

Knowledge of the nativity story.

Unfortunately, the true message of Christmas is being lost to secularism. It is important to remember the real message of Christmas and that we try to put the 'Christ' back into Christmas, and forget about polar bears, snow and presents etc. It is a celebration of Jesus coming to us.

In a survey recently conducted by The Bible Society, people were asked about their knowledge of the Nativity Story. There were ten questions, of varying difficulty. The results are below.

1. 98% knew Jesus was born in Bethlehem (Luke 2 4)
2. 89% knew Mary put the baby Jesus in a manger (Luke 2 7)
3. 83% knew the Angel Gabriel told Mary she would give birth (Luke 1 26)
4. 77% knew Herod was king at the time (Matthew 2 1)
5. 63% knew the angels were the first to announce the news (Luke 2 15)
6. 52% knew Mary and Joseph were travelling because they had been ordered to register with the authorities (Luke 2 1)
7. 46% knew the shepherds were first to visit Jesus (Luke 2 16)
8. 32% knew the word Immanuel (Matthew 1 23) means 'God is with us'
9. 26% knew Mary and Joseph were engaged when she found out she was going to have a baby (Matthew 1 18)

BY MARK RAE 2a1

## Did you know?

ALL NUMBERS COME FROM ARABIC. ARABIC NUMBERS LOOK A LOT LIKE THE NUMBERS WE USE TODAY. ARABIANS WERE GREAT MATHEMATICIANS, THEY CAME UP WITH ALGEBRA AND MANY OTHER THINGS.

Declan Melville (2a7)

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### After school classes

- Monday: Higher & Advanced Higher Maths
- Tuesday: Intermediate 2
- Thursday: S1 to S3 Higher

Statistics of the weird

In 2003, the U.S. Government spent about \$2,000,000.00 on potato research.

The largest diamond ever found was 3,106 carats.

Seaweed can grow up to 12 inches per day.

More than 10% of the world's salt is used to de-ice American roads.

On average, 100 people choke to death on ballpoint pens every year.

More than 6,000 people with pillow-related injuries check into U.S. emergency rooms every year.

The most children born to one woman was 69, she was a peasant who lived a 40 year life, in which she had 16 twins, 7 triplets, and 4 quadruplets.

More than 10 people a year are killed by a vending machine.

By Declan Melville (2a7) and Mark Rae (2a1)

**MERRY CHRISTMAS !!**



# Celebrating achievement

The following senior pupils have won awards in the UK Maths Challenge:



**GOLD AND BEST IN SCHOOL AND S6:** Stuart McGibbon

**GOLD:** Joseph Coyle (S5)

**SILVER:** David Graham(S6), Mark McCormick (S6)

**BRONZE:** Mark Toner(S6), Max Duncan (S6), Luke Fossett (S6), Adam Spence (S5)

and

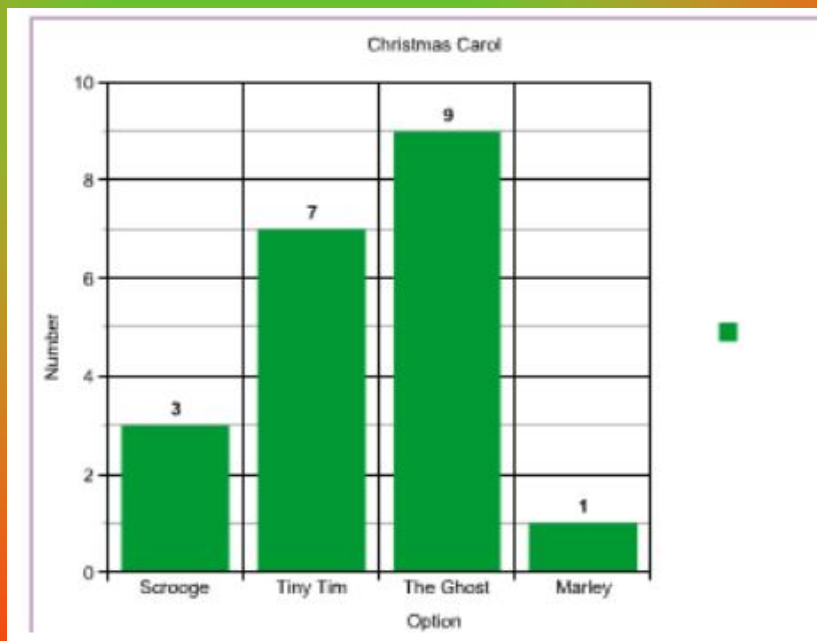
Stuart McGibbon (S6) has qualified for the Senior Kanagaroo round which takes place on Friday 29th November

## Survey: For Christmas!!

We conducted a survey for Christmas. The question was

Out of all the characters in Charles Dicken’s A Christmas carol who would you like to be?

The results are below:





MERRY  
CHRIST-  
MAS!!!

### *A very expensive Mince Pie*

A mince pie worth £3,000 was on display at a London shopping centre in Dec 2011. The pie was at the Mince Pie Manufactory, a mince pie workshop at the Exchange shopping centre. The pie had some very expensive ingredients including a platinum coin, platinum leaf and holy water from Lourdes. It took the creator of the pie Andrew Stellitano 1 week to create the pie.

Reported in: London Evening Standard, 17th November 2011

### MR MARDONES PUZZLE

A father and son are chatting when the son poses this question: "Dad, I'm 22 now, but just how old are you?"

The father replies, "*you wanna know how old your old man is, eh? Hmm, well, I tell you what I'm as old as your age, plus half of my age.*"

**So, how old is the father?**

Do you have any items for inclusion in next months newsletter?

Please submit articles of interest to Mr Mardones in Maths .