



Newsletter



Volume 3

February 2024

Kindness in the community

As a school, we are driven by our four values, the principles that we model, both as staff and students. In particular, we want to promote and encourage kindness and, over the winter term, the Queensmead Charity Committee held three charity events to support those in our community and beyond.

The first was a harvest collection for the Hillingdon Food Bank. Over two weeks, students from all year groups brought in tins, long-life milk, cereals and toiletries, which were then collected and taken to the Hillingdon Food Bank local drop-off point, in the local Sainsburys. Secondly, our 6th form students raised £167.42 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal by selling poppy pins and bracelets during form times, and then our KS3-4 Charity Committee raised £135.02 from a Christmas fair, dividing the donations between the Disaster Emergency Committee and Great Ormond Street Hospital.

More recently, on the 4th February, it was World Cancer day, so the Charity Committee focused upon raising cancer awareness, particularly concerning prostate and breast cancer. The committee created slides to be shared during form time, with key facts and statistics. On Friday 9th February, students will wear one pink or blue item in support and the P16 values team will collect donations for Cancer Research UK.

Miss Hornal, Teacher of History and Charity Coordinator



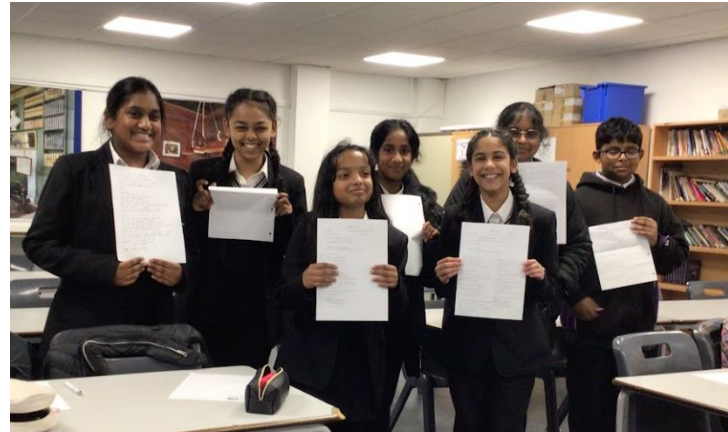
‘Young Writers’ become published authors!

We are thrilled to congratulate the members of our ‘Creative Writing Club’ who have been selected for not just one, but *two* writing competition publications within the last three months!

The ‘Young Writers’ organisation has been running creative writing competitions and publishing students' work since 1991, and we regularly have students taking part in the competitions. This year, a mix of Year 7 and Year 8 students took part, entering two competitions, responding to two completely different writing briefs.

The judges enjoyed our students' entries so much that both sets of entries for both briefs are going to be published in a competition book. The publications are released later this year, and the published texts are then distributed to all participating schools across the country, so their work will soon be found in school libraries nationwide.

The first competition focused on writing a poem; entrants had to write about what inspired them to write. The second had to be a proposal for a dystopian scenario where the world was permanently altered. For this one, imagination knew no bounds - there were computer games coming to life; worlds freezing in time; ambitions to be climate activists, and many more.



The following students are to be credited for their efforts and continued enthusiasm for creative writing:

- Reanna C, 7d
- Santhos K, 8c
- Thanusia K, 7g
- Arani S, 7a
- Anaiya S, 7a

Looking ahead, the new competition brief has been released, called ‘Through Their Eyes’ - the task is to write a poem from someone or something else's point of view. The deadline for entries is the 13th February. To enter, you must complete a written entry and hand to Ms Dear in M17 no later than this date. All entries must include the student's name, age and school, ready for submission.

More details can also be found at this link here:
https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/KS3-5/through?utm_source=ONTRAPORT-email-campaign

We look forward to reading more of our students' names in print and wish future participants every success!

Ms Dear, Teacher of English and Drama

Enjoy a sample of poetry from our young writers...

I Ada

In the realm of numbers and dreams, I reside,
A woman of vision, uncharted tide.
Ada Lovelace, they call me, a name unknown,
A pioneer of the future, seeds I have sown.

With ink and quill, I weave my thoughts,
Through algorithms and calculations, I sought
To transcend the boundaries, society's gaze,
To conquer the unknown, in this complex maze.

When the world whispered doubts, I held my ground,
For I knew my potential, my genius unbound.
In a world dominated by men, I dared to defy,
To embrace the possibilities, reach for the sky.

Numbers danced within my mind, a symphony of grace,
As I envisioned a future, a technological embrace.
I saw beyond the present, into the realm of what could be,
A world where machines and minds would interweave.

Oh, the power of the Analytical Engine, my muse,
A marvel of engineering, a dream I would choose.
To harness its potential, to guide its course,
I yearned for progress, for knowledge's force.

Through my words and calculations, I sought a way,
To unlock the secrets of this machine, day by day.
For in its gears and cogs, I sensed a hidden grace,
A tool to elevate humanity, to find our true place.

Though my time was short, my legacy remains,
A testament to perseverance, a fire that sustains.
I am Ada Lovelace, the spark that never fades,
In the annals of history, my spirit cascades.

So, let my story be a reminder to all,
That dreams have no limits, they stand tall.
No matter the obstacles, the doubts that surround,
With determination, greatness is found.

For in the perspective of Ada Lovelace, I find,
A woman who defied, with an unwavering mind.
I achieved my goal, as the world now sees,
A visionary, a pioneer, forever set free.

By Thanusia K 7G

Tree

My leaves are red,
Then orange and yellow
In the summer I play and in the winter I am mellow.

My trunk is long
And my arms are strong
I have fingers
And I have feet
And I am a tree

For a tree has a memory
A memory that is long
And a tree is full of wishes
That will never be lost

I have dreamt and I have dreamt
As I watch and I watch

And I know soon I will be gone;
Gone just for paper
No matter my life
And no matter your life

Let's waste while we can!
Is that what you think?
If that's in your mind
You'll be gone in a blink!

And slowly now I start to droop
I get hotter and hotter
And beg for water;
A fire I see
My poor family
I am left in ashes and black stuff

Yippee!
Is that what you say when you see my trees?
Lonely and dead soon I'll be
I weep and I weep
And I am not a willow
And not after this, I will never be mellow!

And so I cry till it's summer again
But still it goes on
When will it stop?
When, when, when?

My leaves are red
Then orange and yellow
And now in spring I weep, weep, weep
As I know in Autumn, my death comes -
Creep, creep, creep

By Anaiya S 7C



Reaching new heights with Lego

Due to its immense success last year, the Lego club has resumed its duty; we have restarted the competition! We continue to be wowed by the imagination and developing skills of our Lego club members and are delighted to share some images of their recent creations with you...

Mrs Morrissey, *Teacher of Maths*

Week 1

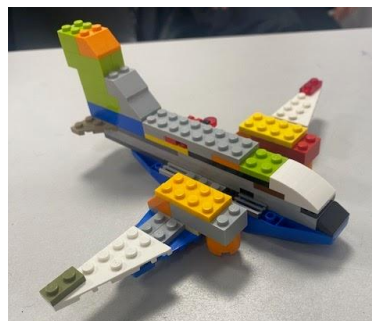
It was safe to say that January was a whirlwind month as we were swept away by ice-cold winds and severe storms.

Our Lego creators spent the session reflecting the tumult in their chilling creations!



Week 2

Our creators took their builds to new heights this week - literally! The theme was aviation and they celebrated the wonderful world of aircraft by creating various types of planes and a suitable hangar too.



Designing for new clients...

Our Design Technology department has recently started an outreach project, to work with a local primary school on a joint venture... Six QM students embarked on this new venture...

Phase 1 - the first site visit and meeting our clients:

The project started with primary school chairs. The chairs used in primary schools are often poorly designed and lack comfort, potentially affecting children's learning. This could impact their academic success. Our brief was to design a chair that would satisfy their comfort, and therefore facilitate their learning. We chose Deanesfield's Year 5 children as our 'clients', so we then had to go there for a site visit.

The purpose of the visit was to explore what the environment was like, analyse the different chairs they had and collect data from children for measurements. We also needed some input from the students; we gave the children a questionnaire, along with a drawing task to understand how they viewed the chairs in their library. We also gathered measurements - in pairs, the Year 5s measured each other to find out the necessary heights and dimensions needed for a chair. Then we walked around the library, taking pictures of the environment and asking questions related to the chairs.



All of this data was crucial, helping us to plan for an ergonomic and size-appropriate chair for the children.

Crucially, the most important detail - besides measurements - was the purpose of the new chair design. We all wanted to make a chair that would be innovative in design but also be comfortable. As it would be placed in the library, we wanted to encourage students to be able to sit in comfort and read. Ultimately, this would mean that their focus could improve and they would be better prepared for the next challenge.

Denosh and Karusan, year 12 DT students

Phase 2 - the second site visit:

On 15th January, the Deanesfield students visited our school to see the initial designs and models. In small groups, they critiqued the designs, considering how they met individual needs, and finally voting for their favourite design. We asked for their evaluation of the design - what they liked and disliked, and any improvements.

Then, we showed the Year 5s around our workshops, demonstrating the different machines available, hopefully inspiring them to come to Queensmead in Year 7.

Continued...

As product designers, this was an important visit as it helped us develop our prototype and final designs. Without our clients' opinions, it would be difficult to create something they would be happy with. Our next and final phase is to manufacture the chairs in the workshop.

This will be a 8-week task and we hope to have them ready for our clients in the summer term.

Vaishiga and Methmi, year 12 DT students

A high-flying work experience

Year 13 student, Alex Tornea, reports on his work experience with *Martin-Baker*.

Embarking on a four-day work experience at Martin-Baker in Uxbridge - a leading manufacturer of ejection seats for various aircraft - proved to be an eye-opening journey. Applicants could choose between the manufacturing or design facets of Martin-Baker, tailoring their experience to individual aspirations.

The program offered a truly hands-on experience. Practically every element of the experience was designed to be interactive, giving insights into aerospace engineering. And the support from the staff at Martin-Baker was exceptional, where questions were warmly welcomed.

The first day began with a comprehensive presentation,



delving into Martin-Baker's history, followed by a detailed tour of the various plant sections, from design and manufacturing, to testing and final assembly. On the second day, participants were assigned to sections based on their chosen focus - design or manufacturing. I opted for manufacturing for its hands-on nature. We were able to select a 'job' from the 'job rack', independently assembling different parts from engineering drawings, creating life-saving mechanisms for an aircraft pilot.

Day three enabled participants to deepen their understanding of their chosen sector, observing the final assembly phase, where we explored the stages of development, appreciating the meticulous attention to detail in the creation of the critical components. The concluding day consisted of engaging puzzles, interactive experiences, and demonstrations with air pressure devices, injecting an element of fun into the learning process. As a thoughtful conclusion to the work experience, participants were presented with souvenirs, marking the end of a truly fantastic and enlightening journey at Martin-Baker.

Alex T, year 13 DT student

Exploring the world of Science

As we venture into the exciting world of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), we are delighted to announce some upcoming events at Queensmead School!

Firstly, we are thrilled to offer our female students in Year 10 a unique opportunity to explore the realms of Engineering and Physics through a STEM Trip to Uxbridge College. This excursion aims to provide an immersive experience where our girls can engage with hands-on activities, interact with professionals in the field, and gain insights into the diverse career opportunities available in STEM. We believe that fostering interest and confidence in these subjects among young women is vital for driving innovation and progress in our society.

Additionally, our Year 12 students will have the chance to delve into the wonders of Science at the renowned Science Museum. This trip promises to be an enriching experience where students can delve into the fascinating world of scientific discovery, from the wonders of space exploration to the intricacies of human biology. We are confident that this visit will spark curiosity and deepen their appreciation for the importance of Science in our daily lives.

Furthermore, we are excited to introduce an Online Mentoring Programme in collaboration with Brightside. This initiative aims to connect our students with mentors who are professionals in various STEM fields. Through this programme, students will have the opportunity to receive personalised guidance, advice, and support as they navigate their educational and career pathways in STEM.



At Queensmead School, we are committed to providing our students with enriching experiences and opportunities that will equip them with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the ever-evolving landscape of STEM. We encourage all students to actively participate in these events and embrace the endless possibilities that await them in the world of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

Stay tuned for more updates on these exciting STEM initiatives!

Mr Hundal, *Teacher of Mathematics and Physics*

Mathematicians of the future: our students compete in the UKMT Maths Challenge

The UK Mathematics Trust was founded in 1996 with the aim of advancing the mathematical education of young people by promoting problem solving. Our students regularly compete and this year was no exception.

The solo UKMT challenges are grouped into Senior, Intermediate and Junior categories consisting of 25 challenging multiple-choice questions. The highest-scoring students are invited to take part in follow-on rounds.

Our Year 12 and 13 Maths students participated in the individual UKMT Senior Mathematics Challenge in October. Here is an example question.

What is the value of $99(0.4^{\circ}9' - 0.4')$?
A. 5 B. 4 C. 3 D. 2

These students were some of our top scorers: Joshua B, Janit B, Filip S, Vivek T, Thrujan T, and Mathusha T, earning a place on the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo Challenge. Daniel M - our highest scorer - sat the British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1.

All participants deserve our congratulations; in particular, the following students achieved awards:

Year 12 Bronze Awards:

Burhanuddin A, Mihaly D, Rudra S, Rav K, Shreyas P, Samuel P, Kajus B, Lavanya D, Raveena S, Rayaan A, Vaishal P, Reshikeshan J, Denosh K, Risana N, Mohammad A, Ricardo K, Yllka L, Harishshawn G, Eesa T, Mingjun M, Fortune M, Anas A, Ibraheem K, Shlok P, Anushan P, Abdul A, Manav S and Ameerah W.

Year 12 Silver Awards:

Raghav J, Shivam D, Hannah L, Safenth S, Sadeer K, Zenel P and Anjalina S.

Year 12 Gold Awards:

Daniel M.

Year 13 Bronze Awards:

Louis P, Leah H, Farhad P, Tia G, Jeremy S, Siham A, Josephine W, William G, Dhiren M, Vinnie S, Rachel B, Ali P, Rejevan R, Saran R, Aamir A, Harry M, Devin P, Angela V and Daniel W.

Year 13 Silver Awards:

Saif J, Ashvin K, Russell S, Nathaniel F, Max S, Krish S, Shajan E and Endi H.

Year 13 Gold Awards:

Janit B, Filip S, Thrujan T, Mathusha T, Joshua B and Vivek T.

We wait in anticipation to find out how the selected Year 10 and Year 9 students did after sitting the Intermediate Challenge in January. Our Year 7 and 8 students have their Junior challenge to look forward to in April.

Miss Karadia, *Second in charge of Maths*



UK Maths Trust



Sporting news: The discipline of the boxing ring

This term, we have been lucky enough to have coaches from Armour Academy Boxing club, leading a boxing programme.



An exciting opportunity began in January with our new Boxing club. Professional coaches from Armour Academy Boxing Club came to Queensmead on Thursdays after school, in our Sports hall.

Students have been learning about the basics of boxing, learning particular techniques and, most of all, building confidence, learning motivation and instilling discipline in a safe environment. This has been a fantastic opportunity for the students. They have been building skills of resilience in a fun and exciting manner, learning how to cooperate with one another alongside.

They enjoyed the experience immensely and look forward to doing something like this again in the future!



Year 9s take the football pitch by storm

One of our Post-16 students organised a thrilling interform football tournament for Year 9 students.

After a number of intense football matches, 9b and 9d had a gruelling final, which went to a penalty shootout; 9b sustained a glorious victory over 9d to win the cup final. On the opposite pitch, 9a had a fiery victory over 9c winning the vase final.

Congratulations to 9b and 9a for winning the final and well done to everyone for getting involved!

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Mr L Fernandes, *Teacher of PE*

Our TFL ambassadors win again!

Congratulations to our youth travel ambassadors on their winning pitch, they have secured an incredible £673 towards their funding on their campaigns.

They were up against four other schools presenting their pitch to a group of dragons, to convince them that their ideas would lead to success.

Our campaign this year is to get more students walking and cycling to school, our annual pedometer challenge (beat the teacher) which is always a successful battle.

We will be organising - as this proved to be a big success in getting more students cycling to school - the **GOLDEN LOCK** competition. Each morning a member of the youth travel will randomly put a golden lock on a student's bike and at the end of the day whoever's bike it is wins a biker's breakfast voucher.



Our main focus this year is **PARK AND STRIDE**.

We are hoping parents will be involved and we will be getting a banner made by Hillingdon Council to promote where to park away from the school gates to ease congestion and pollution. There will be stop off points where students can safely cross and walk the last ten minutes to school.

It will be another busy year with lots of things to promote and achieve, but with this group of students I believe that they can make this happen.

Thanks to this amazing hard working Year 8 group who really want to make changes, they are:

- Louis A
- Ernest S
- Alayna K
- Sara D-G
- Barnaby H
- Inaaya D
- Andres P
- Simon C

Mrs Oakley, *Environmental Officer*

