

## Christmas Concert

Queensmead's Christmas Concert held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011 was a huge success with students performing a range of musical and dance acts to a full audience.



Particular highlights of the evening included over thirty Year 7 students taking part in a performance of Snow Patrol's 'Chasing Cars' as well as a preview of February's production of 'Schools Will Rock You'.





Queensmead's production of *Schools Will Rock You* is fast approaching and rehearsals are well under way. Before the holidays, many of the students taking part in the concert raised money by carol singing at Sainsbury's for funds towards costumes and lighting for the performance. The students raised an impressive £288, so thank you to those involved.

Tickets for the production are on sale now from the Performing Arts department priced at £3 for concessions and £4 adults.

It is going to be a great show and your support at either performance on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February or Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February would be greatly appreciated.

*Miss Rowthorn*  
Head of Performing Arts

## Non Uniform Day

The total raised for non uniform day on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2011 was £1020.90.

All proceeds will go to



*Mr Lovesey*  
Deputy Headteacher



A cheque for £150 was sent to Cancer Research. This was raised in lieu of staff exchanging Christmas cards.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to such a worthy cause.

*Mrs Keen*  
Finance Office

## Olympic Ambassadors



Our Olympic Young Ambassadors: Frankie Atwell, Joshua Collis, Maria Dina Valadao, Demi Hawkesworth and Rhys Pound, from Year 10, helped to deliver an assembly to all students about the Olympic and Paralympic values.

The values are: Friendship, Respect, Excellence, Determination, Inspiration, Courage and Equality.

*Miss Hardwick*  
Assistant Headteacher

## Dates for your diary

<b>Feb</b>	Thur 2 <sup>nd</sup>	KS4 Information Evening Year 9 7.00pm - 8.30pm
	Tue 7 <sup>th</sup>	School Production
	Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	School Production
<b>Mon 13<sup>th</sup> – Fri 17<sup>th</sup> – Half Term</b>		
<b>March</b>	Tue 22 <sup>nd</sup>	UCAS Information Evening

## PE

Although there have been less fixtures due to the dark evenings, sports clubs have continued to run over the winter months with good participation. Highlights include Year 7, Year 8 and 9 rugby club, Year 7 and Year 8 football club, netball for all years on a Friday evening and futsal for Years 7, 8 and 9 girls.

For KS4 and KS5 the use of the fitness zone has been the popular option, running every night of the week.

At a recent meeting with all Hillingdon Borough Schools plenty of fixtures were made for the culmination of the winter sports season. The full programme includes Netball, Football, Rugby and Futsal involving all year groups.

Sports Captains have been selected by the PE department with a representative girl and boy from each form. There will be plenty of inter-form competitions happening over the course of this year leading up to Sports Day in June.

Part of the role of the Sports Captain is to organise teams for competitions to boost participation in 'Sport for All' at Queensmead. For the senior years it will be their chance to run competitions for the lower years, developing their organisational and leadership skills.

We will also be taking part in Sport Relief, with KS3 students running in the Sport Relief mile on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March and KS4 and KS5 students participating in inter-form competitions.

This should be an exciting year for PE and sport at Queensmead with the forthcoming Olympics in the summer. There is also the exciting prospect of the school receiving tickets for the event which is all due to Queensmead being part of the 'Get Set' Olympic programme.

All in all lots to look forward to for PE and sport at Queensmead.

*Mr Conway*  
Head of PE

## Cross Country

Congratulations to Tasmin Norris Year 9, Chloe McCarthy Year 9 and Tilly Ormrod Year 8 for being selected to represent Hillingdon in the Middlesex Schools Cross Country Championships to be held at Harrow School on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February.

Good luck.

*Mrs Wallace*  
PE Department

## Safer Internet Day



Safer Internet Day will be promoted on the 7<sup>th</sup> February and a competition is open to all students to submit an awareness resource. The theme for this year is:

**Connecting generations and educating each other**, with the slogan: **"Discover the digital world together... safely!"**

The resource can be submitted as a poster, leaflet or movie and it must reflect the dangers or safe practices when using Information Technology.

For further information on E-Safety please speak to an ICT Teacher or visit the websites below:

(Internal)  
<http://intranet/newintranet/e-safety.htm>

(External)  
<http://www.digizen.org/>  
<http://www.chatdanger.com/>  
<http://www.thinkuknow.com/>  
<http://www.getsafeonline.org/>

*Mr Grey*  
Head of KS3 ICT



The Book Trust charity has co-ordinated the Booked Up programme across England for the past five years. The programme allows each Year 7 pupil to make their own choice of book from a selection of free titles that include fiction, non-fiction and poetry. There is a book designed to appeal to every child, and the aim of the programme is to encourage independent reading and support reading for pleasure as children make the sometimes difficult transition from primary to secondary education.

Queensmead School's Year 7 students were excited by the fantastic selection of authors available last term, and were enthusiastic about the range of genres from which they could make their choice.

The most popular titles chosen by Year 7 students at Queensmead School were:



"Mortlock" by John Mayhew - a dark, fast-paced Gothic story set in Victorian London which tells of the adventures of the orphan Josie who is taken in by the great magician Cardamom.

"Big Nate - The Boy With The Biggest Head in The World" by Lincoln Peirce.



"The Name of This Book is Secret" by Pseudonymous Bosch. This, the first book in the Secret Series, is about an extraordinary adventure involving a missing magician's diary and a deadly secret.

The Year 7 girls' top choice was "Artichoke Hearts" by Sita Brahmacharia. The second most popular choice was "The Name of This Book is Secret", followed by "Mortlock".

The boys' top choice was "Mortlock", followed by "Big Nate - The Boy With The Biggest Head in The World". The third most popular choice was "The Name of This Book is Secret".

## Books and reading in the home

The evaluation of the 2010 "Booked Up" programme, which surveyed pupils and parents before and after their participation showed that over 50% of students stated that they were reading books more often as a result of "Booked Up" and that they enjoyed reading books more following the programme.

The fact that "Booked Up" allows students to choose their own book was a very important factor in the Year 7 pupils' tendency to read, with over 71% stating that it made them more likely to read a book. In 2010 *Love Aubrey* by Suzanne LaFleur was the most popular 2010 title and the most enjoyed book. The survey showed that funny books are the most popular type of book that is read overall, with 70% of pupils enjoying humorous books. However, genre is not always important when selecting books to read, as the study highlighted that students, particularly boys, are also attracted by books that are in a series.

Over half of Year 7 students discussed their book with fellow students, while half recommended their book to a friend or family member. Almost a quarter of all pupil respondents read their "Booked Up" title to their brother or sister, with over a third claiming that reading their "Booked Up" book had prompted them to read another book to one of their siblings. Many students reported that participating in the programme has encouraged them to try a new author.

## E-Books

Even though over 95% of Year 7 pupils surveyed before "Booked Up" 2010 had books of their own, fewer than 2% of children had access to a Sony E-Reader or Kindle, despite the fact that a high percentage of pupils take part in digital activities, such as having access to computers, the internet and mobile phones. Over 40% of parents and carers said they would consider purchasing an e-book reader in the future, which could further encourage children to read for pleasure.

*Mrs Sahadeo*  
Librarian

## Attendance

We expect all of our students to have an attendance level of at least 95%. To put this into context, a 5% absence rate is the equivalent of a student missing almost one and a half lessons each week, or four whole weeks during the school year.

Our overall school attendance for the first term of this academic year was 95.6% ,which is reflective of the support of our parents in ensuring their child attends school.

When a student is absent from school, it affects their progress in various ways, not least in regard to their academic achievement. There is a clear correlation between good attendance and high academic achievement. Last year Queensmead Year 11 students with attendance over 95% achieved one grade better than expected in nine GCSE's. To put that in perspective a student could have achieved nine B grades rather than nine C grades.

May I thank all our parents for their continued support.

*Mr Lovesey*

Deputy Headteacher



## Languages

There are two spaces available for the Germany trip in the Summer. The dates are 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> July and the total cost of the trip is £350.

If your child is interested or you require further details please contact Mrs Mepham Head of Modern Foreign Languages.

*Mrs Mepham*

Head of Modern Foreign Languages



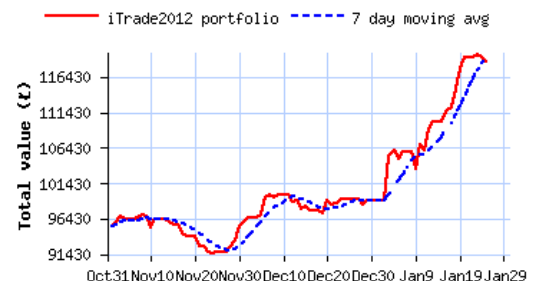
## Business & Economics Student Challenge 2011/12

The "Student Investor Challenge" is open for business and trading is brisk. The challenge is the UK's premier investment competition for students aged 14-19 that offers a host of prizes, including an all expenses paid educational trip to New York. Students have to invest £100,000 and produce a winning portfolio.

Our Year 12 Business and Economics team "iTrade" are getting close to the finishing line and are now in fifteenth place out of seven thousand three hundred teams from all over the UK.

This is a fantastic achievement so well done to budding traders: Kyle Hooper, Talha Mir, Ravi Morjaria and Kingsley Okonkwo. They are analysing the markets very closely to ensure a place in the regional finals so watch this space.

## PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE FOR ITRADE2012



*Mr McManus*

Head of Business

## Queensmead Young Chef Competition

Queensmead's Young Chef competition was held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January. Each participant prepared a two course meal. They were judged on food hygiene and safety, healthy eating criteria, food preparation skills, presentation, originality, taste and texture appeal.

Participants in the Junior category were:  
Rhiannon Quinn and Matthew Bunker.  
The winner was : Rhiannon Quinn

Participants in the Senior category were:  
Uche Udo, Luke Powell, Aroob Sajjad and  
Liam Liberty.  
The winner was Uche Udo.

The winners will be entered into the semi-finals of Young Chef 2012 on 8<sup>th</sup> February at Harefield Academy.

*Miss Connolly*  
Food Technology Department



## Renovation of the Green Building



The much needed renovation of the green building is progressing well as the completion date of the end of March looms ever closer. The major structural work of repositioning the staircase in the building has been worthwhile as this has led to eleven similar sized classrooms. Now that the internal walls are in place you get a sense of the generous proportions of the teaching rooms. Just this week the external cladding for the building arrived and as this goes onto the building it has become clear just how smart this building will look.

Once completed the building will have two specialist ICT rooms, nine teaching rooms and a staff work area. We hope to have lessons taking place in the building following the Easter break.

*Miss Johnston*  
Principal

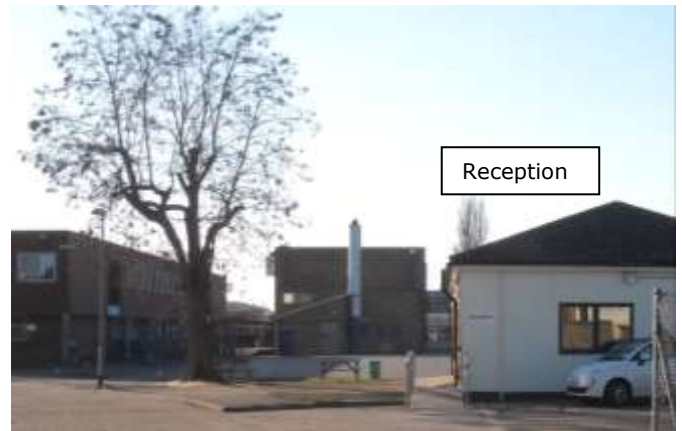
## Academy

From Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February Northwood School will convert to Academy status and, together with Queensmead, will become part of QED Academy Trust. The two schools will continue to operate independently, retaining their individual identities and the mutually beneficial collaboration established in recent times will continue.

*Mr Holliday*  
Chief Financial Officer

## Reception

The new reception office is now located on the right hand side as you come in through the main gates on Queens Walk.



All visitors must report to reception on arrival, sign in and collect a visitor badge.

*Mrs Woollard* and *Mrs Powell*  
Reception

## Catering

Caterlink has always strived to provide healthy great tasting food at lunch times but we also have fun as well. We are so pleased that everyone enjoyed our Chinese New Year menu and we hope you keep your eyes open for our other great themed days.

As well as these, we are also looking to improve and expand the selection at meal times. We are making plans to provide a wider variety of tray bakes including: cookies, flap jacks, short bread, rock cakes, as well as other great bakes, all homemade.

Please visit us and see what is new in the canteen.

*Caterlink*



Queensmead  
School PTA

# Quiz Night

£3

SATURDAY 18TH FEBRUARY  
7PM TO 10PM  
@ BOURNE PRIMARY  
SCHOOL  
CEDAR AVENUE, HA4 6UJ  
POST 16 & ADULTS ONLY

Bring your own drinks  
and snacks and  
please bring  
unwanted gifts for the raffle  
Raising funds for : the cross curriculum teaching  
tool (robot) & language software