UNITED KINGDOM MATHEMATICS TRUST

Head of School
Handsworth Grammar School UKMT Centre: 250823
Grove Lane
Handsworth
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Dear Headteacher,

I am writing to express our appreciation for the work of a member of your staff, Mr Raj Sangar, who acts as our contact teacher for the UKMT Maths Challenges, as well as any other members of staff who may be involved.

We know that organising the Challenges involves a good deal of work for those members of your staff concerned, and so we are very grateful for everything they do to ensure the Challenges run successfully in your school. The timetable can make it difficult for schools to take the Challenges on the appointed day, so we appreciate your co-operation in helping to overcome this problem.

Recently, there has been greater emphasis on the importance of teaching mathematical reasoning and problem-solving rather than arbitrary rules. We believe that our Challenges help to do exactly that: encourage pupils to think for themselves and develop critical reasoning.

As more and more schools appreciate the value of the Challenges the number of entries has continued to grow. This year 2223 schools entered the Senior Challenge, 3241 entered the Intermediate Challenge, and 4003 entered the Junior Challenge: over 675,000 pupils in total. In addition, 1770 schools took part in our Team Maths Challenge and over 1200 in the Senior Team Maths Challenge. We believe that our Challenges help to develop and inspire interest in mathematics, and frequently hear from teachers whose pupils have been motivated in mathematics by participating in them.

We enjoy reading social media updates and seeing newspaper cuttings with photographs of pupils and their certificates, showing that success in Mathematics can have a high profile within school, the local community, and beyond. We appreciate your efforts in ensuring mathematical skills beyond the curriculum are highly valued.

You may be interested to hear that the UK Mathematics Trust also provides free activities and resources beyond the Challenges, such as materials to run events for feeder primary schools; mentoring schemes for the most mathematically able students; and Mathematical Circles. More information about these activities can be found at www.ukmt.org.uk.

We again thank you and your staff and pupils for participating this year and look forward to receiving entries from you for next year.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Greenhalgh

Rachel Greenhalgh Director, UKMT