



SDC - The Week

12 February 2009

UK Senior Team Mathematics Competition and Hans Woyda competition

Rajiv Patel & Edward Davenport (Year 13) together with Afolabi Ajibade & Rhys Evans (Year 12) took part in the National Finals of the UK Senior Team Mathematics Competition on February 10, having won the Regional Finals for S.E. London and the surrounding area last year.

Rajiv Patel reports: "We arrived bright and early on the morning of the final graced with the presence of Martin Perkins (of the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust); we were all excited to begin the competition. Before we started, we were treated to pi as refreshment. In the first round, we had to design a poster answering questions on the ways of linking 3 rings. Despite minimal artistic imagination amongst us mathematicians, we were not only able to answer the questions but also to load the poster with the wittiest of maths jokes. (e.g. one for Mr. Austin: Why did the differential equation win the singing contest? Because it had dx factor). Unfortunately, we didn't win a prize for our poster.

When the Group Round finally got underway (each team answers 10 questions in 40mins), our prime target was to tackle the real roots of the problems. This paid off, as we were able to factor in an excellent score of 8/10 in this round. The following round required team division; it was the Cross Number Round (one pair is given across clues and the other, the down clues and no communication was allowed between pairs other than writing answers on a sheet). We scored a good 53/68 in this round and we were ready to slip into our athletic shoes for the Mini-Relay Round. In this round, there were 6 sub-rounds in which one pair was given Questions 1 and 3 and the other pair Questions 2 and 4. After the first, subsequent questions required the use of the answer to the previous question. We tackled this round tactically, following all the sines that were initially laid down for the rules of the round. However, ultimately time was not on our side for this round and when the top positions were announced, we narrowly missed out on a podium position. There were only a few points differentiating the top teams – it seemed that the final round was integral to the result. However, a position of twenty-second out of the top sixty schools that made the final,

out of nine hundred schools that entered, is quite an achievement. The team would like to thank Miss Hussein for her help and support.

Having reached the final stages of the Hans Woyda competition, we were put up against St. Pauls' Girls School recently. Our team comprised of Rajiv Patel (U6), Afolabi Ajibade (L6), Cerdan Mincher (11) and Nathan Beardsworth (9). During a tense encounter the lead oscillated between the two sides and we were unfortunate to narrowly miss out on victory on the penultimate question. The final score was 39-37 to St. Pauls' Girls. The team would like to thank Miss Warren for her help and support. In addition to his contributions to the above events, many congratulations must also go to Rajiv, who has won a Certificate of Distinction in Round 1 of the British Olympiad. An outstanding achievement!

Armstrong Society Lectures

By Frances Heathcote and Thomas Tribe: "On Thursday, 22 January the Armstrong Society met for the first time in 2009 for a fascinating lecture by Professor Fred Pearce, a professor of Medicinal and Biological Chemistry at UCL. The lecture was entitled 'Wheezes and Sneezes, Itches and Rashes' and focussed upon allergies. Allergies affect 10-20% of the population yet many of us, even those with allergies, were unsure of the biology behind them. The lecture addressed the issue in an intelligent yet accessible manner that ensured even the non-biologists (teachers included!) could understand it. It was a most interesting and enjoyable meeting that raised many



topical issues, for example whether it is due to increased levels of cleanliness in our houses that there has been a rise in the number of allergies. Something slightly more shocking perhaps, were the statistics given on bed bugs in

duvets, mattresses and pillows – something that I'm sure will lead to an increase in the levels of duvet and pillow washing over the upcoming half term holidays!"

On the following day we were treated to a second lecture entitled 'Molecules and Murder, the Chemistry of Poisons' given by Professor John Nicholson from Greenwich University. He began with a brief history of poisons and the range of poisons that exist. This led on to a few scenarios showing the different techniques used and the results of poisoning. The variety of substances used as poisons ranged from salt to polonium 210. Some of these scenarios included famous murders spanning right across history, proving that poison is a key instrument in gaining power. The lecture continued with the chemical reactions involved when being poisoned, visual experiments and even a human test subject. Overall this lecture showed how fragile and dangerous life could be, and left most students amazed and worryingly inspired.

It was a great start to the New Year with many sixth formers, teachers, parents and even younger pupils turning up - a good sign for the Armstrong Society in future years.

Trip to the 'Off By Heart' Competition

James Williams (Year 5) reports: "On Monday 9 February I went to the Regional competitions of the BBC 'Off By Heart' Competition. I was very excited and proud to be representing St Dunstan's College and thoroughly enjoyed myself.

Twenty contestants and I arrived nervously at the Central Library at Bexleyheath. We listened to some very interesting poems by famous poets and then had the opportunity to work together and make up our own poems. We also designed our own scratchpads while we waited to be called to perform our poems. I soon got to the beginning of the queue.

I was taken to a room and greeted by 5 judges. My heart was beating very fast. My poem went exceptionally well; I focussed on my lines and performed exactly as I had practised. After my poem *The Pig*, by Dahl, I was interviewed on camera for five minutes.

Another winner was chosen to go through to the next round. He was 7 years old, very cute and sung the poem *The Crocodile*, by Nichols. The whole afternoon was a great experience for me and I am already practising my poem for next year!"

U15A Hockey v. Alleyn's



The U15 A should be pleased with their performance on Tuesday, despite losing 4-1. They were quicker to take free hits and were stronger on the ball than their opponents. Any 50-50 balls were

won, but the team failed to release earlier enough into space before a tackle was made. An impressive well-rehearsed penalty corner lead to a goal in the first half thanks to some powerful hitting by Anna Denvir. *Player of the Match* was Monet Lawes, who looked hungry for the ball and persevered to gain possession back. The attack are beginning to pick up more of Anna's hard hits into the D and should continue to look for a final touch in to goal to catch the opponent's defence off guard.

Explore Writing Competition

Tomorrow, the Prep children will be visited by Explore Learning to entice budding writers into entering the National Young Writers Award 2009. The children will hear tips and tactics for writing exciting short stories and any children who would like to enter should give their completed story, maximum 500 words, to Miss Davis. The theme of the story should be 'Exploring.'

U12A Indoor Hockey v Royal Russell

On Tuesday, the Year 7 girls took part in their first indoor hockey game against Royal Russell. The team was allowed to include Year 8 girls and was really strengthened by the presence of Courtnie Wilks in defence.

In a round-robin tournament, the girls were unlucky to lose their first game 1-0 as they were still getting to grips with the different rules and tactics needed for indoor matches. The second game was a different story, with the girls very willing to shoot upon entering the 'D'. A great goal for SDC, combined with some excellent saves from Maya Collins in goal saw the game finish with a 1-0 victory. This meant that SDC played the Royal Russell 'A' team in the final in a hard-fought encounter. The highlight of the game was a fantastically swept goal into the bottom corner from Rachel Adebayi. The game finished 1-1 with the girls thoroughly enjoying their indoor experience!

Stomp: Year 6 visit the Ambassador's Theatre

Keita and Celia and other members of Year 6 report: "On Thursday 29 January Year 6 visited the musical production of *Stomp*. We heard some music which was entirely created from the use of brushes, dustpans, newspapers, oil cans, paint-pots and a bit of screaming and audience participation. They even threw in the kitchen sink – literally! It was an epic adventure into music that saw the cast climbing onto giant frames to attack pieces of industrial machinery. There seemed to be nothing which could not get played! The audience got involved with clapping and finger clicking.

Even without dialogue, there was lots of humour – one of the cast members always seemed to get it wrong – but he got it right in the end.

It was a very amusing performance and showed how ingenious the performers are, finding music and rhythm in all manner of everyday objects. The show is highly recommended by all members of Year 6."

Book Day

The Junior School is celebrating BOOK DAY on the 25 February with local and well known author Bernard Ashley.

For more news go to www.stdunstans.org.uk