



QUEENSMEAD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

This year it is tempting to devote the whole of my report to the judgement passed on us by the Ofsted inspection. 'Queensmead is an outstanding school' Ofsted 2008- I need write no more and then just wish you the best for the holiday! However there does remain much to be said and done. Whilst we were pleased with the outcome of the inspection we will not rest on our laurels and will continue with our relentless emphasis on maximizing student potential within a caring context.

As usual it has been a very busy and successful year with another exciting year in prospect. The year started with us celebrating continued success at all levels in the public exams. The school has received a number of accolades most notably in ICT. The work of the school in providing and exploiting 'high spec' ICT facilities, e.g. the new 91 terminal Open Learning Centre, has led us to gain some prestigious awards, including the ICT Becta mark and RM Pioneer Status. The Specialist Schools Trust has bestowed on us the title of 'High Performing Specialist Status School'. This year we were regarded by Cancer Research UK as the 'School of the Year' for organizing the Relay for Life for three successive years and were given the Flame of Hope award. For the second year running we were presented with the Gold Award in the Litter Free School Scheme - the only established secondary school in Hillingdon in this position. There has been individual and collective success for our students on the sporting field with Jenna Turner being named as BBC London Rising Female Sports Personality and the Year 10 Athletics team winning the Hillingdon Borough Athletics Championship for the third year running, to name but two examples. The all singing and dancing production of Bugsy Malone was well received by two sell-out audiences. Two ski trips took place and some of our students are about to embark on an exciting expedition to Iceland. The Jack Petchey Award Scheme continues to be in full swing enabling us to identify and award outstanding student achievement. This year the scheme was extended to a leader award going to a member of staff for motivating and inspiring young people. Mr Holtham, Head of English, beat off strong completion to win the prize.

For the school the summer holiday means that some of our building projects will be coming close to completion most notably a brand new ten lab Science Block. The summer holiday is also a welcome break for both students and staff. Students have the opportunity to ensure that their learning is maintained but entirely on their own terms. Experience has shown us that those students who use the holiday as a chance to get ahead with their learning are ultimately successful. Year 10 students are at a mid-way point in their GCSE courses and will be able to make important headway with coursework. Year 12 started their A2 courses mid June and will have their own programmes of study to complete. Prospective GCSE and AS students will also want to do some preparation for their new courses. There are a range of subject websites that could help in this regard. MP3 players can be used to download revision and other learning material. As you will be aware, Easylink enables all students to access both their work files and other learning resources. All students can benefit from reading recognized works of fiction or non-fiction during the holiday. Studying during the six week break pays off!

I wish you all a very pleasant summer holiday.

(Mr. N. McLaughlin - Headteacher)

DIARY DATES

July	Thursday 17 th	Term Ends
August	Thursday 14 th	AS/A2 Results Day
	Thursday 21 st	GCSE Results Day
September	Monday 1 st & Tuesday 2 nd	Inset Days
	Wednesday 3 rd	Term Begins
	Thursday 11 th	Awards Evening
	Wednesday 24th. School closes 1.05pm	Open Evening for Prospective Year Seven Parents

TERM DATES FOR STUDENTS

AUTUMN TERM 2008	
Training Days	Monday 1 September Tuesday 2 September
Term Starts	Wednesday 3 September
Half Term	Monday 27-Friday 31 October
Term End	Friday 19 Dceceber
SPRING TERM 2009	
Term Starts	Monday 5 January
Half Term	Monday 16 - Friday 20 February
Term Ends	Friday 3 April
SUMMER TERM 2009	
Term Starts	Monday 20 April
Training Day	Friday 24 April
UK Bank Holiday	Monday 4 May
Half Term	Monday 25 May - Friday 29 May
Training Day	Friday 3 July
Term Ends	Friday 17 July

Maths Challenge

A group of year 7 and 8 students were entered for the United Kingdom Junior Mathematics Challenge.

Daniel Hoare in year 8 received the highest grade out of all the students.

He was entered for United Kingdom Mathematics Olympiad and come in the top 25%. This was the first time any student reached this stage!

Congratulations Daniel.



RELAY FOR LIFE AT QUEENSMEAD

WALKING THROUGH THE NIGHT TO BEAT CANCER

On Friday 4th July the school hosted their third overnight Relay for Life in support of Cancer Research UK. Various student teams joined forces with other groups from the local community in walking through the night. They set off at 6.00pm on Friday and, with pause for the moving Candle of Hope ceremony at 10.00, continued to tramp round the running track for the rest of the 24 hours. Our thanks goes to the Relay Committee of staff, governors, parents and students who under the leadership of Allan Walker, our Chair of Governors, organized this splendid fundraising event which has so far raised approaching £40,000

POSITIVE FEEDBACK

This term, Year Ten undertook their Work Experience placements from Tuesday 24th June until Friday 4th July. The students took up a variety of different placements; a number of students are to be particularly congratulated for taking the initiative with organising challenging and inspirational placements.

Whatever the nature of the placement, all of the Year Ten students gained a valuable learning experience and an insight into workplace expectations and culture. Personally, I found it particularly interesting to visit students who had undertaken placements in schools – it was fascinating to see those students cast in a very different role to the one they're used to!

(Mr R Boxall – Head of Year 10)

AWARDS EVENING

11TH SEPTEMBER 2008



THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF LONDON DROPS IN!

On Thursday 11th September the School will hold its Annual Awards Ceremony. Students who will be picking up awards on the evening will receive notification by post in the next few days. Our guest of honour will be Richard Barnes. Richard is London Assembly member for Hillingdon and Ealing and was appointed as Deputy Mayor by Boris Johnson.

Silver award in subjects and citizenship awards have also been awarded to students. These other significant achievements will be celebrated in assemblies in the first part of the term.

(Mr G. Capp – Assistant Headteacher)

JACK PETCHEY AWARD SCHEME

A student committee met this week to decide the winner of the Jack Petchey Leader Award.

Under the details of the scheme, the Award is given to an adult who has demonstrated, in an outstanding way, an ability to encourage and motivate young people aged 11-25 in London or Essex.

27 nominations were received from staff and students but there can only be one winner!

This year's Leader Award goes to Mr Holtham. A presentation will be made to Mr Holtham at Awards Evening on Thursday 11th September. He will also be invited to a Borough event next year when the formal presentation is made and a cheque for £1000 is handed over for him to spend on some project of his own choosing in the school.

Congratulations to Mr Holtham.

WESTWARD HO!

It was a hot, summer's day in the month of June. The Barrett Mobile, the school minibus, with a top of the range sound system, whined and spluttered as the luggage of a group of Year 12 biologists was hauled into its hollow body. The eager group accompanied by Mr Barrett, Miss Morar and Mrs Moore, chatted absentmindedly, unaware that their adventure would soon begin.

After a quick toilet run, we hit the road with high expectations and even higher spirits. The journey was a long one, even with a lack of sleep from the previous night, no one slept.

We arrived at Plymouth at around 1pm. After dumping our suitcases in our rooms, we slipped into wellies and headed for Wembury Beach, a sheltered shore. At the beach we were quickly briefed on what we had to do and how to collect the samples of data we needed for our A2 Biology coursework. The rest of the day was spent collecting data on organic life living in rock pools and on the rocks.

As dusk approached, we set off for the hotel for a well deserved meal. The meal was delicious. Vegetable soup, lasagne and lemon meringue pie; all prepared expertly by a very talented chef. When dinner had ended, we headed to the Family Room where a game of Scrabble was won by yours truly along with Niraj and Alex using the words 'hexed' and 'faxes'. That night we went to sleep early, although we didn't have a choice to stay up late since Mr. Barrett was patrolling the corridor.

The next morning we awoke and headed for breakfast. Following a nice fry up, we set off to the class room where we had a lesson in Ecology and discussed the data that we had gathered the previous day. Subsequent to the biology lesson and discussion; we changed and headed to Whitsand Bay, a sandy beach. After a monstrous trek down a narrow foot path on the side of the cliff, we touched down and set up camp in a nice secluded region. Our task for today was to carry out a transect of the beach from the shore to the water's edge noting the species encountered. We then spent time finding crabs, fish and anemones (not 'enemies'). The day was ended with an invigorating game of Rounders, where the star of the game was Mrs. Moore due to her mighty swing!!

The next morning the entire group awoke and spent an enthralling morning doing a statistical test on the data we had obtained from limpets on the previous two days. Slipping into water proof clothing and our good old wellies, we journeyed to the River Dart; to study the fresh water invertebrates and gather data using kick samples. This was used to determine the level of pollution in the river. With most of us wet at the end of the day due to falling into the river and not to mention the water fight, we set off for the hotel. That night, dinner was amazing! The chef had prepared fish and chips, due to high demand from Leena, and a delicious ice cream cake filled with banana bits, which some of us mistook for brandy!

On Monday morning, the time had come for us to finally depart Plymouth. With heavy hearts we climbed onto the Barrett Mobile, which gave off an interesting and hypnotic musky aroma. The 'state of the art' sound system bellowed, as Mr. Barrett pulled out of the hotel car park. The ride back seemed longer than when we came to Plymouth, with more rest stops as one member of the group had just drunk two litres of water in the space of thirty minutes.

Finally pulling into the parking lot of QM, the Year 12 biologists, accompanied by the trio of teachers headed in different directions to their homes. Thus, one of the greatest trips QM has ever had was finally... concluded.



Summer Holiday Homework

Please do check your child's diary this summer since they should have homework recorded there for completion before the start of the new school year.

Since there are only 9 months remaining for students starting year 11 in September this should be a useful time for them to do the following:

- Catch up on any work missed
- Complete or improve coursework
- Revise for mock exams in December
- Research topics that will be completed in year 11
- Look up past exam papers for subjects being studied
- Reinforce topics covered in year 10

There are some useful websites:

www.samlearning.com students have their own individual log in for this

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/11_16/

Students will also have been given subject specific websites by their teachers.

To access exam papers and subject specifications that will guide research for work to be covered in year 11 visit the exam board websites:

www.aqa.org.uk - Maths, Science, English, French, German, Sociology, Drama, Music, Product Design, Textiles and PE

www.edexcel.org.uk - Geography, History, Graphics, Resistant Materials and Systems & Control

www.ocr.org.uk - Art, Food, Child Development,

www.ccea.org.uk - Business Studies



(Ms R. Johnston – Deputy Headteacher)

Year 11 Prom Friday 27th June 2008

180 year 11 students turned up on the night. 20 – 25 staff attended throughout the evening.

The food was provided from the 66 Bakery in Ruislip Manor. Food such as; mini bagels; pizza; (etc). An outside agency covered the decorations, along with a red Carpet at the entrance; balloons spelling out 'Prom 2008'. Also a black sheet covered big windows, which also had 'QM Prom 2008' spelt on it. The DJ, Myles James Sawenko, is a 16 year old student, who attends a different school. The music provided by Myles, had everyone up dancing, the dance floor wasn't empty at any stage of the evening.

Limousines, Hummers & a Horse & Carriage, helped students enter the Car park, where friends, family, and younger students were waiting to see all of the girls' ball gowns and the boys' tuxedos.

Every student dressed in either gorgeous dresses or suits and tie. Not one student wore trainers, even though it was allowed.

Prom King & Queen were awarded to Sam Grayley & Lauren Thomas. They were awarded with hats, and gift vouchers and teddy bears. Best Dressed on the night were awarded to Rosie Brennan, and Daniel Smith; they also received gift vouchers and teddies.

I would like to say thank you to the prom committee, which consisted of 5 females. Lauren Thomas, Jessica Sussex, Natasha Ahmed, Shabnam Sobdam, & Ayesha Myers. Also, thank you to Mrs Wallace who helped us with all the preparations and to all of the staff members who attended the evening.

If anyone wishes to view the 738 photos taken on the evening visit cosmicphotography.com

Lauren Thomas
Prom Committee

ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

On Friday 4th July a group of Year 9 pupils were selected to visit the Wimbledon Championships 2008. These pupils were selected by the amount of effort shown throughout Key Stage 3 PE and extra curricular clubs. It was a beautiful day throughout and everybody enjoyed themselves thoroughly. The highlight of the day was watching the Williams sisters in the Ladies semi-finals where they destroyed their opponents in three straight sets and made their way to the finals. This was then followed by two doubles matches including the mixed doubles match with one of the Bryan brothers ranked at number 1 seed who also won in straight sets.

Everybody who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves, those pupils were; Elliot Kemp, George Treen, Mark Smith, Lee Roberts, Natasha Lee, Laura Abercrombie, Zoe Howell, Stacey Bradley

(Mr Walden – PE Dept)

I PARIS

On Friday 27th June, 42 students from Years Seven and Eight set off at 2pm from Queensmead with the destination Paris. After heading to Folkestone and going through the tunnel we stopped for a short break in France where some of us tried out our French - whether they actually understood us we will never know! Having stopped for dinner at a service station and ordering our food in French we arrived at our hotel. It was very late so we went straight to our rooms to unpack and get some sleep.

It seemed like no time at all when the wake-up call came and after a delicious breakfast of croissants, pains au chocolat, baguette and hot chocolate we got on the coach for the short trip to Parc Astérix, a theme park. The rides were great and we really enjoyed the time there but it was a shame about the queues. We also had some time for the sweet shop and many of us bought candy floss!

In the late afternoon we headed in to the centre of Paris where we saw some of the famous monuments - the Sacré Coeur, the Stade de France, the Eiffel Tower and it was a great opportunity to sample the Parisian atmosphere with the cafés packed with people enjoying a lazy Saturday.

We had our dinner in a small traditional French restaurant with us all enjoying our meal of steak or chicken and chips. In the evening we went on a river cruise. The whole of Paris was lit up and the Eiffel Tower lit in gold. There were lots of people lining the riverbanks enjoying a quiet evening which contributed to the lovely atmosphere.

Our final day in Paris started with a visit to the 600ft tall Tour Montparnasse. At the top of the building we could see the whole of Paris. It was amazing and it only took about 40 seconds to get from the bottom to the top in the lift!

After that we had a tour of Paris in the coach with Mr. Lynch telling us about the various places and monuments and the history behind them. We saw the Eiffel Tower again, drove down the Champs Elysées and also around the Arc de Triomphe. We ended the tour at the Eiffel Tower where we all had our lunch on the grass right next to it.

It was then back on the coach for the trip back to Calais and after stopping for some dinner at the terminal we headed back through the tunnel and then on to Queensmead. Our thanks go to Mrs. Moore, Miss, Fidler, Miss, Kolankiewicz, Mr. Atkins and Mr. Lynch for coming with us with a special mention to Mr. Lynch for organising it all.

You must ensure you come next year!

Danielle Anderson (8c)

London Zoo

On Monday the 24th of June and Tuesday the 25th of June, the lucky members of Year 7 went to London Zoo to continue their research on endangered animals and their natural habitats.

At 8:25am we arrived at school and after registering and being split into our groups we boarded the coach and set off for the zoo! We arrived at Regents Park at about 10:15am, and proceeded into the aquarium where there were many interesting corals, fish and other marine animals such as starfish and sea-horses.

Afterwards we went to see the gorillas, Bobby and Zaire, who live in the specially built enclosure called Gorilla Kingdom that was recently refurbished and cost a whopping £5.3 million. In their enclosure there are lots of trees, ramps and rings for them to swing on. This keeps them entertained for as long as they would need to be in the wild.

We then went to the reptile house where we saw a variety of very interesting animals including chameleons that change colour to suit their mood (not their environment as many people think), tortoises that are very slow and snakes whose skin fall off in place of new skin. We also saw an exhibit about the animals that had been killed and how large they were. One snake was a massive 10 metres long and was the largest ever recorded!!!

After we had had our fill of animals we went to the Educational Centre and listened to a presentation on how zoos have got better over the years and how they can still improve to make the whole experience more enjoyable for the animals, the public and the keepers. They talked to us about what they did to keep the animals healthy and asked what we thought about zoos and why. There were also lots of artefacts that had been found by customs such as elephants' tusks, stuffed lynxes and dead birds, they had all been killed and sold on the black market as ornaments and statues. We talked about why this was wrong and what rights animals in the wild and in captivity had.

After our meeting with Rebecca (our Centre Guide) we had time to complete our education booklet, get some food, go to the gift shop and prepare ourselves for the journey home. We learnt a lot today, mainly how zoos are an active part in the development and conservation of many endangered wild animals and how they endeavour to keep their animals safe and healthy.

(Hannah Ward- 7E)

Summer Reading Rants and Raves

Summer holidays are a time to escape and to indulge in all our favourite pastimes and activities. Taking a holiday and reading a book are among the most popular ways of relaxing and broadening our horizons. This summer why not open your eyes to a new perspective on life by reading a book about people from different cultures, a translated book, or even a book in a foreign language?

Books on different cultures and customs which are available from the school library include...

The (un)arranged marriage by Bali Rai which is about Manny, a rebellious 17-year-old teenager, who deliberately tries to ensure that he becomes totally unsuitable as a potential partner in an arranged marriage, but who is still tricked into marriage by his family.

The award-winning book Walk two moons by Sharon Creech tells the story of Sal, who travels across America to Idaho in search of her mother. This humorous book with great characters includes wise sayings such as: "Don't judge a man until you've walked two moons in his moccasins". Another wise and moving story about understanding how people behave (which is suitable for older readers) is the classic Harper Lee title To kill a mockingbird, which looks at life in the southern United States in the 1930s.

Motherland, by Vineeta Vijayarahan, follows Maya as she returns to India, the land of her birth, for the summer holidays. However, Maya's new world makes her explore a new world in which her grandmother is dying and terrorists are on the loose. Maya must choose between this new world and her old life in America.

Alone on a Wide Wide Sea by Michael Morpurgo follows the adventures of the six-year-old orphan Arthur Hobhouse who is shipped off to Australia after the second World War. Arthur overcomes enormous hardship in the Australian outback before being saved by the extraordinary people he meets during his adventures.

The bag of bones by Anne Fine is a chilling adventure story about the teenage boy Yuri who lives in a country where people vanish, and never come back. Freedom of thought is not encouraged, and a few careless words can lead to imprisonment with little chance of escape from the camps in the frozen northern wastelands... This book was shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal.

Just like tomorrow by Faiza Guene is about life on the outskirts of Paris on the Paradise Estate, which is home to a multicultural community. Life for 15-year-old Doria who lives with her illiterate mother highlights how life is moulded by the clash between two worlds; the world of the North African immigrant community harbours different hopes and expectations compared with the reality of life in the more affluent suburbs of Paris.

A little piece of ground by Elizabeth Laird tells the story of 12-year-old Karim Aboudi who lives in the war-torn Palestinian city of Ramallah. Simple pleasures like playing football with his friends are forbidden to Karim, who is kept housebound by armed Israeli troops on the streets. Karim and his friends sneak out to play, but trouble lurks around every corner...

The library also has some books in French and German, as well as novels in the Millennium collection which have been translated into English. These books, which are suitable for good readers, include titles by well-known authors such as Boris Pasternak (who wrote Doctor Zhivago), Umberto Eco (The name of the rose), Chekov and Thomas Mann. A list of recent titles which have been translated into English can be found at <http://www.translatedfiction.org.uk/Home>

National Year of Reading

This year is the National Year of Reading. After the summer holidays we will be conducting a poll to identify Queensmead students' favourite authors. Did you know that becoming a better reader helps you become a better student in all other areas?

(Mrs Sahadeo-The Library)