

Lisle Marsden's Teams Impress with their Chess in National Championships

Lisle Marsden Primary Academy from Grimsby were the only Lincolnshire School to qualify for the Prestigious National Teams Championships this year. The event took place at Pontins, Prestatyn in North Wales.

After qualifying by default when their zonal event at Wakefield was called off due to severe weather, Lisle Marsden Academy's chess teams were eager to show their credentials and impress at the national championship event which was held at Pontins, Prestatyn over the weekend of 15th and 16th June.

The Under 11 A team had several experienced members including their board 1 Rithik Gaikwad, board 2 Sam Bagley-Pett, and board 3 Lucie Bagley-Pett. This trio were joined by newcomers Jacob Harrison and Zack Houlden on boards 4 and 5 respectively.

The team began their campaign with a narrow victory over the Royal Grammar School C team before being whitewashed by competition favourites Eccleshall. Lisle's team rallied for their next match but lost narrowly to Newcastle Prep School C team before surprising the Newcastle Prep B team by beating them 3 -2!

On Sunday morning Lisle were held to a draw by Dawpool before finishing strongly with a convincing win against Blue Coat. Lisle A were duly awarded a bronze slate for finishing 14 overall from a field of 24 qualifying teams.

Lisle Marsden's Under 11 B team were under no illusions having elected to compete in the competition in order to gain top match play experience. The team included Sian Spencer, Hollie Parrish, Ben Green, Ruby Lidgard and 9 year old Samuel Wright-Crofts. The team met some of the competition's giants including Bolton Boys, Akiva and Bishop Fitzgerald, a school that had travelled all the way from Gibraltar to compete. The team didn't win any of their 6 encounters but gained much valuable experience.

Last but not least, Lisle Marsden's Under 9 team were an unknown quantity with several of the team playing chess outside of Lincolnshire for the first time. However, they quickly proved that they were not to be underestimated. Lisle's Under 9's were led by experienced 'old hands' Matthew Green and James Wainwright on boards 1 and 2. Ben Cain, Connor Wilson, Isaac Towndrow and 7 year old Tom Lidgard completed the line-up.

The team began the campaign with a draw against Akiva A before seeing off the Akiva B team 3-2. They lost narrowly to Heathside before hammering Hallfield 4-1. Sunday morning began brightly with a win against Our Lady of Pity, but Lisle came unstuck in the final round when they lost heavily against top team Hallfield. Nevertheless, Lisle's Under 9 team finished a creditable 12th position from 24 and were awarded a silver slate for their efforts.

In all, an enjoyable and very successful weekend from Lisle Marsden Academy's amazing chess youngsters. Well done to them all!

Mr K Palmer, teams coach.

