

Merchant Taylor's Senior Girls School, Crosby

Merchant Taylors' Senior Girls' School, Crosby has been running a successful Chess-Café for a number of years. Each week there are 30 plus enthusiastic players coming along and enjoying chess, making new friends and learning new chess skills.

For the past 4 years they have entered the Delancey Megafinal Challenge. Last year, 13 girls qualified for the Megafinal, from which 5 girls then went on to qualify for the next stage of the tournament, the Gigafinal.

This year they have entered two teams in the Merseyside Chess Association Junior Chess League. The league is comprised of teams from various schools across Merseyside.

This year they are entering for the first time the U19 ECF Girl's semi-finals in Manchester.

They are very supportive of Junior chess. Throughout the year the school hosts several Junior Chess Congresses in association with the Merseyside Chess Association. They have an impressive number of our over 11 age group girls attending. Each congress has 70 plus players from various schools across the Merseyside area.

The lunchtime Chess-Cafe provides a lunch so girls can get at least one game played. It has a lovely buzzy atmosphere. One of our best players is in year 8 and is totally respected by the 6th former she regularly beats! One pupil in year 9 who has Asperger's and was becoming a school refuser now comes in especially on a Thursday so she can play chess and socialise at lunch time with no pressure on her.

Several of the staff have asked if they can learn to play so they are in the process of buddying them up with some of the younger girls to have the tables turned on them where teacher becomes pupil and vice versa! Even the head teacher comes down to see what's going on and plays the odd game with the girls.

Chess is really popular in the school with new members coming down each week to learn to play chess and enjoy the friendly atmosphere.

-----oOo-----

Crownfield Primary School, White Hart Lane, Romford

Chess in Schools and Communities and the Southern Counties Chess Union would like to nominate Crownfield Primary School, in the London Borough of Havering, for a British Chess Educational Trust Award.

Samantha Ali is the CSC tutor at the school. Since Mrs Ali started CSC at the school it has taken off in a huge way. Chess is played by half of the school.

In her words:

"The school has a lunchtime club, open to all which is usually oversubscribed. We hold an end of year club chess tournament.

A Year 3 weekly lesson is divided into one term per class; we hold a yearly tournament for all Year 3 pupils. Chess sets are brought out for wet play and Jackie (ex staff now one of the governors) would supervise chess games during this time and reinforce what the children had learned in the lesson.

We are arranging a 'learn chess' session for the teaching staff on one of their inset days very soon, so they can appreciate what the children are benefiting from.

Jackie Greary, a former Crownfield teacher, is now a Crownfield School Governor and comes in to help with the tournaments.

Crownfield attends the London Chess Classic every year, which is a highlight for the children.

Children from the school, boys and girls, have gone on to play tournament chess outside of school.

Due to the success at the Junior school, it has been suggested that I approach the Infant school with regards to starting chess in year 2.

Parents are invited in to watch the end of year Crownfield chess tournament; this way the parents can see it all happening and gain a better understanding of a chess tournament.”

--- Richard Harding, Regional Co-Ordinator, Chess in Schools and Communities; Julie Denning, President, Southern Counties Chess Union - 30th May 2017