



The QM Observer

Spring Term Newsletter

Thursday 10th April 2014

A term of eternal riches at QMGs!

School Production of Twelfth Night



The actors in their costumes

Liam Allen writes: The play chosen for this year's senior production was Shakespeare's comedy, "Twelfth Night". Therein lay the challenge: relaying a 400-year old theatrical story in a way that would be enjoyable for a 21st century audience. The actors grasped this challenge with both hands, in an effort culminating in three very successful shows with rave audience reviews. My thanks go to my fellow cast members, Mr Fawson, and the behind-the-scenes crews for their collaboration to create such a memorable and enjoyable production.

2014 Trip to Alabama



One of the four teams graduating from Space Camp in February

Alex Jones writes: On Friday 14th February we departed to Space Camp at the US Space & Rocket Centre, Huntsville. We were split into our groups: Goddard; Von T; Von B; Holderer and Oberth as we headed to our orientation. We spent an action packed week at space camp attending lectures on the workings of space craft, watching films in the iMAX theatre, making ablative shields, constructing our very own rockets from scratch, flying simulators, taking part in team building activities at 'Area 51' and the highlight for all, the missions, of which we had four 1 hour training sessions leading up to a 3 hour mission on our penultimate day. Friday 21st was graduation day, where we were presented with our wings and team patches and photos before a few special awards.

QM consolidates the link with China



The Minister Counsellor of Education for the Chinese Embassy is welcomed in assembly

Mr Swain writes: It is not every day that a visitor to QM arrives in a chauffeur-driven limo, but then Mr Shen, Minister Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy, was no ordinary visitor. We had invited him to strengthen our links with China and make a bid for Confucius Classroom status. In a special Assembly, Danny Bav welcomed the Minister in fluent Mandarin and spoke about his intentions to study the language at University. Year 9 pupils gave a demonstration of Kung Fu while Year 7s received their prizes for a competition to decorate Chinese Lanterns. The School Choir gave him a rousing send off. Back in the Board Room, Mr Shen heard songs from Mayfield pupils and from our own Year 8s and Lewis Ward gave an authoritative presentation on a school visit to China. After lunch, it was down to business. Mr Shen was suitably impressed by what he had seen and heard and promised us his support. A red letter day in the life of the School.

SMEG Competition

Liam O'Connor writes: I contacted the kitchen appliance company Smeg to help with the Smeg Fridge Design Competition. Pupils of all year groups entered this prestigious competition. The Number 10 Downing Street design by Idris Hanif (Year 8) came 3rd, a Wonka Bar design by Sahl Ahmed (Year 7) came 2nd, and the Piet Mondrian design by Jessica Parkes (Year 13, left) was 1st overall. The winning design was made into a bespoke FAB fridge by Smeg, and is due to be raffled with all money going towards the fundraising for the Tanzania 2015 expedition.





French Weekend

Pawel Malys writes: The Farchynys, French themed weekend enabled students to perfect grammar as well as improving confidence and clarity in speaking skills. We kicked off with a grammar session, fish & chips, a 6.1 victory over 6.2 and Mr Perrault at football and overall a successful weekend. There was a lot of work to be done, however, Farchynys is a great place to spend time with your friends and learn at the same time.



The French students on Barmouth beach during their weekend at Farchynys

Spanish Exchange

Reece Bhatoe writes: In February, QM completed yet another successful exchange with the Colegio Miralba, Vigo. After an early morning flight, we immediately watched a film in Spanish; no rest for the weary! On Thursday, after Maths and History, we visited O Castro (the first settlement), on Friday the fishing village of Cangas. With the families, we visited the Celta Vigo stadium or the beach for a spot of surfing! On Monday we walked through O Casco Viejo. Wild weather meant another worthwhile day was spent in school. All in all, we experienced Spanish culture in a way the classroom simply cannot offer.



Spanish Students visiting their exchange partners in Spain

World Book Day

Syed Hassan writes: On World Book Day, the creative writers and form 7D watched an interview with 'Cherub' author, Robert Muchamore about the release of his new book called 'Rock Wars.' He told the students about the characters in the book, the setting, and how much he enjoyed writing his other books. Muchamore's talk has made his books sound intriguing to the Year 7s, as they learned about how he writes his books and how he captivates his audience. This was a unique and enjoyable experience, and an ideal way to celebrate World Book Day 2014.

History Society

Keval Nathwani writes: On Friday 14th March, students from different year groups went for a weekend to Farchynys, visiting many places of historical importance around the region. We visited a Norman Castle, previously owned by Robert Burnell (friend of King Edward I) in Acton Burnell. We then went to a town called Penrhryn and its castle home, recently inhabited the local Lord Lieutenant and slate mine owner Lord Penrhyn. The last few days consisted of visiting a Victorian Pier, and Powys Castle (previously home to Welsh royalty). The castles were magnificent, and the last stop at Tong church in Albrighton showed us just how Hanoverian custom was encapsulated by medieval churches.

Skiffle Group

Mr Hughes writes: On Tuesday 4 February 2014 the QM Skiffle Group performed a 40 minute Lonnie Donegan tribute show in front of the Brownhills Darby and Joan Club (below). All members of the group were superb and the audience loved every minute of the show. They clapped hands, sang along and loudly shouted "4 foot from his tail" in My Old Man's A Dustman. They must have enjoyed it as they want us back in October.



Spring Concert

Andrew Ainsworth & Rohan Dodhia write: On Thursday 3rd April 2014, the School held its annual spring concert, showcasing a wide variety of our musical talents here at QMGs. The concert started with Matthew Treuge of Year 7, playing two solo pieces on guitar. Next saw the string ensemble playing a Coldplay hit followed by an impressive violin solo by Jeevan Mund. Next we took a trip back in time with the skiffle group who performed a tribute to Lonnie Donegan led by Mr Hughes in a very flashy jacket! We then had a trio of Saxophones, a piano solo by Liam Allen, an Indian drum duet, and a vocal solo by Glen Foster who had learnt all 102 elements from the periodic table. Amazing! After this it was time for the new school band to make their debut public performance performing two numbers...Louie Louie & Folk Frolic. The second half began with the newly formed Samba group followed by the Brass ensemble playing Mr Vause's arrangement of a theme by Tchaikovsky. A duet by Lorcan McCullagh and Kyran Kanda led perfectly to the band's final piece of the evening, Candy by Robbie Williams. Three solos followed: Nathan Blackwood performing The Entertainer on baritone, Danielle Clarke singing Whitney Houston's 'The Greatest Love of All', and a first class piano solo by Jimmy Chuong. This led into the final items of the night performed by the 70 strong school choir. Their four numbers finished off a great concert which had one of our biggest audiences ever. We're looking forward to the next one in the summer term.

Project Horizon

The team is assembled (below), the sponsors have flocked to support and the date is set for a first launch of the next phase of Project Horizon on May 3rd. Watch this space and follow the 'Beat Felix' attempt on twitter at @horizonqmsg



Physics Olympiad

Mr Rockett writes: The Physics Olympiad is an extremely academic examination run from the University of Oxford based on stretching and challenging the brightest pupils. Material is generally not on the GCSE specifications and involves extended mathematical and descriptive problem solving. Only the top academic schools try it. In my time here as physics teacher then Department Leader we normally get no Gold Awards per cohort, occasionally we get one and the record of two from "The Bellin and Bleakley year" is stuff of legend. However, on March 7th 2014, Namir Chowdhury, Liam O'Connor and Emanuel Daniel all achieved Gold which is a remarkable and proud moment for the school.

Mali-Jenkins project

Ryan Patel reports: A new year and a new set of ambitious recruits; the school continues to provide the residents of the Mali-Jenkins care home with entertainment and community spirit. However this year has brought fresh ideas and activities to enlighten the residents, from charades, to *Guess Who* with the ultimate masterpiece, a performance by the Skiffle band, which surely got the residents singing and tapping along. We can truly say that the volunteers have given it their all in order to fulfill the project. Furthermore, the experience has provided the students with a valuable insight into healthcare, and has only strengthened the ties the school has with the community.

Economics competitions



Right: Members of our Lower Sixth that gave a good performance in the BASE Economics Competition
Left: Simran Patel taking in the London skyline after a superb 3rd place in the National Schools' Challenge

Geography news



A spectacular view of Morfa Dyffryn during a Yr12 Geography Fieldtrip

Mr Larvin writes: During February, five Year 10 geographers, set out for High Archal School in Dudley for the Black Country GA Gifted and Talented Day. The morning started with a talk from two Geography Ambassadors from the RGS who highlighted the importance and relevance of geography in everyday life, and explained their motivation to study geography at university. The remainder of the morning was filled with group tasks researching and presenting a new business direction for Birmingham Airport and Weston-Super-Mare. It was followed by a university-style seminar from a Staffordshire University lecturer, providing an opportunity for the QM geographers to demonstrate their understanding of development and world issues. The department have also held their Year 12 fieldtrips this term to Farchynys, with the first group in particular enjoying stunning weather in the Snowdonia mountains and on the coast. The term concluded with an informative and thought-provoking presentation in school to sixth form Geographers

Maths competitions & quizzes

Mr Litchfield: The spring term has been an exceptionally busy one in the life of the Maths department. The Year 10 team came 2nd in the Maths Big Quiz at Birmingham University and Year 8 became regional champions under the guidance of Mr Mitchell. This year's Intermediate Maths Challenge was an overwhelming success with 20 out of the 70 entrants from years 9 to 11 qualifying for further rounds of the competition. Particular mention should go to Shayan Ahmed and Tayyib Akram, who both qualified for the fiendishly difficult Maclaurin Olympiad paper.



Biology Olympiad

Miss Alam writes: On 23rd January, 10 students from 6.2 completed Round 1 of the British Biology Olympiad. It was a 2-hour online exam, consisting of 90 multiple-choice questions, which tested knowledge & application of biological concepts that went above and beyond those covered at AS & A2. QMGS boasts some extremely talented biologists amongst our students and the following scored highly enough to be certificated: Silver medal & certificate: Priya Parekh; Bronze medal & certificate: Jaynesh Patel, Arjan Sander; Highly Commended certificate: Jasmeet Heran, Amandeep Pahal; Commended certificate: Vijay Gogna, Khabir Sehmi

Alessi Competition



Priyesh Mistry (above) writes: This year, Year 9 had a competition to see who had the best Alessi idea. Alessi is an Italian company that sells expensive kitchen appliances and other products and are famous for their "personalities" products. Each pupil in Year 9 was to create their own Alessi design as part of a competition where the winner would earn a prize, a hand-made trophy, and have their design displayed on a wall. My idea had an electrical theme and I was fortunate enough to win the competition.

RUGBY



Vice Captain Gursant Singh (left) and Wilson Lau (right) along with 1st XV captain Josh Pepper (centre), deservedly wearing their Rugby Colours ties

Josh Pepper: The QM 1st XV had a flying start to the season winning the first match against a strong Prince Henry's Evesham; however this winning streak was short lived due to various injuries within the squad, resulting in back to back losses against King Henry's VIII and John Taylors. This led to the team being knocked out of the NatWest Cup. However, the team showed great team spirit to overcome these losses with some consistence performances including a comprehensive victory over JCB Academy.

Mr Taylor: For the U14s the season has seen the team come together and begin to work as a functioning unit. The teams progress was reflected in a recent match where a comfortable 40-12 victory saw us progress into the semi-finals of the Staffordshire Cup.

Mr Collins: The Under 12s finished off the rugby season with a tournament involving 26 teams at Longton rugby club. The first stage was a pool competition where we played 3 games; winning 2 & drawing 1. Unfortunately they were unable to progress to the next stage after losses against some formidable opposition like St Josephs and KE Lichfield. Considering none of the boys had played any rugby before they joined QM they should very proud of their efforts. Particular mention goes to the captain Popple, most improved playes of the season Singh & Treuge and player of the season Dhahan.



Members of our unbeaten and victorious U16 squad at the Walsall Schools Rugby Tournament, who managed to concede just a single try in the tournament.

The U15s (below) won the Walsall Schools Rugby Tournament winning all four games. 19 tries for and only 4 conceded. The team have also reached the semi finals of the Staffordshire Cup.



HOCKEY

The Spring Term has been a busy one as ever in terms of hockey fixtures. The 1st XI have played against some very challenging opposition with notable successes. Tom Bunn and Jeevan Dhanda have been in great goal scoring form all season and both contributed to victories (including 4-0 v Newcastle) in the Under 18 Staffordshire indoor tournament. A team made up of only 8 players also managed to beat local rivals BVGS 3-1.

The most successful team this year, however, has been the 2nd XI, as **Joel Wright notes:** "It was an extremely successful season for the Hockey 2nd XI as they finished the year with 13 wins, one draw and one loss in their 15 games. Conceding only 5 and amassing 37 goals in their favour, with Omar Akhtar the top scorer with 9, it will be a tough act for next year's 2nd team to follow".



The junior teams have also taken part in packed fixture programmes, with the Year 7s managing to win their first game as a team (above) and the Year 8s continuing the promise that they showed last year.

CHESS

Aamanh Sehdev writes: The squad this year was made up of Arslan Awan, Sam Dewsbery, Kyrone Grossett, Daniel Law, Lorcan McCullagh, Fahim Nasiri, Ravi Patel and Aamanh Sehdev. This team led QM to two trophies and a National Final, putting the school back on the map and towards the top of the inter-school chess spectrum. The teams players each averaged 84% wins for the year, and only lost one match out of 10, despite only being formed last school year. The team has had many enjoyable games, and will leave with lots of memories. As for the final match, QM annihilated the winners of last year's Division 1, King Edwards Five Ways, 6-0 leaving their last memory as potentially their best one.

CCF

Michael Sunner reports: The Spring Term has been an important and productive term for the C.C.F. On Friday 4th April, the contingent underwent its biennial review on Field Day at Synnerton Training Area. The Biennial review is an important event in the CCF calendar as it is an official inspection of the contingent with a culmination of a series of staff inspections. After visiting various training activities within both the Army and RAF section, the Inspecting Officer had highly commended the work of our contingent, particularly praising the attitude of our cadets, the commitment of our officers and the high standards of the training activities. Thanks go to all officers and cadets for their participation to showcase QMGS CCF as a highly competent unit. This term has also seen the success of the annual CCCT weekend at Farchynys and cadets successfully completing their Air Experience Flying at Cosford, with Jack Whitehouse pictured below.



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