



# The QM Observer

Summer Term Newsletter

Friday 20th July 2012

## National Sports Week Hits The Ground Running



**Above:** Action shot of the ball sneaking past the Gryphon goalkeeper

The week of the 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> June formed National Sports Week. This was an exciting time as it gave members of Years 7-10 a chance to participate in some new and exciting sports that they don't always have the opportunity to play in the rest of the year. The week began straight away with something new. Handball is a new addition to the Sports Week involving 7 players (One goal keeper and 6 outfield players) who pass a ball to throw it into the goal of the other team. This proved a very popular new sport for the week. Also on Monday there was a chance to play football, something usually confined to lunchtimes. After Sports day on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>, students had the chance to play Tennis, Badminton and Volleyball as well as some

students trying triathlon. This involved a swimming race, followed by a period of rowing and ending with a race around the school fields. The week was, once again, a huge success.

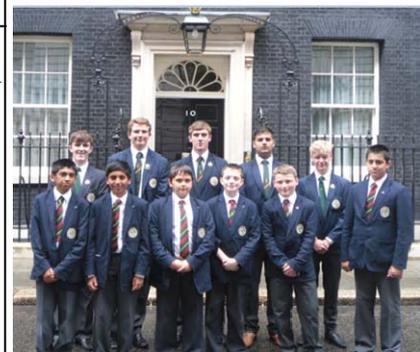
Reece Bhatoe participated in both the triathlon and football events. He commented "It was brilliant. I got to play some sports that aren't common at QM. It was a great way of having fun whilst doing something different". Overall, the week got the majority of the school involved in sport, whether it was a running event on Sports day, triathlon or even tug of war, the whole school was involved in a very enjoyable week of sport and thanks go to all the staff that had a hand in organising it.

**William Richards**

## School Wreath Laying

**Ben Hopton reports:** On Friday 6th July Year 7 went to London. Firstly, we went on amazing amphibious vehicles called "duck tours". These could go on land and river and we were shown famous land marks of London. Then we ate lunch, before going to the wreath laying service in Westminster Abbey. After this 15 minute service we had another walk around London before getting back on the coach home. Overall, I thought this was a great experience and I am delighted to be part of a successful service that is solely for our own school.

The new captain of school, Jakob Brooke was also there and said, "It was productive, enjoyable and an honour representing the school".



**Above:** New CoS Jakob Brooke, senior outgoing prefects and CoS Stephen Paddock with fustees at No 10 Downing Street



## Farewell To a "Living Legend"

**William Richards writes:** The end of another summer term marks the end of a very prestigious career at QMGS. Mr Law has been teaching at Queen Mary's for 35 years. In that time he has become Head of Geography, been on many Geography fieldtrips, become Warden of Farchynys. Mr Law has had an eventful career at the school. He has visited Iceland on several occasions and has also been on skiing trips and a fieldtrip to Morocco to name a few. His rank of Major in the CCF has

seen him participate in many activities including adventurous training in the depths of North West Wales (always an eventful occasion). In the classroom, Mr Law has always been an inspirational teacher. I still remember my first "Geogo" lesson back in Year 7. He has always inspired students to learn and explore. We all wish him the best of luck and a very happy retirement. He will be sorely missed.



## DT @ QMGS



**Mrs Roderick:** It has been another busy term in DT. The brief for year 7 was to design a storage unit using a program called Google SketchUp and for year 8 it was to design a trophy and/or award that could be

given to a winning competitor at the London 2012 Olympics. The overall winners for both years were Oliver Mills (above) and Alex Blundell (right).



## QMGS CCF Overnight Exercise

**Marcello Hunt:** On the 28th June, most year 9 cadets and some NCOs left to go to Nesscliffe. The party arrived at the training area late afternoon and lessons started immediately. First up was cooking. Using mess tins and rations provided, the cadets got to work cooking and eating their dinner.

The next task was erecting a place of shelter; two ponchos and some bungees make a great basha which to the uninitiated is a basic tent. The next task was night navigation which was a fun way to spend the night.

After sleep the cadets woke up to an escape and evasion exercise. Basically, get to point A from point B and don't get caught!

The rest of that Friday was field day which was very productive, with a competition being run. This consisted of a drill and turnout test, two different command tasks and a first aid stand filling the day with lots of interesting and exciting activities.

## Mikado

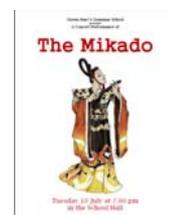
"On Tuesday 10th July, an audience was transported to the Japanese town of Titipu for a concert performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's opera

To open, Matthew Greenwood featured in a solo piano performance of Yiruma's 'River flows in you' whilst Mr Prew himself was called upon to play in two piano duets, 'The Sprat; A Fish That Is Ever In Motion' and 'Overture to The Mikado', performing with Richard Ng and Mr Swain respectively.

Yaa Addai-Mensah, Paolina Adamo, Imiose Agboaye, Rebecca Cashmore, Matthew Greenwood, Oliver Jevons, Richard Ng, Kieron Sealy-John and Mrs Phillips were all cast in various solo roles for the opera and the chorus consisted of the rest of the choir.

It was Mr Prew's last concert as the school's Head of Music, and was a fitting tribute for his service to the school during his time here.

**Richard Ng**



## Junior Quiz Team Success

**Mr Elsdon writes:** We entered three teams this year that all reached the regional final. Our first team was seeded, and so expected to reach the semi-finals. This they did with ease. Our second team narrowly lost to KES, then beat KEHS first team, but failed to reach the semi final. Our third team weren't expected to progress and had to play the KES first team. We went 100 points down but showed immense fight to pull back the deficit and win, also winning our next match and getting through to the semi-finals. QM then beat the KES second team to reach the final!

The other semi-final saw our first team pulverise KES Stratford 1010 - 250. As clear winners, the final was not played.

The first team then played Kings School Worcester which we narrowly won, then in the final match before the National Final we lost on the very last question to Hereford Cathedral School. A very fine team this year, who have further enhanced the reputation of the school nationally.

## CCF Gliding

**Below:** Jack Whitehouse - one of a party of cadets gliding at 633 Volunteer Gliding Squadron RAF Cosford.

Jack has completed part 3 of a Gliding Induction Course and will now apply for a Gliding Scholarship



## Space Centre

**Ben Haynes reports:** The National Space Centre staff have seen many things from real life decommissioned shuttles to original astronaut space suits, but never have they seen anything as amazing as the Year 8 pupils from QMGS!

The day started with each pupil being given a quiz booklet to fill in on their way around, and then we were set loose.

The Space Centre was filled with things from real shuttles to flight simulators, and even making a weather forecast on Mars!

Overall it was a great day, and that gap in all our minds about space has finally been filled (No excuses for bad grades anymore!)



**Above:** The Junior Quiz Team

## Art Exhibition

**Adam Pettitt:** On the 29th June artwork from the GCSE & A level groups was showcased in the hall. Work ranged from portraiture to landscapes in a range of mediums. Around 200 people came to view the event, including local businesses and professional artists. Thanks go to Miss Lowries & Mrs Roderick for their hard work. One visitor's comment summed up the feeling: "It was wonderful to see such amazing progression all at such a high standard"

## Carneige Medal Shadowing Group

**Mrs Nicholls:** For the first time ever QMGS decided to shadow the prestigious children's book award. The short list was announced, and books ordered. The eight books on the short list needed to be read in just a few weeks, so appeals were made for avid readers to join the group. The sixteen copies of the titles were quickly snapped up. It was then a waiting game for the books to be returned. Mr Lax whose idea it was, borrowed 'The Midnight Zoo' to read. I gave the books out and waited for them to be returned questioning the boys on their feelings about the book they'd read. We had a meeting to talk about the books we'd read, and we gave out shadowing group mugs and cupcakes. The winner of the award was 'A Monster Calls', and all of us who had read that book felt it was a worthy winner.

## £750K Success

**Jack Gorman writes:** This term the school has been fortunate enough to be awarded £750,000 from the Academies Capital Maintenance Fund so I spoke to Mr Swain to find out more...

"The bid itself was prepared over a three week period and its success now brings about some exciting changes to the school building."

"Firstly, the current Geography rooms S10, S11 and S12 will be gutted and turned into two science classrooms and a prep room. Then, the extending and refitting of S7 and S4 will take place. Finally, the Geography classrooms will be replaced by brand new ones built on top of the existing languages wing."

"The reason for these changes can be attributed to the increase in demand for sciences with the demand for the subject roughly doubling whilst there has been only one new laboratory."

Work will begin in the summer holidays and Mr Swain was keen to reiterate that this is an exciting time for the school with the new Sixth Form Centre nearing completion and now this. Truly a time to celebrate two major new building thanks to a community effort.

## Un Voyage en France

**Oliver Chatwin recalls:** Mrs Sharp recently planned and led a school trip to France for four days.

On 29<sup>th</sup> June, 39 of us set off with Mrs Sharp, Mr Matley, Miss Horden, Mrs Franklin and Mrs Swain.

The first activity was visiting a cheese farm. In the evening we went to the restaurant for the first time. The food was tasty every night.

On Friday we went into Boulonge and in the afternoon went to Nausicaá where we enjoyed the variety of fish.

Saturday was interesting as we went to a bakery and then a theme park. Many of us enjoyed these activities.

On Sunday we went to a snail farm in the morning. The rest of the day was spent travelling, arriving back at QMGS at 7:30pm English time and we all enjoyed it thoroughly albeit being very tired.

## Biology Field Course at Farchynys



**Harry Boniface reports:** For two weeks this term, 23 Year 12 students visited Farchynys for the Biology Field Course with Mr Lilley, Mr Preese and Mr Clements. Whilst there, we completed investigations to enhance our data collection and analytical skills in the surroundings of Boathouse Bay and Morfa Dyffryn sand dunes. There were trips to Aberystwyth University where we visited the Biological Sciences Institute and Coed y Brenin forest. In addition to the planned investigations, we also took part in our own personal projects which were to give us the opportunity to study an area which isn't covered by the syllabus and one which we might consider studying beyond the Sixth Form.

## German Trip



**Ben Fortes-Mayer:** The Germany trip this year was enjoyable despite 18 hour journeys both ways, because we went on many excursions and played football every night. On the first day, we visited Freiburg, then the steepest cable car in Europe and a waterfall. Then, on the next day we went to Strasbourg, a beautiful French city where we took a boat ride, and on the last day we went to Europa Park, which was fantastic with loads of huge rides. In conclusion I found the trip great!

## Junior Maths Challenge

**Mr Litchfield writes:** On April 26th, all of year 8 plus 14 boys from year 7 took part in the Junior Maths Challenge and experienced great success, with a bumper crop of 28 gold certificates, 33 silver and 20 bronze being awarded.

Particular mention should be given to Sundeep Sandhu of 8P and Zaahid Akbar of 7D, who both qualified for the Junior Maths Olympiad. Only 1200 pupils in the whole country were invited to participate, so merely qualifying was a fantastic achievement in itself. Both boys have since sat the Olympiad paper and are eagerly anticipating the results.

## QMGS in Rome

**Catherine Ravenscroft:** The trip to Rome began with a walking tour of the city led by a native guide. He took us to many famous sites including Trevvi Fountain and the coliseum. He also gave us interesting background to the places we visited which helped us gain a better insight. The second day was a 'free day' when we could pursue our personal interests. For some this involved visiting world-famous designer shops or returning to some sites. Others explored new areas of the city including St Sebastian's Catacombs. The last day was the Vatican where we saw the Basilica before reaching the highlight, the Cistine Chapel. Overall it was very enjoyable and we would like to thank the staff involved for this valuable trip.



**Left:** Students experiencing Italian culture in Rome.

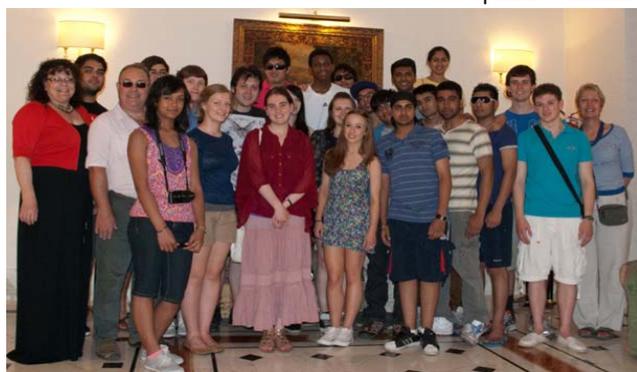
**Above:** Year 8 pupils in Boulogne

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## Staff v Students Football

**Josh Wooldridge:** On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April the Sixth Form students were confident of ending the impressive undefeated record of the staff. At kick off, watching some of the staff team, we felt we had it easy, with some of the faces looking more appropriate on a chess team than a football pitch. The game started off competitively, with tackles flying in. Early pressure from us was repelled by the staff until, suddenly, Mr Clements broke the deadlock making it 1-0. The staff used the slope to their advantage in the second half and experience began to tell over youth, with a second goal being added by Mr Langton and a succession of our counter attacks being repelled by the alert Mr Parker in goal. Mr Lax and Mr Fadden continued to 'keep check on the progress' of the students and frustration boiled over at times. Bradley Evans did his best in goal, but couldn't prevent Mr Clements adding a third from the penalty spot (just!) and was caught in the opposition half as a long through ball put through Mr Clements for his hat trick in the final minutes to make it 4-0. Despite the defeat, the game was a huge success, as a lot of money was raised for Teenage Cancer Trust and Sixth Form Centre.

## Year 7 Rugby & Farchynys

**Mr Collins writes:** The Year 7 Rugby team finished on a high having come 4<sup>th</sup> out of 32 teams at a tournament organised at Lichfield RFU in March. The first stage of the competition involved QM winning 3 matches against Erasmus Darwin, Walsall Academy and Weston Rd School. After scoring 5 tries and conceding just once in round 1, QM then entered a cup competition where they had to face the 6 winners of the other groups. QM performed well, winning two games, drawing one and losing three. Amongst the competitors were large rugby schools like St Josephs and Newcastle under Lyme, who we had lost heavily to earlier in the season. The boys performed their best and did QM proud! The fustees have also been making their first trips to Farchynys this term and the quality of the weeks has been fantastic. As Oliver Mills reflected "it's an experience that opens your eyes to the world"



**Above:** Year 7 students ready to represent their houses

## Sports Day Reflections

**William Richards:** As part of the school's sports week, there was the annual sports day on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> of June. Sports day, an event when the four QM houses, and athletes from each year group, are able to compete against each other in Athletic events such as 100m, high jump, and javelin. It is always an exciting event in the school year, and this year was no different. Typical of the British summer, the weather was terrible, leaving slippery and treacherous conditions for all those competing. Despite this, the athletes were undeterred and the event was a resounding success with many praiseworthy performances from all levels of the school community. The overall competition was won, once again, by Darby house, followed by Gryphon with Petypher and Aragon taking 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> positions. However, there were many very strong individual performances. Gavan Nijar gave a fine discus performance in the senior competition. In year 10 there were some very strong performances. Stephen Walker came first in both the 100m and 200m sprints as well as shot putt. Reece Bhatoo won in the discus and javelin whilst Karan Patel won both the high and triple jump events. The girls' competition, which took place for the first time, was another success story. Lauren Garbett stated 'The day was lots of fun, with strong performances by the likes of Yaa Addai-Mensah, Tara Banks, Lauren Williams and Mei-Tym Pang'. We look forward to another strong competition next year.

## Cricket

In what has been one of the wettest school summers on record, very little school cricket has been played. Many games have been cancelled and the umpires have even been seen with umbrellas in times of desperation! Highlights of the truncated season for the seniors have come from Harvin Bhogal's 4-3 against KE Stourbridge (including a hat trick), and Anaesh Patel's 5-20 against KE Aston. Manraj Dhugga, Josh Wooldridge, Shushill Suglani and Anaesh Patel have all been awarded half colours. In the under 15 XI, the highlight has to be the opening stand of 114 against Oswestry between Tom Bunn and Oliver Hanson. Nathan Blackwood's 59 against Wrekin College secured the under 14s best win of the season and both the under 12s and under 13s have shown promise and improvement throughout the year.

**Mr L J Taylor**

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