



Newsletter



Volume 4

April 2023

Our Y7 girls pivot their way across the netball court

On Thursday 23rd February, fifteen Year 7 students travelled to St Helen's School in Northwood to compete in the borough netball tournament. A total of fifteen schools entered the tournament, so they were against quite a bit of competition!

In the group stages, Queensmead faced Swakeleys, St Helen's, Park Academy and Vyners. The girls played some exceptional games, winning all four games in their group and defeating the opposition. This placed them at the top of their group and through to the semi-finals.

In the semi-finals, Queensmead were then up against Northwood College and, by half time, they were narrowly losing 2-1. Unfortunately, the girls were unable to retake the lead and consequently missed out on a spot in the final. Nevertheless, the squad should be extremely proud of themselves; having been training every Wednesday, at lunchtime and after school, their hard work and commitment was evident in every match they played. A huge well done to all!



The Year 7 netball squad:

Sofia O (Captain)
Elissa C
Vaishnavi N
Sienna N
Ana Liah V
Alyssa C
Asiya A
Shaniya J

Elanur G
Isha V
Gracie R-L
Lola A-W
Isla O-C
Anah R
Alyssa M

Resilience is part of the journey to success

On Tuesday 7th February 2023, Queensmead School hosted the Year 9 borough netball tournament. Queensmead entered two teams, out of a total of eighteen teams in competition for the title.

The A-team was expertly captained by Tiger P, supported by Makayla M, Casey M, Ava J, Jenna O, Aaina P, Jada E and Angie S. They all played quality netball throughout the afternoon.

In total, the girls played five games in their pool, winning four and drawing one. This put them in first place and through to the semi-finals. For the semi-final, the girls played against St Helen's and, after a nervous start, they soon picked up the pace and displayed fluent and precise passing across the whole court.

And they won!

This put them through to the finals, against Bishop Ramsey. But luck was not on their side, sadly. Despite having the lead at half time, the second half went downhill, and they lost 7-4.

However, I am so proud of the achievements of this squad. Their dedication to the sport and the progress they have made this year is outstanding. Every Tuesday, come rain or shine, they train after school. They have really developed their spatial awareness and timing this year. I look forward to following their achievements as they compete in the borough league semi-finals later this term.



The second team also had success. Captained by Sadaf A, the team - consisting of Kristina K, Alyanine J, Sruthy S, Eliana J, Iga C, Mia B, Rhia P and Zainab A - played great quality netball, showcasing their talent for the sport throughout each game they played.

They played five games in pool A, winning two of their five fixtures. They played with great courage and determination, consistently demonstrating brilliant sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

Mrs Carter, Teacher of PE



Unsure about your next steps? Visit our careers fair to find out the possibilities...

On Wednesday 22nd February, we were delighted to host our annual Careers Fair.

This exciting event was organised to help students discover the range of opportunities available to them when their time at Queensmead comes to an end, with exhibitors ranging from employers, colleges, universities, apprenticeships and training providers.

Students from Years 7 to 13 were able to learn first-hand from employers about work, employment and the skills that are valued in the workplace, alongside grade or subject requirements that are needed in order to pursue their chosen career paths.

The exhibitors included large employers such as Heathrow, Martin Baker, the London Fire Brigade and the Metropolitan Police, while further education providers such as Brunel, Royal Holloway and Derby Universities were there to promote further education. We were also lucky to have other training and apprenticeship providers, such as Skills Training UK, Stanmore College and Skillnet.



Miss Flanagan, Head of Year 11, said, "It's wonderful to see so many organisations attend our Careers Fair. It's important that we are able to show our students the vast array of post-16 and post-18 opportunities available so that they can make informed decisions about their future pathways."

A special thank you to Miss Howells, the school Careers Advisor, who did so much work to make the Careers Fair possible.

Mr Corish, *Careers Lead*

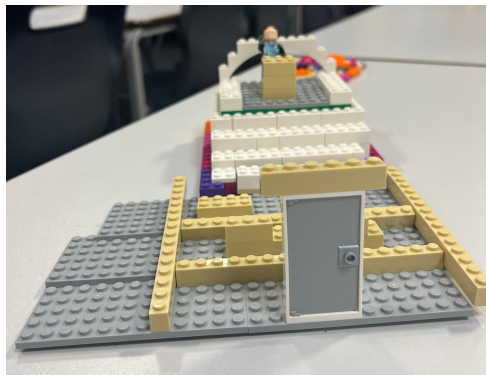
The Lego battles: as fierce and competitive as ever

Due to various circumstances, our creative Lego masters were unable to compete as frequently this half term. However, that doesn't mean our fighters backed down! Carry on reading to see this half term's epic creations.

Mrs Morrissey, *Teacher of Maths*

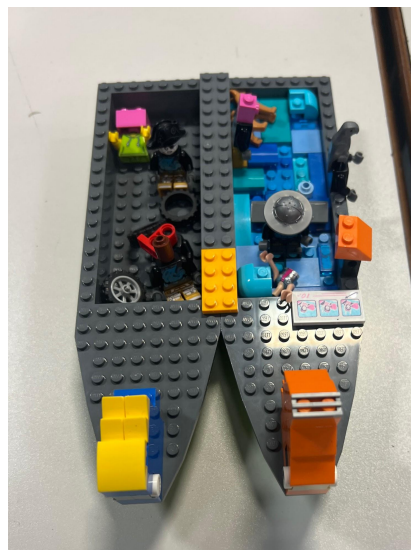
Week 1

This week, the theme was 'World Book Day'. Competitors created a variety of scenes from their favourite books, creating the home of books itself: the library! Clearly, the skills are getting better week on week and the architecture and structure of the creations is becoming much stronger.



Week 2

The theme this week was based on the students' favourite show, Lego Ninjago, and students recreated different scenes from the series using Lego. The creations this week really were amazing! Our competitors were really able to use their imagination, combining all the ideas of the group members to create some extraordinary inventions!

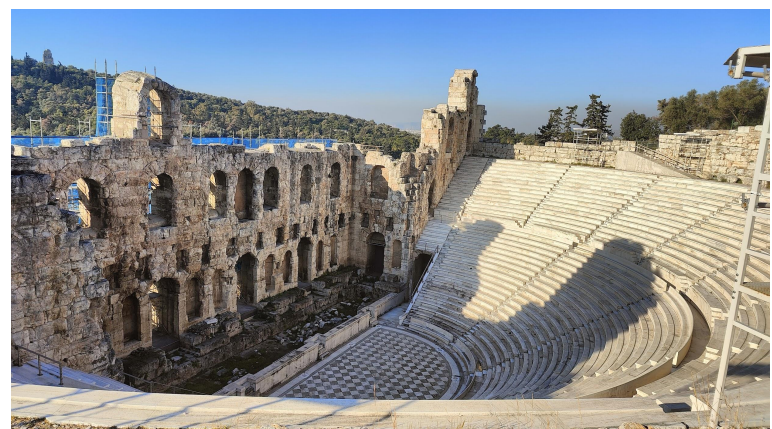


Exploring the ancient monuments and ruins of Greece

During February half term, a group of Classical Civilisation students, from Years 11, 12 and 13, embarked on a trip to Greece. It was an adventure full of amazing and exciting visits to a range of different places, including the theatre of Dionysus and Perikles' Odeon, the new Acropolis museum, the Delphi sites and museum, the sites and museum in Mycenae and Olympias' sites and museum as well as the temple of Poseidon.

It was amazing to have the opportunity to visit various areas in Greece including Athens, Olympia, Plaka and Tolo. We learnt about and appreciated Greek culture as well as the history of ancient Greece whilst being able to visit other places that weren't necessarily a part of the classics course. For example, we visited a local business that makes olive oil, and other flavoured and scented products, which we could sample and buy. Overall, the trip was not only educational and insightful but fun and relaxed.

Teiya W, *Year 12 student*



Learning the science behind sports

The Year 12 and 13 PE students went to visit Bedfordshire University, providing us with a lot of new and fascinating information.

The first part of our day at the university was a small tour around the campus followed by a demonstration on how to use an echocardiogram by one of the university's specialists in that field. The demonstration was carried out by Alex, acting as a patient, revealing insights into the intricacies of the heart, and how blood flows through the heart's valves. We then carried out this demonstration in small groups to apply what we had learnt.

After a quick break to recharge our batteries, we headed off to the lab, to learn more about various respiratory conditions such as COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease). We were shown this by using a spirometer and obstructing the airway with cotton wool, mirroring what it is like to live with this condition.

To understand what this is like, we blew into straws whilst exercising, obviously struggling to breathe effectively, causing a lot of red faces! Afterwards we discussed all of the conditions we had learnt about and what the results from the spirometers signified.

Our last task of the day was the biomechanics lab where we were introduced to gait graphs which are linked to force plates in the floor. Sarin, myself and Jake made movements whilst on the force plates which were replicated on the graph on the board - it's helpful to analyse the effect of movement on gait.

All the tasks helped us to work as teams to apply our knowledge, ultimately achieving the correct answer. Overall, the trip helped us learn new content in fun and exciting ways!

Cieran W, Year 13 student



Learning the importance of resilience

On Thursday 9th February, Year 9 students had the opportunity to watch a stage production by the Daniel Spargo Mabbs Foundation. They are a charity that aims to support young people to make safe choices about drugs and alcohol, reducing harm by helping them develop life skills and understand the risks.

We were told that they are a company set up by the parents of a child who died of a drug overdose and the play reflected this, showing how his family and friends were impacted by this tragedy.

One of the most impactful elements of the play was the portrayal of the boy himself. To highlight the fatal consequences of substance abuse, the role of the boy was played by a puppeteer controlling a jumper. At times, the mother character hugged the 'boy', and, although 'lifeless', the jumper added to the dramatic impact of the events in the play.

The performance left us with an important message, one that will stick with us all. The actors then ran a quiz and some interactive activities to test what we had learnt. Overall, it was a great educational experience! Thank you to this wonderful charity for taking the time to teach us about such an important topic.

Mante A, Year 9 student



DANIEL
SPARGO
- MABBS
foundation

The drug education charity



Planning for the future: Year 9 begin to explore their options...

In January this year, our Year 9 students embarked on the next stage of their educational journey as they began choosing their options for Key Stage 4.

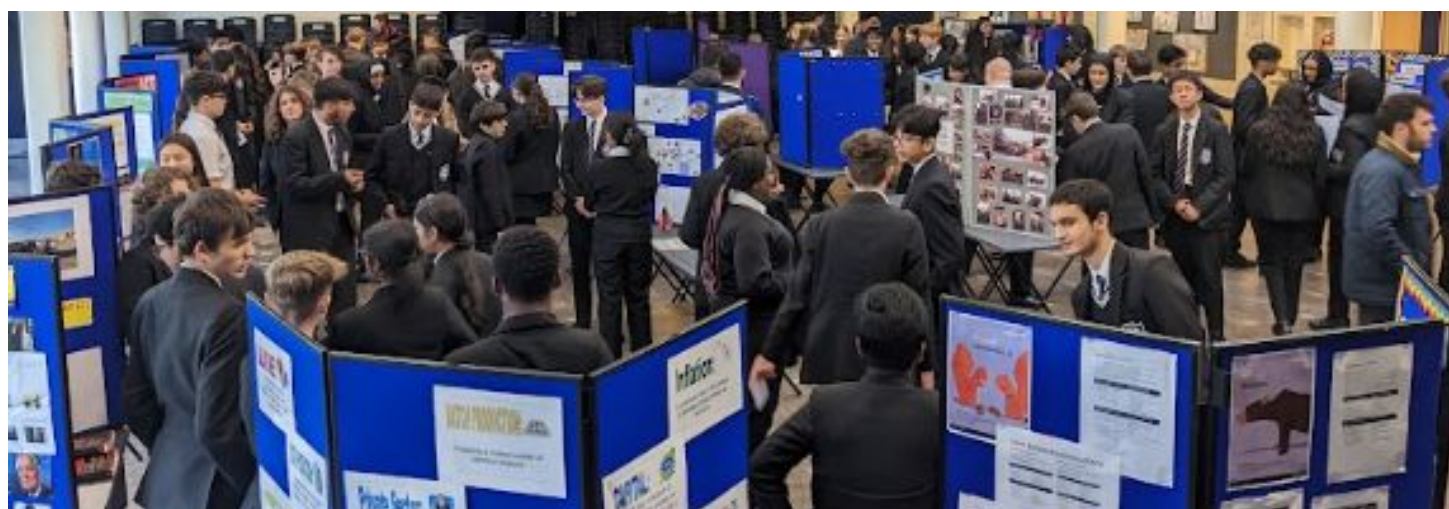
They had already spent time browsing the new options booklet during PD lessons and form time, but sometimes it's good to be able to speak to students who are already experiencing the possibilities. Therefore, on February 8th, we staged our annual 'Options Fair' to allow students to find out a little more.

As always, our own students proved to be the best ambassadors for us, as each potential option subject was represented by two Year 10 students. Standing in front of a display board, often including impressive examples of student work, each of the

representatives promoted the choice with enthusiasm and passion, fielding questions and offering their personal insights. Some stalls attracted quite a gathering, as the benefits were shared with gusto! For our year 9s, it was an invaluable experience - especially for those subjects that are unique to Key Stage 4 or beyond, such as Business Studies, Economics and Classical Civilisation as Year 9 students may not have knowledge or experience of them yet.

We are incredibly proud of the range of subjects we are able to offer our students, and this year was no exception, with over 20 subjects to choose from. This ensures that each student can tailor their choices, playing to their personal strengths and pursuing their dreams.

Miss Scott, *Head of English*



Exploring the world of film

On 8th February, we went on a trip to the British Institute of Film to expand and grow our knowledge of the French language. It was a 45 minute ride to Waterloo station, and from there we walked to the institute.

We spent the whole day there: our day was divided into two halves - in the first half, we studied short films on several different topics such as women's rights, racism and LGBT struggles. We learned how language changes and adapts to fit its environment and the topic it is communicating. For example, when trying to show women's daily struggles, such as being catcalled, informal and colloquial language is used to convey a sense of degradation and disrespect. We learned that classroom French is not always used and a lot of time more casual phrases are used. In between the short films we shared ideas with each other and the other groups present on the day.



We also got a chance to show off our French knowledge, but also to build upon it. We had an activity booklet to complete, with short activities to accompany each film.

In the second half, after lunch, we watched a full length French film called "Intouchables" which was based on a true story of a man becoming paralysed after a horrifying paragliding accident. Through the film we were exposed to different usage of the language, how it was adapted and used in a more realistic setting rather than an exam one. I also personally learned how important language can be when trying to communicate and how the use of language can differ not just between different languages but also between people. Language is so important when it comes to building new relationships and trying to sustain old relationships as people tend to be more comfortable speaking in their native language. Moreover, speaking an additional language helps us be more open-minded and respectful, increasing our vocabulary and re-wiring our brain, which helps us to learn new things quicker.

Ramla C, Year 10 student



Shakespeare brought to life

On Monday 27th February, the Year 13 English Literature class had the thrilling opportunity to view a live screening of Shakespeare's classic, *Othello*, from the National Theatre. It is one of the texts required as part of the study for A level English Literature A-Level.

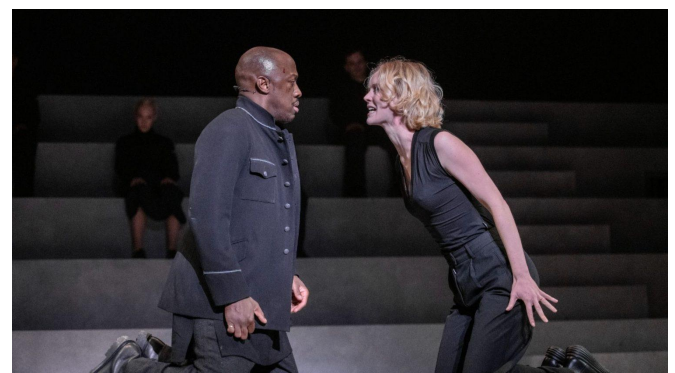
The group travelled by minibus to the Beck Theatre, in Hayes, to watch the Shakespearean tragedy. The ride to the theatre was short and we arrived in time to settle in, giving a few students time to rush to buy snacks for the 3-hour-long production.

The National Theatre's mission is to make theatre accessible to everyone, and they certainly achieved that in this rendition of *Othello*. Whilst still rooted in Shakespeare's text, the production proved relevant to today, introducing unique perspectives on individual characters such as Desdemona and Emilia. Not only did this trip benefit the Literature students' understanding and knowledge of the events of the play, but it also was of great value to observe how both the costuming and lighting enhanced the story. English student Jagoda said that it was "beneficial to see how the play looked on stage".

It was an welcome bit of escapism for all the students, providing both fresh insights about the play and useful extra revision!

Overall, the trip was a success, contrary to Othello's tragic end...

Hana M, Year 13 student



Baking to raise money for those in need

On Friday 24th February, the charity committee held a bake sale, to raise money for those in need in Turkey and Syria, after the devastating earthquakes which have shattered so many lives. 50,000 people died in the tragedy while 18 million trying to live in the affected areas desperately need food, shelter and medical aid. We knew that the Queensmead community would be willing to do something to help and all raised funds would be donated to DEC (the Disaster Emergency Committee).

Thank you to everyone who generously donated delicious cakes, doughnuts and sweets, as well as everyone who came to the sale and donated money. We were lucky enough to have some wonderful live music at the event (the Year 12 band played a fantastic range of hits) which really added to the atmosphere.

In total, we raised £350 for the people in Turkey and Syria - a superb achievement!

Our donations will go towards purchasing everyday essentials for people, helping to get them back on their feet! According to DEC, £50 can provide emergency food for two families for ten days, and we are so proud that, because of Queensmead students, at least 14 families will have help in their time of need. Please spread awareness about this as this is still not over yet. Thank you once again for your help!

Maha, Thulasi and Isabella, Year 9 students



Celebrating our love for books

At the beginning of March, we celebrated 'World Book Day'. Usually an annual day of dressing up for primary schools, the day took on a different look at Queensmead - our focus was upon the pleasure of reading. In previous years, we have encouraged things like 'extreme reading' (getting students to capture themselves reading in all sorts of 'crazy' places), but this year, the focus was on reading in a place that makes you feel safe and comfortable, which is just the kind of ethos to help establish reading as a lifelong habit.

The weekly assemblies transported the students back to their youth - well, relatively speaking anyway! We reflected on our memories of childhood books, exploring what made them so enjoyable and memorable. There were incredibly accurate memories of lines from childhood favourites such as 'The Gruffalo' and the 'Biff, Chip and Kipper' series, staples of many early reading programmes.

This sense of nostalgia set the tone for a consideration of what changes in our teenage years, focusing on our relationship with books. We hope that we can, perhaps, reignite the enthusiasm that was once there for reading. After all, reading sits at the heart of the school, something which was exemplified on World Book Day when staff and a number of Year 7 dressed thematically to celebrate books. We had David Walliams' 'The Midnight Gang' recreated, as well as characters from Roald Dahl's 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', some 'mathematical' Mr. Men, the three musketeers and a sprinkling of monsters!

Key Stage 3 enjoyed a range of book themed lessons and could enjoy a hot chocolate with their lunch in the library whilst listening to David Walliams read. And to top it off, thirty 'Golden Tickets' were hidden around the school, winning the lucky 'finder' a book of their choice.

It is so important for us all to remember the importance of reading for pleasure and to remember that it isn't just for school. It's for life. Hopefully World Book Day served as a reminder for us all that there is nothing quite like a good book!

Miss Middleton, *Literacy Co-ordinator*



Observing the busy streets of our capital city

As part of our fieldwork for GCSE Geography, a group of Year 10 students embarked on a trip into the busy capital city of London. On our adventure, we visited three areas: Liverpool Street, Roscoe street and Kings Square.

Whilst we were there, our task was to observe each of the three areas and collect data; this involved taking pictures and analysing the different factors which make the areas deprived. The trip will be beneficial for us as we can analyse these factors to support our GCSE exams.

The trip was over the two days when the country was hit with extreme cold weather! Because of this, some of us had to experience the freezing snow, which made for an incredibly cold experience! Despite the weather, it was a great experience to visit some local places and work with your friends. It was also a great way to improve our independence and respect as we had to talk to people when we needed to collect our primary data with our questionnaires!

Pranati A, Year 10 student



The beauty of diversity at Queensmead

Friday 10th March marked Queensmead's Culture Day for the Year 12s and 13s. As a school, we believe that it is incredibly important to be diverse and inclusive of all different cultures and ethnicities. So, our Year 12 and Year 13 students couldn't think of a better way to celebrate this than by dedicating an entire day to students sharing experiences about their cultures and spreading knowledge about them.

This wonderful celebration was organised by all of the students, giving them the opportunity to dress in their cultural clothes to show the pride they hold for their own beliefs and ethnicities. It was lovely to see students from a range of different backgrounds dressed in such bright and beautiful colours, brightening up the corridors of the school.

After a long day of lessons, the students organised a culture sharing event in the school hall. The hall was filled with the of beautiful music from all around the world, while the aromas of succulent foods from South Asia, the Caribbean and many other countries enveloped us. Flags from all different countries covered the walls and the students had the opportunity to share their cultural dances, typically reserved for celebrations and festivals.

It was an absolutely superb day filled with excitement and buzz from both the students and the teachers. We look forward to having the opportunity to host an amazing event like this again!

Mrs Bamrah, Teacher of English and Year 12 students



Queensmead Mathematicians take the trophy!

On Monday 13th March, four keen Year 7s headed to Ruislip High School to take part in the annual '24 Game Challenge' against other Hillingdon secondary schools. The Year 7s have been practising the game in their maths classes against their classmates.

Upon arrival, our group of 4 split into two teams: Team A and Team B. Once all the other teams had arrived, the rules of the 24 Game were explained before both teams had the opportunity to take part in three rounds. Each round contained ten questions each, which became increasingly more difficult as the rounds progressed. The aim of each round was to score as many points as possible, as these would then be totalled together at the end to award prizes to the top three teams.

Each round included a different range of numbers. The first round focussed on calculations involving single digits, followed by a round on double digits and the last set of questions included fractions and decimals too!

Both teams persevered and managed extremely well through each of the rounds and were an absolute credit to the school. By the end of all the rounds, Team A and Team B were in second place with two more schools tying for 3rd place.

A massive congratulations to the following students for their hard work and dedication: Krisha K, Aditya K, Hasan R and Lewis M.

Ultimately, our mathematicians achieved 1st and 2nd place out of 12 teams! This is a super achievement for our school, as we also came first at last year's competition!

Mrs Morrissey, Teacher of Mathematics



Can you recite the whole of Pi?

Tuesday 14th March, AKA 'Pi day' (since the number Pi is 3.14... and therefore is held on the 14th March, the 3rd month of the year) saw many students come to the Maths department at lunchtime to compete against each other to memorise and recite Pi to as many decimal places as possible.

As soon as the bell rang for 1:30pm, it became clear that many of our students were willing to rise to the challenge of the day. In fact, so many students arrived that some were taken to other maths rooms so that everyone could recite without too much distraction.

Some students brought along friends for moral support and, while they were waiting to compete, they could complete Pi-themed puzzles. We had participants from Year 7 to 11 and it became clear that many students had been practising hard for this event.

After a tense 30 minutes, the overall winner was declared...

Our winning student is a Year 7, and he managed to correctly recite Pi to a fantastic 214 decimal places! This really is a phenomenal achievement.

Many other students also memorised Pi to an impressive level.

The top 5 results were:

Aditya K - Year 7	214
Arjun B - Year 8	176
Grace N - Year 8	150
Jairam T - Year 11	143
Noah L - Year 7	110

It has been a pleasure to collate all the results and I must congratulate all students that participated. All students received a certificate of participation and prizes have been awarded to students who correctly recited Pi to at least 50 decimal places.

We look forward to Pi day next year - let's see who can break the current record of 214 decimal places!

Mrs Morrissey, *Teacher of Mathematics*



Well done to Aditya K on your superb success!

NOW! That's Queensmead

Queensmead's GCSE Year 11 music class have made an extremely unique and special album. It is aimed at teenagers, and addresses the problems to do with mental health amongst young people. All of the songs are covers, originally performed by some of our favourite and most inspirational artists. Our musicians chose these songs because they relate in one way or another to the aim of this project.

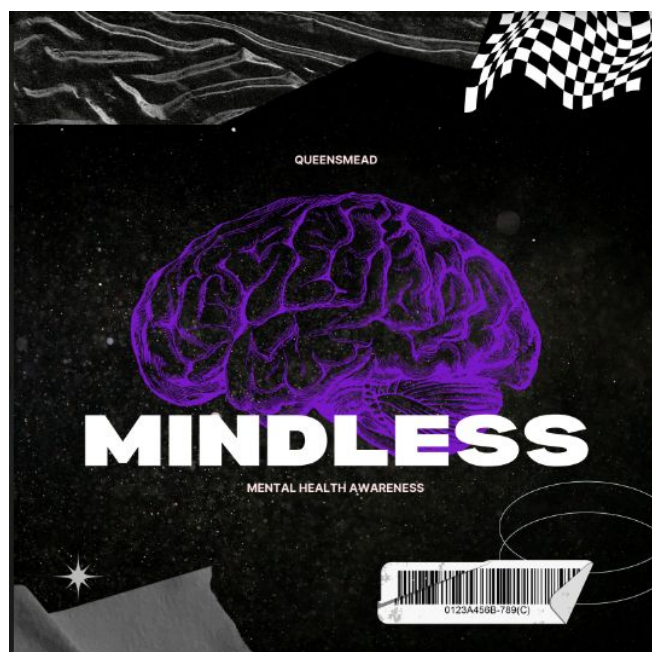
To share their exciting new creations, the students will be releasing this album on SoundCloud, so other students, family and friends can appreciate their hard work from home. Every student has contributed in different ways to the making of this album.

It was great to work as a team on the promotional aspect of the product. Many of us have performed in one or more songs as well as planning and designing this stunning and impactful CD package. All students have worked very hard in order to make this happen in a very short amount of time.

We also want to say a special "Thank you" to the teachers in the music department as well as Nathaniel, from Year 12, who helped us get things done! We hope this album connects with our fellow students in all years and that it will raise awareness about mental health.

The album's release date is **19/04/23**! Songs will be available for free on SoundCloud, accessible via a link that will be shared around the school. The CD will be available to buy from the music department at a price of £3 and all the money raised will go to charity.

Mr Lisi, *Teacher of Music*



Delving into the history of London City

Year 12 were fortunate enough to visit Queen Mary University of London to learn about the history and changes in Brick Lane. Our eventful day started off with a lecture by Kate Amis, who went into details about the history of Brick Lane and the many cultural and economic changes that it has experienced.

It was so interesting to see the many changes that one place has gone through. We were also given the opportunity to look at the latest Census data on the area which gave us a better perspective on the area such as with demographic changes.



Next, we embarked on our tour of Brick Lane. We started at the Altab Ali Park, which is significant to the Bengali heritage of the area.

We then walked down from the start of Brick Lane to the end, looking at the changes that have happened over time, from the Jewish textiles industry to the Bengali food industry, and to the current hipsterfication of the area.

It was fascinating to see the various impacts and influences on the street and conducting the fieldwork allowed us to see the impact this has had on the community. We then split up into groups to compare the various parts of Brick Lane using old photographs to figure out what has happened over time. Our day ended in Spitalfields Market to see how the cultural and historical aspects of Brick Lane have completely been gentrified. Overall, it was a fantastic insight to explore how small changes in population can have a huge impact on the culture of the area.

Victor N, Year 12 student



Speaking out about the environment

Queensmead is a TFL accredited school and our Year 7 STARS ambassador group were given the amazing opportunity to speak out about their ideas regarding environmentally friendly travel.

On the 15th March, our new youth travel ambassadors created a presentation and pitched to the STARS team at Hillingdon council for £700.

Our team were incredibly successful and I am extremely proud because they are a new group of Year 7s, who have worked hard preparing and putting together a list of all the resources they will need for their campaign. All the money gained will be spent on finding ways to keep our students fit, healthy and environmentally friendly. This involves pedometers, bicycle equipment and bike locks.

Our campaign this year is to get more students walking and cycling to school and every year we have our annual pedometer challenge, to 'beat the teacher'!

What is even more amazing is that not only is this a new group of Year 7, but this was also the first time for the youth ambassadors to pitch to a Dragon's Den style team. They have also been promoting our Eco-month in assemblies this term. Students should be incredibly proud of this because it is such a nerve-wracking experience to have the confidence to pitch their ideas to a group of people.

Well done to all the Year 7 STARS ambassadors:

- Andres P 7h
- Ernest S 7a
- Simon C 7h
- Inaaya D 7f
- Alayna K 7e
- Cruz D-O 7e
- Sara D 7e

Mrs Oakley, Cover Supervisor



Aspiring Mathematicians have the chance to shine

Ritangle is a free maths competition aimed at teams of sixth form students studying A-Level Mathematics that runs from early October to mid-December. A group of Queensmead Year 12 and 13 students had the opportunity to take part in this challenging competition.

Competing in Ritangle was a challenging yet intriguing experience. The competition consists of three stages, a total of twenty nine questions; during the first four weeks, one question is released per week, then for the next five weeks, three questions are released per week and then there is the final stage which, to be unlocked, required correct answers to the previous questions.

I competed alongside my maths class, working as a team of seventeen which encouraged teamwork and communication skills - useful for the future. Despite occasional struggles, it was very cathartic to reach the final stage of the competition.

We are all extremely proud of ourselves for taking part in such a challenging competition and I would definitely recommend aspiring mathematicians to enter such competitions. It is an excellent chance to challenge yourself and show off your mathematic knowledge and skills.

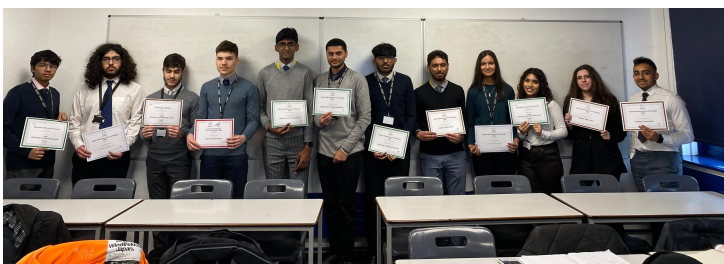
Rachel B, Year 12 student



Queensmead Mathematicians across the school take the win

The charity, the UK Mathematics Trust, was founded in 1996 and their aim is to advance the education of young people in mathematics by promoting problem solving through mathematical enrichment activities. The solo UKMT challenges are grouped into senior, intermediate and junior competitions consisting of 25 challenging multiple choice questions. The highest-scoring students are invited to take part in follow-on rounds.

Well done to all those who participated and a massive congratulations to all the students for achieving an award. The image below shows some of Year 12s and 13s that took part:



Also, in February, almost 120 of our top mathematicians in Year 10 and Year 9 participated in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. Their efforts were fantastic and many went on to achieve Bronze, Silver or Gold awards. Congratulations to the Year 10s in the pictures below:



Our Year 9 high scorers, Huzaifa, Thivisan and Yawen were invited to sit the Grey Kangaroo whilst our Year 10 high scorers, Daniel, Mohammed and Mahjabeen were invited to sit the Pink Kangaroo. It's an incredible achievement to qualify for the follow-up round and a special congratulations to Mohammed who went on to achieve a Merit.



Our budding Year 7 and Year 8 students will have their opportunity to shine in the upcoming Junior Maths Challenge which takes place in April!

Miss Karadia, *Teacher of Mathematics*