

St Catherine's School in Bramley sponsors new chess resource to stretch young minds

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By **InYourArea Community**

St Catherine's School in Bramley, Surrey, has been the proud host and sponsor of the English Chess Federation's national girls' schools chess tournament since it began in 2013.

The school has seen record breaking numbers of girls of all levels participate in the annual tournaments which one pupil says have always been 'fun and friendly' occasions.

This year, due to Covid-19, the school was unable to welcome players for the event.

Instead, with the recent rise in interest in the game during lockdown, the school chose to work in partnership with the English Chess Federation and support the publication of Chess for Beginners, designed to assist and encourage young players and those new to the game.

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Naomi Bartholomew, headmistress of St Catherine's Prep School, said: "Children are enjoying spending time on pursuits that take a little longer but are nonetheless rewarding and stimulate strategic thinking and focus."



St Catherine's has a thriving chess club from beginners in Year 3 to those who attend a weekly masterclass with Andrew Martin, International Master and FIDE senior trainer.

A representative of the school said: "We hope that everyone enjoys the booklets and finds them helpful. They are designed for children but may also help any beginner or indeed teachers or parents working with their son or daughter in their early engagement with chess."

Mrs Phillips adds: "We are on a bit of a mission to make chess truly a game for all. We see it as a great game that brings out so many positive character traits in our young people, as well as being really good fun."

Those interested in accessing the free resource will find it on St Catherine's Prep School's [**website**](#).