x-maths Bond II Introduction

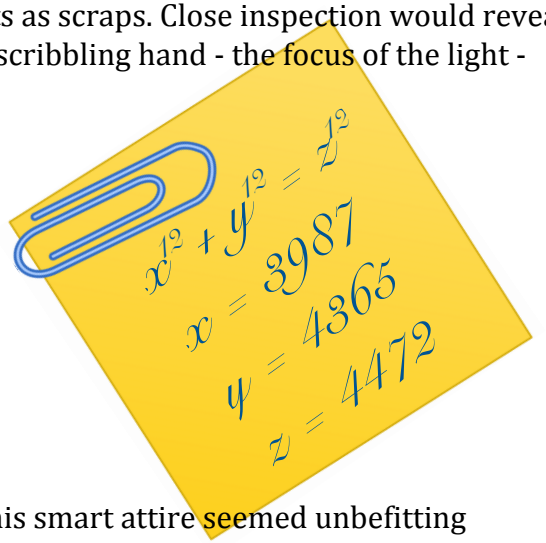
Bond is back for a second festive mathematical adventure, tasked with tackling more numerical misdemeanors. Will the MI6 agent be able to find solutions before global confusion leaves the subject of Mathematics in pieces? The School Inspectre will no doubt render even the most talented problem solver flummoxed. *THE TIMES October 26th*

The School Inspectre

November 20th 5pm ***A small dwelling near Kendal, North West England***

Most of the room was certainly dark and probably dusty. The only illumination came from the black table lamp that was perched close to the edge of a well-used wooden table. Aside from the unoccupied chessboard and the plateful of crumbs, the table was littered with paper; it would be inaccurate to characterise all of the sheets as scraps. Close inspection would reveal etchings and scribbles that most might describe as Mathematics. The owner of the scribbling hand - the focus of the light - would perhaps add more detail to the description.

'Beautiful Mathematics,' he thought. Here was a man that loved his subject. He carefully constructed a shape amongst the scribbles on his latest document. His pencil then hovered momentarily before it was gently placed, adjacent to his construction. The man knew now exactly what he had to do. He glanced at his watch and then across to the wall. The peeling wallpaper was also full of notes. He directed a jaded eye to one section that simply listed times, dates and venues.



The man stood with a sense of purpose; his smart attire seemed unbefitting of his surroundings. This deduction was strengthened when he reached for his stylish leather briefcase and well-designed travel bag. He strode out of his dwelling and cautiously locked his door. His schedule suggested that he would be home for Christmas – he had already wrapped his own present.

Yes, the school inspectre knew exactly what he had to do. 'The writing's on the wall,' he whispered to himself.