PRESS RELEASE

'St Catherine's School to host Girls' Chess Championships 2013'

Girls Semi Final

Sunday 20th January 2013 -10am to 5pm.

This year St Catherine's School Bramley is sponsoring the English Chess Federation Girls' Championships, which will bring together the largest ever number of girls' schools from across the UK in the quest to win the official ECF titles of 'Under 11 Girls' and 'Under 19 Girls' National Schools Chess Champions.

Andrew Martin, ECF Manager of Schools, says, 'This unique event is the first of its kind. It is my hope that girls all over the country will have an opportunity to take up chess'.

The Head Teacher of St Catherine's School, Alice Phillips, is delighted that the school is taking such an active role in promoting participation in a game which has such well documented benefits for players. "Not only does chess encourage the concentration and mental dexterity of our girls," she said, "it also teaches them the social skills of winning and losing graciously and encourages them to persevere despite setbacks".

Speaking about her enthusiasm for this event, Naomi Bartholomew, Head Teacher of St Catherine's Prep School said that the school is delighted to be involved in such an innovative project and the first of its kind in the UK. Miss Bartholomew is keen to promote the playing of chess, even from a young age as it combines social benefits with enhanced mental stamina, focus and concentration. 'It is wonderful to give the girls this opportunity to play chess and for them to develop a love of the game which can be a lifelong interest and be played at any age anywhere in the world.'

Serena aged 9, says 'I am really looking forward to this. I am so excited as it is the first Girls' National Chess event '.

'I look forward to the prospect of meeting fellow chess players at this unprecedented event and learning from others' (Alice Jones, L5 ST)

'I am delighted for the girls and am proud to be part of this momentous occasion. This is a hallmark victory for girls' chess' (Nicholas Morgan, House Tutor at St Catherine's)

<u>Photo opportunity</u>:- 10-11am Round 1, 5pm Awards
<u>Radio interviews available</u> between 8-9 am, after the start of each round. Week before event—Monday 14th January after 2pm
<u>Television crew welcome</u>—timing to be discussed



Ends -

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