

The Lincoln School of Science and Technology achieved remarkable success this year. At the British Land UK Challenge Megafinals held at Lincoln Castle six out of the seven pupils who entered went on to qualify for the Gigafinals at Manchester University next week end. In fact 5 of those were the winners in their age group.

The qualifiers were Alex Chadwick (Winner Under 14 Boys), Jessica O'Neill (Winner U-14 Girls), Senjohang Limbu (Winner U-15 Boys) and Lewis Crofts (Winner U-16 Boys). In the Under 17 Boys the LSST had two qualifiers, John Box was the Supremo with a maximum 6/6 and David O'Neill gained 5 out of 6 losing only to John in round 5.

This is a testament to the very strong chess club that is run within the school. It was set up in 2003 and is organised and run by Religious Studies teacher David Harbertson. Pupils meet twice a week, on Tuesday lunchtimes and on Wednesdays after school.

John Box and David O'Neill are regulars at Lincoln Chess Club and they showed me an interesting position reached in one of their games played at the school with John, as white, to play (see diagram). White can force a win - can you see how?

Play continued 1. dxc5 Kf6 2. b5 Ke6 3. b6 Kd7 4. b7 Kc7 5. c6 Kb8 white king needs to backup the pawns but also needs to watch black's passed pawn on e4. 6. Kd4 Kc7 7. Kc4 Kb8 8. Kb5 then if 8. ...e3 9. Kb6 or 8. ...Kc7 9. Ka6 or 8. ...Ka7 9. Kc5 all allow white to win before the black's pawn can queen.

