

Our Plans for the 2018 challenge

These are our thoughts but your views count;
Please share them via our website

More schools . . .

We want to introduce a lot more schools to the UK Schools' Chess Challenge and increase the number of pupils benefiting from the event.

Do you have a School contact?

If you know someone involved in a school and think the Chess Challenge could be of interest - then please visit our website and send us a message.

Frequent online coaching and competition from Sarah Hegarty

From October 2017, Sarah will post a special coaching video and then set some online chess puzzles based on the video's theme. Chess teachers will be sent guidance notes and also the results from the puzzles.

Improved Online Platform

This year we introduced an online platform to replace the legacy posting of cheques. We believe this will save parents over £4000 in postage but appreciate there have been a few teething problems to start with. Our aim for next year is an integrated platform facilitating entry, results, weekly videos and puzzles.



Early Entry

For next year's Chess Challenge the school stage kit will be available from 1st October 2017. This year's kit will feature badges for all and sufficient collateral for an increased number of children.

More Megafinals . . .

We know that some parents travel a great distance to reach the Megafinals. We are determined to add more events and reduce the travel burden on parents.

Megafinal – School team competition

Without playing any more games on the day, we are floating the idea that, say the top-4 scores from each school or club count towards a school / club award.

More Gigafinals

We believe that the average Gigafinal entrant travels over 100 miles to either Manchester or Reading. This is too far. We are considering adding 2 additional Gigafinals in Birmingham and Scotland.

September Terafinal ?

Like previous years, this year the Terafinal will take place in August. For 2018 we want your views regarding moving it to late September.

Your views count . . .

Please complete our online survey accessible via the Chess Challenge website. We want your view on a wide range of matters including the value of the prize fund versus the entry fee.

Get Involved in the Chess Challenge

There are a number of ways to “Get Involved”
in the Chess Challenge by becoming a

Chess Challenge Ambassador

The Chess Challenge is amazing and we want to spread the word. Become an ambassador and help us reach out to local schools – we will compensate you for your time and expenses.

delanceyukschoolschesschallenge.com
Facebook - DelanceyUKSchoolsChessChallenge
Twitter - @Delancey_UKCC
UK Chess Challenge Ltd.

Chess Coach / Teacher

You don't need to be a chess master to coach chess at a junior level. If you know how to play the game and like the idea of coaching chess then find out about becoming a Chess Challenge Licensed Partner. From mid 2017 we will be running regular training and induction sessions teaching you what you need to know. Chess coaching can generate a part-time or even full-time income.

Megafinal Organiser

Each Megafinal is operated as an independent event by a local junior chess enthusiast. We want to operate more Megafinals and need more Megafinal organisers.



Thanks and appreciation

A very big thank you to everyone who has helped with the 2017 Chess Challenge. Especially the Megafinal organisers and their teams who hunt out the best local venues and run the event on the day. All those who do the same at the Gigafinal and Terafinal and those who gave up their time over the Christmas period to pack boxes with the school / club kits.

Also, can we pay a major tribute to International Master Mike Basman, the founder of the Chess Challenge, not only for the inception of the event, and some 21 years of acting as principal, but also for his kind words of support and encouragement to the new team.

We are very grateful for the generous support that Delancey once again have provided to the UK Schools' Chess Challenge



Parent's Chess Challenge Briefing 2017

New team
Plans for 2018
Long term vision
Get involved
Become a Chess coach
What about a formal Chess qualification?



Dear parent

Welcome to the Megafinal stage of the Delancey UK Schools' Chess Challenge; reputedly the largest chess tournament in the world.

Last October, following circumstances that threatened the future of this event, I said goodbye to my legal career to take on the running of the Chess Challenge.

But the Chess Challenge is certainly not new to me. I first entered age 7, and won my category in that year. I went on to appear on BBC's Blue Peter - meeting Gary Kasparov, the then World Chess Champion. I went on to win a further 8 times

It's fair to say that the Chess Challenge changed my life and I went on to win the British Ladies championship in 2013 and represented England at Chess Olympiads. I even met Alex, my husband, at a chess event!

Who knows if any of the boys and girls playing today will go on to become a chess masters? But in any case, the Chess Challenge has importance on many levels.

Win, lose or draw reaching the Megafinal is an achievement in its own right. I congratulate every pupil taking part!

Without the dedication of you, the parents/guardians who bring along the players, there would be no Megafinals . On behalf of the Chess Challenge we offer our sincere thanks.

Kind Regards

Sarah Hegarty

Sarah Hegarty
Director
UKSCC

Follow Youtube link to see Sarah Hegarty with Gary Kasparov on Blue Peter age 7
<https://youtu.be/86q9-JdVu0I>



4 Stages of the Chess Challenge

The Delancey UK Schools' Chess Challenge has four stages – each with an important role to play in a pupil's journey through junior chess

At the School / Club Stage

Very often a pupil's first opportunity to play competitive chess but in a friendly, familiar environment. The structured approach, mascots and certificates for all ensures merit and participation are both rewarded. Some schools use a professional chess coach but at most a teacher runs the chess club and school stage of the Chess Challenge.

The Megafinal

For many children, the Megafinal is their first external chess tournament. Making friends, playing new players, 6 rounds in a day, the leader board and chess clocks on some of the boards. The Megafinal introduces the thrill and competition of a real chess tournament. If you reach the Megafinal, then playing for your county or local chess club could be a real possibility.



Gigafinal South 2016

The Gigafinal

Qualifying for the Gigafinal is a real chess achievement for any junior chess player. Only junior chess players at the top end of county standard make it through. The Gigafinals – held in Manchester and Twickenham are like a larger version of the Megafinal. Up to 500 players on the day - lots of players, lots of games, a dynamic chess environment. For this year, Gigafinals are held in July.

The Terafinal

The national Terafinal is held in Birmingham in August over 2 days with the UK's best junior chess players. Indeed, the Terafinal is a Grand Prix event for the English Chess Federation and participation puts the pupil on the stage with junior international chess players.

Megafinal
The thrill
of a real
Chess tournament

Our Vision for the next 5 years

More schools - more participation - shorter journeys
and why not a recognised qualification for Chess

	THIS YEAR 2017	NEXT YEAR 2018	VISION 2022
Schools / Club Pupils	1,200 36,000	1,500 50,000	5,000 250,000
Megafinals Regional Pupils	43 6,000	48 8,000	100 50,000
Gigafinal Pupils	North / South 2,000	3-4 2,400	8 5,000

Our goals
at a glance

Dear Secretary of State for Education - The case for Chess

Why Play Chess

Well, apart from the challenge, the friendship, the competition, the excitement and the chance for pupils, (who may not excel in sports) to shine. Chess has some amazing benefits.

Concentration, calculation, analysis factored against tactics and strategy. Listen to some of the 7, 8 or 9 year old pupils discussing 'Queens Gambit Declined', 'Giuoco Piano' or the 'Sicilian Defence to an e4 opening'. This is clever stuff!

Quite often in games there is a need to calculate (that's the value of pieces won or lost) when they start the likely sequence. This involves a complex calculation - even for juniors. At the same time they must consider the positional gain involved and playing ideas like pins, skewers and forks.

At a point where the S.T.E.M. subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) are rightly high on the agenda, chess introduces many underlying ideas and principles.

A Chess Qualification?

A recognized qualification that pupil's can achieve for Chess. We have GCSE's in Dance and Drama and why not? Music has a well established recognition structure with Ofqual equivalents - so why not chess? The has game history, openings, counter openings and involves analysis skills along with measured game play. If anyone has any thoughts in this respect please get in touch via the website.