

Chess News

The St Faith's A-team secured yet another podium finish as the chess season came to a close, winning bronze medals behind the mighty King's, who won their fifth title, and JCB, which is a combination of the top chess players from three schools in Cambourne. Despite finishing third, we can boast victories over the top two teams this season, including a final day 4-2 win over King's, their only defeat of the season!

The school A-team with their medals



From left to right: Isaac, Benjamin, Matthew, Jenny, Mr Mitchell (coach), Ryan (captain), Henry, Zack, Thomas

Our B-team finished in an outstanding 5th place, ahead of the Perse A team; our Cs managed to beat St Bede's, who were the only team to defeat our A-team all season, and our Ds and Es did well to avoid the wooden spoon! Here is the final league table:

Position	School	Played	Points
1	King's A	15	83.5
2	JCB	15	81
3	St Faith's A	15	76.5
4	King's B	15	62.5
5	St Faith's B	15	59.5
6	Perse A	15	51
=	St Bede's	15	51
8	King's C	15	49
9	QESP	15	39.5
10	MViCKS	15	37.5
11	St Faith's C	15	37
12	King's D	15	30.5
13	King's E	15	27.5
14	St Faith's D	15	24
15	St Faith's E	15	10
16	Perse B	15	3

The pandemic has really hit the Cambridgeshire schools' chess league, with numbers at half of pre-COVID levels, but we're hoping that things improve in future years and numbers pick up.

Some exciting news from the weekend is that a parent has offered £5K sponsorship for the league, so we are looking at some innovative ways to promote chess in the county, such as inviting a Grandmaster to an event, live streaming the top games on the internet, and providing free or heavily-subsidised chess coaching in local primary schools.

Finally, we held three separate, online competitions in December – in which pupils competed as individuals – to supplement the CCC matches, and to get children used to different time controls. The competitions had three categories, and the winners were as follows:

Bullet (1 minute for all moves)	Thomas	St Faith's
Blitz (3 minutes for all moves)	Ryan	St Faith's
Rapid (10 minutes for all moves)	Rishaan	JCB

It's amazing that two of the three tournaments were won by our pupils.