

Cheess KIDS KNIGHT TIMES

Chess World Australia Pty. Ltd. ABN 41 118 087 862



AUCKLAND GRAMMAR WINS NATIONAL INTERSCHOOL FINALS



The Auckland Grammar Team

Message from the Guru

Dear Knight Times Readers,

As we come to the end of another year we take the time to reflect on what has gone and what is still to come.

This year has been a difficult one with lots of sudden changes and personal challenges. Thanks to the support of our great coaches and admin staff we've come through relatively unscathed... in fact with some real achievements under our belts.

We look forward to 2010 being our first year of full-blown operations in New Zealand as well as an expanded RJ Shield series, bigger and better Chess Kids Elite programs and of course continued developments to the Ratings System.

Vale Robert Cordover (1940-2009).



David Cordover,

Managing Director,
Chess Group of Companies



Chess Kids Contacts:

www.chesskids.com.au

Coaching:

info@chesskids.com.au

Retail:

info@chessworld.com.au

Interschool:

interschool@chesskids.com.au

Newsletter:

rj@chesskids.com.au

1300-424-377





Australia's Bobby Cheng has become the first Australian in over 50 years to win a world chess title when he finished in first place in the World Youth 12U Championships in Turkey.

Here is his report:

Having moved from New Zealand only two years ago, I never thought I would bring Australia a world chess champion title in such a short space of time. However, it has happened: in Kemer, Antalya, Turkey, on 23rd November 2009.

The World Youth Chess Championships (WYCC) is held every year, with participants from over 90 countries. My previous results have been: 61st - France in 2005, 4th - Turkey in 2007, and 15th - Vietnam in 2008, all three times representing New Zealand.

The tournament officially started with the opening ceremony, but I didn't see the fireworks as I was too tired from the flights and jet lag! I had to go back to my room to sleep.

The next day I found out I was playing an 1800 player, national u12 champion of Belarus. I knew there would be no easy games. With juniors, an unrated player could be very dangerous.

The playing venue was at a 5 star hotel, which was also where we stayed. The whole Australian team was there. The hotel was huge and had plenty of facilities which the players were free to use.

I managed to win my first round quite comfortably after my opponent made a blunder in the opening, but in the second round I was held to a draw by an Austrian player rated around 1950. I won my next two rounds and I made it to the digital boards (top 3) and was playing a German player, rated 2057. I didn't play the opening well and started an attack that never had any real prospects. I later sacrificed a piece but didn't get enough compensation, and I eventually lost the resulting endgame. At the end, when I was dead lost, my opponent couldn't help smiling from ear to ear.

This was a big setback for me, knowing now that another loss - just one more mistake - could see me dropping like a stone through the rankings, nowhere near the top.

My next round was also very tough, eventually winning a drawn endgame against a 2100 Iranian, who only made one mistake during the whole game. Chess can be cruel...

The next day was a break day, so all the players got to relax and explore Antalya. I am not a huge fan of sightseeing or tours, and in the past I had always stayed in the hotel. This year my dad insisted we do something different, so we joined some members of the Australian team to "The Ruins of Termessos", which is claimed to be the best archaeological site in Turkey.

We took many photos, and witnessed the ancient remains of a city from 500BC. I spent most of the day talking to friend

Eugene Schon about nothing in particular, yet he claimed to 'know everything'. I met Eugene when I was 8 in the Queenstown Chess Classic. He and his mum Kerry have welcomed us to Melbourne since we first came to Australia.

The guide couldn't speak English but we still had a wonderful time on break day. It was a nice break from the usual routine, and also a great chance to explore Turkey.

Fresh from the trip, I played a 2012 rated player from traditional power Russia, which sent 16(!) players to the U12 category. The game was around equal until he made a big oversight, blundering a rook.

I was on 5.5/7, behind 3 players on 6 and the sole leader on 6.5. Of course, tiebreak scores were important to the final rankings as well.

In round 8, I was playing last year's U10 champion, Jan-Krzysztof Duda from Poland, who was completely winning our game until I swindled him a rook down for two pawns. He eventually played rook vs. knight for about 30 moves until I claimed 4-fold repetition. The game lasted 5.5 hours.

Throughout the tournament, I was coached by Georgian GM David Arutinian, who helped prepare my openings for an hour every morning. I would then revise the lines until lunch, which was usually very salty food. The games started at 3:00pm.

In round nine I was playing an American 2000 player, and the final few minutes were

filled with time-trouble mistakes. Well, my opponent made a strange blunder and I ended up winning in a tight time-scramble. There was also some irony before the game when my opponent gave me a New Jersey flag pin which had a sticker on it saying 'made in China'. :O



I WAS THRILLED AT THIS VICTORY BUT I KNEW I HAD TO KEEP CONCENTRATION FOR THE CRUCIAL LAST ROUND.

In round 10, I was playing Mikhail Antipov, who ranked ahead of me in both 2007 and 2008. According to his dad, he has a top of the world coach in Moscow, and all his chess coaching and tournaments are fully funded by the government. He was leading the tournament up until now so he was probably expecting to win it. I prepared a rarely played line and practised it with my former coach in NZ, Ewen Green, on ICC. The game turned out to be very unbalanced when I was down a piece for two pawns but had compensation.

We eventually progressed to an unclear endgame, where he got too ambitious and tried to win instead of taking the draw.

I was thrilled at this victory but I knew I had to keep concentration for the crucial last round. The following morning I found out I was playing top seed Suri Vaibhav, the highest rated U12 player in the world. I was considering playing for a draw but David said to me "you will not get this opportunity many times so you should play for a win even if it is risky".

During the game, I sacrificed a knight on move 17 (possibly unsoundly) and my

opponent panicked, simply giving it back, after which I had a clearly better position. I finished the game off with a nice combination.

This meant I had to wait for the second board result until I would find out whether I came first or second. If either player won, they would overtake me on tiebreak, but alas, after two and a half hours of anxious waiting, the game was drawn! I had come first! (or, as I say, last from the bottom, which is much more positive).

After 4 WYCC tournaments in 5 years, my dad could finally see me standing on the podium. He always believed that I was capable of reaching the top and I am glad that I have made him proud.

There are many people who I would like to thank, both from Australia and New Zealand, for their support, encouragement, and their faith in me. This victory is not only mine- it belongs to them as well.

During the rest of the day, I played blitz, table tennis, and just relaxed until the closing ceremony, when I collected my prize - a trophy and a laptop. At dinner I and some of the Australian team created a waiter's nightmare... ok no need to go into details.

Here is one of my games from the tournament.

World Youth U12 Championship 2009

Terzi, Alexei 1831

Cheng, Bobby 2202

French Defence, Advance Variation

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.a3

To play 7.b4 and free the c1 bishop of defending the b paw.

6...Nh6 7.b4 cxd4 8.cxd4

8.Bxh6 gxh6 9.cxd4 Bg7 is another line, where black plays for ...f6.

8. ... Nf5 9.Be3

9.Bb2 perhaps.

9. ... Bd7 10.Nc3 Nxe3 11.fxe3



11...Nxb4!?

Sacrificing a knight to attack.

12.axb4 Bxb4 13.Qb3 Rc8 14.Rc1 Qa5 15.Kd2 O-O

The threat is Rxc3 Rxc3 Rc8, when White cannot defend the knight any further.

16.Ne1?

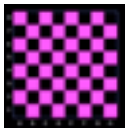
16.Bd3 Rc7 17.Ng1! (not 17.Rc2 Ba4 winning the house) 17. ... Ba4 (17. ... Rfc8 18.Ne2 is the idea) 18.Qb2 Bb5 19.Bxb5 Qxb5 is unclear but White must defend very carefully.

16. ... Ba4 17.Qb2 Rxc3 18.Rxc3 Rc8

2 pawns down, undeveloped pieces and a terribly open king, White resigned.

0-1

Notes by Bobby Cheng



RJ SHIELD

The second last RJ Shield for 2009 was held at the Oakleigh RSL on Sunday 29th November and was won by Daniel Tan who was making a return to competitive chess.

Open

Player Standings

Place	Name	Rating	Score	Bonus
★ 1	Daniel Tan	1417 ★	6	22
★ 2	Joshua Devarajh	1270 ↑ 16	5	27
★ 3	Karl Zelesco	1173 ↑ 16	4	28
4	Anthony Hain	1201 ↑ 9	4	27½
5	Alex Gruen	1242 ↓ 8	4	26
6	Jack O'Shaughnessy	1152 ↓ 4	3½	25½
7	Jonathan Tissainayagam	1059 ↑ 5	3½	21½
8	Thumula Gamage	1015 ↓ 25	3	17
9	Matthew Cheah	995 ↓ 12	2	26

Under 12s

Place	Name	Rating	Score	Bonus
★ 1	Jimmy Ying	994 ↑ 51	6½	28
★ 2	Eddie Han	1029 ↑ 36	6	29½
★ 3	Max Ruan	885 ↑ 28	4½	30

Under 10s

Place	Name	Rating	Score	Bonus
★ 1	Rafael Pecori	912 ☆	7	27
★ 2	Joshua Lipp	868 ↑ 29	5½	27
★ 3	Jeremy Emrose	840 ↑ 1	4½	28½

Under 8s

Place	Name	Rating	Score	Bonus
★ 1	Suren Kapadia	732 ↑ 32	6	22
★ 2	Evan Inavolu	880 ↓ 7	5½	22½
★ 3	Haran Salasan	722 ↑ 22	5½	22½



Daniel Tan receives his trophy from Robert Jamieson

The last RJ Shield for the year was conducted by Daniel up in Mildura on Sunday 6th December and attracted a field of 32 players.

There was extensive coverage on the local TV station, which can be viewed on the Chess Kids website. Next year we will be holding RJ Shield Tournaments in country Victoria also.

Player Standings

Place	Name	Rating	Score	Bonus
★ 1	Jade Hall-Kelly	1241 ↑ 47	7	34
★ 2	Jordan Sparkes	1098 ☆	6	30
★ 3	Andrew Harrison	1149 ★	5	34
4	Dustin Freckleton	858 ☆	5	33
5	Cara Ferguson	1126 ↑ 7	5	30½
6	Patrick Vann	1135 ☆	5	27½
7	Nathan Curtis	818 ★	5	26



NATIONAL INTERSCHOOL FINALS

Congratulations to Auckland Grammar School which won the 2009 Chess Kids Interschool Championships by 1.5 points from Alfred Deakin High with Melbourne High third.



Top Secondary Players - Amy Brown, Joshua Bishop, Daniel Shen & Laurence Matheson.

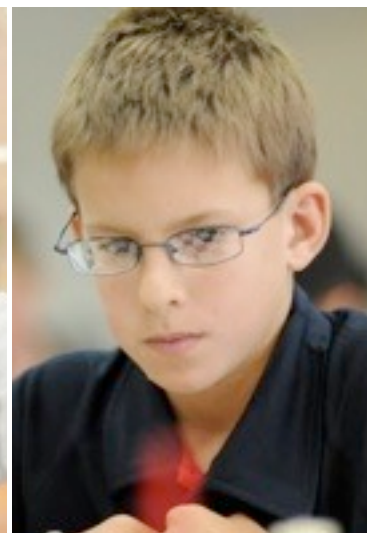
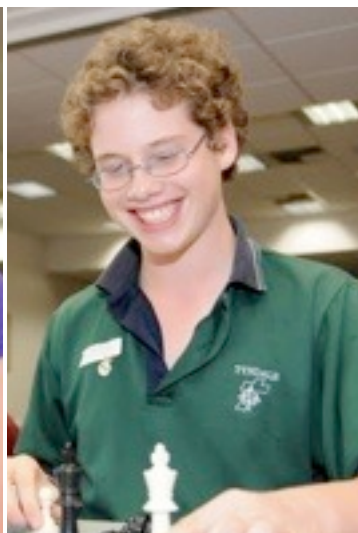
The Kiwis brought a team of 5 strong players across the Tasman, led my Daniel Shen who tied for first place with Laurence Matheson on 6.5 out of 7 points.

event run so smoothly and to the coaches and officials who helped to make the event so enjoyable.

There were a series of graded lectures available for the players between rounds as well as the chance to go over their games with a chess coach.

Place	Name	Score	Players
★ 1	Auckland Grammar School	22	5
★ 2	Alfred Deakin High	20½	4
★ 3	Melbourne High	18	6
4	Brighton Grammar	17½	5
5	Ivanhoe Grammar	17	5
6	Calvin Christian	16	5
7	Carey Grammar	16	5
8	Seton Catholic College	15½	5
9	Mazenod College	15½	5
10	Penrhos College	15	5

Congratulations to all the teams which made the National Finals and had the opportunity to represent their school and their state. Thanks also to the Chief Arbiter, David Cordover, whose organisational abilities made this huge



MIDDLE YEARS

Middle Years favourites, Brighton Grammar, were pressed by the NZ Intermediate Champions, Somerville, but held on to win the event.

Alfred Deakin echoed their success in the Secondary Division by coming a close third, even though they had only 4 players.



Brighton Grammar - Isaac Ng, Jeffrey Jiang, Joshua Ng, Andrew Jin & Alex Gruen

Place	Name	Score	Players
1	Brighton Grammar	19½	5
2	Somerville Intermediate	18½	5
3	Alfred Deakin High	18	4
4	Newtown High School of Perf.	16	4
5	Mazenod College	15½	5
6	Castlemaine Secondary	12	5
7	St Luke's College, Karratha	7	6

PRIMARY

Victorian Primary Champions, Mount View Primary, are seemingly unbeatable winning the event with a round to spare! An excellent performance by Mitcham Primary (SA) saw them take second place honors ahead of Waverley Christian College on count-back.

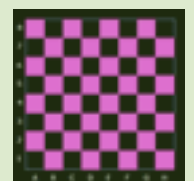


Mount View Primary - Michael Chan, Alan Yu, Cameron Foo, Zachary Loh & Kevin Fan.

Place	Name	Score	Players
1	Mount View Primary	25	5
2	Mitcham Primary	19	6
3	Waverley Christian College	19	5
4	Balwyn Nth Primary	18½	5
5	Wooranna Park Primary	18	5
6	Patterson Lakes Primary	18	8
7	Kaleen Primary	18	4
8	Milford Primary	17½	5
9	Deepdene Primary	17	10
10	Curtin Primary	17	6



CHESS WORLD
FOR ALL YOUR CHESS REQUISITES.



451 North Rd, Ormond www.chessworld.com.au Ph. 1300 424 377

GAMES FROM THE NATIONALS

Here are a couple of interesting games from the Primary Finals.

National Interschool Finals

Karl Zelesco (Deepdene) 1180

Michael Chan (Mount View) 1379

French Defence

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7 5. f4 c5
6. Nf3 Nc6 7. Ne2 b6 8. Ng3 Bb7 9. Be3 Qc7
10. c3 cxd4 11. Bxd4 Nxd4 12. Nxd4 a6 13. a4
Rc8 14. Rc1 Nc5 15. b4 Nd7 16. Nge2 h6 17.
g3 g5 18. Qb3 Be7 19. Rg1 Rg8 20. Bg2 gxf4
21. gxf4 Bh4+ 22. Kd2 Bf2 23. Ng3 Bxg1 24.
Rxxg1 Qc4 25. Qb2 Nf8 26. f5 exf5 27. Ngxf5
Rg6



28. Nd6+ Rxd6 29. exd6 Ne6 30. Bh3 Kd7 31.
Bxe6+ fxe6 32. Rg7+ Kxd6 33. Rxb7 Rf8
34. Rxb6+ Kd7 35. Ke3 e5 36. Ne6 Qe4+ 37.
Kd2 Rf2+ 38. Kd1 Qh1# 0-1

National Interschool Finals

Michael Chan (Mount View) 1379

Johnson Putai (Wooranna) 1049

Four Knights Game

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. O-O Nf6 5.
Nc3 O-O 6. d3 d6 7. h3 h6 8. a3 Re8 9. b4 Bb6
10. Bb2 Be6 11. Nd5 Qd7 12. Nxf6+ gxf6 13.
Bxe6 Qxe6 14. Nh4 Ne7 15. a4 a6 16. Qh5 Kh7
17. Bc1 Ng8 18. Nf5 Bd4 19. Ra3 c5 20. Qg4
1-0

WHAT TO DO OVER THE HOLIDAYS

School Holidays are a great time to relax, catch up with friends and family and eat chocolate. Perhaps we can even fit in some chess.

Hopefully Santa will have given us a chess book for Xmas ... one with lots of positions to solve is ideal. This should keep us busy for a few days.

Perhaps you are one of the lucky few who will be playing in the Australian Junior Championships in Hobart in January. If not you can follow the action, and hopefully live games, by checking out the tournament web site each day.

<http://www.chesstasmania.org.au/AJCC/index.html>

Hobart, 14th - 25th January 2010.



If you'd like also to follow some big kids in action then there is the Australian Championships from 2nd to 13th January 2010 in Sydney run by the Norths Chess Club. Their web-site is



<http://www.australianchesschampionship.com/pm/pmwiki.php>

There are 3 Victorian juniors playing in the senior championships - James Morris, Eugene Schon & Laurence Matheson. If James does well he may be able to force his way into the Australian Olympiad team. I shall certainly be following the action as I munch through the last of my Xmas chocolates.



PLAYER OF THE MONTH

With IM Robert Jamieson

**Profile of Karl Zelsco,
the Victorian Youth Champion.**

KARL ZELESCO RATING 1180

Age: 10

School: Deepdene Primary

Learnt to play chess: My Dad first taught me how to play chess when I was about 7 years old. I didn't really do anything with it for a while. Towards the end of Grade 3, I went in my first interschool chess tournament and my first RJ Shield. This year I became more serious about chess.

Tell us about Deepdene Primary: I'm in Grade 4 at Deepdene Primary School. This year a group of Grade 4 kids formed a chess team and starting competing at interschools. Now chess is really starting to take off at our school.

Where do you rank in the school? My rating currently puts me 1st at my school, but there are two other kids who are about the same strength as me.

Who are the best players: Max Chew Lee and Matthew Cheah are very good, playing at Junior Master and Elite level, respectively. Patrick and Raymond Hinh and Steven Chen are players who are really improving.

Do you play lots of tournaments? I play in tournaments as often as I can; especially RJ Shields and Rookies.

What do like about playing chess? I like that no two games are ever the same. I like the challenge of the game and the different things you start to see as you get deeper into the game.



How many chess books do you have? At the moment I have about ten chess books.

What is your favourite one? I haven't had much free time to read any of them, so can't say which of them is a favourite. I might get a chance to look at them in the holidays. Perhaps I'll start with Cecil J. Purdy's "Guide to Good Chess", as it was recommended to me.

What do you do to study chess apart from coaching at school? We don't actually have chess coaching at our school. I am a member of the Canterbury Junior Chess Club, I participate in group coaching and play as much chess as I can.

Are you good academically or at sport? I like sport, but I am more academic than sporty. I love maths and science subjects and anything involving "problem-solving."

Which sports do you play? I don't play the usual sport. I do Karate and go to Gym Club. Next year will be my sixth year of karate and I will hopefully earn my brown belt, which is just before a black belt. I have also been going Gym Club for 3 years. Gym Club is a bit like a Youth & Gym Club in one with gym, ball sports, bowling nights, camps etc. It is such a fun club that I've only missed about 2 nights in three years! I wanted to do Little Athletics this year too, but had to choose between it and chess. Chess won!

Where do you feel you are strongest or weakest & where would you like to improve? Chess itself is my weakness - I can't stop playing! My strengths are that I am patient, calm under pressure, and I never give up. I like to carefully consider each move whilst managing my time. I would like to improve my ability to read the game.

Do you have a favourite player?

Bobby Cheng is my favourite player. Bobby was at the first interschool I ever played in. He was a Grade 6 student at nearby Greythorn Primary at the time. I love to watch him play; he is a very gifted player. I have been fortunate to have played two games with Bobby; one at an RJ Shield and one at my local chess club. I hope to be good enough one day to play in the Balwyn High team with him.

What are your thoughts on Bobby Cheng's recent success? I was excited to learn that Bobby had won the World Under 12 Youth Champion Title. It made me think that it's not impossible for a player in Australia to make it to that level. Of course, you would have to be prepared to put in lots of hard work and make sacrifices along the way to get there. Bobby deserves this success - I imagine he has worked very hard to achieve it. His win will inspire lots of kids in their chess - me especially!

Thanks for the interview Karl.

CHESS KIDS RATINGS

Here are the latest Ratings Lists.

Check the Chess Kids website for more details and be sure to check/update your own player details. We still have a few duplicate players or players who need to update to their new school

TOP BOYS.

1.	Jason Tang	1642 ↓ 2
2.	Laurence Matheson	1561 ↑ 28
3.	Alastair Dyer	1526 ↑ 5
4.	Nicholas Liu	1501 ↓ 21
5.	Kozo Simutanyi	1496 ↑ 2
6.	Joshua Bishop	1476 ☆
7.	Justin Hood	1472 ↑ 7
8.	Bobby Cheng	1447 ↑ 6
9.	Allen Setiabudi	1445 ☆
10.	Owen Short	1437 ↓ 12

TOP GIRLS.

1.	Verity Williams	1344 ↑ 15
2.	Veronica Williams	1325 ↓ 18
3.	Amy Brown	1313 ↓ 6
4.	Anlee Khoo	1257 ☆
5.	Alina Krasnicki	1206 ↓ 16
6.	Sarah Moritz	1183 ↓ 12
7.	Cara Ferguson	1126 ↑ 7
8.	Stephanie Soediarlo	1116 ↓ 16
9.	Melanie Chow	1110 ☆
10.	Ella Thain	1108 ↑ 24

<http://chesskids.com.au/ratings/>

PRACTICAL ADVICE

From IM Robert Jamieson

**FOR
XMAS****GOOD PLAYERS**

1. Move slowly and allocate their available time over the whole game.
2. Do not rely on making one move threats and hoping that their opponents will miss them.
3. Build up their forces before launching an attack.
4. Do not check just for the sake of giving check.
5. Check their move before making it in case they have missed a good reply.
6. Do not swap pieces of equal value just because they can.
7. Castle early in the opening to make their King safe.
8. Place their pieces on good squares and force their opponents pieces to bad squares.
9. Do not accept or offer draws just because the position is even.
10. Try to force the game into the sort of position that they like and that their opponent does not.
11. Play an opening system often until they understand the ideas behind that opening.
12. Read lots of chess books, particularly those on tactics.
13. Go through their games afterwards with their opponents and their coach so that they can learn from their mistakes.
14. Play in tournaments against stronger players so that they can learn from their opponents.
15. Have a chess hero whose style they like and whose games they can study.
16. Do not accept the obvious and question everything.
17. Play lots of lightning chess to hone their reflexes and their eye for tactics.
18. Are not worried by the fear of a defeat or the possible loss of rating points. They are seeking to conquer the world, not protect what they have.
19. Set themselves goals that are tough, but achievable.

Are you a good player?

THE ADVENTURES OF JAMES



Fresh from his win in the Victorian Junior Masters, 15 year-old James Morris has just finished second in the Australian Masters 2009.

He was leading with one round to go following a sensational win over GM Darry Johansen, but lost to Australian Champion Stephen Solomon in the final round.

Here is James' victory against the grandmaster.

Australian Masters 2009

GM Darryl Johansen

IM James Morris

A31 - English/Anti-Benoni Variation

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 b6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Bb7 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Ndb5 d6 8.e4 a6 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd4 Nd7 11.Qh5 Nc5 12.f3 Qd7 13.g3 0-0-0 14.0-0-0 Kb8 15.Kb1 Rg8 16.Bh3 Rg5 17.Qh4 Qc7 18.Rhe1 Rg6 19.Bg4 Nd7 20.Bh5 Rh6 21.f4 Qxc4 22.g4 Be7 23.Qf2 Rf8 24.f5 Ne5 25.Qe3 Rg6 26.fxg6 fxg6 27.Nb3 Qc7 28.Rc1 Qd8 29.Nd4 Qd7 30.Bxg6 hxg6 31.h3 f5 32.gxf5 gxf5 33.exf5 exf5 34.Nde2 f4

35.Qxb6 Nd3 36.Nd4 Bd8 37.Qb3 Nxe1 38.Rxe1 f3 39.Nd1 f2 40.Rf1 Qh7+



41.Nc2? Rf3 42.Qb4?? Qd3 0-1

Fruition GUARANTEES successful outcomes!

FRUITION TUITION

- ✓ All ages
- ✓ All needs
- ✓ All subjects

GIVE YOUR CHILD THE EDGE!

- ✓ Fast
- ✓ Fun
- ✓ Guaranteed

fruition.com.au

ENGLISH MATHS TUITION

Shop 2, 76 East Boundary Rd
BENTLEIGH EAST
03 9570 7009

1300 TUITION (884 846)