

Fairlight schoolboy hopes for check-mate



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A schoolboy will be representing the South East in a UK-wide chess tournament next week.

Ollie Willson is 12, and lives in Stock Dale, Fairlight, has played chess since he was seven and has already scooped a number of awards in several contests.

He has been selected to play in a tournament against Wales next week in the under-14 England South-East team.

Ollie travels to Monmouth today (Friday) and will be playing two games against stiff Welsh opposition as part of a team of players from across the South East. In the last year the Rye College student has won the Grand Prix Sussex Junior Chess Championship under-12s.

He played in six tournaments throughout the year around the county, scoring 17.5 points, which was six points above the next placed player.

Last month Ollie took part in the British Chess Land Challenge Sussex Mega Final, and qualified for the regional Giga Final, due to take place in Berkshire on the first weekend of July.

Ollie regularly attends Hastings Chess Club and helps run a chess club at Rye College with his grandfather.

The schoolboy is going to Somerset late next month to take part in the Millfield Young Masters event, immediately followed by the British National Chess Championship in Canterbury, Kent where he will play seven matches over six days, each up to four hours long.

If Ollie scores well in either of these events he will become eligible to be part of the full England Junior Chess Squad.

His mum Juliette said: "Ollie really loves his chess, and has received tremendous encouragement and support throughout the year.

"Sussex Junior Chess has provided wonderful opportunities and advice on how to improve. All the members of Hastings Chess Club have been so helpful and welcoming to him, especially Francis Raynor and Alfredo Luacis with their excellent tutoring. The Hastings Lions have also been helpful with their donation towards helping Ollie travel to tournaments on a regular basis."