



Lancaster University School of Mathematics

Newsletter

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Issue 01



INSIDE

Head Teacher's Report

LUSoM Award

Enrichment

Pastoral Update



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Head Teacher's Report

I am delighted to say that Lancaster University School of Mathematics is finally open with our first cohort of Y12 students. Life has been incredibly busy since we started, but it is a joy to be involved in such a wide variety of activities, and incredibly exciting to think of the possibilities that lie ahead.



Our 39 students have come from 18 different secondary schools ranging from as far north as Lancaster to as far south as Chorley, from Lytham and Poulton in the west to Blackburn in the east, so a real spread across the whole county.

The students have settled in well, making friends after their induction day on 2nd September, and they have started to rise to the challenge of the A level and enrichment

curriculum. We are currently housed in Cardinal Newman College and our temporary accommodation is suiting us well, with students making the most of the open learning spaces.

The students took up the offer of a tour round the building site which generated quite a bit of excitement as they were able to picture where they will be studying in the near future, and has opened up the opportunity for work placements in Engineering for a few interested students. We're on track to get the keys to the building on November 15th, and will be looking to move in permanently after Christmas.

It was lovely to meet our students' parents at a face-to-face induction evening and it shows just how committed they are to the school that we have had a number of applications to be parent governors.

As part of their enrichment, all our students sat the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge on October 4th and we have a trip to Lancaster University to launch the LUSoM Award on October 12th. The LUSoM Award involves groups of students



researching problems set by academics at Lancaster University. The problems are set by the maths, engineering, computing and physics departments. The students will be mentored through the project and will have to present their findings to the academics in February. It is an exciting link to set students up for university life in the future.

We are hosting visits from the Head Teachers of Cambridge and Imperial Maths Schools; running taster lessons in local schools as well as having our first open day of the year on Saturday 15th October, so hopefully will spread the word about maths schools far and wide.

Our weekly Y11 revision programme has started, with over 100 students attending one of the sessions so far. Our half-termly Extend programme has also started with an introduction to Graph Theory.

As you can tell, life at a Maths School is extremely busy and never dull. Long may it continue!



LUSoM Award

This term has seen the launch of the LUSoM award for our students. Eleven academics at Lancaster University have designed a bespoke brief to inspire our students to research and complete a group project, to enhance their research skills and to encourage them to further develop their love of maths and physics.

This project will be delivered just before the February half term, and in front of the academics, the school and anyone else with an interest. We will also hold a second session, where they can wow their parents with the work that they've produced!

We were thrilled to be welcomed by the university in October and to have the briefs delivered and explained to us by the experts.

They included the weird and wonderful nature of triangles, how statistics plays a part in medical trials, and extracting water for drinking on the moon! The day finished with the students being introduced to the fantastic library facilities on offer to them, a resource that they were very excited to have, shown by their eagerness to make a start!



Pastoral Update

LUSoM's induction on Friday 2nd September was the first chance for students to meet their new peer group and staff, in a day jam-packed with lively activities to help everyone get to know each other.



After an introduction from Pete, the day started with students splitting into groups for domino trail construction, designing spaghetti and marshmallow towers, Ultimate Fizz buzz (a very fiercely fought game!) and the challenge of constructing the best paper aeroplane possible from toilet paper and sticky tape.

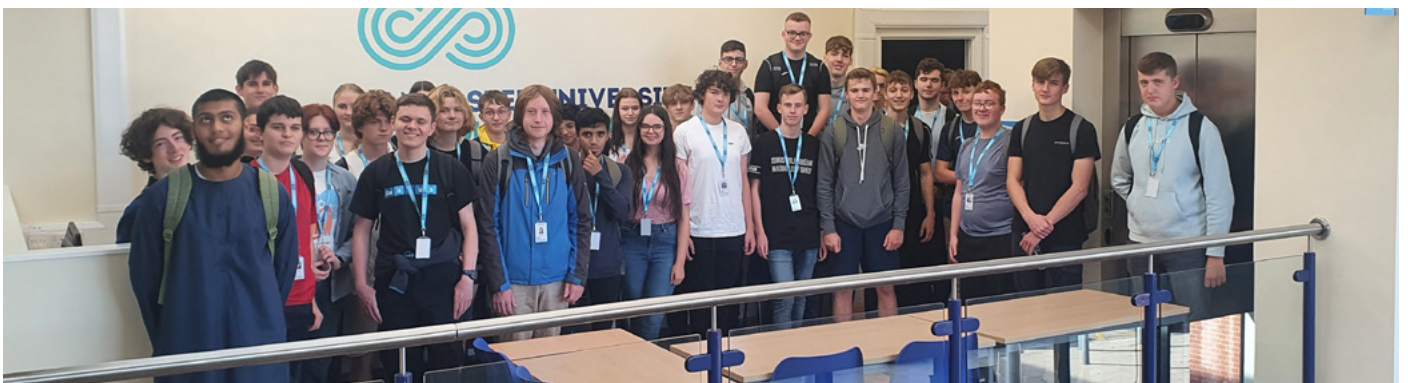
It was a very relaxed day, full of laughter and introductions, which got some of the nerves about starting at a new school out of the way. This meant that we could hit

the ground running on the following Monday as lessons began.

Looking after every student's health and wellbeing is at the heart of what we do at LUSoM. It makes it difficult for a student when they have worries or challenges in their personal lives, so we are committed to the highest standards of pastoral care and making sure that every student feels as safe and happy as possible. Esther Rollinson, the achievement tutor (erollinson@cardinalnewman.ac.uk), and Francis Goodburn, assistant headteacher

and safeguarding lead (fgoodburn@lusom.ac.uk) are always available to speak to any student who is experiencing difficulties or any parent who has a concern.

We are fortunate too that all our students have the health and wellbeing, counselling, and support services provided by Cardinal Newman; if they wish to access these services at any time, they just need to speak to Esther, Francis or refer themselves using the details on the Cardinal Newman website.



Enrichment

LUSoM proudly runs a Dungeons & Dragons club, organised and run by myself with support from other students.

The club consists of students who, like me, regularly play the game and others who are learning or playing for the first time. The club has provided an opportunity for us to experience a hobby together and enjoy this role-playing game. The group currently has 8 members, which may seem

small but is the perfect size for an adventuring party and we are starting our first adventure. We meet each Wednesday at the end of the college day and hope to run the club throughout our 2 years at LUSoM and will be inviting new students to join us in September 2023.

The club is a raging success and I can say absolutely that I look forward to what lies ahead.

By Myles Heaton Smith