



Welcome to your 2020 Maths Alumni Newsletter



Greetings from the School of Maths, I hope this email finds you well.

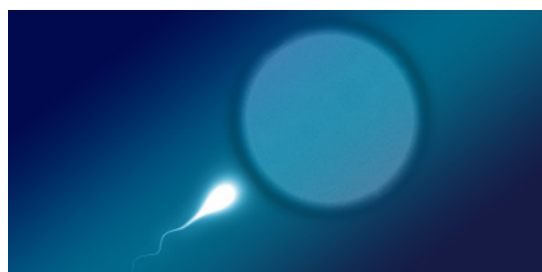
This is my first newsletter to you after taking up the post of Head of School in July. The last 5 months have been an exceptionally challenging and difficult time across the world, and we can only hope that we are beginning to find our way out of this awful crisis. In March we made a rapid change to online teaching, assessment and (where possible) research, and as mathematicians we are fortunate to some degree in that as long as we have pen, paper and the ability to talk to each other we can still make progress.

[Read more from Chris Good](#)



Top NSS results for Maths

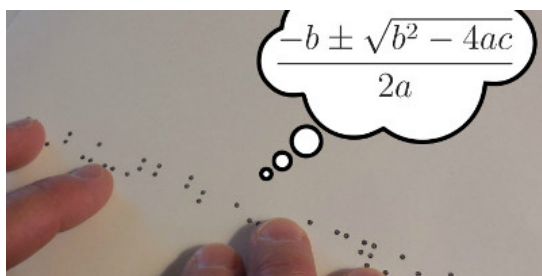
We're proud to announce the School of Mathematics has scored top marks in the 2020 National Student Survey, ranking first in the Russell Group in five categories, including teaching, academic support, assessments and the learning community.



Doing more with less

Using mathematical simulations our researchers have discovered sperm without a fully active tail move more efficiently, which could be crucial for improving the outcomes of assisted fertility treatments.

[Find out more](#)

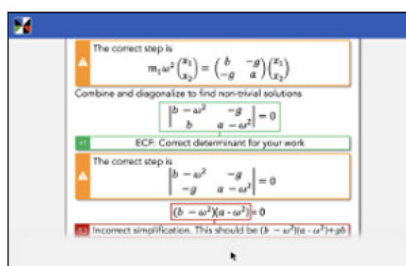


Maths that feels good: creating resources for blind students

Mathematics and science Braille textbooks are expensive and time-consuming to produce, but thanks to innovations developed with our mathematicians, this could soon change.

[Find out more](#)

[Find out more](#)



Students launch company to reduce teacher workload

A new spin-out company has received investment to pilot an AI-based marking system that learns how teachers give feedback, so they never have to mark the same answer twice.

[Find out more](#)



Our response to the COVID-19 crisis

From improving the design of face masks to mathematical modelling, our researchers are contributing to the global effort to counter the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects. Staff and students in the School and wider College of Engineering and Physical Sciences are also supporting the NHS by volunteering their time to fight the outbreak.

[Find out more about what we're doing to support the global effort](#)



It's been quite a year for MathSoc!

A tour, socials fundraising, alumni, sports, careers and a Ball! Most significantly, they teamed up with the Chemistry Society for the first time to gather 57 entrants to the Birmingham Running Festival, raising more



A very special Virtual EPS Societies' Awards

Sadly we weren't able to hold the usual celebrations for our remarkable student groups, but not to be hindered by a pandemic we took the event online for a unique virtual Awards ceremony. We're

than £5,000 in support of the Teenage Cancer Trust!

[Find out more](#)

proud of all our nominees and 12 shortlisted candidates. Congratulations!

[Watch the Awards ceremony](#)



Birmingham, STEM Ambassadors and Me

Yvonne Baker, alumna and Chief Executive of STEM Learning, delivered the 2020 EPS Distinguished Lecture in March. Best known for founding the national STEM Ambassadors volunteering scheme, Yvonne is passionate about encouraging school pupils to see the every-day science around them. In her talk, she reflects on her favourite Birmingham memories and shares her thoughts on how we can continue to make science, technology, engineering and maths attractive to the young and not so young.

[Watch Yvonne's Distinguished Lecture](#)

**WE ARE
BIRMINGHAM
ALUMNI**

Share your story and help inspire our students

From recent graduates to industry leaders, you are making important things happen. You can inspire young people and offer an insight into the opportunities awaiting them. Anyone who submits a profile will receive an Old Joe fridge magnet. Never have your stories been more valuable.

[Share your Birmingham story](#)



Mercurius Saad: It's only the misfits who have a chance

Last month I woke up to a notification that changed everything. "You received £40,000 from Innovate UK". It was 4:50am when I checked my phone before quietly tiptoeing out the front door for my daily run. I couldn't scream or shout but the minute I was far enough away, I did both, very loudly.

[Read more about Mercurius](#)

MENTORING

Could you mentor a student?

We're looking for enthusiastic alumni and professionals to provide expertise and advice to help our students start their careers. Mentoring makes a real difference; we all know the benefits of having someone to bounce ideas off, particularly in these current uncertain times. Your advice is invaluable. If you'd like to be that person, please get in touch.

Email Grace to become a mentor

News roundup

Did you graduate in the last 5 years? You're eligible to enter the [6th China International College Students' "Internet Plus" Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition](#).

[New graduate Sabeeka Qureshi launches a careers blog](#) offering advice to students and graduates looking for a jobs or internships in lockdown.

Dr Tyler Kelly is one of three Birmingham scientists to be awarded prestigious research grants through the [UK Research and Innovation's Future Leaders Fellowships](#).

[Professor John Terry](#) has joined the School from the University of Exeter, leading the Centre for Systems Modelling and Quantitative Biomedicine as an Interdisciplinary Professorial Fellow.

[Dr Richard Montgomery](#) is awarded the European Prize in Combinatorics

University of Birmingham [appoints leading computational scientist as Pro-Vice-Chancellor](#) and Head of College of Engineering and Physical Sciences.

Do we have the correct contact details for you?

Make sure you update your details to ensure you receive the latest news and information about events in your area. [Update now](#)



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