

SAMPLE LETTER TO PARENTS

Dear Parents,

Your child has been selected to participate in the Maths Challenge. This is a problem-solving activity organised by the Australian Maths Trust (AMT), which is aimed at stimulating the mathematically interested students in their year level.

The Maths Challenge takes place over three to four consecutive weeks in Term 1 or Term 2, with the school setting the exact timing. Students receive a problem book containing six problems (years 7 to 10 – Junior and Intermediate levels) or four problems (years 3 to 7 – Middle and Upper Primary levels). Students are required to present written solutions to as many of these problems as they can. The problems are challenging and require time and persistence, but are based on maths that should be known at that level. Students in the Junior and Intermediate levels may work with a partner who has also entered the Challenge, while students in the Primary levels may work in groups of up to three. Separate solutions must be submitted by each student.

Teachers mark the submitted solutions from marking schemes and solutions provided by the AMT in the Teacher Guide. This also provides alternative solutions, some discussion of the origin, mathematics and teaching issues associated with each problem, and some extension problems with solutions; it is a valuable classroom resource. Marks are submitted to the AMT and, after processing, various levels of certificates are issued.

Students are allowed to seek help from any resources other than human ones—textbooks, encyclopaedias, etc., calculators and computers. Note that websites offering help with problems are really human resources, so are not allowed, but the use of a computer-based encyclopaedia or a website providing maths information of a general nature is fine. Teachers will be checking on progress from time to time and may be able to answer questions of clarification. Some class time will be set aside for consultation with partners.

The Maths Challenge is designed to be an enjoyable and valuable learning experience for children. We hope your child agrees.

Yours sincerely,