

NEWSLETTER

100% Attendance

Issue 124 November 2009

Congratulations to the following students who achieved 100% attendance during the last academic year. It is certainly the case that excellent attendance is a key factor in helping students to achieve the highest levels in school performance. The attendance rate last year was the highest ever at Queensmead at 94% and we are looking forward to the figure continuing to improve year on year.

Year 8

Name	Reg
Clarke, Joel	8f
Foster, Melissa	8b
Gowrikanthan, Gowsa	8e
Healy, Kai	8a
Herbert, Emma	8b
Hoare, Zoe	8c
Patel, Pooja	8b
Rana, Suman	8a
Savage, Grace	8f

Year 9

Name	Reg
Abercrombie, Drew	9f
Burford-Reade, Jack	9c
Fraser, Alasdair	9e
Gavin, Lauren	9c
Hamza, Hunain	9d
Karadia, Bhavini	9e
Ndlovu, Denise	9c
Payne, Alicia	9e

Year 10

Name	Reg
Chandarana, Priyanka	10d
Osindeinde, Boye	10d
Owen, James	10b
Rai, Sabin	10a
Rosendale, Connie	10a
Savage, Jack	10e
Sivarajah, Sinthiya	10d
Waqif, Shaista	10a

National Short Story writing Competition

Saffron Campana (9F) ranked as a runner up in a national short story writing competition hosted by Spinebreakers. The Love Writing competition asked contestants to write a short story inspired by one of three book jackets. Saffron was shortlisted along with only 9 other teenagers in the country!

<http://www.spinebreakers.co.uk/Competitions/Pages/HayFestivalCompetition.aspx>

Scott Holtham – Head of English



Queensmead School
Christmas Concert
2009
Thursday 10th December
7pm
 Adults £3 Concessions £2

Tickets available from:

Miss Rawthorne – Head of Performing Arts
(during break time).

Miss Moran/Mrs. Classick

Maths Exam

Year 10 and 11 Maths exam are coming up soon!

All of Year 11 will be taking their unit 3 exam on the 12th and 21st of January

Some students in Year 10 and 11 may be retaking unit 2 also, which is on the 15th of January. If unsure students should discuss their entries with their Maths teacher.

All students have access to the mymaths website which has lessons and activities students can complete as part of the revision process.

Sam Buckle - Head of Maths

UCAS Applications

The majority of Year 13 have been busy completing their University applications well before the January deadline. Many of them have received conditional offers from the university they have applied to and are now very focused on what they need to do to achieve the required grades. Five students have applied to either Oxford or Cambridge this year to read Maths, Law, Environmental Science and Social Anthropology.

Mrs. Classick – Head of Sixth Form

Post 16 Open Evening on Thursday 19th November

Students on this evening, Year 11 and their parents looked around the Post 16 facilities and found out about the wide range of courses offered at Queensmead. Current Year 12 and 13 students acted as tour guides for the large number of external students and helped out at subject fairs. Year 11 students have been completing a variety of activities as part of their PSHCE programme in order to prepare them for the transition to post 16 education.

UK Senior Mathematics Challenge

On the 5th of November all Year 12 and 13 students took part in the UK Senior Mathematics Challenge. This was an event that tested their mathematical reasoning skills.

Students will be receiving Gold, Silver or Bronze certificates.

Good luck Year 12 and 13!

Sample question:

A mini-Sudoku is a 4 by 4 grid, where each row, column and 2 by 2 outlined block contains the digits 1, 2, 3 and 4 only once.

How many different ways are there of completing the mini-Sudoku?

David Freeman- Maths teacher

Modern Foreign Languages

Year 9 students in MFL lessons completed a project in French or Spanish in the summer term. It was either a phrasebook or a dossier about themselves. I am pleased to announce the outstanding project winners. They will receive their certificates in assembly.

French: Connie Rosendale/Alice Burford-Reade/Melissa Man/Sinithiya Sivarajah.

German: Alice Newman/Laura Hill/Holly Robinson. Well done, the MFL department is proud of you.

The MFL department is organising two trips this academic year. One to Paris and one to Cologne in Germany.

The German trip to Cologne is taking place at the start of the summer holidays. Activities include Cologne Cathedral, the Lindt chocolate museum, a boat-trip on the Rhine, bowling and a trip to the Phantasialand theme park. The trip is full thank you for the first deposit and a second letter will be issued shortly. Any queries to Mrs. Mephram (Group leader).

Mrs. Mephram – Head of Modern Foreign
Languages

Reading Matters

Question

What does it take to knock a best-selling eagerly awaited title from the ever popular writer Dan "Da Vinci Code" Brown off the top of the best-seller lists?

Answer

The diary of a wimpy kid!



This Year students in Year 7 were once again given the opportunity to take part in the Booked Up scheme which encourages new secondary school students to continue reading for pleasure.

Students were shown a range of twelve fiction titles and were asked to select their personal favourite title which they will receive as a free gift before the end of term.

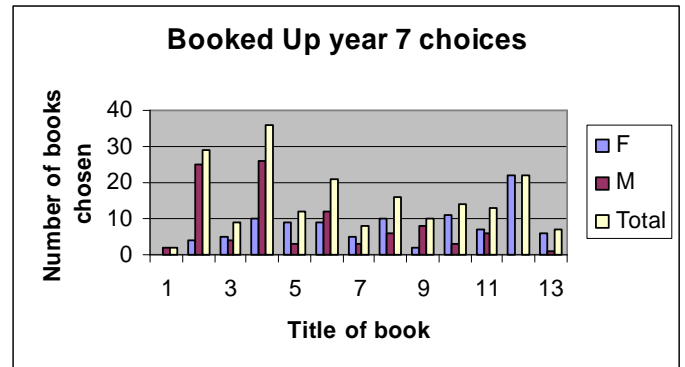
The most popular choice overall was "Diary of a Wimpy Kid", followed by "Blood hunters" and "Urgent message of wowness". The sequels to "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" are currently best sellers in the USA and "Dog Days," the fourth book in Jeff Kinney's "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" series for young readers, made its debut at No. 1 last week in a number of USA best-seller lists, as well as being at the top of the New York Times Children's Series list. Our Year 7 readers have clearly picked a winner!

"Blood hunters" by Steve Voake is a fast-paced, action-packed book set in the Mexican jungle. A team of scientists embark on the exploration of the world's deepest sinkhole and make a discovery that could change the world forever. This thriller should particularly appeal to boys and fans of Dr. Who.

The third most popular choice, "An Urgent Message of Wowness" by Karen McCombie, follows the story of Heather, who lives in a perfect family where everyone embodies the "wow-factor", except for Heather. The family is suddenly turned upside down when Heather's father drops a bombshell. Fans of Karen McCombie can access her website at

<http://www.karenmccombie.com>.

The Wimpy Kid is a winner!



Title of book

- 1 Derek the sheep
- 2 Blood Hunters
- 3 Desirable
- 4 Diary of a wimpy kid
- 5 Flood child
- 6 How loud can you burp?
- 7 Joey Pigza swallowed the key
- 8 Once
- 9 Percy Jack-son & the lightning thief
- 10 Read me out loud
- 11 Underworld
- 12 Urgent Message of Wowness
- 13 Wow! 366

Information about the books and their authors can be seen online at www.bookedup.org.uk/Booklist and students can vote for their favourite book at <http://www.bookedup.org.uk/Booklist#/Vote>

Booked Up is a national programme run by Book Trust and is supported by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Mrs. Sahadeo – The Library

Sport

PE News - Indoor Athletics

Chloe McCarthy in Year7 was the star of the show as she won her race in the 6 lap event at the Indoor Athletics competition held at Haydon School. It was the first event for the New Year 7 students and they all performed well against some tough opposition from the other local schools within Hillingdon. The aim of the competition is to give the students a taste of some of the events that they will be able to compete in during the summer months and hopefully motivate them to get out and practising.

Year 8 Rugby

The boys have gone from strength to strength and it certainly seems all of the practice in lessons and after school clubs has paid off as they remain unbeaten in Hillingdon after another successful mini festival at Abbotsfield School. The boys beat Douay Martyrs convincingly in the first game and were behind in the final stages against a big and strong Abbotsfield team until Josh Collis received a pass and rode several tackles before reaching the try line and securing victory for the Queensmead team. It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon with the tackle of the afternoon coming from the diminutive but very powerful Joe Watkins.

Year 13 Brunel Visit

The A2 Physical Education students were fortunate to experience a range of fitness tests using the quality sports science equipment on their recent visit to Brunel University. This formed part of their course and prepares them for their exam and also allows them to see a fraction of what life is like as a university student. The students managed to measure their cardiovascular fitness and their power output. A tough afternoon but a good way to improve their knowledge and fitness!

Football

Queensmead have entered the Sixth Form league for the first time and managed to gain a point in their first game with a 1-1 draw with local rivals Haydon. On one of the windiest days of the Year so far, it was never going to be pretty but the boys stuck to their tasks and were unfortunate not to gain all 3 points after Matthew Goodman put them in front with a well taken goal 10 minutes from time. However a lack of concentration allowed an equaliser with two minutes to spare.

The Year 10 team also drew 1-1 away at Ruislip in a game they completely dominated in the second half. The Ruislip keeper was man of the match as he was bombarded with shots but none managed to reach the back of his net until a well taken penalty by Joe Rice earned the visitors a point.

Netball

Congratulations to the Year 10 Netball Team who stood a very creditable 4th in the recent Hillingdon Borough Netball Tournament.

Nicki Wallace – P.E. Teacher

Uniform

Thank you to parents for continuing to support the school by ensuring that your child's uniform is in keeping with our uniform regulations. The overall impression that the students give is that they are smart and are good ambassadors for the school. However, it is vital that standards are maintained and it is important that we work together to make sure that there are no students breaching the regulations.

It is also important that students adhere to the school regulations in terms of hairstyles and jewellery. "Extreme Hairstyles" are not permitted and any student who is considering a particular style should discuss it with their form tutor so as to avoid difficulties.

Assemblies

Each day an assembly is held for a particular Year group.

Monday – Years 7 & 8.

Tuesday – Year 9

Wednesday – Year 10

Thursday – Year 11

Friday – Post 16

Each week a relevant theme is covered in assembly. This term the themes include The School's Aims, Celebrating Achievement, Technology for Learning, Tolerance, Anti-Bullying Week, National Poetry Week, Developing learning, Safeguarding and the School Environment.

Knife Screening

As you may be aware, Queensmead School have been working in partnership with the Metropolitan Police for several years through the Hillingdon Safer Schools Partnership. After recent tragic events in other parts of London involving young people and knives we are keen to support any initiative which reduces the risk of harm to our pupils. Following discussions with the local police about how this may be achieved we have decided to co-operate with a project aimed at reducing the knife

carrying culture amongst some young people. The scheme involves the random screening of pupils entering the school site using a knife arch and hand held metal detectors. The screening does not constitute a lawful search but will be seen as a condition of entry into the school. Any pupil refusing to co-operate with the screening will be dealt with by a senior member of school staff. Should any knives or offensive weapons be found, following consultation with the school, police action will be taken.

This is a strategy that we have used in the past at Queensmead and it certainly does raise the profile of the anti-knife campaign that we fully support. I see this as another means by which we make every attempt to safeguard our students and make school a safe environment for all those who work, visit or study there.

Mr. Luck - Deputy Head teacher

Charity Fundraising

13C have continued to raise money on a regular basis by holding Bake sales to support the Ethiopian Orphan that they have adopted.

Post 16 Students organised the British Legion Poppy Collection and once again the two collection boxes were full. The total raised was over £160.

Extra Curricular

The Post 16 Committee is busy organising trips to see Chicago, first week December and Ice skating just before December.

Mrs. Classick – Head of Sixth Form

School Trips

AS Geography Fieldtrip

Friday 13th – 15th, November 2009

The Overstrand, Norfolk

On Friday 13th November Queensmead AS level geography students were sent off for a weekend in Overstrand, on the North Norfolk coastline, to study the coastal defences and levels of deprivation. Our accommodation for the weekend would be the Kingswood Centre, which was once a huge mansion built for Lord and Lady Hillingdon. On arrival we met up with our guide for the weekend, Richard, who showed us to our rooms and gave us a tour of the campus and local area. Later that evening we were briefed on the coastal studies we would do the following day. Mr Luck and Miss Tierney, who accompanied us, then gave us some free time which the group used to explore the mansion and play hide and seek in the woods that it backed on to. After sitting up talking the group called it a night and went to bed. To our disbelief at about 2:30am the fire alarm went off and everyone had to evacuate the building, thankfully it wasn't raining.

On Saturday morning we woke up and got dressed for the rain as we had been previously told that the weather would be bad, although while we were driving to our first location, Sea Palling, the sun was shining and we were regretting not bringing sun glasses. However this all changed as we stepped out of the mini bus, the rain began and it didn't stop until late on Saturday night. We looked at 5 locations on the coastline and looked at the defences the local government had chosen to put in place. We also took measurements to show how the beach had been eroded, which we later put into a computer to create graphs.

As Mr Luck wanted to watch the football we visited the local town for dinner and some students watched the match while some talked about the travelling Miss Tierney had recently done. We then went back to the

centre for the evening where we watched a film before going to bed.

Our Sunday was spent looking around local towns and comparing the differences in lifestyles. One town we visited was so small that it only had a pub, town hall and church. We were also surprised by the fact many houses had small stalls selling home made goods, something we agreed would never work in London. We then went back to the centre to collect our belongings and loaded up the mini bus. Richard came out to the bus to wave us off as we began our long drive back to South Ruislip.

The trip was a really good weekend and we all have some funny memories that will stay with us for a long time. The information and knowledge we received from doing activities and talking to locals really helped us get a good idea about life in this area and will help us with our exams in January. We all bonded well as a class and hope we can do similar activities in the future.

Rhiannon Ives – Year 12, Geography student

Trip to Paris (MFL)

The Languages Department is pleased to announce that they will be running a 3-day trip to Paris next July (2nd - 4th July). The trip is a firm favourite with students as they have the opportunity to experience French culture firsthand as well as being able to try out their French on real French people!

There will be a varied programme of activities with students visiting the Tour Montparnasse, a skyscraper with spectacular views of Paris, enjoying an evening river cruise, dinner in a traditional French restaurant and a visit to the Parc Astérix theme park on the Saturday.

Places are limited so please see Mr. Lynch for more details.

Mrs. Mepham – Head of Languages