

# Maths Challenges



Year 9 Maths pupils recently took part in the trials of the Year 9 Maths Challenge, a national competition. Initially seven LGGS teams were entered and out of two hundred and seventy five entries, four of our teams went on to reach the second round of the competition which comprised of seventy teams. Three LGGS teams made the final twenty eight, the girls presented to judges and had a display area to show evidence of their work.

We very much enjoyed the competition, it was a wonderful opportunity and experience for all the pupils involved. Congratulations to all the teams for a superb effort.

**Mrs C Miller**

## Pupil Views

### Regional Heat - Lancashire Maths Challenge

In May a team of four girls from **Year 7** took part in the district heat of the Maths Challenge which was held at LRGS, LRGS hosted the event as they were last year's winners. The four girls in our team, one from each Form Group were H Brown, G Gibson, H Ockendon and C Xu. The competition was based on the book "Around the World in 80 Days" and in each round the problems to be solved were based on Phineas Fogg's activities in specific countries. The audience were also kept entertained as they were given their own set of puzzles. The competition was very close: LRGS came 3rd, Ripley 2nd and we were surprised and excited to be named this year's winners.

We had our photograph taken for the Lancaster Guardian and were each presented with a certificate, gift card and a trophy.

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## Regional Heat - Lancashire Maths Challenge

The LGGS Year 7 maths team had won the local round of the Lancashire Maths Challenge, they moved on to the final at Woodlands Centre at Chorley. On arrival we sat on sofas and talked whilst waiting for the other competitors to arrive.



We were then organised into a line and entered into the hall once the name of our school was called out - it was very exciting.

**Team: H Ockerden; C Xu, M Mai, A Watson.**

In the first half of the challenge we took part in events. The first involved naming and drawing shapes, which was fun! The second event was Algebra and the third involved decoding a message and figuring out some rotational symmetry - we just managed to finish this task! We were given train tickets with sums on them and had to find the correct seat for each ticket.

At the interval we had cake and juice, it was nice. We got to relax and talk to our parents but ... soon had to go back for more Maths.

In the second half of the challenge, the two newcomers were much more prepared and on a level footing with the other team members as they had now gained some experience of 'a Challenge'. Two of the team events were similar to the first half but this time the third was an individual round. The event was based on the Great Wall of China and involved converting Chinese to English measurements. We were very enthusiastic and excitable, whereas all the other teams seemed serious. This realisation caused us to think we had done it wrong as we had completed the task with little problem. As the challenge finished we decided not to get our hopes up too high and we had convinced ourselves that we had not done as well as we could have.

A speech was read out and then a business trophy was awarded. Then ... in descending order ...from 3rd to 1st place winners the results were announced.

"In third place .... Clitheroe Royal Grammar School ...(if we didn't get this , it was likely to be over for us), or so we thought. "In second place St Mary's Catholic Technology College" ... Our hearts sank. It was one of those now or never moments, if we didn't get first place, we wouldn't win anything. As we waited nervously we all tried to stay positive. The results came slowly, the announcer taking it word by word. Suddenly,

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**a huge roar went out and the name 'Lancaster Girls' Grammar School' was ringing in our ears. The moment went by in a blur as they were indicating for us to come forward and collect our prizes. We went up to the front once again, to collect our certificates but knew this time that we had won!**

**Standing at the front, each of us caught the eye of our gleaming parents. Later, the photographer made us strike several different poses, we felt like movie stars. On the way home, we even sang a victory song!**

**We felt very proud to have won and felt proud for LGGS. The experience was really fun and the maths questions were also fun! If ever you readers out there hesitate as to whether or not to get involved in a maths challenge ... go for it! If you don't, you'll regret it!**