



Newsletter



Volume 6

July 2023

Trekking through the natural world

On Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th July, Year 10 Geography students visited two sites in Surrey in order to study the River Tillingbourne.

Part of the GCSE Geography specification requires us to carry out a fieldwork investigation on rivers so we visited Crossways Farm and Abinger Hammer to investigate how flood risk and channel characteristics change downstream the River Tillingbourne.

As we journeyed to the first site, Crossways Farm, by coach, we could see magnificent fields with rows of thick woodland bordering them. On the way to the river from the coach, we walked through a beautiful crop field and saw some elegant horses too.

At the river we worked in groups of six to measure its width, depth and velocity and, despite the wet weather, we all managed to get some detailed field sketches of the Tillingbourne. The river itself was shallow yet it meandered beautifully across the farm. My favourite part was walking into the river to take these measurements and although the water went only half way up to our knees, the wonderful sensation of the cool water flowing past our feet was most certainly delightful, satisfying and refreshing.

We then arrived at the second location: Abinger Hammer. The river was straighter and slightly deeper at this site and with the addition of the rain the water almost reached the top of our wellington boots. It was very entertaining to wade upstream, feeling the force of the slightly stronger and faster river against our legs.

Overall, it was an adventurous trip and the natural landscape was breathtaking at both sites. I'm very pleased I had the opportunity to go and explore the beauty and complexity of the natural world.

Mahjabeen S, Year 10 student





Night at the Prom: Y11 dance the night away...

On Friday 30th June, Queensmead's Year 11 students enjoyed a lively night at prom, to celebrate the hard work and dedication they have invested into their work towards GCSEs this year.

The event was held in Queensmead's own main hall, beautifully decorated by Mrs Bamber, with the help of Year 12 volunteers, with catering from two snack bars - both savoury and sweet. There was a refreshing drinks bar, providing a variety of beverages, served by two year 12 volunteers, and later, copious amounts of margarita pizzas were delivered by a local company, to great delight! Throughout the night, the DJ played a plethora of songs, catering for all tastes and genres, keeping everyone entertained, using lighting to create a fitting ambiance for the night, allowing students to have an enjoyable night dancing away until their feet hurt!



The night featured several activities to ensure to maximise the entertainment of the evening, such as the "Bring it" game where Year 11s were tasked with bringing obscure objects found within the event, such as another person's sock, ending with hilarity all round.

A massive thank you to Mrs Bamber for organising this amazing event and thanks to the Year 12 volunteers for their diligence and assistance. And most of all - thank you to all of our Year 11 who attended and who had dressed up for the occasion, enhancing the glitz and glamour of the event! It was an unforgettable celebration, helping everyone to cherish memories of their time together at Queensmead.

We wish the students all the best in their future after GCSEs.

Keegan P, Year 12 student

World of sport



We recently celebrated our very first 'Sports Awards Evening' at Queensmead, and what an event it was - not only a historic moment, but graced by a celebrity!

Held on Thursday 8th June, the evening was an unforgettable celebration of the talent, the perseverance, and the remarkable accomplishments of Queensmead's students.

Arriving to a red carpet reception, the atmosphere was buzzing with excitement as cameras flashed, capturing the glitz and glamour of Queensmead's sporting talent.

We had a captivating performance by one of our Year 9 students, Anja D, who set the stage for an unforgettable evening. Our master of ceremonies, Mr Luck took to the stage, welcoming and interviewing our former student and celebrity special guest, Tariq Lamptey, a professional footballer (pictured above, signing autographs). His inspiring stories served as a reminder of the importance of dedication, passion, and perseverance for achieving greatness.

The "Team of the Year" award went to the Year 9 Netball team: an exceptional squad, who have demonstrated the true spirit of unity with outstanding performances.

Individual accolades recognised students who have achieved outstanding success in their respective competitions, whilst the coveted "Sports Personality" award went to a phenomenal student in each year group, to reward their exceptional sporting prowess, both in school and out. We also celebrated remarkable contributions of student coaches; their guidance has played a pivotal role in nurturing and shaping Queensmead's athletes. The "P16 Sports Leaders" award was presented to an individual who exemplified exceptional mentorship, transforming athletes into champions. Congratulations **Demi M** for winning this and thank you for all you do for the PE department.

The Sporting Values Award acknowledges the efforts of students who embody the school's inclusive values in their participation in sports. The winner of this award has shown a strong commitment to the values throughout the year, in both their sports participation and interactions with others. Well done to **Tia B-T!**

As the event drew to a close, the room was filled with a sense of pride, accomplishment, and unity. The evening showcased the triumphs, sacrifices, and unwavering spirit of all our Queensmead athletes and coaches who have dedicated their time to sport. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the winners and express our gratitude to everyone who made this event possible. Let's continue to celebrate the magic of sport and the remarkable individuals who make it all possible!

Miss Reed, *Teacher of PE and Head of Year 7*



Key Stage 3: our high achievers

On Thursday 22nd June, Queensmead School played host to the stars of Key Stage 3 and their parents for the KS3 Awards Evening. Students across Years 7, 8 and 9 were nominated by their teachers for outstanding work, effort and attitude shown across the year in all subjects, and were awarded their certificates by Miss Johnston.

Each subject category was announced by the respective Head of Department, who all gave glowing reviews of the nominated students. Students receiving these awards felt incredibly honoured and grateful to have been chosen by their subject teachers, approaching Miss Johnston with a huge smile on their face.



As even more of a treat, we were honoured to have a musical interlude from Year 9, Anja D, who performed during a break for the audience with a beautiful song, accompanied by Mr Taylor on the guitar.



As the evening continued, not just academic excellence was rewarded; year group awards were distributed by the respective Heads of Years, and students' positive and resilient attitudes were recognised.

The event went off without a hitch and everyone - from the nominees to the staff and teachers present - had a fantastic evening. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces in the crowd of award winners, and to meet their parents - I was immensely proud of everyone and grateful that Queensmead was able to recognise their hard work and dedication.

Miss Yussuf, *Teacher of English*

The workshop of wonders...

Welcome to a round-up of the highlights from the Design Technology department from 2022-2023!

Our workshops have been buzzing with activity and we are incredibly proud of their outcomes. Well done everyone.

Key Stage 3: what has been happening from Year 7 to Year 9?

Year 7 have been creating a 'paper gripper' - a magnetic note holder. The students designed and constructed these structures out of timber-based materials, using a range of hand tools.



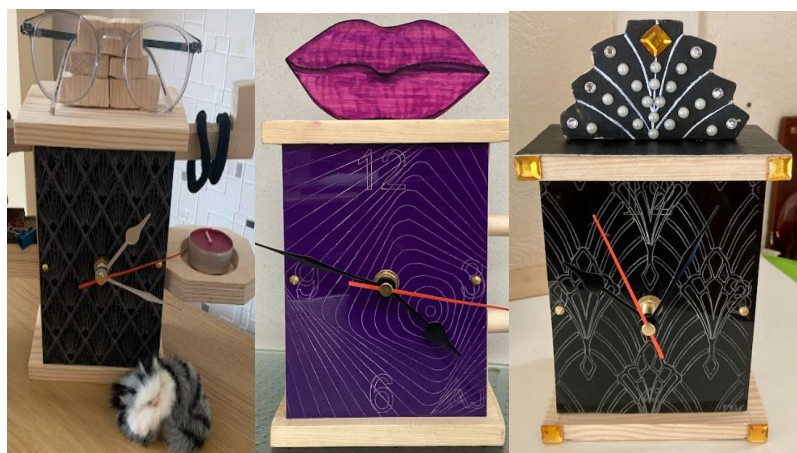
Mr Jivan, Head of DT

Year 8 have been creating a 'Steady Hand' game, a device that requires nerves of steel and true resilience! The aim is to control the metal loop, tracing the metal shape but without ever making contact with it. If you are unlucky enough to make contact, the light bulb flashes and a loud buzzing sound alerts everyone!

It has been a hugely successful project, developing and testing knowledge of electronic circuitry.



Year 9 have been making a clock, introducing them to the level of skill required for a GCSE course, studying 20th century designers for inspiration. The clock is multi-purpose, made from resistant materials. The focus is on the precision of cutting joints and using CAD CAM to design and laser cut the artwork. It is great to see them being used at home! Well done, designers.



And from our designers and engineers of the future...

Our Year 10 Design Technology students have been designing and creating USB lamps, inspired by a context of their choosing, in preparation for their coursework.

Meanwhile, our Engineering students have been applying their knowledge of materials, tools and processes to follow a set of working drawings to produce pencil holders using metals, polymers and timbers.



Our Year 11 students have been completing their coursework unit, producing some fantastic outcomes using a range of tools, machines and processes, demonstrating their creativity, flair and imagination. Alongside this, they have produced a portfolio of their design and development journey too.

It has been amazing to see all of these creative minds at work and to see how our students have been able to transform their fantastic ideas into reality.

Mr Jivan, *Head of DT*



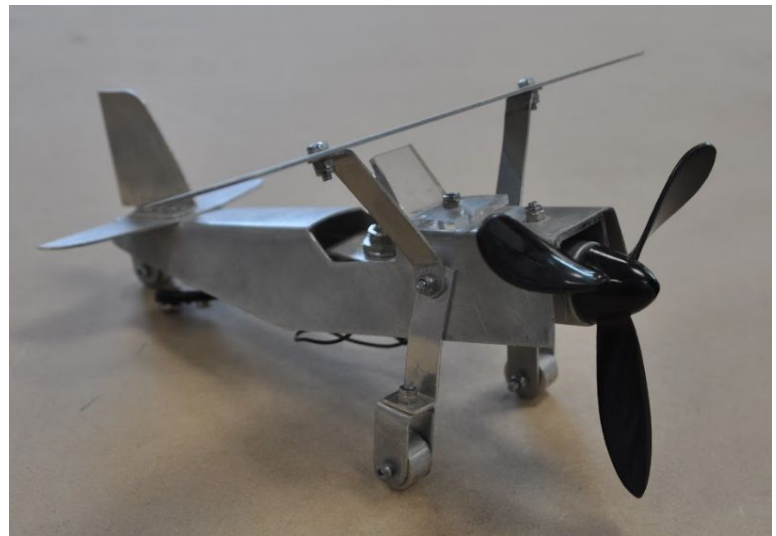
Post-16: the world of design and engineering

Queensmead's Post-16 Product Design and Engineering students have outdone themselves once again with their incredible creations using the skills they have nurtured over the past years. Their passion for the subject shines through their wonderful products.

The engineers continue to develop their computer-aided design skills using Solidworks and Circuit Wizard. They have completed a team exercise where they have had to demonstrate the delivery of engineering processes safely as a team, an important skill to have, in order to be successful in this field.



As a group, they manufactured a batch of planes, with each person in the group being tasked to manufacture a specific part, each of which will then be assembled at the end of the project to create the plane.



Students learned how to work effectively and efficiently as a team, developing communication and leadership skills. This unit introduced them to batch production and how it works in the real world.

Congratulations to our product designers, now you have completed your courses - you have produced some amazing solutions to improve the lives of your clients. Good luck in your future endeavours!

Mr Jivan, *Head of DT*

The 'Speak out' challenge: expressing our thoughts

On Monday 3rd July, twenty-two Year 10 students had the privilege of taking part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge. This is an annual event, taking the form of a workshop, lasting a whole day, which teaches students key skills of public speaking. For many, this day was critical to build their confidence for their English Language speaking assessment. The challenge itself has many wider benefits which will support them in their future careers, including helping them to express their own thoughts and opinions and guide them to acquire the ability to articulate these ideas with clarity.

Our students found the day highly engaging, and by the end of the day had crafted and delivered some insightful speeches to the rest of the room.

Mrs Miller, Teacher of English



Our Year 10 students share their experiences:

Kinga T

'We all introduced ourselves to the instructor and played a few speaking games to help our confidence and become comfortable with each other. The instructor made it really enjoyable and it meant we were much more confident with delivering a full speech to our fellow students, using the superb tips that we were given!'

Priyanshi S

'The atmosphere was established quickly to be supportive and this increased over the course of the day, making it a safe and comfortable space, where everyone was willing to listen and respond to others. Our instructor was impressive, making us more motivated to express our beliefs.'

Pranati A

'In my opinion, the Speak Out Challenge was a great experience because it was a fun way to develop our speaking skills and self-confidence. It gave us a chance to express our perspectives in a way we wouldn't normally!'

Jack Petchey's
"SPEAK OUT"
Challenge!

Inspiring us for the future

In an effort to broaden their horizons and explore potential career paths, a group of enthusiastic Year 10 students recently embarked on an eye-opening trip to Centrica, an industry leader in energy and services.

During their visit, the students actively participated in a series of engaging workshops that delved into the world of future careers. These sessions focused on various aspects, including setting goals and aspirations, honing programming and coding skills, digital marketing and gaining knowledge about building sustainable homes.



Seth, one of the students, shared his reflections on the trip, saying, "It helped me consider apprenticeships which I hadn't considered before."

Daniel, another student, articulated his thoughts, stating, "It has helped me understand a bit better about the jobs provided here, and the opportunities given has inspired me to go into programming."

For all of the students involved, this trip broadened their perspectives and opened their minds to a range of future career opportunities.

Mr Corish, *Teacher of English*



A 'brave new world': welcome to secondary school!

Every year, Queensmead hosts two induction days for local primary schools: the first day is for prospective Year 5 students, who visit for a day to take part in various exciting activities to give them an idea of what life at Queensmead is like; the second day is a crucial milestone for our future Year 7 students, helping them to transition to life at secondary school, learning about the Queensmead way.

Welcoming our prospective year 7

On Tuesday 4th July, we welcomed 240 Year 6 students to Queensmead. From over 30 different primary schools across the area, they will be joining us in September. The day was an important transition opportunity for the students to find out information about Queensmead and discover what their school days from September will be like.

It was lovely to see how excited the students were to be joining our school! They began the day by meeting the rest of the year group as they searched in the main hall to find their form group and form tutor.



Throughout the day, the students met their form tutor, and went on a tour of the school, assisted by current students, to ensure that no one got lost along the way! They then participated in taster lessons including Maths, Science, English and PE.





The Year 6 students were also able to visit the canteen at break times, experiencing the available hot food and snacks. The day was a huge success and it was a great opportunity for the Year 6 students to meet their peers before starting in September.

Miss Flanagan, *Teacher of Geography*



A fun-filled new experience

Alongside our Year 7 taster day, we were also excited to welcome Year 5 students - 260 students from Deanesfield, Field End, and Heathland schools visited us, with the aim of familiarising themselves with the secondary school environment.



The day began with a warm welcome from Miss Johnston, our Headteacher. Students were then assigned to various lessons, allowing them to experience different teachers for different subjects, whilst navigating a larger school site. The practical lessons were a highlight of the day, as students actively participated in PE, Design Technology, Music, and Science, discovering the joy of team sports, exploring their creativity through design, playing musical instruments, and conducting scientific experiments.

Each group was supported by two Year 8 students, responsible for guiding the group from lesson to lesson and answering the many questions about life at Queensmead as possible from our guests!

The day gave our Year 5 visitors a glimpse of the exciting journey ahead at secondary school and we look forward to welcoming all students to our Year 7 Open Evening on 20th September 2023.

Mr Fernandes, *Head of PE*

Exploring the trenches of WWI

The three day history trip in France and Belgium was an incredible experience, filled with so many lessons about WW1. We were even given the opportunity to visit a chocolate shop that has been around for more than 100 years! Mike McCarthy, our tour guide, led us around, inspiring us with his valuable knowledge. He described and explained the historical facts about each place, giving insightful answers to every question posed.

On the first day, we went from Calais straight to the first cemetery. Here we were given the chance to look around, respectfully observing the graves of many British soldiers. There were also historic bunkers, adjacent to the cemetery, from the battlefields, which we were able to explore, noting how cramped the soldiers would have been.

The next stop was Sanctuary Wood, a site of original trenches and tunnels dug and used by British soldiers. We were able to walk through the



trenches and go inside the tunnels. Our tour guide explained why the British dug the tunnels and specifically why the trenches were built.

Significantly, 1st July is the anniversary commemorating the beginning of the Battle of the Somme; we were privileged to witness The Last Post Ceremony at Menin Gate, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that was truly emotional to observe. The school had brought a poppy wreath and two students laid it on the memorial. There was music and moments of silence for those who had sacrificed their lives for their country. Our final day was in France and we visited the underground museum (Musee Somme 1916), where we saw further tunnels, displaying the weapons, clothing and first aid that were used in the war.

I had a fantastic time on this trip, making many unforgettable memories. Thank you to Mr O'Reilly for organising the trip, along with Mr Firth, Mr Muttukumaru, Miss Hornal and Miss Moran. If ever this trip happens again I encourage everyone to attend as I had a truly wonderful time!

Angelise S, Year 12 student



Mathematicians take over

We were thrilled that so many of our students participated in this year's prestigious mathematical competition - the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. Now an annual event, this competition serves as a beacon for mathematical excellence, fostering a spirit of curiosity, problem-solving, and intellectual growth.



The first round of the competition, held in schools nationwide, offers a platform for students to tackle an array of thought-provoking questions, testing them to apply their mathematical knowledge, logical reasoning, and creative thinking. Participants demonstrated their ability to apply mathematical concepts to real-world scenarios, showcasing their problem-solving ingenuity.



Following success in the first round, the highest-performing students were invited to participate in the Junior Kangaroo, a test which pushes the boundaries of mathematical ability. This year, there was an outstanding display of talent and resilience from exceptional individuals, as they tackled complex problems.



Our winners demonstrated exceptional aptitude and dedication, and they deserve special recognition for their remarkable achievements.



As we conclude this year, we encourage all participants to continue their mathematical journey, to seek new challenges and opportunities to grow, and remember that mathematics is not just about numbers and equations - it is a gateway to logical thinking, problem-solving, and critical reasoning skills which will serve you well in all aspects of life.

Congratulations to all participants, and thank you for making the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge a resounding success. We look forward to witnessing more exceptional mathematical achievements in the future.

Miss Karadia, *Teacher of Maths*

Zooming around the race tracks: Year 7 and Year 8 compete for gold!

On Wednesday 7th June, twenty-two Year 7 and 8 students travelled to the Uxbridge stadium to compete in a variety of athletic events.

Our Queensmead students performed incredibly well, many of them achieving 1st, 2nd or 3rd in their sporting events.

Huge congratulations to all of the students who participated in the competition!

Miss Carter, *Teacher of PE*



Lily G: came 3rd in the 1500m



Ismail J: came 3rd in shot put



Isabella C: came 2nd in the 800m and 3rd in the long jump



Sebastian M: came 2nd in the 1500m



Sofija D: came 1st in javelin

Finishing the year with a final flourish

On Tuesday 11th July, we celebrated the end of the academic year with a Summer Concert, a musical extravaganza with performances from students across all year groups, ending with a rendition of, 'Don't look back in anger' by Oasis, from the staff band.

We were delighted to welcome parents, staff and governors to enjoy the event, and it was both humbling and inspiring to see so many students showcasing their musical talents. The pieces ranged from classical piano compositions to 90s rock, demonstrating such a range of instrumental and vocal skill.

We are very much looking forward to the Christmas Concert in the autumn term and hope that you can join us.

Mr Taylor, *Head of Performing Arts*

