



# The QM Observer

Summer Term Newsletter

Wednesday 15th July 2015

## Playing our part in the global community!

### Germany/Switzerland trip      The Geography department in Iceland

**Mrs McPhee writes:** From 6th-10th July, 40 Year 8 pupils and four staff visited the Black Forest, Germany, and Basel, Switzerland. Whilst there, they took part in a wide range of fun activities, such as a cable car ride, the Hasenhorn 'mountain coaster', a tour of a FC Basel's stadium (below), and a day at the fantastic theme park, 'Europa Park', a rollercoaster-lover's paradise.



**Rose Vreugdenhil writes:** As a geography student, Iceland holds thousands of geographical opportunities to learn and explore. The geothermal power station Nesjavellir; showing a revolution in sustainable energy and the powerful tectonic activity resulting in phenomena such as the bridge between two continents at Thingvellir National Park, and the Island of Heimaey, expanded through the eruption of a volcano in 1973. These were all trips which we thoroughly enjoyed, although the boat ride was too rocky for some! Fluctuating between fire and ice, trips lead us to glaciers and beautiful waterfalls such as Gullfoss, and in contrast the site of the Eyjafjallajökull eruption. Every trip was a flash of photos and awe. Students even became accustomed to the sulphur smell, prominent during the visit to the glorious geysers. The trip was an incredible learning experience in one of nature's most beautiful settings. From all the students on the Iceland trip, a huge Takk fyrir to Mr Matley, Mr Collins and Miss Roberts- Gawen for all their hard work and giving us this amazing geographical opportunity.



### Confucius Classroom Launch

**Mr Langton writes:** The Headmaster wrote in his welcome that QMGS started to broaden its horizons in 2007 with the introduction of Mandarin onto the curriculum. The launch event for the School's Confucius Classroom status in June symbolised the great strides made in the past 8 years. The hugely enjoyable event involved performances from pupil of Robin Hood Primary School (below), presentations from members of the Royal Birmingham Society of Art, as well as workshops in lion dancing. Simone Haughey from Robin Hood shared her experiences of leading



Mandarin in primary schools and Xiaoming Zhu from the IOE addressed the gathering. Mrs Wang, ahead of leading the QMGS trip to China in July, co-ordinated the day along with Mr Swain. She looked on with pride as QMGS students performed through song and dance to an appreciative audience. In a year which has seen 14 international trips, involving over 2500 pupil days, those horizons have certainly been widened since



### Year 8 Paris trip

**Sai Nathwani reports:** On Monday 22 May, 43 students set off on the journey to Paris. Following a long journey beset by delays through the Eurotunnel, we finally arrived in the French capital. After visiting Louis XIV's Palace of Versailles, we had two days of sight-seeing in the city to enjoy, which included visiting the Invalides, Napoleon's tomb, the Champs-Élysées and the Louvres. Many pupils even disowned their favourite football team at the PSG store! The trip concluded with a day of thrills and excitement at the Astérix Theme Park. Many thanks to Mr Perrault for organising the trip and the other staff for accompanying us.





## Biology and Chemistry Olympiads

**Tam Calder reports:** The Chemistry Olympiad proved to be as arduous as ever, stretching pupils far beyond A-level-standard chemistry. Despite the demands posed, all pupils showed great determination and, while the efforts of all 23 participants should be recognised, the medal winners in particular deserve special commendation. They were: Gold: Oliver Hanson; Silver: Preet Singh & Shayan Ahmed; Bronze: Libby Swain, Tam Calder, Michael Samy, Ting Fung Lai, Selina Kaur & Jack Whitehouse.

**Miss Alam informs us:** 93 students from Year 10 took part in the competition, during March, which consisted of two 30-minute online papers testing their biological knowledge at GCSE level and beyond. This year's results are the most successful in recent years with 2 Gold Certificates (Shaan Grewal and Muhammed Esat), 16 Silver, 23 Bronze, 27 Highly Commended and 11 Commended.

### Salter's Chemistry festival

**Dr. Ramalho reports:** On the 22nd April, four Year 8 pupils (below) travelled to the University of Birmingham for the Salter's Festival of Chemistry. They were then put through their paces and expected to perform a number of experiments to the highest standards of accuracy and safety. Although this year we failed to reach the top spot, the QM boys' lab techniques were highly praised.



### DT CREST awards

**Mr Hughes writes:** 22 students studying A level Design and Technology achieved a gold CREST award for their upper sixth major project. The award is nationally recognised and rewards creativity in engineering, science and technology. 34 students in 6.1 had their work assessed for the silver CREST award in June and we are hopeful that they have all reached the required standard to receive the award.



## Bio Soc

**Miss Alam writes:** Biology Society has been host to yet more thought-provoking presentations this term, including: Psychopathy by Nidesh Mohanlal; Neuroplasticity by Tam Calder, Zahra Hafeez, Kierath Dhugga & Aishah Fiyaz; Dental Treatments of the Future by Arpit Grover and Cyborgs & the World of Biotechnology by Matthew Clayton. Thanks must go to Aran Patel, whose organisation has been instrumental in the continued running of BioSoc.

## DT Alessi competition

**Mrs Roderick writes:** Year 9 pupils were given the task of choosing an everyday product & re-designing it into the style of the Italian Design Group Alessi. The winners were: 9A A. Bembridge, 9D R. Dhillon, 9G J. Jones and 9P A. Sandhu. The student who won the overall competition was Alex Bembridge from 9A. He designed a product for holding tissues in the shape of a whale with the tissues being pulled out from the whale's blow hole. His design was very much in keeping with the Alessi style & something that we could imagine Alessi developing into a final product to be sold.



## Farchynys

**Mr Langton writes:** Farchynys has hosted a record number of fustees this summer, with 7 activity weeks taking place. The students (picture left) have enjoyed a wide range of activities and staff have reported back on excellent attitudes. The Project Horizon team (above) also used the coach house as the base for the first attempt of the Sunchaser project. The payload was retrieved, but there were technical problems with the footage. Watch this space for future attempts.

## Computing Trip

**Idris Hanif writes:** This term a group of Year 9 and 10 Computing students visited The National Museum of Computing (NMOC) and Bletchley Park. Upon arriving at the NMOC, we were given a guided tour of the museum. A highlight was seeing Colossus, the world's first programmable electronic computer, which was used for deciphering encrypted messages in World War II. We also got to make our own Snake Game on retro BBC Micro Computers. In the afternoon, we visited Bletchley Park, the site of key code breaking operations in World War II. Interestingly, a man named Harry Hinsley, who was an old boy of Queen Mary's Grammar School, worked as a code breaker here during the war. While at Bletchley Park we saw, among other exhibits, a reconstruction of the Bombe, the machine developed by Alan Turing to break the German Enigma code, as well as many of the props from the film the Imitation Game. Overall, we had a fantastic day which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

## Headstart engineering

**Liam O'Connor reports:** After some ice-breaker activities, we started working. Lectures included: fluid dynamics, structural engineering, materials & design, with my 2 hour laboratory session in fluid dynamics. We had the opportunity to strip and rebuild a Honda car engine. Day 3 we were introduced to our project to design and programme a robot to do certain tasks within a team of 4. The remainder of our week was taken up by talks about: graduates in industry, engineering at Cambridge, admission to Cambridge, research at Cambridge. I would recommend the course to anyone with a genuine interest in engineering, mathematics, physics, or anyone unsure, to really allow you an insight into what you want to study at university.

## Wind in the Willows

**Ben Johns reports:** In the latter part of the Spring term, thirty-five pupils from Years 7-9 acted with energy and skill with some 'stand-out' performances, supported by many staff and students, in two performances of Alan Bennett's delightful adaptation of 'Wind in The Willows'.

## WE Day

**Amani Anwar writes:** Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March saw a group of 6<sup>th</sup> former pupils - led by Miss Husein and Mr Beasley - make their way to central London to participate in the 'WE day' movement. Despite the early start and lengthy journey, spirits were high and remained so, especially with the splendid performers at Wembley Arena. Even so, behind the rosy atmosphere were several serious messages, the most important being one that is also championed here, at QMGS: community spirit. The movement places huge emphasis on social change; remember... "it's about we, not me"! Overall, the day was considered to be of great benefit.

## Striving for excellence

**Mr Vause says:** Congratulations to Ben Thorn, Manveer & Harjeet Wilkhu, for successfully passing auditions to join the Birmingham School's Wind Band & String Orchestra. The Birmingham Music authority is one of the largest in the Country and competition for places is very high. It is exceptional for three Year 7 pupils to be involved at such an early age. Well done!

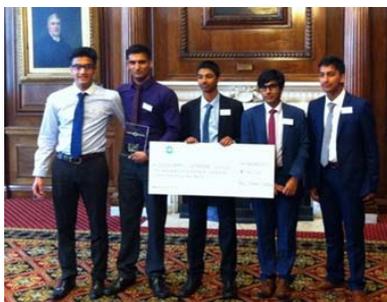
## End of year concert

**Mr Vause reports:** Once more we're looking forward to ending the year with a concert featuring the whole of Year 7 playing their musical instruments! The 120 strong ensemble will be performing popular hits such as Buffalo Soldier, Lean On Me and I'm a Believer. The programme will also provide an opportunity to hear some of our talented up and coming year 7 soloists including: Ben Thorn (7D) performing 'Galliard Marziale A La Rondo' on trumpet; Manveer & Harjeet Wilkhu (7P) 'Allegro from Vivaldi's Concerto in Aminor' on violin; Reece Thornett (7G) 'Mozart's piano Sonata in C; Keefe Ononeme (7G) 'Morris Dance' Clarinet. The school wind band will also be playing in what promises to be a really enjoyable evening of music-making and a wonderful way to end another successful year in the life of the music department.



## Shares4schools

**Nilan Patel and Dilan Patel report:** In a period of seven months, we had to invest £1500 in the stock market in an attempt to make as high a profit as possible. Meetings took place each week & we fastidiously perused numerous articles and data in an attempt to pick a good investment. Taking part in this event allowed the team to gain valuable experience with live money, where handling £1500 is a huge pressure on any adult. From this competition the team have gained life-long skills in the stock market as well as social lessons.



## Tenner Challenge



**Sam Garbett writes:** In May, national Tenner Challenge competition winners Wolf Pack Prints (K Arif, R Dhillon, S Garbett, K Hargun, J Wood) and Jai Singh Sikkha travelled to London to collect our awards. While Wolf Pack Prints won the best group award, Sikkha won the most innovative idea award. Along with the awards ceremony, we were treated to a day out in London, with trips to Ripleys and the Hard Rock Café. We would like to thank Mr Sunley for making this competition and trip possible; it was thoroughly enjoyed by all of us!



## English mentoring

**Joe Hyett writes:** Year 8 boys were given the task to mentor various Year 5 & 6s, to help them with their vocabulary, grammar & structure skills. In an effort to improve their literacy/English skills. I found that this project has helped me with my own skills and now I feel a lot more confident with helping people.

## CCF

**Mr Machin explains:** As the 2015 Easter Holidays commenced so did the annual Adventurous Training package based at Farchynys. This gives cadets experience in mountain walking, navigation and camp craft skills over the spectacular but arduous terrain of Snowdonia (below). Approximately 20 cadets plus staff were faced with some very wet and at times stormy weather. At almost the same time 30 cadets were attending RAF Henlow. An exciting and varied programme included visits to all parts of the station as well as shooting & flying packages.



This year's Army Camp will be held at Crowborough in Sussex. Fifty QMGS cadets are due to attend. Cadets from several other Contingents will be present with the whole event being organised by the Cadet Training Team of the Regular Army.

Finally during the period 2<sup>nd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> August we will be running a Senior Cadet Instructor Cadre at Leek Training Area in Staffordshire. This course is aimed mostly at older cadets who we hope will be the instructors of the future.

A Formal Parade of all 350 cadets was held in School on 24 April (below). This year's inspecting officer was Air Commodore David Prowse OBE. The day was a huge success and thanks are to be given to all officers, teachers & students alike.



### Cricket

**Mr Gibbons:** The 1<sup>st</sup> XI were entered into the U19s National T20, the U17s National Cup and the Bablake T20. Against some challenging opposition, they found victories hard to come by, but some promising individual performances give hope for next year. Arjun Patel achieved the highest individual score by a senior batsman with 67 against KE VI College, whilst Nilan Patel recorded figures of 4-16 versus KE Five Ways.

The U15A side has achieved relative success under the guidance of Mr. Beasley. The team recorded 3 victories and reached the semi-final of the Staffordshire Cup. Against KE Camp Hill, Ben Hopton scored 75no before Jay Mahay achieved figures of 5-20 to ensure a 35 run victory. Hashim Vali also recorded outstanding bowling figures of 5-16 against Newcastle-under-Lyme for the U15Bs.



The U14A team suffered defeat in the Semi-Final of the Staffordshire Cup but made amends in the U14s Adams' GS 10s Competition where they were the eventual winners (above), beating Adams' in the final by 8 wickets. Rohit Suglani completed the highest individual score of the season with 76\* against KE Aston, but it has been pleasing to see a number of batsmen reach 50s for both the A/B teams. Seth Jordan has continually impressed with the ball, recording best figures of 3-21 versus KE Aston, but Karam Roprai has recorded the best figures with 6-7 for the B team.

The U13 side were runners-up at the U13s Adams GS 10s Tournament. The most notable win of the season was against a strong KE Five Ways side, with Parmdeep Kalsi setting up the victory with a dominant 79\* from 50 balls. Faizan Raja has bowled consistently throughout, recording figures of 2-16, 3-11 and 2-18 versus KE Aston, LSS & KH VIII respectively. Moreover, Amrit Basran hit 54\* and took 2-9 in a man of the match performance for the B team v Bablake.

The U12A team (below) has achieved outstanding results, losing only one game all season. They also reached the final of the Staffordshire Cup where they will play John Taylor High School on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July. One boy has played a leading role in the success of the team, with Hashim Iqbal scoring nearly 400 runs, including 4 fifties & an incredible 100\* against Sandwell Academy. Jairaj Kooner was the leading wicket taker with 14 and Ibrahim Raza spun the team to victory against KH VIII, where he achieved a momentous hat trick!



### Athletics

**Glen Foster reports:** The Summer Term has resulted in many athletic successes on both an individual and team level. In June, Zac Elliot (*pictured*) was triumphant in the Long Jump whilst representing Walsall at the West Midlands Schools. A week later, he achieved qualification for the English Schools Standard with a new PB - 5m 82. However, one especially significant event for Elliot occurred as a result of his representing of the West Midlands in a pentathlon: due to the fact that his team emerged as winners in the team contest, they will compete for the Midlands at the English Schools Combined Events Championships in September. There was also a recent pentathlon success from a group of Year 7s who came 2nd out of 12 schools (including QMHS) at the Black Country Pentathlon and the Athletics team (below) who finished 2nd at the Walsall Schools' championships.



### Basketball

**Tommy Pullan:** "The season '14-'15 started off with the unbelievable news that I'd been included in the England U17 Men New Horizons squad, that would provide opportunities to compete in a tournament in Cherbourg, and then later two games in Edinburgh. There were also training camps spaced throughout the year. Competing for Wolverhampton Team Slam & Birmingham Metropolitan in the EABL, we experienced mixed success."

### Football

**Jake Garrett:** Despite a 2nd half fight-back, the students beat a staff XI 3-2 in the annual match, raising over £100 for Cancer Research UK

### Tennis

**Edoardo Bisconti & Sahil-Raj Mal write:** This season, it has been an eventful and triumphant year for the U13s, winning 2 matches out of 4, including their first against Stafford Grammar. The U15s have managed to record victories against St Francis, Aldridge and Erasmus Darwin. A tight win on a tie break in their final game against Brownhills saw the team crowned Staffordshire league champions!

### Rugby Dinner



**Glenn Foster writes:** The annual Rugby Dinner took place at Walsall Rugby Club in April, attended by staff and members of the Senior XV's. Along with the usual distribution of awards, the attendants were celebrating the achievement of the victorious 7s squad in the Staffs Shield.