



16<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are continuing to develop the range of opportunities for academic enrichment available to our most able students.

I am delighted to be able to share with you that we have two students with Cambridge University offers for next year, and we trust this success will continue over the coming years.

Top universities value the 'super-curricular' over the 'extra-curricular', though of course we hope students will participate fully in both.

I am writing to you today specifically to tell you about some mathematical enrichment opportunities in addition to the UKMT Maths Challenges that we always enter students for.

Students in any year group may be interested in a Problem-Solving competition which is open until the end of March. Details are at [www.furthermaths.org/problem-solving-competition](http://www.furthermaths.org/problem-solving-competition).

If your son or daughter was interested in the National Cipher Challenge, they should also have a look at the 2017 Alan Turing Cryptography Competition which begins on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Registration is now open on [www.maths.manchester.ac/cryptography\\_competition/](http://www.maths.manchester.ac/cryptography_competition/)

And finally, for 6<sup>th</sup> form students, Manchester university is also running an online competition called 2017MathsBombe! (See [www.maths.manchester.ac/mathsbombe/index.php](http://www.maths.manchester.ac/mathsbombe/index.php)) which begins on 18<sup>th</sup> January with 2 mathematical puzzles released every fortnight until March. Again these are Problem-Solving questions rather than Maths A level questions- the website implies that able GCSE students would also be able to access them. Students can work individually or in teams of up to 4.

All these competitions offer small prizes, but the value is in challenging oneself to think beyond the curriculum. I do hope you find these suggestions helpful. Do let me know about any similar opportunities that I may not know of!

Best wishes,

Mrs C Wilkin  
Assistant Headteacher

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(Ofsted 2012)

