



# The Queen Mary's Observer

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**Editors' Note:** Despite the enforced school closure due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we here at the QMO editorial team are still determined to deliver you the news of what has gone on here at the school in a shortened Spring edition. Enjoy!

**ISAAC BLACKWOOD**

*Year 13*

The 2020 ski trip began in the early hours of the 16th February where 44 students gathered eager to depart. The hype and excitement continued throughout the journey, despite the bumpy landings and extended coach journeys. On arrival, we were provided with lift passes, food and prepared for the morning; our first day of skiing. Waking at 7.00 am each morning proved more difficult for some but everyone was ready for the first day on the slopes. All experiences of the day proved to be positive, reflected by the glowing reviews shared over dinner. The tales were similar after the second day with many of the first time skiers improving quickly and ventured further up the mountains. Day 3 of skiing saw the advanced

group visit a new ski resort and the other groups tackle more slopes of a higher difficulty. We also had evening activities, the first being film night following with pizza night. The penultimate day of skiing was one of the most enjoyable for the group. The race course was attempted by all and the steepest slopes were completed as well as stunt jumps for the advanced group at the ski park. The end of Day 4 saw an intense quiz between houses with Aragon coming out on top in a closely fought battle. The mood was still high in the camp on the final day as the group participated in fancy dress which was a personal highlight of the week. The memories of hilarious falls, breath-taking views and amazing ski runs

were fresh in the minds of everyone as the journey drew to a close. Special thanks to Mr Rendu for organising an extraordinary trip and to all the teachers who gave up their half term to make it possible.



**CERY'S WILSON**

*Year 13*

On Saturday the 25th of January over 200 guests gathered in the amazingly transformed school canteen and hall to celebrate Burns Night. Burns Night is a Scottish tradition to celebrate the poet Robert Burns' life and work on the anniversary of his birth. All organised by the QMA, the night consisted of welcome drinks, a wonderful 5 course meal including the addressing of the haggis, toasts, a prize raffle and poker. Not to mention the brilliant Ed Cusick and his band playing throughout the evening and who, by the end, had everyone on the dance floor. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Ticket sales, combined with the pupil raffle paired with non-school uniform day and extra fundraising on the evening, raised an outstanding £7213. The profits will be going towards the refurbishment of the school library to make it a more inviting place for pupils to read and study. This would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the QMA committee, as well as teachers and students who helped organise the event and volunteered not only on the night but also to set up beforehand and tidy up afterwards.

Furthermore, thank you to the bar and catering staff who helped out on the night and of course all the supporters of the event for making it such a successful and fun-filled evening.



as Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) apprenticeships and armed forces. A number of talks were held on the day too, including one on Application Advice and admission processes for Medicine and Oxford University. Having this experience allowed us to see the multitude of post-18 opportunities we have access to and helped us to start to consider deeply which one we plan to take.

## 2020 SKI TRIP TO FOLGARIDA, ITALY

## BURNS NIGHT QMA

## HARRY POTTER EVENING

**WILLIAM STEVENS**

*Year 8*

On 13th February 2020, the libraries of The Mercian Trust combined to host a Harry Potter Book Night for Year 7's at Queen Mary's High School. After being sorted into their schools, Beauxbatons, Durmstrang and Hogwarts, activities enjoyed by the pupils included Harry Potter catching 'dragons', finding their way through a maze to find the Triwizard Cup (thankfully with a different outcome to the books) and creating their own Patronuses, making the two hours fly by. The night was well received by all who attended and much mayhem and mischief was created under the watchful eye of the librarians. All in all, the magical night was a great success celebrating one of the most popular books of this century. Thank you to Mrs Walker and the other MAT librarians for helping to organise this and to Cameron, Leanne, Cerys, Alek, Otis and Galahad for helping on the night.



## HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR

**Mia Rashoda**

*Year 12*

On 5th March 2020, members of the upper school were invited to experience the Higher Education Fair. Members present at the fair included representatives from competitive and highly-regarded universities. There was also a variety of alternate pathways opportunities to explore, such

Thanks to Mr. Sunley for organising this event, and we look forward to more opportunities in the future.

# PHYSICS TRIP TO GENEVA

MANJEEVAN CHEEMA

Year 13

In February, 37 QMGS students travelled to the city of Geneva in Switzerland. The trip focused on the European Organization for Nuclear Research, CERN, known for being the world's biggest laboratory for particle physics, the home of the Large Hadron Collider, the world's largest and highest-energy particle collider and the birthplace of the World Wide Web. More science-based visits included sites such as the Einstein Museum (housed within the greater Bern Historical Museum), Einstein House and Museum of the History of Science, all having varying and unique exhibitions. Other attractions comprised of free time exploring the Old City of Bern (a UNESCO Cultural World Heritage Site), the Palace of Nations (home to the UN Office), and a cruise across Lake Geneva, the 2nd largest lake in central Europe. The group also enjoyed dinner at a traditional Swiss restaurant, with a meal of cheese fondue and saucisse schubling accompanied by the tune of a live folkloric band that oompahed throughout. The breath-taking views and features of CERN, Geneva, and Bern cannot be understated, and it was a superb trip overall, with this experience especially resonating with the accompanying Year 13's on what was their final overseas school trip. Our gratitude is expressed to the staff in attendance; Mrs Mitchell, Mr Jahn, Mr Ridler, and Mr Sepede.



## GIRLS RUGBY

CERYS WILSON

Year13

This year saw the start of QM's very first Girls Rugby team. In efforts to prepare for a QM vs Walsall match which was unfortunately cancelled, the girls nonetheless showed up every Wednesday at 2.00 pm full of spirit, enthusiasm and humour. They were keen to learn and get involved (and also get very muddy!) In only a couple of sessions they mastered tackling, passing and handling. Their laughter and confidence were infectious. A big thank you to Matthew Daniels and Jacob Morrall for helping coach alongside myself and thank you to Miss Weston and Mr Taylor, without whom this wouldn't have been possible. I hope that this team will continue for many years to come, as we grow and develop our skills, but also, as we build new friendships as members.

*'Here's to strong women, may we know them, may we be them, may we raise them.'*

# BAR MOCK TRIAL

CHRIS MCHUGH

Year 13

Saturday 9th November saw a team of sixth formers put up their usual valiant effort in the annual Young Citizens' Bar Mock Trial. The competition, hosted at Birmingham's Crown Court, thrust students into the roles of barristers, witnesses and court officials. In both rounds, the team performed impressively and was commended as such, only narrowly losing out on reaching the regional heats. Our thanks go to all who were

Involved and especially Mr Bryars for organizing and overseeing the event.



## QMGS CCF NEWS

### ARCTIC WARFARE

SAARAH AHMED

On January 31st, the CCF went on an arctic training weekend. We were promptly taught key navigation skills, which came in handy the following day as we were given a challenge to find smashed tins, painted red and white, that were to be tracked down by co ordinates on a map. The challenge was difficult but enjoyable, requiring both perseverance and communication between the varied members of our team. It was a day of will, focus, and sheer commitment. Following this, the group had quizzes and "chill time" enabled us to properly get to know each other. The next day, we were given the opportunity to practice with air guns, where we were given three rounds to train our trigger finger. We were able to improve individuality with our own aims and to hone the goals we set our selves. Going to this training taught me many skills and I was able to push myself a lot as well as interact with a range of people. I would definitely recommend Arctic Warfare and go again without any hesitation.

### CCCT WEEKEND

On Friday 28th February, a group of cadets travelled to Farchynys for the annual Cadet Command and Control Trainer weekend, which consists of a recce of Harlech Castle and a simulated battle and signal exercise against the Redland forces of Squadron Leader Ridler, who hasn't lost yet. After being allocated our roles, Saturday involved first exploring the Harlech Castle area to get a general idea of how we were going to defend from the Redland forces the next day and setting up communications, BGHQ (Battle Group Headquarters). We also had a Map Marking lesson or a AFV recognition lesson. Following a quick communication check, we began battle day. After losing the city of Harlech in under an hour and BGHQ in the next, it was finally time to accept defeat. Even though they had more casualties, their sheer number of forces was too much, and the Redlands won again. Thanks to all staff who were involved.



## QMGS MUSIC REPORT

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The joint Christmas Concert at Walsall Town Hall with QMHS was another wonderful success this year, with a typically large audience of over 400 in attendance. The school's Orchestra, String Ensemble, Jazz Band, and Clarinet Ensemble were featured interspersed with the usual readings and soloists. It was a great night. (Video highlights on the music website Qmmusic.info)



### CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to all those students who have passed instrumental exams this term. Have a look at the success page on our music website; the list is now very impressive! Remember, each grade contributes that many points towards our instrumental house competition. Aragon are currently in the lead, but this could change after the Easter exam session.

