

KING'S MATHS SCHOOL

SUMMER TERM 2020

Thriving online

Whilst the doors of KCLMS have been shut, our community has responded admirably to these exceptional times. Learning to use new technology can be tough but students and staff have thrived. KCLMS has fully embraced the online universe, providing a full suite of lessons as well as assemblies, society meetings and outreach. Thanks to the support of the Worshipful Company of Actuaries, we have delivered a live online Further Maths professional development course for over 200 secondary school maths teachers. We have also been doing vlogging outreach, including sending out a weekly problem to GCSE+ participants by email and posting a follow-up discussion on our YouTube channel. We are delighted that over 120 of our GCSE+ year 9 and year 10 participants have continued coming to us for their weekly enrichment sessions, but now the programme happens online: Zoom-athematics!

Celebration time

KCLMS is celebrating our leavers in various ways. Popular mementoes such as hoodies and yearbooks have been produced free of charge thanks to our partners XTX. Students will also receive the infamous KCLMS mug on A-Level results day. A video has been created for all Year 13 students, parents and carers. It captures clips of staff and students as they reminisce about their time at King's and wish each other well. We hope to have a more formal event for the class of 2020 in the new year. Watch this space.

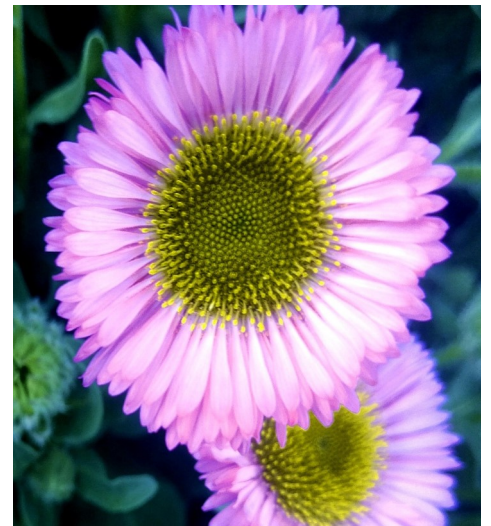


Photo competition

KCLMS ran a photo competition, asking students to spot maths around them. Victor Kojey-Merle took the top spot with his gorgeous shot of flowers (right). He correctly noted that the number of spirals in the pistil reveal the Fibonacci sequence.

Victorian maths

The University of Liverpool Maths School has had tremendous success providing daily online outreach sessions for over 200 Year 11 students across the North West. The school has been using a Victorian algebra book, H.S. Hall and S.R. Knight's *Elementary Algebra for Schools*. Written in 1885, the textbook contains over 3,500 problems. This unusual teaching aid has gained nationwide attention. It's been highlighted in The Times (twice) and the BBC's legendary news quiz show *Have I Got News for You*.





V = value in book of Victorian algebra



Nicola Woolcock
Education Correspondent

With questions about threepenny bits and tobacco, a Victorian algebra textbook may not seem like the basis for a pioneering education strategy. But for the head teacher of a new maths school for gifted teenagers, it is the perfect teaching aid.

Damian Haigh, 48, has been running online lessons for pupils before Liverpool Maths School, the latest mathematics sixth-form college, opens in September. It will offer only four A levels — maths, further maths,

A Gender Action poster of mathematician Gladys West (left). Liverpool Maths School in The Times.

Taking a stand

Following a rigorous application process, KCLMS was thrilled to win a Gender Action Initiator award. It's a campaign helping schools to challenge gender stereotypes. We now have our eyes set on achieving the next tier of the awards "Champion School" status. Equality, inclusion and diversity are core to everything we do as a school community. George Floyd's senseless death has shaken us all. Supported by staff, a group of students has formed the Student Social Action Forum, which explores this tragedy's impact on society and the significance of the Black Lives Matter movement. These students have produced and shared a compelling guide to educate the whole community on race equality and social injustice. Seeing so many students engage with Feminist Society, even in remote school, has been wonderful. We have been impressed by talks on menstrual health, gender bias in healthcare, women in literature and other subjects.

Introducing C+

Following the unprecedented early completion of A Level studies, staff weren't ready to say goodbye to our Year 13 students. Enter Curriculum+: an optional series of courses ranging from cryptography, Euclidean geometry, politics, cooking and languages. These courses fall broadly into the three themes of Life Skills, Humanities and Culture, and Challenge and Extension. Thanks to C+, Year 13s can continue their education in a new, exciting way and explore subjects beyond maths and physics. Over fifty of the Year 13s took part.

Keeping in touch

KCLMS is thrilled to launch a new alumni community website later this summer. Alumni will be able to keep in touch, act as ambassadors for KCLMS, attend events and benefit from networking and career opportunities. More details about joining will be revealed when students pick up their A level results.

Outreach success

The weekly maths challenge is one of our most enduring outreach activities. KCLMS has produced nearly 250 problems since its inception. During lockdown our young participants have sent through twice as many responses as usual each week. Furthermore, the number of solutions received for any previous academic year has skyrocketed, breaking the 300 barrier for the first time. What great milestones!

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Determining Days

What is the maximum number of Friday "13ths" in a year?

In a year when there are only 4 Fridays and only 4 Mondays in October, what day is October 1st?