

Sixth Form students sitting the Senior Maths Challenge



This week saw the Sixth Form mathematicians competing in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust's Senior Challenge. This is a highly regarded national competition comprised of twenty-five thought-provoking questions that must be completed in ninety minutes.

Whilst A level mathematics skills are not required, the questions thoroughly test students' ability to think analytically and creatively, applying their mathematical knowledge quickly and precisely. Calculators as well as geometrical instruments are not allowed and hence, numeracy skills are important. As can be seen from the photograph of some of the students taking part, the competition requires a great deal of concentration. Here is one of the easier questions to give a flavour:

"Two standard dice are placed on a table, with one on top of the other, so that only nine of the faces of the dice may be seen. The touching faces have the same number on them. The sum of the numbers on the visible faces is 33. What is the number on the touching faces?"

Our Sixth Formers found the competition tough but interesting and they are looking forward to their results which we will receive in a few weeks time.

Dr Phil Watson