



# The QM Observer

Autumn Term Newsletter

Friday 19th December 2014

## Keeping our outlook international!

### Dubai Trip



*The students at one of the large mosques*

**Adam Anwar writes:** On 24th October a group of students visited Dubai in order to take part in an Arabic language course and to gain an insight into the culture of the Emirate. The visit included a trip to Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world, Palm Jumeirah, day trips to the Arabian desert and Abu Dhabi, and a visit to the Dubai museum. The difference between new Dubai and old Dubai fascinated me along with how the modern investment contradicted the traditional roots of the United Arab Emirates. The most amazing fact was that 80% of the population is from nations from all across the world. It was therefore great to see so many cultures convening in one place and living in harmony. Thanks to Mrs Sharp for organising the trip and Mr Elsdon for accompanying the group.

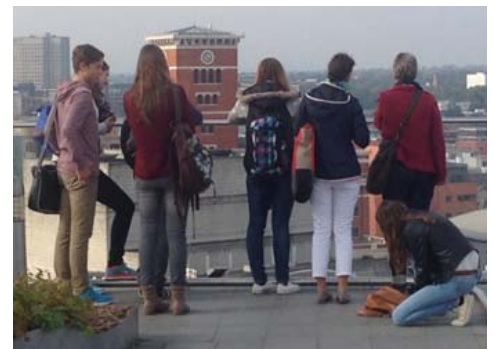
### Euro Space Centre Belgium Trip



*The Euro Space Centre logo*

**Matthew Chislett reports:** On 14th July 2014, several Year 8 and Year 9 pupils embarked on a trip to the Euro Space Centre in Belgium. When we reached the centre, we were split into two teams in order to complete activities such as rocket building, experiencing a mission simulator, space experiments and the Multi-Axis Trainer. There were some good opportunities for teamwork and we learnt a lot about the science behind the space industry. We also went bowling on one of the evenings, and tried some Belgian food delicacies (namely chips and chocolate!). All students had a fantastic trip and we are very grateful to Mrs Taylor for organising the experience.

### Spanish and German Exchanges



*The wonderful ambassadors from the Lahntalschule*

**Avik Jain informs us:** The German Exchange party stayed with us for one week in September. It was a learning experience for both us and them as they explored the differences between our lives - they were shocked by how late the school day finishes. They had both fun and productive visits to Walsall, Birmingham, The Black Country Museum and we all went bowling as well. November also saw the arrival of another exchange party: this time from Vigo in Spain. Although the weather in Walsall wasn't quite what they were used to, all involved had a hugely enjoyable time. QM students look forward to both return trips in the new year.

### Confucius Classroom Status

**Mrs Wang writes:** QMGS has recently been awarded Confucius Classroom status by Chinese Hanban (Chinese National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language) and the IOE Confucius Institute.

It means that our school has been officially recognized as a national centre for teaching and learning Chinese and will receive annual funding, resources and support from Chinese Hanban to enable us carry out more outreach work to promote Chinese learning and Chinese culture locally. Having Confucius classroom status also offers more opportunities for us to work closely with some prestigious HE institutes such as the IOE and Warwick University and to establish firm partnership with Chinese partner schools.



*French Exchange students exploring Toulouse*

### French Exchange

**Keval Nathwani writes:** In October 2014, members of both the Grammar and High Schools travelled to a town called Albi, nervous about the language barrier that might disrupt our trip. However, after meeting my exchange partner and her family, I began to feel at ease and we were able to immerse ourselves in the beauty of Toulouse. Our visit to the town hall was perhaps the highlight of the visit as it contained a mass of beautiful artwork. We also visited France's most picturesque city, Cordes au ciel, with its narrow streets and French farmland. Our final day concluded with emotional goodbyes and happy memories.



## RSC trip

**Samran Garewal reports:** On Wednesday 5th November, Year 8 students travelled to Stratford-Upon-Avon to visit the Royal Shakespeare Company theatre. On arrival we went to the Gower Memorial, a series of sculptures where Shakespeare overlooks his characters and we acted out small chunks of Shakespeare's plays. Then we went to the RSC for a tour of the building where we saw the dressing and wig making rooms and had professional workshops which entailed warming up like actors. Then we went to Shakespeare's birthplace where we were given detailed talks about each part of the house.



*Year 8s outside the RSC building*

## British Library

**Lorna Barrett writes:** On 21st October, a group of Sixth Form English Literature students visited the British Library in London for the purpose of gaining an insight into different influences and forms of Gothic Literature. The 'Terror and Wonder' Exhibition demonstrated a wide and varied host of interpretations about classic novels such as 'Frankenstein' and 'Dracula', whilst highlighting the Gothic influence within art and architecture. The increased understanding and fresh outlook on the Gothic genre thanks to the exhibition has produced a greater degree of depth and enhanced arguments within our work across the topic.



*Tension building outside of the Gothic Exhibition*

## Visit from Tom Wyre

**Reece Bhatoe tells us:** QMGs pupils were lucky enough this term to see the Staffordshire Poet Laureate, Mr Tom Wyre, perform 4 poems from his new work in an assembly, after he was commissioned to write a collection of poems to commemorate the centenary of the First World War. Some Upper Sixth English literature students and the lower school creative writing groups also took part in a workshop with Mr Wyre where they heard about the writer's intentions when creating his poems and analysed and evaluated poems written as part of the collection. The visit served as a great opportunity to engage and interact with an established poet.

## Target 2.0

**Ibraheem Kasujee shares:** After months of preparation, this year's Target 2.0 team (made up of Simran Patel, Akash Mahey, Christian Gore and myself) set off for Aston University for the regional heat. The competition involved a 15-minute presentation followed by questions from a panel of judges, and after a smooth delivery and assured answering of the questions, we were confident we had done enough to take victory. Unfortunately, the judges disagreed and awarded Kenilworth the victory in a surprising decision. Despite the premature ending, the team were proud of our efforts and gained a lot in the process.



*The team at the regional heat.*

## GIS Day

**Noah Kendall-Hall informs us:** On Thursday 20th November eight pupils travelled to King Edward's Five Ways School to attend a series of lectures about GIS, which stands for Geographical Information Systems. We were given three engaging talks about how the UK Police forces, supermarkets and wildlife protection services all use GIS to make their operations more effective. For instance, the police use it to map out crime rates in order to determine the districts most affected. We then had the opportunity to use the GIS systems ourselves, which gave us a fascinating insight into how the systems work.

## Carol Service

**Mr Vause reports:** This year's Carol Service took place at St Matthew's Church on Tuesday 16th December. The traditional nine lessons and carols were interspersed with musical items provided by the School's Senior Choir, Lower School Choir, Brass & String Ensembles and newly formed 6th form chamber choir. Brave Year 7s Jake Painter & Eli Lane got proceedings underway by singing the first verse of Once In Royal David's City unaccompanied. Other soloists included Edoardo Bisconti on the piano, Matthew Treuge with his guitar, Kiertan Kumar singing and Ben Thorn and Robert Davidson playing their trumpets. Brothers Harjeet & Manveer Wilku presented a special duet arrangement of Pachelbel's Canon and Miss Bourne's arrangement of the traditional 'Carol Of The Bells' was particularly effective in the Church acoustic. The brass ensemble brought the evening to a close with 'We wish you a merry Christmas'.



## 'Goodbye'

**Rhys Llewellyn writes:** This year's senior drama production, 'Goodbye', showcased the acting abilities of the students as well as serving as an important reminder of the horrors of World War One. The show contained drama and comedy which combined to convey the tragedy and futility of this war in a way that thoroughly engaged the audience. There was a great unity within the cast and technicians and the work ethic of everybody involved was tremendous.



*The cast pose for their production 'Goodbye'*

## Jaguar Land Rover Trip    Medical workshop    Mali Jenkins project

**Toby Harrington reports:** On Tuesday 4th November, 28 students visited Jaguar Land Rover in Solihull accompanied by Mr Hughes, Mr Taylor and Mr Clough. Activities included going into the factory and undertaking team building. These activities helped teach us about the building and creative side of Jaguar Land Rover and the factory tour showed us the different stages of manufacture. The trip was extremely enjoyable and was a great introduction into the GCSE Design and Technology course.



**Navleen Kaur Rooprai informs us:** A Medical workshop was held by old boys of the school. Throughout the day we developed our clinical skills, enhanced our interview techniques and practised delivering bad news to an actor who took on the role of a patient. We also experienced what a typical lecture for a medical student would be like and learnt about the many career paths Medicine can lead on to. Overall, it was a very enjoyable and insightful day.



**Minh Tam Calder writes:**

Participating in The Mali Jenkins Project, organised by Mrs Chapman, has been fun and fulfilling in many ways. During our weekly visits, we socialize with the care home residents and together engage in activities such as mini quizzes, reading or simple heart-warming chatter; Shirley, one of the residents, updates us about her favourite TV program featuring Len Goodman each week!

## CCF

**Ashley Ellis shares:** Field Day saw 300 cadets travel to Nesscliffe for training: cadets from each contingent were involved in a rotation of drill, field craft, navigation, blank firing exercises, JCIC training, field craft lessons and leadership tasks. Field day was a big success and credit goes out the NCO's for the high standard of training maintained throughout. The term has also seen trips to Farchynys for the Outward Bound (below) and Arctic Training weekends. As usual, the contingent also dominated the Remembrance Sunday parade in Walsall.

## Arkwright scholarships

**Ben Turner reports:** The Arkwright Scholarship is an achievement that highlights and rewards the future leaders of engineering. Robert Elkington and I had to submit an online application, in addition to an aptitude test to progress to interview stages, for which I went to the Imperial College, before being awarded the scholarship at a presentation (below) with funding for ourselves and the school.



**Alex Blundell Writes:** Mr Hughes, Kodi Beverage-Smith and I took part in a First World War Centenary Battlefield Trip to Ypres, Belgium and Northern France. The trip involved visits to various structures and memorials, bringing the reality and brutality of such a terrible war to the forefront of our minds, even 100 years after the conflict took place. The trip was a thought-provoking and poignant experience for all that took part.



## Battlefield Tour

## Geography Trip

**Alex Jones reports:** On 17th October Year 13 geographers headed down to London to investigate how the 2012 Olympics had influenced the area and the public. We investigated West India Quay before going to Stratford. We were able to take a look around the Olympic park, seeing how the facilities were being used, and even having the opportunity to look inside the velodrome. We then went to the Excel centre, which was followed by a ride over the Thames on the Emirates Airline cable car.



## Engineering Society

**James Lesshafft & George Banks report:** Thanks to the DT department, the new year saw the start of the engineering society, which brought the creative minds of all years together through a variety of tasks. Students have had to think with a different mind-set in order to overcome challenges and test themselves.

## Horizon's Sun Chaser

**Mr Coghlan writes:** Horizon has a new mission this year; 'Sun Chaser'. The team will use a new probe to capture the sun rising over the edge of the planet from the Stratosphere. In order to do this they will need to develop a mathematical model to predict the time at which the sun will first be visible over the edge of the planet from the Stratosphere. The team will launch of the probe from Farchynys (very early in the morning) in the Spring.

### Rugby



**Reece Bhatoo Reports:** The 1<sup>st</sup> XV (above) have set a fantastic example for the rest of the school, enjoying one of their best seasons (in terms of performances and results) in recent years. Highlights have included high-scoring wins against Old Swinford Hospital and King Henry VIII school where the team's ability to compete with strong rugby schools really shone through.

Following the lead of the successful 1<sup>st</sup> XV have been the U12s this season, with some excellent results to show already, which is a testament to the natural talent this team boasts. The A team have put prestigious schools such as Friary School, Lawrence Sherriff and King Edwards Lichfield to the sword, and the B and C teams have also secured wins, with over 45 boys representing the school this term alone.

The U15s have kept the School's winning trend this term intact with a string of convincing wins. They have also put more than 50 points past the likes of Wolverhampton Grammar and King Henry VIII School, as well as putting good runs together in both the Natwest and county cup competitions. They look a promising addition to school rugby at senior level next academic year. It has been pleasing to see B team fixtures for all age groups (U13B pictured below after beating King Henrys), showing the amount of interest in the sport.

The House rugby competitions, have also been a great success, seeing some highly competitive matches across the whole School, made all the better by the spirit in which they have been played. All year groups have seen A and B competitions, meaning a large proportion of students have taken part.



### Girls Netball

**Beth Pople informs us:** During our netball match against Queen Mary's High School for girls, we performed at a good standard, despite only having a few practice sessions prior to the netball match. Winning 24-15 proves that as a team, we showed a cohesive front working well as a team. We now look forward to further fixtures lined up against other schools, such as Brownhills, and developing our netball skills to become a stronger team.



### Hockey

**Tom Bunn and Amil Sinha write:** The 1st XI have struggled so far this season, winning only 3 games, most notably a 10-0 victory over Newcastle. The 2nd XI have continued with the form they showed last year having only lost 2 games so far this season. The 3rd XI have been more committed than ever before, demonstrating a hunger for victory. Great performances were seen all around and notably from Nayan Bhagvaker and Arjan Bains whose defence kept us in games, while attacking performances from Joshua Nicholls and Joseph Wilkinson secured us leads. The new 4th XI has had a mixed start only winning one game against Solihull but drawing a few of their games.



### Representative honours

The start of the new academic year has also seen sporting excellence achieved outside of the school timetable. Congratulations to Isaac Saa (below left) who has been selected to represent the West Midlands in Basketball, and Cameron Bahia and Ethan Walker (below right) who have both been selected to play for Warwickshire U18s rugby.



### Cross Country

**Mr Larvin reports:** It has been a busy and challenging term for the runners, with some tough races against prestigious schools in the Birmingham Cross Country League. The A team has gained in confidence, doing well in races in difficult conditions at venues such as Sutton Park and Cannon Hill Park. Sanjay Sahdev and Matthew Doyle (captain) are two of a number of runners who have made progress, but the undoubted star has to be Ben Boulter (above) who has been crowned the individual champion in the league after winning a

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