



SEAN MOSS TAKES BRONZE IN SERBIA

Between the 28th April and the 4th May, the Balkan Mathematical Olympiad took place in Kragujevac, Serbia. The UK's team of six top mathematicians included Havering Sixth Form College student, Sean Moss.

The UK team scored a total of 59, placing them 13th out of the 20 participating countries. Sean's individual score earned him a bronze medal: the UK team gained 5 bronzes and 1 silver. Sean is the first mathematician from this college ever to participate in one of these prestigious and challenging competitions. He had the opportunity to talk to young mathematicians from around the world, as well as helping to push-start the coach transferring the teams from the airport to the hotel!

Members of the team taking part in the 4 ½ hour exam had to solve problems such as:

Solve the equation

$$3^x - 5y = z^2$$

in positive integers.

Sean, who is still only 17, is in his second year at Havering Sixth Form College. Last year, Sean achieved an amazing 4 A grades at AS as well as a grade A in A Level Spanish! Sean has recently received an offer of a place to study Mathematics at Trinity College Cambridge in September.

The fact that Sean was selected for the UK team is a testament to his passion for mathematics, his enjoyment of the subject, and his desire to continually develop his mathematical skills, knowledge and understanding.

Principal Paul Wakeling, congratulated Sean on behalf of all the students and staff at the College. "We are very proud of Sean's achievements. The fact that he has been offered a place at Cambridge speaks for itself. He has proved himself to be an outstanding mathematician and a real credit to the College."

Further [problems](#) from the 2009 Balkan Mathematical Olympiad are available from the Mathematical Society of Serbia website.

More details of the various Mathematical Olympiads in which the UK participates can be found at www.bmoc.maths.org