

News

Chess champ wins place in national team

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CHESS ace Billy Twigge-Molecey is making all the right moves after qualifying for the national junior chess squad.

The ten-year-old St Lawrence Primary School pupil will play for the under-11 England team after finishing third among the country's best players. Billy nearly missed his trial when he and his family became stranded in Morocco because of the volcanic ash cloud crisis, but they were able to make the journey back over land just

in time. Billy said: "I'm really ecstatic - it's just fantastic."

He praised Sussex Junior Chess coach Jonathan Tuck for helping him improve. "He's really helped me progress with all areas," he said. "I wouldn't have been half as good as I was without him."

Jonathan Tuck said: "This is a truly significant achievement: few players as young as Billy succeed in winning a place in the England squad."

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Paul Dyer, head teacher at St Lawrence, Hurstpierpoint, said: "Billy is modest and unassuming, hard-working and committed. His chess playing has improved continuously over the years and he has worked his way through the highly competitive stages to international level."

Billy won all six matches in the Sussex Megafinal in the

UK Chess Challenge that attracts more 70,000 school children every year.

St Lawrence School team won the Sussex Junior Chess title last week - a year-long competition between state and private schools across Sussex culminating in a 'finals afternoon' on June 15.

Billy was in the winning Sussex Junior team that won the prestigious international tournament 'The Battle of the Giants' last November, beating St Petersburg in the final. Last year he captained the Sussex under-nine team in the national finals and at just nine years old he became the youngest-ever winner of a Sussex under-18 tournament.



Billy Twigge-Molecey, centre, with St Lawrence School team mates Poppy Haward, Isaac Goodwin and Freddie Coleman

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