality in STEM

through several different projects, including assemblies, displays around school and film screenings. Irina, Nada, Sae and Tabs have spearheaded the efforts, giving an insightful assembly highlighting the disparity between female and male participation in STEM at varying levels, and discussing steps KCLMS can take to help tackle this problem. On top of this, students in both Y12 and Y13 have contributed to a "Wall of Women" inspired by a similar display at King's College London. Here, they have celebrated the achievements of inspiring female scientists, mathematicians and computer scientists, from recent Nobel prize winner Donna Strickland to KCLMS's own Sara (who has featured in the Guardian for her work on AI projects). Looking ahead to the rest of the year, we're excited to see students and staff collaborating to work towards the Gender Action Initiator award, which recognises schools that put gender equality at the heart of policy and practice.

Mathsbombe

The annual Mathsborne competition, a team maths challenge run by the university of Manchester, proved popular this year with around 30 of our students entering. KCLMS have a proud tradition in this competition, and our students rose to the challenge with several teams winning 'spot prizes' for correct solutions to the problems set. However, special mention must go to the team of Oliver, Tabs, Sae and Orson, who won the entire competition, repeating our 2017 triumph. For their efforts, they have been invited to attend the Alan Turing Cryptography day, as well as the prize-giving ceremony at the University of Manchester. Congratulations!

WEEKLY MATHS CHALLENGE #200

What positive integer less than or equal to 200 has the largest number of distinct factors?