



Maths quiz tests students' teamwork

A challenging three hours of solving tough maths questions by working as a team was taken on by four of Havering Sixth Form College's best mathematicians.

The team, lower sixth students Saif Janab and Arber Haliti, and upper sixth students Christopher Shipway and Kerry Lendon, were pitted against 33 other schools and colleges in the East London regional heat of the Senior Team Maths Challenge.

The contest, run by The UK Mathematics Trust and the Further Maths Support Programme, was held at Queen Mary, University of London, on Thursday November 26th. It involved students aged 16 to 18 from all over the East London area taking part in challenges that tested their mathematical, communication and teamwork skills.

The four HSFC students did exceptionally well to come sixth out of the 33 teams taking part.

Damian Rogan, Course Leader for Further Maths at the College, said they relished the variety of questions which tested their mental agility and provided much enjoyment.

They had to tackle three separate categories during the challenge. The first was a group round where the team had 40 minutes to solve 10 intricate maths questions.

The second was a crossnumber – a mathematical crossword puzzle with one pair from the team solving the across clues and the other pair solving the down clues.

The third section was a mini-relay where members of the team had to answer mathematical questions which they could begin working on immediately but information passed from other members of the team was needed to solve them completely.

Tutor Damian said of HSFC's sixth place: "This is an excellent achievement, particularly against opposition from a significant number of independent and private schools, and we hope to build on this success next year."