

## Examination Advice for the Summer Session 2009

### Before the exam

Try and reduce any uncertainties you may have by preparing in advance:

When is the exam?

Where is the exam?

What time does it start?

What will you need to take into the exam hall?

What are you allowed to take into the exam hall?

### During the exam

- Write clearly and legibly
- Listen to the instructions given
- Read the instructions on the paper
- Read through the paper carefully
- Decide which questions you are going to answer and in what order

You might feel better starting with the question about which you feel most confident.

Do not just write everything you know about a topic.

Be selective from the information that you know:

- Analyse the question.
- Underline or highlight key words and phrases.
- Ask yourself what the question is asking.

Plan and structure your answer. Does it have an introduction and a conclusion? Does it answer the question?

Look carefully at the mark allocation for each section. This will help you to apportion your time correctly.

Answer the required number of questions. Keep to time.

Remember, you do not get marks for questions you have not attempted.

Allow five minutes at the end to read through your work.

### After the exam

Avoid a prolonged post-mortem outside of the exam hall. It is too easy to convince yourself that, from the evidence of others, you have done badly. Remember that there maybe more than one way to answer each question! However, you should review your exam technique. Use each exam to learn about how you performed and to identify what preparation you may need to do for future exams. For example:

- Had you revised efficiently?
- Did you learn the key topics in such a way that they were easy to recall?
- Were you clear about the exam procedure?
- Did you run out of time?
- Did you fulfil all of the exam's requirements?

If there are any aspects of the exam with which you were unhappy, discuss these with others who were not in the same exam.

Try and find ways of quickly and simply rectifying any problems for your next exam.

Good Luck!

*Mr. Lovesey*

## Les Menuiers Year 10 Ski Trip 09

A number of Year 10 students recently visited the French Alps on the annual skiing trip. The journey started on the 4th April and lasted until the 11th April after arriving on the 5th April....after a 22 hour trip! We awoke the next morning to a 7am wake up call and went to get our gear on. We met at the bottom of the slopes to find out our groups, there were 4 instructors, Gerimi, Kareen, Tim and Fin. After three hours of lessons we had our lunch before another two hours of ski lessons, we finished off the day with a 7 o'clock dinner and then off to bed. We arose early the next day and did the same ski routine and then after dinner went and explored the town. Tuesday was karaoke night! After doing the ski routine we had our dinner a little earlier and then jumped onto the coach to the cafe where the karaoke was held. Most of us got involved including the teachers and we all had a great laugh. On Wednesday the normal ski routine was changed and after an early breakfast we did four hours of ski lessons. After the lessons we had a quick lunch before grabbing our swim gear and heading to the outdoor "heated" pool.



Thursday was disco night and everyone was sent to get ready after skiing. After dinner we walked to the club where almost everyone danced including Mr McGinnity and Mr Berry especially to the song 'I've had the time of my life'. Friday was the last day and whilst everyone was moaning, we all secretly missed home. For skiing that day all the groups were put together and a slalom course was created. Once that was

finished we all went down a blue run together before getting on our final chair lift back to the hotel where we returned our ski gear before waiting for Miss Morar to bring back the keys. After showering, we went down for our final dinner and the award ceremony, where the winners of the slalom were announced. We then grabbed our bags and began the journey home. On behalf of the Year 10's that went we would like to say a big thank you to all the teachers that came, especially Miss Harper for organising the whole trip and making it an enjoyable experience for all.

*Luke Rickerby and Kristina Alley*

On behalf of all staff who went on the trip, I would like to thank Year 10 for their excellent behaviour and mature attitudes. They helped Miss Morar learning to ski (who made excellent progress – well done, Miss!); tolerated Miss Kolankiewicz's singing (why? why?); forgave Mr Luck when he knocked half of them over during ski school (although they were mysteriously keen to spray him with snow during the slalom run!); cheered on Mr McGinnity and Mr Berry during 'The Routine' (time of who's life, exactly?); placed very few demands on 'The Banker' Mr Vowles (although this may have more to do with the fact that they had coca cola on tap than anything else!); and were very very very generous indeed with their lovely present for me at the end of the week (which I have been admiring ever since). Thank you, guys! Hope you had as fantastic a time as we did!

*Miss Harper*



**Young Chefs Academy**

The Young Chef's Academy at Thames Valley University is a course that young people can take part in to improve and enhance their culinary skills and acquire new skills in cooking. The course runs for ten weeks and each week different dishes are made. It is available to Year 10 students studying Food Technology at Queensmead and other schools in the local area.

On January 10th a group of students made their way at 8am to Thames Valley



University to enrol on the Young Chef's Academy. All of us signed up for a 10-week course commencing the next Saturday at 9am. We were all in the same group creating authentic and delicious dishes such as Dauphinoise Potatoes, Chinese Special Stir Fry, Sweet and Sour Chicken, Cornish Pasties, Custard Tarts and one of our favourites, the infamous Profiteroles.

Week by week, we gained new skills. We did not think we would ever have used industrial and professional sized equipment such as a blast chiller the size of a



classroom! On the final week, we cooked and served a presentational Lunch to our

parents and teachers. The chef Brian Turner CBE presented us all with medals



and certificates recognising our achievements on the course. The food was amazing and expertly served (see the pictures), and our guests were full of compliments.

The whole experience was excellent and I felt great that I was part of such a fantastic educational and practical course. It has



helped me develop my practical skills and confidence. Everyone that attended the course (Cordell Thompson, Rebecca Sutherland, Ryan Green, Jay Patel, Lee Roberts and Nikhil Harsiani) were very pleased and grateful to the chefs of Thames Valley University for involving us in an exceptional programme; and we are thankful to the Food Technology teachers of Queensmead (Mrs. Tebbs, Miss Edwards and Ms Connolly) for telling us about the course and attending the Presentation Lunch.

*Nikhil Harsiani*

## Online writing competitions



### Loving Fiction, twenty-four-seven

Bloomsbury (the publisher of the "Harry Potter" series) has launched a brand new online writing competition at [www.247tales.com](http://www.247tales.com). The challenge is to create stories using not more than 247 words.

A different Bloomsbury author will pen a story each month on a given theme. All young writers between the ages of 8 and 16 will have the opportunity to create their own masterpiece.

One winner will be chosen each month; the winner will receive a selection of £75 worth of Bloomsbury books and have his '247' tale featured on the website. Ten runners-up will get a signed copy of the latest book from that month's featured author, as well as links to their stories.

Rules and details on how to enter are listed in the "How to Enter" section of [www.247tales.com](http://www.247tales.com). This month's theme is "April Fool" and the latest 247tale written by Julia Green can be read online.

The "Reading is Fundamental" website also provides the opportunity to write stories, poems, jokes and opinions



and to have your illustrations published online. Details of the competitions and prizes to be won can be found at <http://www.rif.org.uk/yourwork/yourwritingindex.htm>

The **John Betjeman Young People's Poetry Competition 2009** is open to 11 to 14 year old students who live in the UK. Entrants can submit a poem about their local surroundings or any related aspect such as a house, street, garden, park, city or a wider landscape. John Murray Publishers are offering an annual prize of £1000 which is shared by the English Department of the school and the student. In other words, you can win the grand sum of £500.

Entry forms should be sent to "The John Betjeman Young People's Poetry Competition", PO Box 3522, Swan Lane, Faringdon, SN7 7JB by 30 June 2009. Further details can be found at <http://www.johnbetjeman.com/news.html>

Finally, Red House is offering young writers and poets under the age of 17 the opportunity to have their work published in the "Red House Young Writers' Yearbook 2009". Winners will also get the opportunity to take part in a workshop run by professional writers such as Matt Whyman. Further information is available from [www.redhouse.co.uk](http://www.redhouse.co.uk) – the closing date for the competition is 28 May 2009.



*Mrs Sahadeo – The Librarian*

### Dates for your diary

<b>May</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Fri	Yr 12/13 Summer Ball
	4 <sup>th</sup> Mon	Bank Holiday
	11 <sup>th</sup> Mon	Summer Exams 09
	25 Mon	Bank Holiday
	26 <sup>th</sup> Tues	Half Term
<b>June</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Mon	Start of next Half Term

## Year 9 Boys Basketball

On Thursday 23rd April the Year 9 boys Basketball team triumphed over Mellow Lane 28-8 in the Borough final. This game was the culmination of six months of hard work and training by the boys. The team had been training for two months before their first competitive game. The boys completed a lot of defensive drills that would come in handy. The team encountered their first and only loss in their first game only losing by one basket to last year's champions. We then went on to win the next three games to qualify for the semi finals. The boys easily brushed aside Harlington School who came top of their league from the south of the borough and went into the final quietly confident, against Mellow Lane. As soon as the game began the team realised Mellow Lane would be no push over, as it began at a frenetic pace. They were a much more physical team than the boys had encountered in previous games. The boys went into half time with an 18-3 lead. Once again it was the defensive pressure that was winning the game for the Year 9 team. During the second half the game heated up quite a bit, with Mellow Lane trying to unsettle the boys. The Queensmead team maintained their composure, kept their heads, and went on to win 28-8. An excellent effort by all the boys and Mr Berry who has been the team's coach for the year.

The victorious team consisted of Madmood Abdel-Baki, Skiftar Haliti, Mirujan Nadesan, Hakan and Gokan Kilinc, Subhanullah Mustan, Rahman Mustan.

*Mr. McKenna*

## Internet Safety

The virtual world opens up new opportunities for socialising, learning and creativity, but it also means thinking ahead of the risks. The links below will give guidance on how we can help to keep our children safe.

### Internet safety sites

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

[www.websafecrackerz.com](http://www.websafecrackerz.com)

[www.safekids.com](http://www.safekids.com)

[www.netsmartz.org](http://www.netsmartz.org)

[www.cybersmartkids.com.au](http://www.cybersmartkids.com.au)

[www.netalert.net.au](http://www.netalert.net.au)

[www.wisekids.org.uk](http://www.wisekids.org.uk)

[www.wiredkids.org](http://www.wiredkids.org)

**Internet Safety Zone** [www.internetsafetyzone.com](http://www.internetsafetyzone.com)

### Parents' Centre

[www.parentscentre.gov.uk/usingtheinternet](http://www.parentscentre.gov.uk/usingtheinternet)

**BBC** [www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/help/safesurfing](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/help/safesurfing)

**Disney** [www.disney.co.uk/DisneyOnline/Safesurfing](http://www.disney.co.uk/DisneyOnline/Safesurfing)

## Queensmead Parents' Team

The Queensmead Parents' Team is an integral part of the school. All parents are automatically members of the parent teacher association, Queensmead Parents' Team (QPT). The QPT organizes a wide variety of social functions throughout the year raising funds in support of the various educational activities that take place at Queensmead. Within the last few years they have committed many thousands of pounds to support the work of the school. Much of the hall and stage lighting and sound equipment, the sports kit have been funded by the QPT and much support is given to extra curricular activities. We are currently looking to build links within the local community as well.

You too could make a great difference by making a nominal commitment to attend the 6 meetings a year, no more than 1 hour long.

Why not contact us or come along to our next meeting on 22 June 2009 in the Vocational Block at 19:00.

For more information contact QPT Chairperson Satnam Loyal on 07534 210678 or email [gpt@loyalcomputing.co.uk](mailto:gpt@loyalcomputing.co.uk).