



Newsletter



Volume 1

October 2023

Preparing Year 11 for their big year!

On Wednesday 11th October, a company called 'Positively You' visited Queensmead, to run a workshop for our year group (Year 11). They came to introduce us to strategies and tips to help us prepare for our GCSE exams at the end of the year. The company aims to motivate young people, encouraging resilience, and promoting the wellbeing of Year 11 students, by advising about time-management and organisation skills when revising alongside heavy workloads.



During the workshop, we practised study techniques, helping us to develop different ways of revising for our GCSEs. For example, we learnt how efficient mind maps are to help our long term memory and we discovered that when we draw pictures in different colours, it helps us memorise notes as it creates visual imagery that imprint in our minds. The strategies make revision more methodical and useful. The workshop also taught us how quickly we can remember complex information, with the right techniques. We made revision timetables, helping us to prioritise and be organised. By calculating how we usually spend our time, we understood how to be more systematic when balancing revision and free time.

Prasathini S-B and Clarice A, Year 11 Students



An evening to remember

On the 20th September, we opened our doors to the local community, welcoming prospective Year 7 students and their families to join us for the evening, getting a taste of what Queensmead is like.

We are very proud of our curriculum offer, which enables each child to tailor their education to match their interests and skills, whilst also pushing them to achieve their best. And every department pulled out all the stops to showcase what we do - from origami in Religious Studies, celebrating an ancient Japanese legend, to rainbow fruit salads in Food; from creating a personalised key ring in DT, to solving the life-sized Cluedo in English... there was something for everyone to get involved with, whether it was sampling a freshly baked biscuit or unravelling a mystery.



And, despite the weather doing its best to dampen our spirits, both staff and students exemplified our school value of resilience. Torrential rain poured down throughout the evening, but, as ever, our students were our best ambassadors; from all years, students volunteered to shelter visitors under umbrellas against the rain, guiding them across the site and around the puddles, and helping to run activities in the different departments.

A huge thank you to everyone for their efforts in preparing for the evening and on the night itself.

Miss Scott, Assistant head teacher



Going for gold: keeping the school green

Another proud moment for our students! The STARS (Sustainable Travel: Active, Responsible, Safe) school travel plan accreditation has awarded Queensmead STARS ambassadors a gold award. Congratulations to our Year 8 ambassadors for all their hard work last year on promoting safer school travel.

We will be working hard again this year to put into place all the great ideas our students have come up with to continue making our school a greener place. Our first task this year will be road safety; we will be running assemblies to help spread awareness and to advise our new Year 7s about ways they can ensure that they stay safe on the roads.

Also, we will be holding our fantastic walking challenge, where staff and students compete against each other to achieve the greatest number of steps. We have been running this challenge for the past nine years and it has always been a huge success.

Lastly, our ambassadors will be looking at Park and Stride, as we would like to ease the congestion around our school gates. Not only will this make the



entrance safer for students, but it will be a beneficial solution for parents and local residents.

We congratulate the following students for their hard work and commitment - they truly deserve this award!

- Ernest S
- Alayna K
- Andres P
- Inaaya D
- Sara D-G
- Simon C
- Cruz D-O 8e

I look forward to another great year working with this fantastic group of students.

Mrs Oakley, Environmental Officer



To infinity and beyond!

On September 12th 2023, Queensmead School embarked on an astronomical journey like never before. Our Year 13 students participated in the exhilarating 'Space to Learn' Workshop, which was a resounding success, igniting a passion for space exploration in their young minds.

The workshop took students on an unforgettable voyage through the cosmos, involving an opportunity to design and launch their very own flying rockets - each one certainly took to the sky in a dramatic fashion!

Students were also able to feel and hold chunks of real asteroids and spacecraft in their hands. In fact, one of the pieces of rock on display was a fragment of the asteroid that killed the dinosaurs! These ancient remnants from our solar system's birth provided an authentic connection to the universe's history. The students marvelled at the idea that the very substances they held had journeyed through space for billions of years before landing on Earth.



However, the excitement didn't stop there. The students also had the incredible chance to try on a genuine spacesuit, the same kind worn by astronauts on their missions beyond Earth's atmosphere. As they suited up, they learned about the critical role of the spacesuit in ensuring the safety and survival of astronauts in the harsh environment of space.

The Space to Learn Workshop was not just about fun and excitement; it was a valuable educational experience. Through hands-on activities, students gained insights into the wonders of our universe and the importance of space exploration, sparking their curiosity and fostering a deeper interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

A huge thank you to the team for providing an amazing experience for Queensmead's physicists.



Mr Hundal, *Teacher of Maths and Physics*

Let the Lego Wars begin - again!

Due to its immense success last year, the Lego club has resumed its duty; we have restarted the competition!

And this year, the students are back, with even more determination, competitive spirit and skill. Some of the builds created so far have demonstrated so much progress, but we can guarantee they are only going to get better and better over the year. Even though we have new recruits, the standards are still incredibly high!

Week 1

Mrs Morrissey, *Teacher of Maths*

We kicked off the school year, in the first week of the competition, by filling the room with the warming colours of the autumn season.

As we start school during this season, it made sense for our inventors to create their builds to embody the atmosphere created during this period of the year.

Our teams interpreted this brief as sitting by a warm crackling fireplace inside but also by creating the rustling, orange and yellow leaves of the trees outside.



Week 2

We continued the competition by reflecting on an event that has stolen the hearts of many, as September also marks the beginning of one of our biggest annual TV competition: The Great British Bake Off!

As the baking competition is now well underway, our inventors took it upon themselves to celebrate this exciting event, building some extraordinary creations to replicate the bakes and the traditions of the competition.

We had some excellent builds of the famous and renowned Bake Off tent and of the bakers themselves in action.

Connecting across the globe: a visit from South Korea

Over the last few weeks, a group of our year 10 students have been meeting online with a group of students from a school in South Korea called Gunsan Sangil High School.

We have met with the school twice, via Microsoft teams, to share presentations with each other about our respective cultures and traditions, and what it is like in British and Korean schools. This collaboration is part of a project funded by the Office of Education in South Korea, to enable their students to visit other countries and find out about different cultures.

Finally, after much anticipation, this week, we got to meet the students in person - along with their teachers, they came to England for a week, spending two days in school with us, shadowing our students through their school day and getting to know each other. They went into a range of lessons, experiencing both core subjects like English and Science, but also a range of optional subjects, like Computer Science, DT and Art. They also had a great time learning the basics of Gaelic football from our Deputy head teacher, Miss Curley, and sampling the food from our canteen - on Wednesday, they enjoyed a traditional roast dinner!

And - it must be said - our students have done us proud, exemplifying the kindness we hope to see in all of our students. Despite the language barrier, and armed with only a Chromebook and Google translate, they made the visitors feel incredibly welcome and made genuine friends through the process. They also prepared gift bags for them, to initiate them into the world of British treats and snacks, welcoming them with Walkers crisps, teacakes and party rings (amongst other things), whilst also learning some basic Korean phrases in a gesture of friendship.

We look forward to our final online meeting in a few weeks time, and we hope to continue the connection.

Miss Scott, Assistant Head Teacher



Settling into the new year

Our new Year 7 students have settled in wonderfully, and they couldn't wait to share some of their experiences from their first half term!

Moving from primary to secondary school was nerve-racking and a difficult change, but I am loving my experience. Some things were easier than others - for example, homework was more accessible and more exciting. I also found a lot of things hard, such as finding my way around the different blocks and learning my timetable, but especially creating new friendships. Many of my primary friends went to other schools but everyone's been so friendly and now I feel more comfortable than ever. Overall, I feel my journey at Queensmead will be highly successful and I will continue to take on challenges.

- David C

"Everyone's been so friendly and I feel more comfortable than ever!"

I have had a great time at Queensmead and it has been a pleasure to be here. I love the yummy food and that, at break, we can go to Goals to play football with friends. Sometimes I do end up with a lot of homework but it's an amazing feeling when I finish it all - it feels like such an achievement!

Queensmead is much bigger than my primary school, but everyone was so helpful that I found my way around in no time. When I first came to Queensmead I felt nervous but I adjusted to it after a couple of weeks and I have already experienced so much. I have really been enjoying Art and I love sports. Queensmead is the perfect school for me.

- Alex D-S

"This school has taught me so many new things and I have experienced so much!"

Moving from primary to secondary is a massive change and at first everything was new to me. My first day at Queensmead was difficult, scary and we were all nervous. But, after the first couple of days, I slowly started to settle in and managed to get used to the new routines and rules.

When I joined I was looking forward to making new friends because all my friends went to other schools. I have now made tons of friends because this school made me feel welcome. There are so many teachers here to help and support you to reach your goals and your full potential.

I think that one of the hardest parts of moving to secondary school is the work. We have all been given quite a lot of work and that is a HUGE change from the amount of work in primary school. But as we are already have made it through to half term, I'm feeling very settled and confident.

- Annaleise M

"There are so many teachers here to help and support you to reach your goals and full potential"

I would like to start by saying that the start of my journey through Year 7 has been AMAZING!

At the beginning I was extremely nervous to the point where I thought I was not going to fit in well. However the incredible teachers made sure everyone had an opportunity to achieve something new. Examples of these are finding a new musical talent, learning new languages and playing new sports. At Queensmead there are so many activities to choose from, which take place at break, lunch, or after school!

- Harini

"We've had the chance to find a musical talent, learn a language and play a new sport!"

My experience at Queensmead has been really good. After only a few weeks I have learnt so many new things. In Science, I learnt how to use a microscope and about the parts of a cell. The food is really delicious and the library has an array of amazing books. I'm really happy that this is my high school as I really enjoy being here.

- Anushka

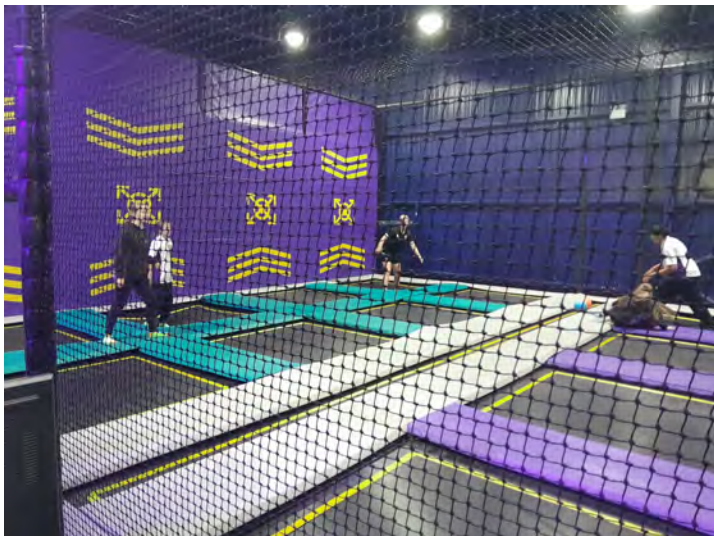
Bouncing their way to victory

In September, Year 8 students had the privilege of starting the new school year by celebrating all of their hard work last year. They were treated to a fun-filled evening of trampolining at Oxygen freejumping, to let off some steam after a busy couple of weeks of the new term.



Queensmead's Oxygen trip was a great way to reward Year 8 students that have consistently tried their hardest throughout the school year. During the trip, they were allowed to explore the built environment designed for jumping and climbing. Oxygen is an opportunity to let yourself run wild and have fun with your friends, with slides and climbs, jumps and stunts and a dodgeball arena. They were also given the opportunity to participate in a challenge to win rewards like a free drink or a slushy. School trips to Oxygen are never a bad experience and if you get the opportunity, you should definitely take it. Overall, Oxygen was an amazing experience!

Igor T, Year 8 student



Letting our creativity flow...

On Wednesdays after school, our Queensmead artists join together to create some amazing graphic pieces.

We kicked off the half-term with a logo design challenge, where pupils crafted distinctive logos for various fictional enterprises. From environmentally conscious cafes, to groundbreaking tech startups, pupils explored the world of branding, creating eye-catching and meaningful logos that reflect the spirit and values of each organisation. Their designs showcased remarkable ingenuity and a keen sense of aesthetics.

The second leg of our graphic design journey led pupils into the realm of comic book creation. Armed with promarker pens, they spun imaginative tales filled with superheroes, time travel, mystery, and fantasy. Next up we looked at book cover design and the importance of typography as well as colour.



Next term we would love to do a crossover challenge with Creative Writing club to combine our artistic skills with their writing skills!

Nicholas, a year 7 student, has been a keen participant from the start of the year:

I first started graphic design in the first week of year 7 and... I loved it! In graphic design, each week we have different themes for drawing to expand the range of drawings we can complete (and maybe to show off our art) but if you'd prefer to stick to one style of drawing that's completely fine. We have done logos, comic strips, and book covers and in the future, we will be doing digital designing, a crossover with creative writing club, adverts, and concept art. So that's it from me and we hope you come and join the fun at the graphic design club!

If you'd like to give Graphic Design a go, come along to M16 after school on Wednesdays.

Miss Kerry and Miss Macdonald, Teachers of English



Leaders of the future?

Meet our student leadership group

The Student Leadership Group (SLG) is a student-led team, working towards both Post-16 interests but also whole school matters. In collaboration with the Values Team and the School Council, we represent all students; we bring their ideas to life while also actively looking for ways to improve the school and student experience.

Our team is approachable and friendly, always ready to listen and help. We play a key role at whole school events and endeavour to bring the whole school community together. Being part of the SLG is an honour and a responsibility that we do not take lightly. All members of our team enjoy being students at Queensmead School due to the encouraging, supporting and inclusive atmosphere, that is undeniably due to the academic and pastoral support from all staff.

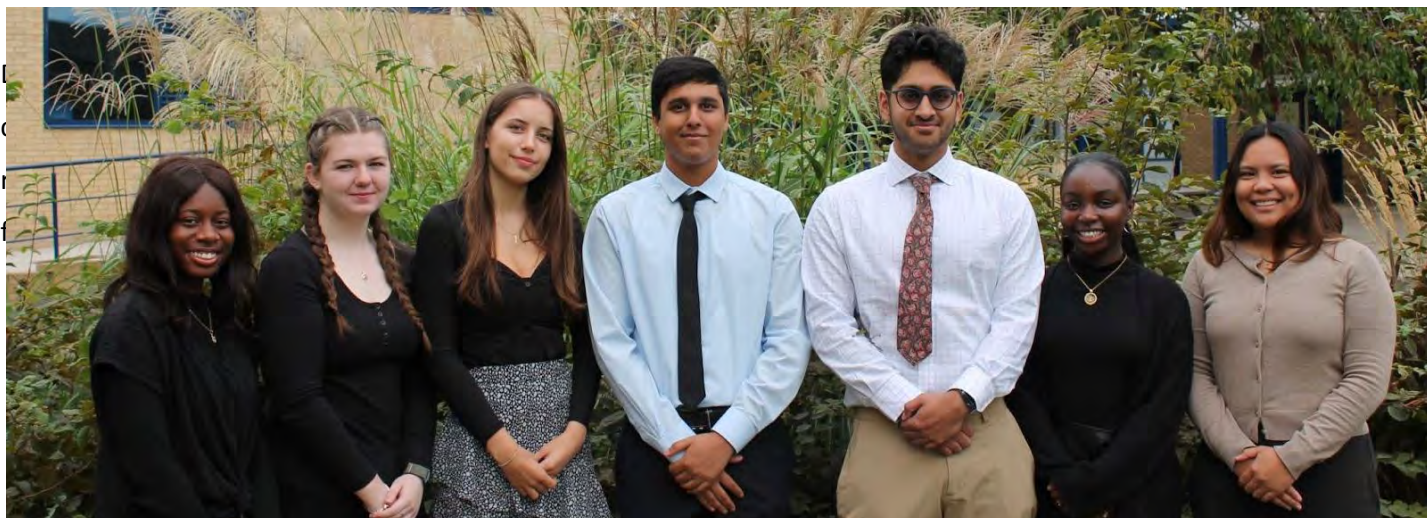
To encourage creativity, we recently ran a creative writing competition for years 7 to 11. We received exemplary work from all year groups and enjoyed seeing the different ways that students approached this challenge. The winners have been rewarded with vouchers and we're looking forward to witnessing how our students will develop their writing talents as they move forward in life.

Alongside encouraging academic excellence, we also try to provide events that build community spirit. Interform events are an example of this, allowing groups to become closer to each other, but also to meet new peers through friendly competitions.

While we organise events and activities for the younger key stages, we are also the main organisers for Post-16 events throughout the year, despite our busy schedules as Year 13 students. We are currently in the process of planning a Quiz Night and The Winter Ball. We will also be running a Culture Day this year, as well as an end-of-year Prom, and we look forward to sharing photos from these events with you once they have taken place.

Aamir, Demi, Des'Ree, Iona, Keira, Rachel, Saif

The Student Leadership Group



Discovering new career pathways

On Friday 6th October, Alison Waller from global consultancy business, Turner and Townsend, visited Queensmead School. Turner and Townsend is a company who supports businesses to provide new and innovative strategies to create and set up successful projects. They aim to provide their clients with services to help their projects survive throughout the journey.

Their main aims and purposes are to provide support for companies in an ever-changing business world and they claim to have a responsibility to support that change, helping drive it and be part of it. Through their visit to Queensmead, they had the ability to promote these values to our students to support them in deciding their future plans.

During her visit, Alison spoke with our Year 13 students about degree level apprenticeships and why they are growing in popularity amongst school leavers. The talk was extremely inspiring and left the students wanting to know more about leaving school and completing a degree level apprenticeship. It was an invaluable experience for students as they were introduced to a variety of pathways to support them on their future endeavours.



Alison's visit didn't just focus on the Year 13 career paths, as she also did some work with other members of our school community. In particular, this involved looking at ways in which we can make our school site more sustainable and environmentally friendly. As a school, this has been one of our main goals to focus on and so it was beneficial for us to be provided with some guidance on how to make this happen.

We would like to thank Alison, and Turner and Townsend, for their time, which was well-received and appreciated by both our students and staff alike.

Mr Briggs, *Head of Post-16*



Learning how to keep people safe

Babcock Engineering is a global engineering company and, in the local Ruislip office, they are responsible for the maintenance of the London Fire Brigade engine fleet. They design tools and vehicles as well as maintaining the engines themselves.

Over the summer, several Engineering students from Year 11 and 12 had the opportunity to gain an insight into a career in engineering:

“The work experience was really good because they taught us everything that they do, which has taught me an unbelievable amount. For example, how to replace the parts of a truck which are causing damage. Another exciting part was the road testing they have to do for the fire trucks to see if they are functioning correctly. You get to go for a 30 minute ride with a firetruck! During our ride, we discovered that one of the steps was broken, which turned out to be a big problem, but after the damage was fixed it was really rewarding. Overall, the work experience was amazing and I really do appreciate being given it. Thank you to Mr Corish and Mr Jivan.”

- Yllka Llazani, Year 12 student



“I really enjoyed the work experience - the staff were all so lovely and welcoming. A key highlight for me was changing all 4 of the back wheels and then using the nut bolt gun to tighten the wheel nuts. Also, doing the water pump test was so exhilarating - I got to try the same pressure that the LFB use and it was so much fun!! I also really loved working on the motor with the apprentice. We also changed the pipes at the back which were corroded from the limescale. After maintenance work and checks, going for the test drives were incredibly rewarding as none of the vehicles we worked on broke down or showed any signs of damage. We got to ride in the DPLs that we worked on as well as the new command unit and it was impressive how high tech the fire appliances were!

It was both rewarding and exhilarating; I'm so grateful to the staff for showing me the ropes and for passing on their knowledge.”

Grace Jacobs, Year 12 Student

Babcock International has offices that work on power generation, aviation and defense. Whether you're interested in mechanical engineering, electrical engineering or something else, this might be the opportunity for you. Keep a look out for the next opportunity later this year.

Mr Jivan, Head of DT

The immense power of physics

Every Tuesday after school, Queensmead hosts twenty enthusiastic Year 5 Deansfield pupils, for a 10-week science club outreach programme. This ongoing programme is a fantastic opportunity for these young minds to delve into the captivating world of STEM. With support from teachers from science, maths and DT, the science club has been met with fantastic engagement from the students.

The students have, so far, been making their own glues to compare their effectiveness, as well as competing to build the strongest bridge out of paper. This has required the students to think laterally, utilise their collaborative skills and be adaptable. This program has created an exciting opportunity, not just for the pupils, but also for staff to instil thought and wonder, igniting the passion for STEM subjects. We hope to keep delivering an experience that they will remember for years to come.

Miss Davis, Teacher of Science

Sharing a love of Performing Arts

The Performing Arts department were delighted to welcome Bourne School Primary School students on Friday 6th October to experience specialised Drama and Music taster lessons. The students thoroughly enjoyed their experiences of singing popular music as a collective ensemble of singers, developing their drumming skills with focus on rhythmic beats and a variety of tempos and dramatic improvisations and scene work.

I would definitely recommend becoming a peer mentor to future years as it is such a rewarding experience! It allows you to admire the progress of your mentees over the year, as they build their confidence through discussions with you. In addition, hearing about their progress in the lessons that they had previously found confusing or a struggle, motivates you to want to work with new students, to help them in the same way.

Louis M, Year 13 student

The Bridge Blunder Experiment in Action

