



HICES MATHEMATICS

On Wednesday 18 June, Thomas Hassall Anglican College took two Year 7 and two Year 8 students to Richard Johnson Anglican College to compete against 35 other teams in the HICES Maths Challenge.

They participated in 3 different activities – the group challenge, the SWISS challenge, and the relay challenge.

In the group challenge, Noah, Thomas, Lizzie and Isaac had to work together to solve 4 problems at a time. Once 2 problems were solved, they were given the next set of 2 questions. There were a total of 24 questions to be completed in 45 minutes.



The SWISS challenge involved competing against one school at a time. Our students sat in alternate seats and had to determine the algebraic rule linking x and y in a table of values and therefore say what the next number should be. They had 5 seconds to say an answer before it was passed on to the next student from the other school.

For example, what numbers should be in the empty boxes below?

| | | | | | | |
|-----|------|-----|------|---|----|----|
| x | 1 | -15 | 7 | 8 | -2 | 23 |
| y | 20.2 | 17 | 21.4 | | | |

The final challenge was the relay – where our Year 7 students worked together to solve a problem to get the next question which our Year 8 students would then collaborate and solve. There were a total of 25 questions to be completed in 45 minutes.

Here's a sample Year 8 question – can you solve it?

An isosceles triangle has vertices at $(7,8)$, $(a,3)$ and $(7,3)$. What is the product of all the possible values that a could have?

Mr Andrew Lim

Assistant Coordinator Mathematics