



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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Headteacher: Mr A McGinnes

13 March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

UK Mathematics Trust - Junior Mathematical Challenge

As you may already be aware, every year the UK Mathematics Trust ("UKMT") runs a series of competitions for Secondary School pupils to encourage them to develop their love of solving problems.

Solving problems is a key element of the new Mathematics GCSE and participation in these competitions is actively encouraged.

This year, The Buckingham School would like to widen access to the competitions so that more pupils can experience using their knowledge, mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency to solve interesting problems - and gain an idea of how their solutions compare to a national benchmark.

The Junior Mathematical Challenge is the UKMT competition for pupils in Year 7 and Year 8 and, based on their progress and attitude to learning, your child has been selected to be offered an opportunity to enter the competition.

All pupils who enter the UKMT Junior Mathematical Challenge will receive a Certificate of Participation for taking part and the highest scoring pupils may earn a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award; with the very best possibly being selected to be entered for the international stage. The UKMT marks the Challenge papers and determines which pupils have earned the awards - and which are put forward to compete for the UK at one of two possible International levels (Junior Kangaroo or Junior Olympiad). These can be seen as valuable independent evidence of attitude and ability when applying for Sixth Form and University.

To enable more pupils to take part (and benefit), we are asking parents to make a small voluntary contribution of £2.00, to cover the cost of the papers and administration process. We trust that you will agree it is a small price to pay for the honour of taking part in this prestigious annual competition.

The competition will take place on Thursday 30th April and we will make arrangements for your child to take part within the normal school day. Further information, including advice on how you and your child can prepare for the challenge, can be found at:

<https://www.ukmt.org.uk/competitions/solo/junior-mathematical-challenge>

The Buckingham School is concerned that every student should have the opportunity to attend school activities/obtain equipment, regardless of their financial circumstances. As such, it may be possible to subsidise those students who would otherwise be unable to attend trips/purchase items. Please feel free to write in confidence to Mrs K Bones at kbones@buckinghamschool.org, if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.



We would really like your child to attempt this challenge. It is a great opportunity to assess and develop problem solving skills ready for GCSE and wider life.

If you would like to ensure your child is entered for the Challenge, payment should be made via ParentMail by Friday, 20th March 2020, so that the school can properly determine the number of entries for the booking form.

If you have any questions regarding this competition, please do not hesitate to contact either of us.

Yours faithfully

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