

# Crackley Hall School Chess Club



## Make the right move!

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### Spring Term, 2025-2026

♔ Mondays after school, 3:45-4:45pm

♔ Play friendly games and solve puzzles

♔ Tuition from an experienced chess coach

♔ Be considered for a place in the school chess team

♔ Free membership of online chess club

♔ Information on upcoming chess tournaments

♔ Learn new skills while having great fun!

♔ Internal competitions and prizes

♔ Free entry to the UK Schools Chess Challenge, the UK's biggest chess tournament!

♔ Beginners welcome!

**Session dates:** Jan 12, 19, 26

Feb 2, 9, 23

Mar 2, 9, 16, 23

**Fee:** £65 per child to register for the Autumn Term 2<sup>nd</sup> half

**Eligibility:** Open to all children in Years 2-6

**If you wish to register your child, please email Paul Lam at [gmmam@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gmmam@hotmail.co.uk) for an enrolment form. Places are limited, so please get in touch at the earliest opportunity to avoid missing out!**

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### The benefits of chess

Just some of the skills and qualities that chess promotes include:

♔ Concentration

♔ Creativity

♔ Confidence and a feeling of self-worth

♔ Logical thinking

♔ Patience

♔ Resilience

♔ Problem-solving

♔ Respect for others

Every day of our lives we have to make decisions, sometimes difficult ones. There are few better tools for helping children to develop this ability than chess. Whatever level you reach, you will develop manifold skills that will serve you beyond the board and be left with a game which you'll be able to enjoy for the rest of your life.

# National Master Paul Lam



Paul Lam was one of England's leading junior players and was selected to play for his country on several occasions, including two Glorney Cups. He has a peak FIDE rating of 2136 and a peak ECF rating of 201 (equivalent to 2208 Elo). Paul is a two-time competitor in the British Chess Championship Main Event and was once ranked in the top 100 rapid players in England. He has numerous master scalps to his name, with highlights including holding GM Tiger Hillarp Persson to a draw after 100 moves and 7 hours of play in the 2008 EU Championship and defeating IM Richard Palliser in sacrificial style during the 2014-2015 4NCL season. He holds the National Master title, the highest player rank awarded by the ECF (English Chess Federation). Paul is now retired from active play as he is dedicated completely to coaching, but still plays occasionally online on Lichess where he has achieved rapid and blitz ratings well in excess of 2500 and on Chess.com where he participates in Titled Tuesdays.

Paul has nineteen years of experience teaching chess to children and adults. He is the founder and Director of the award-winning Coventry Chess Academy (CCA) which has been running for twelve years and is one of the best-known and strongest junior chess clubs in the UK. Well over a dozen of Paul's students have been selected to play for England, ranked in the top ten children their age nationally (including the number one spot), and many more have represented the Warwickshire Junior Chess Squad, of which he is the current Head Coach. They include multiple winners of the British Junior Chess Championship, UK Schools Chess Challenge Terafinal and London Junior Chess Championship, three of Britain's most prestigious junior chess tournaments. Four of them have qualified for and played in the British Chess Championship Main Event at fourteen years or younger and recorded wins against international masters and grandmasters in official competitions. One of his students has earned the titles of Woman Candidate Master and Woman FIDE Master awarded by FIDE (the International Chess Federation), aged thirteen and won the British Women's Open Blitz Championship at the same age. Two of his students have earned the title of Candidate Master at the ages of just fourteen and thirteen. One of his students has earned the FIDE Master title and is one of the top 50 players in England, being the youngest in that group at the age of fifteen. Paul is also the Chess Coach at Warwick Junior School which, like the CCA, received a British Chess Educational Trust Award on account of its excellent chess achievements. In 2024, the ECF selected Paul as the winner of their Contribution to Junior Chess Award for his body of work in developing and inspiring junior chess players. More recently, he worked with English Heritage and the artist Lindsey Mendick as chess consultant to the chess-inspired art project Wicked Game installed in his home town of Kenilworth. Paul is heavily involved in chess outreach work alongside fundraising to support young chess players from underprivileged backgrounds, which has enabled children to fulfil their dream of playing chess for England in locations as varied as Latvia, Slovakia, Italy and Turkey.

In his spare time, Paul enjoys writing, boxing, keeping fit and learning languages. He is a fluent Spanish speaker and a dedicated Hispanista, which proved handy when he organised three CCA trips to the Menorca Chess Open, and is currently working on his Russian.