SURREY MATHS SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

29 APRIL 2024

DEAR STUDENT

Thank you to everyone that joined us last Wednesday for our online information session. It was wonderful to see so many of our students and their parents/carers. We appreciate your time and the great questions that you asked us, and we hope you found it valuable.

For those of you who were unable to join us, last week we emailed out the video recording of the session, the slides and a Q&A document.

Please let us know if you didn't receive the email!

TASTER DAYS

It is now time for our Offer Holders to sign up for the taster events in July. Students - please complete this form to sign up by 16.00 on Tuesday 30 April! You should also use the form to tell us if you are unable to join the events for any reason. Please see full details in the email that we sent you on Friday.

On 1 July you will have experience learning at SuMS with sessions on Maths and Physics as well as maths-based team challenges. You will meet some of the SuMS teachers and develop your problem-solving and collaboration skills.

On 2/3 July you will spend time with your future classmates, experiencing the 'Extreme Wild + Zip' and 'Wild Trials' activities. This is a day to build relationships and the SuMS community, as well as developing your team-working skills.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

As a SuMS offer holder you are invited to join a series of valuable events over the coming weeks:

- **Online "Ask a Teacher" GCSE support sessions (drop-in sessions with Mrs Shillabeer & Ms Kettleborough in which you can ask any last-minute questions before your exams):**
  - **Maths - 15 May 16.30 - 17.30**
  - **Physics - 21 May 16.30 - 17.30**
  - **Maths - 2 June 16.30 - 17.30**
  - **Maths - 9 June 16.30 - 17.30**
  - **Physics - 13 June 16.30 - 17.30**
- **Online "Meet the Teachers" session: 20 June 17.00 - 17.30**
- **Offer holders taster days: 1-3 July (see above)**

WHO IS MARGARET HAMILTON?

At SuMS, our four houses are named after mathematical scientists that we respect and admire. This week we're sharing a little more about Margaret Hamilton, in honour of International Girls in ICT day (25 April).

Margaret H. Hamilton was born in Paoli, Indiana, and studied mathematics at the University of Michigan and Earlham College. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1958 and then took a temporary position at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where she developed weather prediction software, noting at the time that programmers learned their profession by hands-on training (there were no formal computer science programs at universities yet).

From 1961-63, Hamilton worked on the massive US SAGE air defense system at Lincoln Laboratories, where she first began to take an interest in software reliability.

During the time of the Apollo space missions, Hamilton led the team that created the on-board flight software for NASA's Apollo command modules and lunar modules. She was in charge of the Apollo (and Skylab) on-board flight software effort while also serving as Director of the Software Engineering Division at MIT's Instrumentation Laboratory. During her time at MIT, she wanted to give software engineering "legitimacy", so that it (and those building it) would be given its due respect; and, as a result she coined the term "software engineering", to distinguish it from other kinds of engineering.

"in the case of the Apollo project my colleagues (mostly male) and I were friends and we worked side by side to solve challenging problems and meet critical deadlines. We concentrated on our work more than whether one was male or female. We were more likely to refer to someone as a "second floor person", "a hardware guy", "a DAP person", "an operating system guru" or a "rope mother (where the rope mother could be a male or a female)"."

Hamilton created new concepts, enabling the on-board flight software to communicate in real-time with the astronaut. This allowed the software to interrupt the astronauts and replace their normal displays with priority displays, to warn them in case of an emergency during an Apollo mission, as was the case during the Apollo 11 landing. She culminated the Apollo effort by leading her team to develop a theory for systems and software, which serves as the origin and much of the foundation of Hamilton's Universal Systems Language (USL).

Hamilton is the founder and CEO of Hamilton Technologies, Inc. She is responsible for the development of the Universal Systems Language (USL).

For over five decades, Hamilton's methods have had a major impact on the field of software engineering. Hamilton has received the NASA Exceptional Space Act Award (2003) and the Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded by Barack Obama (2016).

"Looking back, we were the luckiest people in the world. There was no choice but to be pioneers; no time to be beginners."

SUMS VALUES

The SuMS school values are central to all of the work that we do, and how we interact with each other. They are:

INTEGRITY

We are honest, we are transparent, and we treat each other fairly.

ASPIRATION

We strive for excellence, we work hard, and we challenge ourselves to be the best we can be.

COLLABORATION

We work together, we appreciate the value of learning from each other, and we support one another.

COMPASSION

We act with kindness, and we treat all members of our community with respect.

INNOVATION

We believe in doing things differently, and we inspire through our creative and unique approach to teaching and learning.

We spoke at the Information Event about the importance of this transition period before our Offer Holders become SuMS Students. We want to cultivate a culture of kindness and respect for all, and have high expectations for our incoming students in terms of how they behave relative to these values. This is to ensure that everyone feels safe and welcome.

During this transition period leading up to your enrolment with us at SuMS, how you treat other members of the community matters. Please think about how you interact with each other on social media and other online spaces as well as in person - this should always be kind and professional.

If you have any concerns, please let us know either by email or by submitting a response to this anonymous form, which will go through directly to our Co-Headteachers. We reserve the right to withdraw an offer, if we judge that a student has damaged the culture of the future cohort.

SURREY MATHS SCHOOL

HOW CAN WE HELP?

We want to make sure that our newsletter is accessible to everyone; easy to read, friendly and informative. If there is anything that we can do to make it more accessible, or if there is content that you'd love us to include, please get in touch.

You can call us on 01483 974211 or email us on admissions@surreymathsschool.co.uk.

We're always glad to hear from you!

"Don't let fear get in the way and don't be afraid to say "I don't know" or "I don't understand" - no question is a dumb question." - Margaret Hamilton