

This year, a team of four Murdoch College Year 12 students – Caleb Thomas, Lewis Tolonen, Tomoki Ward and Calvin Rokich entered the Australian Computational and Linguistics Olympiad (OzCLO) and were placed second, being narrowly beaten by a team from Queensland. As such, they were invited to attend the International Competition in Manchester, UK in July.

This team of four boys has competed at the National level for the past three years, having been placed in the top three each year of the State level competitions and winning the State competition in 2012. This is the first time that they have been placed in the top two of the National Competition and been given the opportunity to compete at an international level. The team is also the highest placing WA team in the five years the Olympiad has been run in Western Australia.

Though they did not achieve a placing at the event, they made the most of their time there by meeting students from all over the world and learning more about linguistics. It was a real eye-opener to see how the study of languages and linguistics is respected and supported in other countries and the amount of preparation and study done before the competition. The boys also had the opportunity to spend five nights in London before the competition, a well-earned reward for all their hard work.

I highly recommend this competition to students who are strong in languages and mathematics, as it requires a lot of problem solving and logical thinking. It is something different and heaps of fun, so give it a go!

Danielle de Witt

Japanese Co-ordinator, Murdoch College, Western Australia