

## **Prestatyn 2011: NPS at the National Chess Semi-Finals**

On Friday 20th May twenty five children (including one mascot!), three staff and seventeen other family members set off for the EPSCA National Schools' Chess Semi-Final in Prestatyn. Three of our teams, two at U9 and one at U11 had again qualified for this stage of the competition from the zonal stage in February—a superb achievement in its own right as less than half the teams who enter are allowed to qualify! Our other U11 team entered the 'Plate' competition.

### **Results:**

This was the most successful year yet for NPS Chess teams with our **U9 'A' Team winning our first ever Gold Award**, finishing 5th overall with 17 points. Our **U11 Semi-Final team achieved another Silver Award** with 15 points (not bronze as was announced). Our U9 'B' team also performed very well gaining a superb  $13\frac{1}{2}$  points. The U11 Plate team battled hard against exhaustion (they had just returned from a Residential trip to Keswick), but still achieved a creditable score, finishing in 6<sup>th</sup> place.

### **The Weekend:**

The weekend was packed with many different activities. On the way down we stopped at The National Media Museum in Bradford to watch 'Hubble 3D' on the giant IMAX screen. On arrival in Prestatyn there was time for playing in the adventure play park followed by swimming in the excellent Nova Centre.

The Saturday brought the first three games of chess, with the gaps in between being filled with football and Go Karts. Mrs De Giorgi cooked a delicious pasta lunch for everyone and after the final match of the day we all ventured down to the play park. Everyone then headed to the beach for either a game of baseball, organized by Mr Askew and Mr Cox, or moat building. On return to our chalets we all had Fish and Chips!

More chess and football on the Sunday were followed by the prize giving and an evening meal at the superb Tebay services. All arrived back at 9:20pm after an excellent journey watching DVDs on the coach!

**A massive "Thank You" to Mrs Breakey, Miss McCabe and all the parents who helped Mr Boddy on this trip. Particular thanks are due to our Team Managers; Mrs Warwick, Mrs Gill, Mr Stobbart and Mr Donald. Mrs Gill not only helped manage the U9 'A' team but also, along with Mrs Powell, drove down to help with the organisation and to buy all the supplies!**

**All the children have been rewarded with their NPS EPSCA 2011 Cap, a commemorative badge, a medal, a salver and a certificate!**