

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.



@Delancey_UKCC

Be the first to see the leader board by following the Gigafinal on Twitter. You can also ask any questions about the Gigafinal on Twitter during the day.

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 2018 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.

Love Chess
Reach out
Grow the challenge



DELANCEY
UK SCHOOLS'
CHESS CHALLENGE

Welcome to the 2017 Gigafinal



Follow
the Gigafinal
on Twitter and
be the first to
know the updated
results table

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

You've qualified via your school or club, made it through to your regional Megafinal. Now it's the Gigafinal, the 'semi final' of the Delancey UK Schools' Chess Challenge. You are amongst the best Chess players in the county trying to progress to the national final - the Terafinal.

Important information for the Gigafinal



No Photo

We take many photos during the Gigafinal to celebrate the event and promote junior Chess and the Chess Challenge. If you require us not to take photos of your child then please ensure they wear a no photo sticker, available at the front desk.

Round Times

We endeavour to adhere to the following times for rounds

Arrival: 9:00 **Round 4: 14:00**
Round 1: 9:30 **Round 5: 15:30**
Round 2: 11:00 **Round 6: 17:00**
Round 3: 12:30 **Prize Giving: 18:30**

At the venue

Parents and Guardian areas

At each of the Gigafinal venues, signs will indicate allocated parent areas. Can we ask that you keep these clean and tidy and put all rubbish in the bins provided. We appreciate your help with this matter as it helps us to maintain good relationships with the venues - essential for booking next year's Gigafinal.

Evacuation

If for some reason the fire alarm sounds requiring us to evacuate during one of the Chess rounds then the supervisors in the Chess playing arena will escort all the children to the assembly point. Parents and guardians should also proceed to the assembly point. If parents or guardians en masse endeavour to enter the Chess playing arena then this may hinder the quick evacuation of the children.

E.C.F.

Please note data will be handed over to the E.C.F. (English Chess Federation) for grading and to display results on chess-results.com



Parents in the playing arena

Before round one we invite all parents to join us in the playing arena where Sarah Hegarty will extend a warm welcome to you all. However parents cannot stay in the playing arena for the Chess games themselves. Also at the start of each subsequent round it will greatly help, particularly for the under 10's and above if the children make their own way to Chess playing arena. This will speed up the start of each round and help us stick to the schedule.

First Aid

On the day we will have designated first aid providers whose details can be accessed at the main reception.



Rules

The FIDE Laws of Chess for competitions starting between 1st July, 2014 and 1st July, 2017 will apply: <https://www.fide.com/fide/handbook.html?id=171&view=article> (This year's competition started in January 2017!)

U12-U18 - One illegal move loses the game.

U7-U11 - Three illegal moves lose the game. Each one needs to be reported to the arbiter by raising your hand. No time penalty for the first and second illegal move.

In the event of a tie for 1st place vouchers will be shared but the Terafinal place will be awarded to the player that won the head-to-head match. If there was not a head-to-head match or it was a draw then 3 minutes + 2 seconds per move play offs will take place to determine the winner. If more than 2 people are tied for first place tie-breaks we will draw lots to decide play off pairings.

An E.C.F. Rapidplay Graded Event. The U7's section will count for English Youth Grand Prix .

Prizes

Players in 1st place in their category win a trophy and £100 Chess Vouchers and qualify for the Terafinal. Each player attending the Terafinal **will win cash** and compete for the STRAT title, Terafinal trophy and £2,000.

Players in 2nd and 3rd place at the Gigafinal will win medals and qualify for the Challengers' Section of the Terafinal. All players scoring 3.5/6 will win a prize.



Arbiters

Each Gigafinal has a team of qualified E.C.F. Chess Arbiters. There will also be plenty of people on hand in the playing arena to assist with minor disputes as they arise. If your child has a dispute they must put their hand up straight away as we can't intervene afterwards.

Southern

Chief Arbiter: Matthew Carr,
Arbiters: Tim Dickinson, Thomas Thorpe

Northern

Chief Arbiter: Alex Holowczak,
Arbiters: Matthew Carr, Thomas Thorpe

Decision of the chief arbiter is final.

There will be plenty of other staff to help with any questions.

On the day pairings will be done using **Swiss Manager** and available at www.chess-results.com

Terafinal

The Terafinal will take place on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th August 2017 at Daventry Court Hotel, Sedgemoor Way, Daventry NN11 0SG. Saturday's first round will begin at 10:00, then the 2nd round at 13:00 and 3rd round 16:00. On Sunday, the first round begins at 9:30 with the 2nd round taking place at 12:30 and the final round at 15:30. The prize giving shall take place at 18:30.

Please Please Please Report the Result by PUTTING YOUR HAND UP after the end of the game

At the Gigafinal when the game has finished both players should remain seated and put their hand up. One of the board stewards will come over and record the result of the game.

Please note if the players leave the playing room without reporting the result then both players may receive zero for the game.

Time Control

20 minutes + 10 seconds per move.

All games of the Gigafinal use digital Chess clocks. It's very important that all Chess players press their clock after each move with the same hand they moved the piece with.

All players have 20 minutes on their clock at the beginning of the game. Every time they make a move and press their clock 10 seconds is added to their time.

This is known as Fischer Time named after the famous world chess champion Bobby Fischer. It means that you will always have at least 10 seconds to make the next move.



Hands Up

If you have a problem or believe your opponent has made an illegal move or is being unfair then put your hand up straight away. We can't intervene or correct a dispute afterwards.



Adjusting a piece

If a piece is not properly on a square you can adjust the piece only when it's your turn. To avoid 'touch piece move piece' you must say "adjust" BEFORE.



Same hand for the move and the clock

You must press the clock with the same hand that you make your Chess move - this stops any disputes about pressing the clock before the move is finished.



Don't shake hands until you're sure

If your opponent claims Checkmate don't shake their hand until you are certain as it is customary, in chess matches, that a handshake ends the game.



Promoting a Pawn

When you promote a Pawn, usually to a Queen (or an alternative piece) you must swap the Pawn for the Queen before you press the clock. Otherwise it is an illegal move.



Touch piece Move piece

If you touch a piece you must then move the piece if it is legal to do so. Equally if you touch your opponent's piece you must capture if it is legal to do so. Good advice - think BEFORE you touch.

Check-mate ???

We are often asked by players "Is this Checkmate?", but in Chess, it is for the players to decide.

Ask yourself, can I make a legal move? If you can, then it's not Checkmate. A player can use as much time (as is left on their clock) to think about this and try to find a legal move.

So take your time, we do sometimes see players agree to Checkmate, when there was a legal move and an escape route.