

HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

It has been a very smooth and successful start to the term for which I would like to express my thanks to parents and students. The autumn term always starts with a review of the school's exam performance. The examination results (as you will see later on in the newsletter) were very encouraging and, as I write, the students concerned have either started their studies in the sixth form, are eagerly anticipating the start of their life at University or have secured employment. They deserve our congratulations. We now gear ourselves up at school to build on that success and strive for more with our current students.

I can report that progress on the refurbishment of the Science block is good. We are very much looking forward to opening what in effect will be 10 new Science laboratories and classrooms and know students will enjoy learning in these wonderful facilities.

The changes to the National Curriculum which came into action in September and the new A Level courses have been undertaken with the minimum of fuss. Students are clearly enjoying them.

The range of after school opportunities has also widened as we encourage all our students to engage in purposeful activity after school whether it is in sporting, cultural, academic or artistic fields. Just as we are being regaled by tales of the recent expedition to Iceland, I hear that a wide range of trips are being planned for next year that will maintain our commitment to high quality extra curricular activities. I am convinced that when students involve themselves in the wider life of the school they become more confident and successful people.

I know that many of you have enjoyed the parents' information evenings we have put on in recent weeks and I am sure they will help both parents and students to approach work including homework with a clearer picture of the way forward.

I have no doubt that we are in for another interesting, busy and successful school year. As always the school derives its strength, energy and vision from the continuing support of the parent body.

(Mr. N. McLaughlin – Headteacher)

DIARY DATES

Tuesday	7 th October 2008	Year 7 Parents Information Evening
Wednesday	8 th October 2008	Year 8 Parents Information Evening
Saturday	11 th October 2008	QPT – Welcome BBQ for Year 7
Monday	13 th October 2008	QPT – Cheese & Wine Evening
Thursday	16 th October 2008	Lower School Disco
Friday	17 th October 2008	Non Uniform Day
Wednesday	22 nd October 2008	Year 11 Performing Arts Concert
Thursday	23 rd October 2008	Year 7 Tutor Evening

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 Dcember
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

On behalf of the Year 7 team, I am pleased to welcome Year 7 students to Queensmead School. They have made an excellent start to the school year and have coped well with the numerous changes they have faced. The staff have been impressed with the year group and have commented on the smooth start they have all made. Personally, I am delighted with the positive and determined attitude to their work which the Year 7 students have shown and this is signalled by their excellent standard of uniform. It is also pleasing to see the students getting involved with the wide and varied programme of extra curricular activities, many of which have started already. This Year 7 are a very talented group of individuals who together can become an extremely successful year group. I, and all the staff, look forward to seeing them achieve this. Well done so far!

Mr P Lynch – Head of Year 7

Examination Results

2008 was another year of individual and collective success for Queensmead students.

Particular mention should be made of year 11 with 100% of students achieving 5 or more GCSE pass grades. 78% of students achieved 5 or more grades C or better and 93% of the cohort achieved 1 or more grade C or above. In English Language 71% of the year group achieved a grade C or better and this figure was matched in Mathematics.

There were so many successful year 11 students that it is difficult to single out individuals, however, particular congratulations should go to the following students who each achieved a total of 9 or more grades A and A*:

N Ahmed, V Bhimani, H Corkerry, K Dholakia, J Harrison, S Hiblen, N Janani, S Jiwani, R Katz, S Mendonca, S Nelson, S Pang, M Patel, S Robinson, P Smith, S Sobhdam and D Wood.

Post 16 students achieved similar success and are now able to continue with their education at University due to the hard work they applied in achieving their results. Particular mention should be made of: Z Jervier (4 Grade A's), R Irons (3 As and 1 B), P Kara (3 As), I Mistry (2 As and 1 B), M Patel (2 As and 1 B), C Brown (2 As and 1 B), N Caine (2 As and 1 B), R Crump (2 As and 1 B).

PROVISIONAL GCSE RESULTS 2008 Summary School Statistics

Number of eligible Pupils	225
% Pupils on roll gaining 5 or more A* - C	78%
% Pupils on roll gaining 5 or more A* - C including Maths and English	63%
% Pupils on roll gaining at least 1 A* - G	100%

Subject	A* - C	A* - G
Art	55%	100%
Biology	100%	100%
Business	77%	100%
Business Diploma	100%	100%
Child Development	84%	100%
Chemistry	100%	100%
Design & Technology	60%	98%
English Language	70%	100%
English Literature	68%	97%
Food	75%	98%
French	76%	100%
German	95%	100%
Geography	74%	100%
Graphics	65%	96%
Health and Social Care	100%	100%
History	77%	100%
Information Technology – AiDA	86%	99%
Information Technology – Short Course	71%	98%
Maths	70%	100%
Motor Cycle Level 1	NA	100%
Motor Mechanics	100%	100%
Music Certificate	100%	100%
Music Diploma	100%	100%
Performing Arts Acting Certificate	100%	100%
Performing Arts Dance Certificate	100%	100%
Physical Education	76%	100%
Physics	97%	100%
Psychology	79%	100%
Religious Education Full Course	75%	100%
Religious Education Short Course	53%	96%
Science – Core	55%	99%
Science – Additional	63%	100%
Sociology	70%	95%
Statistics	81%	94%
Textiles	95%	100%

QUEENSMEAD SCHOOL
PROVISIONAL A LEVEL RESULTS 2008

Summary School Statistics

Number of eligible Pupils	96
Average QCA Points	722
Average QCA Points per entry	194

Subject	C+	E+
Accounting	83%	100
Art	33%	100
Business Applied 1	83%	100
Business Applied 2	67%	100
Biology	46%	85
Chemistry	100%	100
Design & Technology	71%	86
Economics & Business	60%	93
English Language	67%	100
English Literature	50%	100
Food	88%	100
French	100%	100
Further Maths	100%	100
General Studies	71%	86
Geography	80%	100
German	33%	100
Health & Social Care 1	40%	100
Health & Social Care 2	33%	100
History	63%	94
Information Technology	53%	95
Law	33%	100
Leisure Studies	25%	100
Maths	58%	100
Media	87%	100
Music	67%	100
Music Technology	67%	100
Performing Arts	0%	50
Physical Education	45%	100
Physics	60%	100
Polish	100%	100
Psychology	72%	94
Sociology	70%	100

Attendance & Punctuality

Pupil attendance has continued to impress with Queensmead's highest ever attendance figure of 93.6% being reported for the last academic year. The fact that examination results are also the best that the school has achieved demonstrates the importance of students attending on a regular basis. At the end of each half term awards are given for those students and form groups who have excellent attendance. Our aim is for every student to achieve at least 95% attendance and we certainly value the support of parents in enabling this to happen. In a very few instances we have worked closely with the Local Education Authority's Education Welfare System and have continued to use the "Fast-Track to Court" Scheme where there are persistent concerns with attendance of certain individuals.

Punctuality this term has been impressive and reflects the high expectations that we have with regard to the students at Queensmead. The expectation continues to be that students should be on site by 8.25am so as to get to their form rooms in good time for the electronic register to be taken.

Behaviour

Since the start of the new term there has undoubtedly been a positive atmosphere around the school and it is vital that this is maintained throughout the year. The students as a body are polite, co-operative and sensible and this is what makes Queensmead a rewarding place to be as a teacher or as a pupil. The recent Ofsted report referred to the "Exemplary behaviour" of the students and this is the standard that must be maintained.

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 – Sixth Form

Each week a relevant theme is covered in assembly. This term the themes include The School's Aims, Celebrating Achievement, Student Voice, Anti-Bullying and the School Environment.

Mr Luck - Assistant Headteacher
(Inclusion)

Learning to Learn

Mr. Rowe, Deputy Head Learning, reports that the Year 7 students have made an excellent start to their Learning to Learn course. This course features lessons that all year 7 students have for one hour each week, where they are taught skills such as: how to organise their learning, how to think in a structured way and how to practise remembering. The students have been taught how to think about issues that need their opinion using SWOT analyses (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats), and they have also learned about Mind Mapping and Thinking Maps. The students and their teachers are now working to integrate this new understanding into the students' work in other lessons.

This Learning to Learn course has been supported by the very successful 'How can I help my child to learn' evenings reported below.

Parent Information Evenings

Thanks are due to all parents who attended the series of Parent Information Evenings given by Mr Rowe, Deputy Head Learning; Mr. Luck., Assistant Head Inclusion; Mr. Child, Director of Post 16, Miss Archer, Head of Year 9 and Miss Moran, Head of Year 10. The presentations were headed 'How can

So, how do you learn?

- It appears that there may be sensitive periods for learning.
 - These are genetic and not necessarily the same time for everyone.
- Links in cells are more permanent and stronger when you repeat the experience or information again.
 - E.g. Saying your times tables works!
- Links are more easily made if you pay attention to the learning.
 - A quiet room, no telly, not tired, actively switched on to the work helps.
- Links are easier between things that can be associated with other learning.
 - E.g. Think – what does this relate to, why am I learning it, what might be next?
- Your emotional state affects your learning
 - Fear of being embarrassed will not help
 - You learn better when you are happy/having fun

I help my child to learn' and included information about students' diet, sleep and guidance on how they learn and how to help with homework. This information has been placed on the school website <http://www.queensmeadschool.org.uk/>

click on Our School and then Information for Parents and there is a link to the presentation from there.

These evenings were extremely well attended and those who came reported that they found the information very valuable. Please note that there will be a Parent Information Evening for Year 7 on Tuesday 7th and Year 8 on Wednesday 8th October and we invite parents of students in those years to join us on those evenings.

High Performing Specialist School (HPSS) status

Parents will be delighted to hear that the school has been awarded High Performing Specialist School status by the Specialist Schools Trust, a prestigious award for Queensmead, awarded in the light of the high achievement of that we are an provides an opportunity on a project to share Queensmead and opportunity because we can develop our focus on raising the achievement of our students, whilst working with our own staff and liaising with teachers in other schools. The benefits for our students are obvious, but we also believe that it will help us to recruit, train and retain excellent teachers.



our students and the judgement by OFSTED outstanding school. The HPSS status for Queensmead to link with other schools good practice on leadership within elsewhere. We are excited by this

Mr K Rowe
Deputy Headteacher

PE DEPARTMENT

Girls PE

Girls Netball Practice for Years 7 to 13 takes place every Wednesday from 2.45 - 4.00pm. All abilities are encouraged to join in. There will be many matches coming up in the near future so if you would like to have fun and possibly represent the school then we would like to see you there.

Girls Football

The U16 football squad have resumed their training on a Tuesday evening in the hope of another successful season. Last year the squad came second in the league (futsal and 11-a-side football) and reached the semi-finals of the Middlesex cup.

The squad is open to all Queensmead students from Years 7 to 11 and they train until 3.45pm on Tuesdays, either at Goals or on the field.

The girls face their first league fixture against Harefield Academy on 6th November and their first cup match, round one, is a home match on the 2nd October against the Jewish Free School.

The first team selection takes place on Tuesday 30th Sept.

Boys PE

Although so far there have not been many matches, we are very pleased with the amount of pupils that have attended trials and practices over the last couple of weeks. There has been Football, Basketball, Archery, Badminton and Rugby. If you would like to attend then keep checking the notice boards inside and outside the changing rooms, or ask a member of the PE team.

Key Stage 4 Football League

Well done to all pupils who have managed to organise a team for every Friday at Goals for the 5 a side football league. It will be interesting to see if there are any budding Capellos or Scholaris in the ranks who can motivate their team to become winners of this much talked about competition.

Year 8 Football Team

The Year 8 football team have already had 2 matches this year with the first being a 3-2 defeat against Uxbridge in the County cup, although Queensmead would have had a 4-0 lead going into half time if it was not for some excellent saves by the Uxbridge keeper. Unfortunately it was not to be our day in front of goal but there were some encouraging attacks on the Uxbridge goal.

The second game saw an excellent 3-1 victory over Bishop Ramsey School in our first league game of the season. The two centre backs David Palmer and Daniel Connelly were rock solid and dominated the aerial battles, while Aaron Cummins coming on as a first half substitute demonstrated great ability to break up attacks and also make excellent runs into the opponents' penalty area. Aaron's energy was rewarded with a great strike to put us back in the game. Two further strikes in the second half completed a positive start to our league campaign.

Mr K McKenna
Head of PE



SEPTEMBER - YOU ARE WHAT YOU READ



This term Year 7 students will once again have the opportunity to choose their own free copy of a book from the 2008 Booked Up shortlist of 12 titles. There is an exciting range of books available, ranging from "Skulduggery Pleasant" (the winner of the Hillingdon Book of the Year award earlier this year) to non-fiction titles such as "Why eating bogeys is good for you", which is certain to appeal to the boys who want answers to embarrassing questions. Students can meet the authors and listen to Year 7 students discussing their favourite books online at <http://www.bookedup.org.uk/Booked-Up-DVD>

All 11- 12 year olds have the opportunity to enter the Booked Up online competitions at <http://www.bookedup.org.uk/Booked-Up-competitions> . The "Name the characters" competition offers a prize of the full set of 2008 Booked Up books, and the "Kiss of Death" competition offers books by Malcolm Rose.



This month the National Year of Reading theme is "You are what you read", and the focus is on books that celebrate and explore cultural, personal and local identities. A number of books on the 2008 Booked Up shortlist focus on these themes; The Garbage King by Elizabeth Laird explores the friendship which develops between two boys on the streets of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital city. Arctic Hero by Catherine Johnson is a true story about a black American man who achieves his dream of being one of the first men to reach the North Pole. Heartbeat by Sharon Creech looks at how a young girl's life changes as those around her change, and is set out like a poem, but reads like a story. All the titles on the Booked Up 2008 shortlist can be borrowed from the Library.

Mrs Sahadeo
Librarian

Hillingdon celebrates Black History Month

October is Black History month and the theme of this year's activities is 'reflecting on the past looking to the future' to mark 200 years of the abolition of slavery. Hillingdon council will be hosting a range of exciting events to highlight and celebrate the cultural history of black people locally.

The celebrations will kick start with the annual street carnival, Bigfest, on Sunday 7th October. Other highlights taking place in October will include:

- Tuesday 16 - A public debate where you can join in on discussions around the theme "You don't know where you are going until you know where you have come from".
- Thursday 18 - Tuesday 30 -Let's kick racism out of football; youngsters will be given free football coaching sessions.
- Tuesday 30 - A TV screening giving a historical insight into the trials and tribulations of the first generation of black African-Caribbean actors and actresses.
- November 1- Final Extravaganza - A culmination of the month's events with an evening of performances, displays and presentations in the Middlesex Suite at the Civic Centre, Uxbridge.

Other free activities include Jazz performances at Winston Churchill Hall, a photographic exhibition at Uxbridge Library and a creative writing competition.

For further information pick up a free booklet at your local library, or call 01895 250 600.

Black History Month at the Imperial War Museum

The Imperial War Museum will be holding a series of events including:

Black History Month: Family Workshops

27 - 31 October, 1.00pm - 3.00pm

From War to Windrush: Walking Tour

13 and 20 October, 11.00am

Join Tony Warner from Black History Walking Tours, as he guides you through the Black History of Southwark.

This tour will start at the Imperial War Museum [From War to Windrush](#) exhibition and end at the Cuming Museum exhibition [Keep Smiling Through: Black Londoners on the Home Front 1939-1945](#) in Elephant and Castle. This tour is free, but book your place on 020 7901 3034.



From War to Windrush

This Imperial War Museum exhibition will tell the personal stories of the involvement of Black men and women from the West Indies and Britain in the First and Second World Wars and will run until 29th March 2009.

General Enquiries: 020 7416 5000 or visit <http://london.iwm.org.uk>

Mrs Antoine

SCHOOL TRIPS

GERMANY

On Saturday 19th July 2008 a group of forty students and four teachers left Queensmead School at 5.30 a.m. to start our trip to Linz in Germany. Just before Dover, we arrived at our first en-route stop to stretch our legs and have some food. Once on our way again we had to wait in a queue for the ferry crossing, this gave us an opportunity to meet our coach driver Terry.

After the ferry crossing we reached France. By then many of us were tired and wanting some sleep! As the day progressed we saw many sites through France and Belgium where we made another stop. Some of us bought something to eat and drink. We had to get used to using Euros.

Later that day at 7.00 p.m. German time, we arrived at Hotel Weinstock where we would be spending the next five days of our trip. We were given our rooms where we left our cases and headed straight for a typical German meal of sausage and potatoes.

On our first day we went to Cologne chocolate factory where the famous Lindt chocolate is made. In the afternoon we went on a boat trip along the River Rhine where we passed many attractive sites including the first army bridge to be crossed by the Americans in World War 2. We spent the evening in the local town.

Our trip to the cathedral was on Monday, which was very interesting and afterwards we were able to do some shopping in Cologne city and practise our German.

The third day was my favourite day as we had a day at the theme park. There were many different rides, some scarier than others, some better than others!!

On Wednesday morning we left for the return journey home. After a bit of sleep and a good few hours on the coach we arrived back home at the 114 bus stop!!

Our thanks to Mrs Mephram, Mr Anderson, Ms Harper, and Mrs Hill, plus a big thank you to Terry our coach driver, who was a great sport.

(Joe Allman 8A)

World Challenge trip to Iceland 2008

At the beginning of the summer holiday, I took a team of students from years 8 & 9 on a World Challenge trip to Iceland. The students who took part learned some valuable life skills, had a fantastic time and were a credit to themselves and the school.

Mr T Macmillan

Kristina Alley's Account of the Trip

On Saturday 19th July, Mr MacMillan took a group of Year 8 and 9 students on a World Challenge trip to Iceland with a group of Year 11 students from a school in Liverpool. Once we had filled up our rucksacks with team equipment, we then left Queensmead in the school minibus, with Mr Capp at the wheel. Upon our arrival at Stansted Airport we met the group from Liverpool and Matt, our World Challenge team leader. After a good flight we arrived at Keflavik and boarded a coach to our hostel in Reykjavik.

We got up early to start our 6 hour coach journey to Landmannalaugar, where we were to begin our trek the following day. After a cold and windy night in our tents we then packed up our equipment ready to embark upon our trek. After an hour of trekking we had to put on our waterproofs as the weather began to deteriorate. Mr MacMillan kept our spirits up and 5 hours later we arrived at the hut soaked to the skin, where we were greeted by a warm mug of hot chocolate and a biscuit.

During our stay in Iceland we visited Gullfoss, one of the widest waterfalls in Iceland; the Blue Lagoon, Gysir, the Tectonic Plates and went whale watching.

At the end of the week we headed back to the hostel where we stayed the night before our flight home. Upon our arrival back in England we were met by our excited and emotional families.

All in all it was an amazing experience and was greatly enjoyed by all. A big thank you goes out to Mr MacMillan for organising the trip and keeping our spirits up when things got tough.

By Kristina Alley, 10B

Hillingdon

FREE Healthy Eating Workshop

Sessions for Parents



Want to find out more about Healthy Eating for the whole family? Need some new ideas for packed lunches? Want to know more about school meals?

Then why not attend our FREE Healthy Eating Session.

Workshop Dates and Times Available:

7th October 2008 (2pm - 4pm) - Barra Hall

12th November 2008 (10am-12pm) - Nestle Avenue Children's Centre

4th December 2008 (10am-12pm) - Barra Hall

Call to book a space on Telephone - 01895 556421

