

High Performing Status

School

Congratulations are due to the whole school: staff, students, parents and governors for another achievement by Queensmead. In April 2008 the DCSF recognized Queensmead as a High Performing Specialist School on account of the judgment by OFSTED that we are an outstanding school. As part of our High Performing status we were encouraged to consider a second specialism to complement our Technology. In consultation with the governors and staff it was decided that the school would propose to the Specialist Schools Trust that Queensmead would become a Leadership Partner School as our second 'specialism'. This would mean that the school would be recognized for the excellent leadership by the teachers, governors and students of the school and would receive additional funds to develop leadership at all levels.

I am delighted to tell you that our plans have been accepted and we can forge ahead with this partnership work. Well done.

Mr. Rowe

Deputy Headteacher

Pastoral News

As part of our continuing drive to develop the care, guidance and support we provide at Queensmead School the "Pastoral Focus of the Week" has been introduced. This applies to the Lower School and every tutor focuses their attention, and that of their tutees, on a specific aspect of school life. In this way it is expected that standards will continue to rise and the students will make the right choices

and be rewarded accordingly. So far the focus of the week has included encouraging students to work for as many merits as possible, making sure that their uniform was absolutely correct and receiving as many positive phone calls home from teachers as they could manage.

This system will continue to ensure that students are focusing on the specifics which allow them to succeed in school. All the research points to the fact that students, who are punctual, have good attendance work hard in lessons and take pride in their uniform tend to excel in school.

Mr. Luck

Deputy Headteacher

Work Experience Placements

Year 10

If any parents know of any companies that would be willing to accept our students then please could they contact:

Ms. Jones at the Schools Reception

Office, by telephone 02085823214

or by email: sjones31@hillingdongrid.org

Dates for your diary

March	Mon 9th	Science & Engineering Week
April	Fri 3rd	End of Term
	Fri 10th	Good Friday
	Mon 13th	Easter Monday
	Mon 20th	Term starts
	Thurs 30th	Junior Maths Challenge

SPORT

Rugby

Well done to the Year 9 Rugby team who achieved three excellent performances against local schools in a four team tournament held at Haydon School. Some of the students had not played too much over the last year, but with a mixture of experience, athleticism and determination, the boys were able to be a match for all their opponents. The scores were 0-0 with Haydon, a 12-0 victory over Douay Martyrs and 5-0 over Vyners. The games were very short of only ten minutes per match and the victories would have been by greater margins if games had been longer. Try scorers for Queensmead were Liam Osbourne, Rhys Griffiths and a conversion by Connor Munday. Every single player deserves credit for the way they worked together as a team.

Football

The Year 7 and the Year 8 teams produced excellent performances as they beat local rivals Vyners convincingly and both games were dominated by the Queensmead players. Year 7 worked well as a team and were able to pass the ball effectively around their opponents and this produced many goal scoring opportunities. Almarn James netted two headers while Carl Pearce struck a crisp half volley past the stranded goal keeper to secure a 6-2 victory.

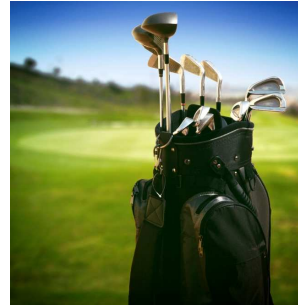
The Year 8 team won 6-0 with Devaughn McNamara scoring 5 goals! The powerful striker proved too quick for the Vyners defence as he gave the spectators a lesson in finishing. All of the boys performed well and this is in the past due to the hard work that 6th former Daniel Thompson has put in to coaching and running the Year 8 team. Daniel also won the Jack Petchey Award and has decided to use the money to buy the Year 8 team a football kit, so well done Daniel.

New Opportunities in Sport

The PE department is looking to introduce three new activities Climbing,



Golf, and Swimming to our extracurricular program after the Easter holidays, although the organisation of the activities will take place before hand. Students who are interested should make sure they listen out for



further details which will be coming shortly. This is a great opportunity for students to have a chance at a new activity or hone their skills in one that they are really enthusiastic about. We look forward to seeing the students making the most of these opportunities.



Kevin McKenna

Head of P.E. Dept.

Dance Mats

During the Spring Term Queensmead's Physical Education Department have been running sessions on wireless dance mats. These sessions have run in core PE lessons and also as extracurricular sessions for post 16 students.

Both boys and girls have challenged their co-ordination by following directions projected onto the wall of the sportshall. Individuals have been provided with percentages and rankings for all of their performances. The dance mats are currently on loan from the Hillingdon Schools Sports Partnership and have been a VERY popular activity choice across all year groups.

Anne Carter

P.E. Dept.

Year 13 Ski Trip

Nassfeld, Austria (February 13th-21st)

On Friday 13th February, a group of forty-two Year 13 students, accompanied by six members of staff set out on the coach journey to Nassfeld, Austria for the long awaited Ski Trip. Despite early disasters (such as Mr Walden forgetting his ski jacket!) we arrived at our destination twenty six hours later, greeted by mountains of snow and breathtaking surroundings.

After an early wake-up call on Sunday, we ambled the short walk to the slopes where we were met by our ski instructors for the week. Michael, the group leader, won many hearts early on! He instructed the girl's beginners group, and could be heard shouting "Where are you going?" and "This is not normal" on numerous occasions, much to the amusement of all of us.

In terms of skiing, there were a few stars of the show such as Georgina Murray, Michael Fox and Richard Low. However, it wouldn't be fair not to mention the somewhat "braver" skiers also: those who took a somewhat no-fear approach to their skiing. Both James Wolman and Joseph Duffy managed not only to fall, but to crash through fences and groups of people in the process! However, despite broken fences, the standard of skiing was clearly very high this week, and the students in both the beginners and intermediate groups showed that they had improved immensely over the six days on the slopes.

After long (and often very painful) days on the slopes, students and staff enjoyed a wide variety of evening activities during the week. Some particular highlights stand out as being the karaoke night; bowling, and tobogganing. It should be noted that the girls did manage to beat the boys at bowling, despite protests from certain male members of staff!

All in all, an absolutely fantastic week was enjoyed by all. I speak on behalf of Mrs Carter, Miss Stokes, Mr. Walden, Mr. McGinnity, Mr. Crampton and myself in saying

that the week was thoroughly enjoyable and that the students proved to be a credit to both themselves and the school. A special thanks to Mr McGinnity for organising the fun-packed trip!

Ms. Pitteway

Year 7 & 8

G&T Trip to Snowdonia

A group of thirty students from Year 7 and 8 participated in a trip to Tyn Y Berth Mountain Centre in Corris Uchaf, Snowdonia National Park, where they took on team-building and confidence-building tasks such as hiking up a mountain (Cadair Idris), rock climbing, abseiling, gorge walking and exploration of an old slate mine. Well done to all the students who took part. Their conduct and achievements were a credit to themselves and to the school.

Forthcoming G&T Events

25th March-KS5, Brain of Hillingdon Quiz at Swakeleys School for Years 12 and 13. All are welcome to come along from 4-6pm to support the Queensmead students taking part.

26th March-Year 12, Oxbridge Conference at the Emirates Stadium, for students in Year 12 who are thinking of applying to Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

Elaine Cogan

TESCO Vouchers for School

Last year we collected 2376 Tesco for Schools & Clubs vouchers. Vouchers are available in all Tesco stores and petrol filling stations from Monday 2nd March to Sunday 7th June 2009, during which time customers will receive one Tesco for Schools & Clubs vouchers for every £10 spent in a single transaction and for every £5 spent in Tesco Express Stores.

Please hand any vouchers you collect, to Reception.



PERFORMING ARTS

The Wiz

On the 11th and 12th of February, students from years 7 to 13 performed in Queensmead School's annual musical production and this year it was 'The Wiz'; a comical 1975 Broadway musical based on 'The Wonderful Wizard of OZ' but with a Motown feel. We sold over 300 tickets and the cast received nothing but positive feedback from the audience.

Auditions were held back in October, when all of the aspiring performers had to take part in acting, dancing and singing auditions. The list of the full cast was revealed a week later, along with the list of auditioning for the main parts. There were a large number of us who auditioned for main parts, which demonstrates the ambition at Queensmead School. A week later the final cast list was revealed and rehearsals began.

Our first full cast rehearsals involved learning the full-cast songs: 'Ease on Down the Road', 'He's the Wiz', 'I'm a Mean Ole Lion' and 'Everybody Rejoice'. Rehearsals took place after school three times a week up until the actual performances; the first for singing, the second for dancing and acting, and the third for a full run through of the musical. All the students involved put in a lot of effort to be at every rehearsal and worked extremely hard; we all wanted the performance to be the best it could be!

Students gave it a lot of time, even coming into school on a Saturday to rehearse. Our dress rehearsal took place on a Monday evening. Last year's production of Bugsy Malone was very successful but we wanted The Wiz to be even better!

In order to raise money for the production, the cast and prefects took part in a bag pack at Sainsbury's as kindly organized by QPT. We raised an amazing £600 in four hours, which went towards the brilliant set of professional lights we hired along with costumes and props.

We owe a big thank you to Mrs. Tracey Newman for the fantastic costumes she made for us, including Dorothy's dress, the Tinman's suit and the Poppy Dancers' skirts. The show would not have looked quite as good without Tracey's help!

To give the cast a taste of performing to an audience we performed 'I'm a Mean Ole Lion' in assemblies for one week. This meant that we had to get into school slightly earlier, but the quality of the performances was worth the extra effort. These performances, along with the poster campaign promoted the show to the rest of the school. We didn't want all of our hard work to go to waste! We also performed the production for students from surrounding primary schools, which provided another good rehearsal for the evening performances.

Despite the snow day disrupting our flow of rehearsals, the final two productions went incredibly well! Queensmead School productions get better every year, but we couldn't do it without the help of all the teachers involved, especially Miss Rowthorn and Mr. Searl to whom we owe many thanks.

The whole cast worked really hard and made the show a huge success. I would like to thank the entire cast for being a brilliant team to work with and for making it a really fun experience!



Alex Mahoney
Year 13 Student