

## **World Maths Day: A Global Celebration of Numbers, Gibraltar Enters for the First Time**

The first of its kind, World Maths Day was launched last year, where school students participate from all over the world to prove their numeracy skills to themselves and others. Another first was this year's participation by the students of Sacred Heart School in the increasingly popular competition. So what is this competition all about and how did our Gibraltar students do?

233 Sacred Heart School students entered the World Maths Day competition, which took place on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March via the competition website, [www.worldmathday.com](http://www.worldmathday.com) The competition involved answering a target of 50 million maths related questions correctly overall, covering addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. 20,000 schools competed, totalling over 1 million students from 150 countries all over the world, a significant increase from last year's participation of just over a quarter of a million students.

World Maths Day aims to improve numerical skills and general maths abilities all over the world. The competition by-passes language barriers and allows all nationalities, numbers being an international 'language' itself.

After the competition had ended, which was 48 hours after its start date to compensate for the differences in time zones, the results were in. Students from all over the world collectively scored 182,445,169 correct answers, more than three times the target of 50 million.

Australia grabbed 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places due to the numerical skills of Tatiana G from Haileybury College and Kaya G from MacDonald College respectively, with the United Kingdom's Rock T from George Heriot's School winning 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

Back home, our star performer was Nilesh Chatwani, who answered 56 questions correctly in a minute.

The Gibraltar students who participated all seemed to have a great time in improving their numerical skills and learning about students from the other countries that also took part. Others also enjoyed the moment, such as Minister of Education, Clive Beltran, who noted that it was a great opportunity for the students and hopes that more students and schools take part next year.

Education Director, Ernest Gomez also visited the school during the World Maths Day, which was organised within the Scared Heart School by Maths Co-ordinator, Michelle Soiza.

The next World Maths Day takes place on Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2009, with registrations accepted from February. We hope everyone who participated in this year's competition enjoyed the challenge and that more students register next year.