

ECF Secondary School Chess News, February 2021

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For those working in schools I wish you a great half-term break. Remote teaching has had many challenges, one of the worst being the increased workload. As a part time teacher, I am impressed that my full-time colleagues are coping. Not surprisingly extra-curricular activities, including chess, have often been given a low priority.

Over the board chess has been suspended for almost a year now. Its replacement, online chess, requires further use of screens. This is not ideal when so much time spent teaching and learning is already being spend using such technology. However, online chess does have valuable social, as well as mental, benefits during this unusual time.

[Inter-school lichess Battles](#)

Dozens of schools, and hundreds of pupils, are playing in regular inter-school lichess battles on Fridays from 6 to 7pm. Any secondary school is welcome to take part. You can see future events and past results [here](#). Please do contact me if you would like to add your school to the list of those playing. These events are suitable for school chess players of all abilities. Indeed, one of the benefits of such events is those who would not normally play chess for the school can now do so.

[ECF Online Under 19 Schools Championships 2021](#)

On Saturday 13 March 2021 the ECF are running an online chess championships for schools. It will be run with full arbiting (for instance, players need to be on camera throughout their games) so players can be assured their opponents are not cheating. Details of the event can be found [here](#).

[Online School Chess Clubs](#)

Internal school chess clubs, once you set them up, are easier to run than in a classroom. There are no missing pieces to search for, no chess clocks to set, no arranging of games, no sets to put away at the end of the session. There is also free advice from computer analysis of players games. If you would like any help in setting up an online club then please do contact me.