

## Chatham students' skills challenged

THEY were put to the test and ended up the best.

Year nine students Chloe Woodhouse and Earl Santos have been crowned junior champions during Chatham High School's seventh annual Numeracy and Literacy Challenge.

Chloe finished as the last person standing to take the spelling bee crown, while Earl topped all comers on his way to winning the maths title.

Spelling bee queen Chloe emerged victorious from a field of 100 students throughout Years 7 to 10.

But it all could have come to an end if she didn't trust her initial instinct with a particular tricky word.

"I had to spell the word consciousness and I second guessed myself," she said.

"I took out an 's' and I started

spelling it right, but then I second guessed myself, but then I went back to the right one I had first which I thought looked right."

Maths whizz Earl blitzed a field of more than 400 students to become junior schools' master of maths.

His run to the title was literally a perfect one, answering every question correctly over the knockout style format, which went from competing against his maths class, before taking on fellow class champions and then finally blitzing the Champion of Champions final with a perfect score of 20 out of 20.

And the one question which came the closest to spoiling his perfect run?

"The hardest was the second last one of the final and the question was  $3 \times 10 + 70 - 50 = ??$ ,

which took me awhile to figure out," he said.

"And the questions were given at a very fast pace, read out by the teacher, and we had roughly 10 seconds to answer them, which made it challenging."



Chatham High's top speller Chloe Woodhouse and maths whizz Earl Santos.



Spelling Bee champions Reid Bourke (Year 10), Mikaylee Towers (Year 8) and Alexander Sheriday (Year 7).



Maths champions Reec Ryan (Year 8), Lachlan Shannon-Brown (Year 7) and Jesse Osborn (Year 10).