SURREY
MATHS SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

17 JUNE 2024

DEAR STUDENT

On Thursday 20 June you will have a great opportunity to meet your new teachers by joining a Teams session from 17.00 - 17.45. You will also meet some Y12 students from Leeds Maths School who are excited to tell you about their experiences.

Here are the dial-in details:
Meeting ID: 355 959 966 096
Passcode: ASUegs

STAFF NEWS

We are delighted to welcome a new member of the team. Mrs Bourne will be joining us as the SuMS SENDCo (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator), bringing a wealth of experience, passion and enthusiasm for making SuMS a wonderful experience for all of our students. Read more about her career before SuMS here.

TASTER DAYS

Thank you for signing up for the 1 July and the 2 or 3 July! If you have not received your email confirming which date you will be joining us at Wild Wood, please email us ASAP. If you have not yet signed up and wish to attend, please also email us ASAP - on info@surreymathsschool.co.uk.

For those of you who can't join us at the taster days and have signed up to join us at our mini social event this Thursday, we are really looking forward to seeing you. This 'mini session' will be a relaxed, informal opportunity to meet up with us and some of your fellow students in the lovely surroundings of the Hideaway Cafe, in Allen House Grounds. You can find details of the Hideaway here.

We will be there from 12.00-15.00, and you will be able to enjoy a great selection of cakes, drinks and games. If the sun is shining we will be able to spill out into their beautiful outdoor space.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

- **Offer holders mini-taster session: 20 June**
- **Online "Meet the Teachers" session:** 20 June 17.00 - 17.45 - please note the extended time!
- **Offer holders taster days:** 1-3 July
- **ENROLMENT DAY: 22 AUGUST**
- **Term starts:** 5 September (for students)

WHO IS CAUCHER BIRKAR?

At SuMS, our four houses are named after mathematical scientists that we respect and admire. We want to share a little more about each of them; this week we want to tell you a little bit about Caucher Birkar.

Caucher Birkar (his chosen name meaning "migrant mathematician") was born in 1978, during the Iran-Iraq War. He grew up in the Kurdish region of western Iran in a rural subsistence farming village. Birkar became interested in maths when he was at school: "I had a sensation. Nothing major, just a passing thought that I'm brilliant at mathematics", he remarked. Whilst at high school he pursued his passion for maths through self-study, borrowing books from the neighbourhood library. After finishing school, Birkar studied mathematics at the University of Tehran, where he earned a bachelor's degree. He won third place in the 2000 International Mathematics Competition for University Students before moving to the UK as a refugee and requesting political asylum while still a student at the university. Birkar studied for a PhD at the University of Nottingham from 2001 to 2004.

"I read all these books and I had the feeling that just reading things is not enough. I also wanted to create my own stuff, to create something new."

Birkar has contributed significantly to the field of mathematics through his work at Cambridge, particularly through his proof of the boundedness of Fano varieties, which was published in 2016 and for which he was awarded the Fields Medal in 2018. Unfortunately, several minutes after the ceremony the award was stolen. He was then awarded with a replacement medal – making him the first mathematician to have ever been awarded the Fields Medal twice!

The Fields Medal and the Abel Prize are the highest international trophies in Mathematics, similar to the Nobel Prize in other sciences. A newsletter of the London Mathematical Society reads: "Birkar is the first UK home educated mathematician awarded the Fields Medals in the past 20 years and the first to be educated outside Oxbridge and London!". His success is also recognised on the streets of Kurdistan where 10-metre-high pictures of him can be seen, celebrating his work and achievements.

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 info@surreymathsschool.co.uk.

If you have any concerns, please let us know either by email or by submitting a response to this <u>anonymous form</u>, which will go through directly to our Co-Headteachers.

We're always glad to hear from you!

"I've always been interested in using mathematics to make the world work better."
— Alvin E. Roth