

Chess Tournament

23 November 2021

Having started my coaching role at the school on 15 November 2021, organising a team to play in a competition as early as the 23rd of this month was a little challenging.

Sadly we were unable to include Ayush Kunwar in the team owing to GCSE studies, but we took a team with Caleb Caleshu and Devrim Phaneuf, Fintan Pawley (Captain). Jack Chen, Harry McCulloch and Ayaan Chatterjee.

We arrived slightly late in Torquay to discover the students were one of 11 teams from across Devon competing. I had to visit the school reception to check in while they dashed in to attend to ticking clocks. I was puzzled when I entered the competition hall to find most of the team stood around in a group. Fearing a major problem, they were eager to reassure me "Oh no, we are 5 - 0 up" (which soon became 6).

This led to a much more difficult pairing in the second round against one of the Torquay Boys teams and although the team went down 2 - 4, we were a whisker away from drawing.

There was then much discussion about who should play whom in the final round, with DHSB requiring just a single game point to qualify for the next phase of the competition (Schools Under-19 National Championship).

With the two Torquay teams facing each other, the school faced a "Fusion" team of reserves which had proved unexpectedly successful in the first two rounds. But our team sprang an ambush which again wiped out opposition resistance and netted another six points.

Not only did this send the team through to face competition from further afield in the New Year, it also earned them silver medals as runners-up on the day.

I would like to thank Mr Anderson who drove us there and back, and took some photos at the presentation.

Nick Butland
Devon County Chess Association