



Newsletter



Volume 5

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Promoting the Importance of Road Safety

On the 19th April, a company called The Riot Act came into school to perform a Road Safety play to Year 7.

The Riot Act are an organisation that runs live performances at various schools. They work with schools to develop entirely unique pieces of theatre or they adapt existing works, in order to provide theatrical interventions and educational films covering a huge variety of key issues that young people face today.

The group came in to provide an interactive and engaging performance regarding the importance of road safety, promoting it in an innovative way.

This powerful and engaging drama demonstrates safe behaviour around roads to students at a critical age, highlighting the importance of recognising and understanding how peer influence affects our choices and behaviour and how to deal with it.



Our students found the show very engaging, as it allowed them to understand why it's so important to stay safe on our roads. Feedback from the Year 7 students was incredibly positive; they commented on how relatable the actors were for the students.

This was the second year this company performed at Queensmead and we hope to see them again next year.

Mrs Headland, OLC Supervisor

THE RIOT ACT



Our STARS Ambassadors secure another win!

Queensmead's STARS Ambassadors have been very successful in their pitch to a panel from Hillingdon Council. This group of students have worked incredibly hard, cooperating as a group to plan and create their presentation on promoting the importance of walking or cycling to school to their fellow students.

Cycling and walking is a much more efficient and eco-friendly way to travel. In addition, their pitch sought to encourage parents to park 10 minutes away from school to ease congestion outside our school gates.

The panel of judges were very impressed and awarded the Ambassadors a huge £700 for their amazing success! Their reward will be spent on pedometers, cycling equipment and a 'Bikers Breakfast' for students who have The Golden Lock on their bikes (this is a TfL initiative to encourage pupils to ride their bikes to school - we surprise a student with a 'golden lock' on their bike and they collect a prize).

Our super ambassadors are well on their way to helping our Queensmead students become much more eco-friendly to avoid causing further damage to the environment!



But, our celebrations for our ambassadors certainly don't stop there! We would like to say a huge congratulations to Swara Daule in 7g, for keeping our students safe and winning the Road Safety Poster Competition. Also, our congratulations go to Igor Tomasiak in 7h, for cycling to school, therefore becoming the first winner of our Golden Lock.

Lastly, but by no means least, Queensmead have won the TFL Stars Regional Award!

A huge well done for all of these achievements and we hope to have more and more to celebrate over the year!

Mrs Oakley and Mrs Headland, *OLC Supervisors*



Building the confidence to speak out!

Jack Petchey's "SPEAK OUT" Challenge!

Jack Petchey's 'Speak Out' Challenge is a programme managed by Speakers Trust, supported and funded by the Jack Petchey Foundation. They aim to amplify young people's voices by building confidence, developing skills and creating platforms for young people to share their stories and ideas. This will not only empower the individual speaking but also to inspire and motivate young people to speak confidently in public.

A group of students across 20 schools were awarded a Jack Petchey Foundation Achievement Award - they received a medallion, along with a framed certificate and a cheque for £200!

Numerous Queensmead students won this award this year and below is an account of the evening of a Year 11 student who won:

"It was such a beautiful evening to see what everyone did to receive this noble award, and it was an honour to be presented with the Jack Petchey Award. I received it because my position on school council has allowed me to make a difference in the school. I also designed a ukulele specifically for the deaf so that deaf people can feel more supported when playing the instrument, which is why I was privileged to receive this prestigious award."

Also, it was incredibly heartwarming to see everyone win an award for such a well-deserved reason, and touching to see their unconditional kindness recognized."

Yllka L, Year 11 student



Celebrations galore with our talented Lego Masters this month!

We haven't had quite as many competitions to include this half term, but the few that we have had have helped us to celebrate two of the biggest events of the year! Read on to find out how they marked these important events using Lego!

Week 1

The month of May marked a very significant royal event which was a wonderful experience for everyone watching: King Charles' coronation!

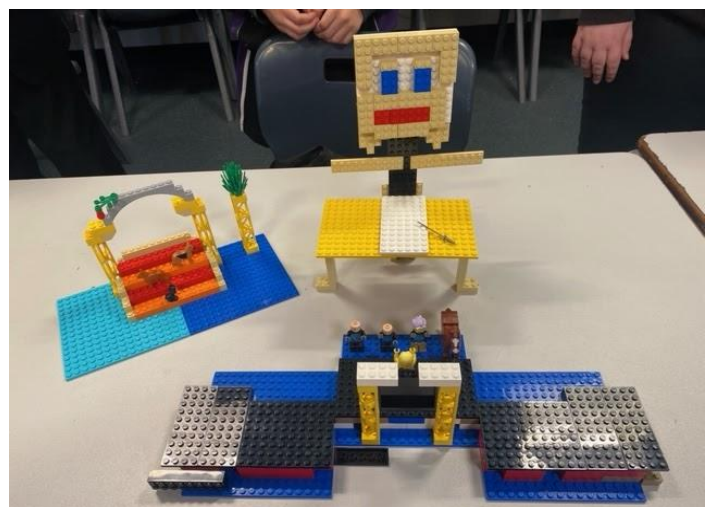
Our Lego masters created some lovely regal builds to celebrate, with some of them portraying the ceremony of him being crowned, while some depicted the peaceful parade as the crowds watched our new King through the streets of the City of London. Our groups of creators definitely captured the day perfectly using Lego.



Week 2

Mrs Morrissey, *Teacher of Maths*

The second event that our Lego builders experimented with was the much louder and diverse Eurovision contest! Saturday 13th May was the day that performers from all over Europe came together to compete for the winning title. Our groups used Lego to create some amazing stages and some had a go at creating models of the amazing performers themselves. Such a triumph for all of the students!



Exploring the wonderful world of nature

On Monday 24th April, my friends and I took part in our training for the Duke of Edinburgh. This involved camping, cooking and hiking for a duration of 3 days.

On our first day, we learnt how to light trangias, put up tents, read maps and put up survival tents. It was extremely difficult having to read maps and we got lost several times during the process because it was new to us. Where was Google Maps when we needed it the most?!

One of the most difficult parts of the expedition was the incredible amount of walking we had to do. No one could have prepared me for the 10km trek we did on the first day. Trudging through mud, climbing over the stiles and dragging ourselves uphill - this would accurately summarise our trip! Needless to say, waddling back to a full day of school the next day was



quite the challenge!

However, despite how difficult the expedition was, we had an incredible time and I highly recommend completing this experience with your friends. Learning to be independent and having to fend for myself out in the wilderness was liberating and the whole experience made me feel much more confident and resilient.

Aaraniya P, Year 10 student



Getting in our daily 10k steps!

Every year Queensmead holds a pedometer challenge, where students and teachers track their daily steps and aim to get the highest number to outdo their competitors! This year has been a real success with more students and teachers signing up.

Being able to run these challenges for the school is all thanks to the STARS council, who funded this project.

And for the pedometer challenge - Miss Reed has done it again, regaining her title; for the last five years nobody has been able to beat her, and more teachers sign up and try to take the title away from her.



The PE department have smashed it this year with all three winning members of staff from that department winning the top places in the pedometer challenge:

- 1ST place - Miss Reed
- 2nd place - Miss Curley
- 3rd place - Mr Harwood.

Students who won are:

- 1st place - Seb M 7h
- 2ND place - Simon C 7h
- 3rd place - Isabella C 7d

Our cycle champion is Grant I 7h

Thank you for all who took part, as it really does create a lovely atmosphere around the school.

Mrs Oakley, OLC Cover Supervisor



Baking in support of vital research

On Thursday 18th May, the charity committee and I organised a bake sale to help raise money for Cancer Research. I will be running a 10KM Race for Life on Saturday 3rd June and the money raised will go towards a charity fund I believe to be incredibly important.

Race for Life is Cancer Research UK's biggest series of fundraising events. Taking place across the UK, the events include 3k, 5k and 10k routes and the organisation has grown tremendously - they run hundreds of events across the country, raising over £940 million towards beating cancer just over the last quarter of a century.



The day of the bake sale was a lovely day - both the weather and the buzz around the playground was superb! Queensmead's charity committee was absolutely brilliant, bringing in lots of yummy bakes and efficiently setting up and running the bake sale. They were full of excitement and when the rush of students died down, they immediately rushed around the playground to drum up more business for the sales. The group are little entrepreneurs in the making!

All of that hard work definitely paid off as the school raised £160 for this important cause! Thank you to the charity committee, Mr Corish and Miss Hornal for all of your help in making this event happen.

Mrs Bamrah, *Teacher of English*



Climbing the summits

During the Easter Holidays, a group of Year 9 and 10 students visited Sicily on a Geography trip to view some of the volcanoes we have been learning about. On the first day we visited Giardini-Naxos, a beautiful beach with sand as soft as silk with amazing views of the surrounding mountains.

The next day we went to Zafferana and the top of Mount Etna (the highlight of the trip). At Zafferana we climbed a colossal solidified lava flow. It was absolutely huge, extending from the top of the volcano all the way to the bottom. The view was quite extraordinary and it was a privilege to have witnessed it. After, we took a coach to the summit of Mount Etna. It was noticeably colder than the height of the visitor centre but we were well-prepared. Our tour guide walked us to the very edge of the mountain, providing an astounding view of the East coast of Sicily. We could not get right up to the edge of the main crater as it was too dangerous but we still had a very close view, watching smoke billowing from it and hot material running down the side.

On the third day we went to see another volcano. We were there to see a volcano called Vulcano but as it was showing signs of activity we couldn't travel right to the top. You didn't have to be told that it was active as you could smell the sulfur dioxide that it produced - it reeked of rotten eggs all over the port. Nevertheless we walked with our guide to an island that is connected to Vulcano by volcanic rock and sand, forming a black beach, on which we had lunch, after walking up and around a smaller, dormant volcano called Vulcanello. Although it had trees growing in its crater, it still had volcanic ash littered around it.

Our last day consisted of a drive to a famous natural gorge. The rain from the night meant it was fresh and the views never ceased to amaze as we were surrounded by lush green mountains. We were then taken down to the gorge and it was a surreal sight, fast flowing water down a steep cliff lined with impressive hexagonal basalt columns. After we'd seen that, we drove to our final destination, Taormina, where we visited an ancient theatre and saw spectacular views of the town and coastline.

It was an absolutely amazing trip and experience. I'm very pleased I had the opportunity to go.

Kaspian B, Year 10 student

