



Newsletter



Volume 6

July 2024

Cycling: the quest for a 'golden lock'!

As part of the TFL Travel for Life campaign, for the last three years, Queensmead has held a competition for all students who cycle or scoot to school, giving them a chance to win a 'biker's breakfast' voucher.

Each morning one of our TfL Pioneers will go to the bike shed and pick out a bike or scooter, placing the golden lock on the bike or scooter they have chosen.



We would like to see more students cycling and walking to school, as cycling holds so many benefits for our young people, which is why the TfL Pioneers came up with this novel idea to try and encourage students to try a new - and more environmentally-friendly - way to get to school. And it has been successful this year - six more students now cycle to school! Hopefully, as we continue this competition, more and more students will feel encouraged and motivated to cycle!



Mrs Oakley, Senior Cover Supervisor and Environmental Officer

Bringing our designs to life

What an incredible year it has been in the Design Technology department!

As we wrap up the summer term, let's take a moment to reflect on all the amazing achievements and projects our students have accomplished...

In Key Stage 3

Year 7

Our youngest students have been 'Exploring Materials and Workshop Tools' this year, delving into the vast world of materials and learning how to use workshop tools safely and skilfully, sparking their creativity and developing hands-on skills as they embark on their DT journey.

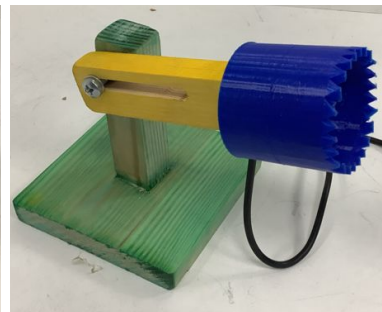
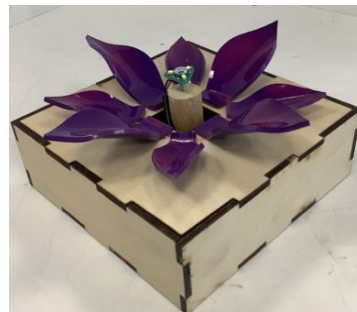


Year 8

This year, Year 8 have immersed themselves in the world of nature and biomimicry, working with metals, timbers, using CAD (computer-aided design) and CAM (computer-aided manufacturing) technologies to bring innovative designs to life.

Year 9

Year 9 students had the opportunity to experience Engineering and Graphics lessons to help them make informed option choices about possible future pathways.



Year 10

Our Year 10 students have made significant progress on their GCSE journey; they are mastering their use of smart materials, CAM technologies (like laser-cutting) and 3D printing, whilst honing their design skills through digital and analogue mediums.

Year 12

We are thrilled to announce our collaboration with Deanesfield School on "Engaging with Literacy", (previously featured in our February edition) has been a success. Our Product Design students have designed chairs for this project, promoting creativity and community engagement.



What an incredible year! Thank you to our dedicated staff, talented students, and supportive community for making this year exceptional. Stay inspired!

Mr Jivan, Head of Design Technology

Supporting the world around us

The Charity Committee has had a great year raising over £1000 for different charities whilst also raising awareness about a range of social issues, including Hillingdon Food Bank, Cancer Research and Comic Relief.

One such event, during the Summer Term, was the school's World Earth Day celebrations. The Charity committee supported the celebrations and improved students' understanding of environmental issues through a form quiz, which was won by 9G.



Most recently, at the fantastic school production of *Matilda*, students from the committee served refreshments to the audience, asking for a voluntary donation towards the National Association of Youth Theatres, a charity which supports over 1,300 youth theatres across the UK.



**National Association of
Youth Theatres**

Also, this term, it is International Friendship Day. The UN created International Day of Friendship in 2011, to promote unity across cultures and different groups.

At Queensmead, to mark this day, we are running an art competition. Students can enter a piece of art, in a medium of their own choice, to represent friendship. We will display the entries and the winner will receive a prize. Also, during the last week of term, there will be a special form time session, considering what it means to be a good friend, with a friendship gift sale on Tuesday 16th July - we sold small gifts that students can purchase to say 'thank you' to a friend, with all proceeds going to UNICEF.



Looking ahead to the new academic year, we will be starting off with a collection for Hillingdon Food Bank and increasing students' understanding of the role they play in our local community.

But, for now, we would like to thank all the students and parents for the support they have shown the events across the year. Have a lovely summer break.

Miss Hornal, *Teacher of History and Charities Coordinator*



A warm welcome: our new Year 7s come to visit us

Tuesday 2nd July marks a day that our new Year 7 students will never forget: it was the day that they began their journey through secondary school as they came to spend an induction day at Queensmead!

It's always lovely to see them as they walk into the main hall, eagerly awaiting (if a little nervous!) to see what their lives at Queensmead will bring...

Their day began with a talk from both Miss Johnston and their new Head of Year, Miss Logeswaran, followed by time spent with their new form tutors, getting to know them and their new form group. Then, the students were taken on a tour around the school. There were so many questions - 'why is the school so big??' and 'what if we get lost!?' - while teachers reassured, to help them calm their nerves.



Not only did they have these chances to spend time with prospective friends and fellow students, but they also had the opportunity to experience what it will be like to be a student at Queensmead. They had four taster lessons, which they said they thoroughly enjoyed! The English department gave them a chance to use various clues to solve a murder mystery, while they successfully solved some difficult problems in Maths.



After refuelling at lunch, they were able to use all of their energy in some fun-filled sports activities during a PE lesson. Last of all - and this is definitely the lesson most of my form were raving about - they became scientists and had the exciting chance to learn about - and safely use! - Bunsen burners. Nothing was set on fire and they completed the experiment successfully!



At the end of the day, 16 students received a 'Queensmead Value Award' for their excellent participation on the day.

What a great day - we are all looking forward to welcoming them to our school officially in September!

Year 10 explore the depths of UK rivers

On Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd July, Year 10 Geographers went to River Tillingbourne, in Dorking, to carry out their physical geography fieldwork.

They began their day with a classroom session at Juniper Hall Field Study Centre, where they learnt about the area and why some areas are at risk of flooding. This session provided them with the knowledge required to go exploring in the rivers safely.

After their study session, they visited two different sites across River Tillingbourne to carry out their fieldwork, applying their knowledge in a practical manner.



The first location was Crossways Farm, where there were horses grazing behind the river, and the second location was Abinger Hammer, which had a cricket ground beside it.



The students used a variety of equipment to measure the width, depth and velocity of the river and so were able to prove their hypotheses. Despite the slightly rainy couple of days, the fieldwork was an overall success!



Miss Logeswaran, *Teacher of Geography*

Year 10 'Speak Out' challenge: finding our voices

On Wednesday 3rd July, a group of thirty Year 10 students had the opportunity to take part in the annual Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' Challenge. The challenge is a fantastic way for students to build their confidence in speaking and listening, an important skill that will support their progression throughout their school journey and their careers.

Throughout the school day students completed an interactive and engaging workshop led by one of Jack Petchey's experts, Laura, who was an enthusiastic and lively speaker ready to share her knowledge with our keen students! Our students were very responsive towards her showing a great amount of respect and appreciation.

Their day began by completing a series of speaking and listening activities to get them into the right mindset and raise their confidence, through the form of games. She also taught them the core ideas relating to speaking and listening.



To end the day, using the skills and knowledge they had learnt, the Year 10s wrote a speech and they all performed incredibly well. One student, who participated in the workshop, stated: *"There were a range of topics discussed including volunteering, social media and AI - it was amazing to see the different perspectives of my classmates. The experience was invaluable and really helped increase my confidence and effectiveness when delivering a speech."* (Sruthy S, Year 10 student)

Laura, our leader, had very positive feedback, stating that they were one of the best groups of students that she had lead, even suggesting that they would be capable of participating in bigger competitions held by the Jack Petchey Foundation! A huge well done to our fantastic students.

Mrs Bamrah, *Teacher of English*



Our biggest sports event of the year!

On July 3rd and 4th, Queensmead School was buzzing with excitement as students from Years 7 through 10 participated in our annual Sports' Day extravaganza. The event showcased the incredible athletic talent and team spirit of our students across a variety of sports.

The two-day event featured a diverse range of activities, including athletics, handball, football, volleyball, and basketball, providing students with ample opportunities to demonstrate their skills and sportsmanship.

Despite the dreary weather on the first day of the event, our students showed resilience and determination to keep going, competing against each other to gain that winning title for their forms.



Scan the QR code above to view next year's extra-curricular timetable



After intense competition and remarkable displays of athleticism, the following form groups were crowned winners:

- Year 7: 7H
- Year 8: 8C
- Year 9: 9G
- Year 10: 10E

Sports' Day is not just about winning, however, it is a celebration of physical activity, teamwork, and school spirit. Congratulations to all participants for their enthusiasm and sportsmanship. Special thanks go out to our dedicated PE department, as well as all Post 16 students and staff members who contributed to making this year's Sports' Day a resounding success.

Mr Fernandes, Head of PE

KS3 Awards: celebrating our students' success

Following on from the success of Sports' Day, it was straight onto the Key Stage 3 Awards Event for some of our Key Stage 3 students on Thursday 4th July. This event recognised the talent, hard work and the fulfilment of our school's values amongst our Year 7 to 9 students.

There was a variety of awards, including the Head Teacher's, Governor's, and Head of Year awards, as well as subject awards, for those outstanding students that consistently go above and beyond. This event is about recognising and rewarding their engagement, dedication and participation throughout this academic year.

The event also involved a number of musical performances, starting with an excellent performance by the school's *Matilda* cast, followed by a performance of an all-time favourite, 'Hey Jude', by our Post 16 students, Ragav and Samuel, finally ending with a beautiful musical piece played by a talented Year 7 violinist, Shruti A, accompanied by Mr Lisi.



This celebration event acknowledged the sheer talent and hardwork the students have to offer, with captivating musical performances to further demonstrate the diversity of potential. This also provided an opportunity to socialise, meeting the parents and teachers who are involved behind the scenes, to act as supporting and encouraging role models, making this a truly rewarding and memorable experience!

Once again a huge congratulations to all the students that received the awards. They were all well-deserved, highlighting the resilience and dedication displayed by all.

The P16 values team



Lights, camera, action: bringing the West End to Queensmead

After months and months of preparation, we were absolutely delighted with the performances our students presented for our production of Roald Dahl's *Matilda the Musical JR*.

The students performed an afternoon matinee performance for Year 6 students from Deanesfield Primary school on Monday 8th July. The audience loved the production and it was reported that, *'The show of Matilda at Queensmead was like watching a show on New York's Broadway - it was sensational'* and *'We thought that the Queensmead Matilda production was amazzzzing!'*, which is high praise indeed!

We are extremely proud of all the progress the students have made across the rehearsals and in the lead up to the final performances.



Following their highly successful matinee performance to Deanesfield Primary school, they then went on to deliver a superb performance to an audience of over 200 people on the evening of Tuesday 9th July, which was also really well-received by all. The students' professionalism during the production was excellent; they worked together as one big team, problem solving and supporting each other throughout.

Thanks to all the staff that were involved in this production - it was a big team effort which provided our students with a fantastic opportunity. We are immensely proud of the performance they put together and we look forward to working on our next production in the next academic year. We hope to see you all there for the next curtain call!

Mr Taylor, *Head of Performing Arts*



Stepping up to Post 16: our induction day

On Monday 1st July, we welcomed many prospective Year 12s to Queensmead for their Post 16 Induction Day. Many of these students have just completed their GCSE examinations and are now eager to take the next step; we are pleased that so many are planning to return to us in September for their Post 16 studies. Some new students also joined us, from local secondary schools. All had the opportunity to attend taster lessons in their chosen subjects, whilst also attending introductory sessions about Post 16 life and problem solving, all aimed at supporting them for the step up in September. We have provided bridging work to complete between now and September, helping students prepare for the coming months - a link can be found on the Post 16 page of the school website.

The day was well-attended, our students were enthusiastic and the feedback from staff was extremely positive. Now, they can look forward to a relaxing summer before returning on Thursday 22nd August for GCSE results day and Post 16 enrolment. We look forward to seeing many of them back studying with us from Tuesday 3rd September.

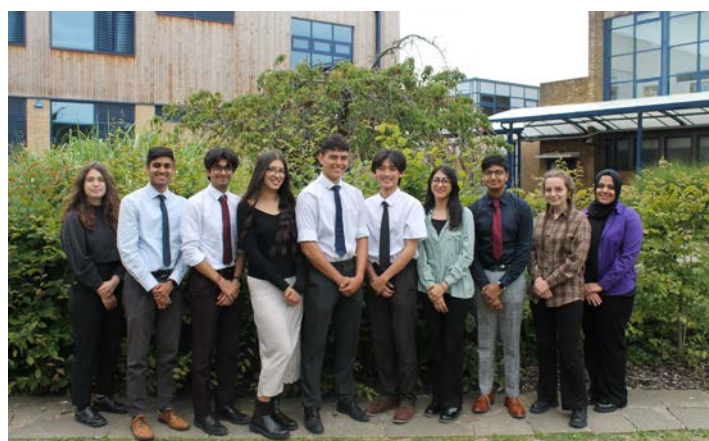
Mr Briggs, *Head of Post 16*

Introducing the new Post 16 'Student Leadership Group'

We recently appointed our new 'Student Leadership Group', replacing our outgoing Year 13s, who worked so hard throughout the year to provide opportunities for our school community and represented the school at an array of different events and occasions.

The 10 students were selected following a thorough application and interview process. With over 30 applicants, it was an exceptionally strong field, however our decisions were made based on their ideas and initiative. This will make them great student leaders as they take a role in planning school events and representing the school across the next academic year.

A huge congratulations and good luck to Yllka, Shreyas, Shivam, Hannah, Nathaniel, Ho-Pui, Trisha, Raghav, Alana and Zahra!



Learning how to succeed in the world of business

A group of Queensmead's A level students were given the opportunity to attend a fantastic day at the company, Shell, to help us explore our future career options. We were provided with an idea about how Shell runs as a company, what their main objectives are and what their values and beliefs are, all of which helps us consider them as a potential company to apply to, for an apprenticeship.

The day started with an icebreaker to help us get to know the people we would be with for the day, followed by a session on AGILE principles. These are a guide for how companies can influence and focus on customer satisfaction. They illustrated this by showing a Shell employee's failed four-year project due to poor customer communication, highlighting the importance of these principles. We then participated in a challenging project management exercise, with a £2,000,000 budget, learning about opportunity costs in business. This taught us the importance of managing finances effectively in the business world.



After this activity, we toured Shell's trading floor, observing modern trading techniques and the impact of globalisation, and engaged in a stock prediction exercise highlighting the speculative nature of trading. Finally, post-lunch, we met with various members of the team; a project manager, a software developer, and a business analyst. They each explained their roles and the importance of communication, coding, and interpersonal skills in a large corporation, like Shell.

Overall, we were very happy with the experience and are immensely grateful for the opportunity as it provided us, giving clarity on potential future careers, particularly when pursuing a versatile role linking finance and IT. The experience has added value to our CV making us more appealing to potential employers. The Shell workers were considerate, offering insights into desirable employee qualities beyond grades, which companies look for in applicants.



Fortune and Vaishal, Year 12 students

Fighting for justice for innocent victims

On Friday 5th July, our A level Law class had the privilege of attending an insightful law trip. We travelled into Central London to visit a commercial law court called The Rolls building. The Rolls Building is the largest specialist centre that deals with financial, business and property law, making it an excellent place to visit to support our studies.

Whilst there we met a head judge who told us how to get into law and the struggles she faced becoming first a lawyer and then a judge. Luckily, we had the chance to ask her lots of questions that gave us an insight into the difficulties, but also the importance of the law system. It was inspiring to hear how even judges have had so many difficulties in their lives but are so resilient and determined that they reached their goals, despite obstacles.



Although we were given a lot of information throughout the day, the most exciting part of the day was where we could act out a mock trial. This involved being split into three teams with three roles: the defendant, claimant and judges. The defendant's role was arguing that their business did not infringe the copyright of the claimant hence the claimant fighting back, arguing that in fact they did. Finally the judges holding the ultimate power would decide who was guilty and what their punishment would be. In this case, punishment was not necessary as our judges found that the defendant was not liable for copying the claimant. The mock trial gave us a short snippet of how much preparation is needed for individual cases.

I believe that everyone worked to the best of their ability which led to an enjoyable and memorable experience. It was an experience that helped me value and appreciate the hard work that goes into working for the justice system and I would recommend future students attending the trip.

Ross E, Year 12 student

Queensmead's musicians liven up 'Picnic in the Park'

On Saturday 29th June a number of our students performed at the first 'Picnic in the Park' hosted by Hillingdon council since Covid. This project was in collaboration with the Hillingdon Music Service, involving various schools and groups performing music, drama and dance. It was a fun-filled day for families and friends to help young people appreciate the value of the Arts.

All of our students did incredibly well, showcasing their musical talents and performing a range of songs, which both the crowd and the Mayor enjoyed immensely.

Our Year 12 band performed energetic renditions of 'Someday' by The Strokes, and 'I wanna hold your hand', by The Beatles.



Our Year 9 band continued the rock 'n' roll vibe, with an incredibly confident rendition of 'R U Mine?' by the Arctic Monkeys.



Our youngest musicians in the school, the Year 7 duo, softened the tone a little, performing a heartwarming rendition of 'Lean on me' by Bill Withers.



It was an excellent opportunity for our students to showcase their talents to their family, friends and their Mayor, and they all definitely rocked the stage with their love and passion for music. They would love to perform at such an exciting event again sometime!

Mr Taylor, Head of Performing Arts

Exploring world history

On 11 July, 15 students accompanied by 3 members of staff attended a rewards trip to the British Museum as part of their EAL development (English as an additional language) and enrichment. Some of our newest students had never travelled on the underground nor visited a museum in London before.

The British Museum is dedicated to human history, art and culture. It is the largest museum in the world, with eight million works documenting the story of human beginnings from start to present. As the museum holds such a vast collection, we had to be selective over which of the amazing artefacts we wanted to see.

Our group were in awe of the larger and impressive Egyptian, Greek and Roman sculptures, including the bust of Ramses the Great, part of a larger statue that once sat in Egypt.



Its transportation from Egypt is believed to have inspired Shelley's famous sonnet 'Ozymandias'. Of course everyone had their own personal favourites.

Miss Behan, EAL Coordinator



Some of our students account their highlights of the trip:

The trip was enjoyable because I learned new stuff about history and I spent a fun time with my friends. In the museum we learned about Greece and Roman history. My favourite part of the museum was Islamic History. (Kamal Y7)

The British museum is fun to visit. There are a lot of statues, ancient art and artefacts organised by countries and continents. My favourite part of the museum was the Enlightenment gallery, because there were a lot of interesting statues displayed in a large library. It made me feel like I was back in the enlightenment era. (Ava Y8)

Going to the museum yesterday was fun and interesting. This was my first trip in the UK. In the museum there are beautiful paintings, small and tall, beautiful stone statues and some sparkling necklaces. (Thanh Y9)

I think the museum trip was a joy. It was the first time I spent time with teachers and classmates outside of school and it felt very special. In the museum, we saw many cultural relics together, such as books, jewellery, tableware, statues and stones with inscriptions, etc. I liked some of the smaller objects very much. There are many details on those small objects. I look at them and imagine the actions and thoughts of people in the past when making them. (Minghui Y9)

This was my first trip to a museum in London, so I was very excited. The most impressive items for me were the ancient books, armour, swords and weapons. It was very interesting to read the information about these artefacts and discuss them with my friends. (Rostyslav Y10)