



Enterprise Week hits the ground running

This week is globally celebrated **Enterprise Week**. Throughout the world thousands of schools and businesses will be taking part in various activities to promote enterprise.

The main focus of enterprise is to encourage people's inventiveness and various skills to make their dream a reality. These include resourcefulness, problem solving and financial management amongst other things. A key factor in this is the fact that any Business or Economics skills are unnecessary. Anyone can get involved, and enterprise shows itself in many forms – at home, at school and even at work.

So, this special edition of the Queen Mary's Grammar School newsletter is specifically focused on the school's involvement in this national event and all of the exciting activities that have taken place to commemorate it. Our very own Mr. Sunley has been kind enough to shed some light on the recent events as well as tirelessly coordinating the efforts within the school. His main aims for the week are to promote the initiative of enterprise, as it can lead to and help in many walks of life. Enterprise, though, cannot function without creativity, and another important focus is to support free-thinking and ingenuity in approaching and solving tasks. Perhaps more importantly, enterprise encourages participation in new fronts as well as the school community, for good teamwork and cooperation are vital aspects for success.

The week has been very successful, attracting numerous students from various years into the wide range of activities on offer. We hope you enjoy reading about it!



Making the right moves

The Physics department has been a battlefield this week as chess players face off against each other to win the prestigious Chess Competition. Organised by Mr. Thorpe and Mr. Rockett, the competition has been open to all students in years 7-9 with victors winning £10 worth of book vouchers and runners-up securing £5 of vouchers. The entry fee is £1, with all proceeds and donations going to Children in Need. The tournament has proven to be fun and challenging, whilst showing how easy it is for pupils to be enterprising.

Year 8 pupils clean-up in Chemistry

Several students were invited to attend a 'Soapbox Challenge' in the Chemistry Department to create their very own soap. The lunchtime event in which this took place served only as a taster session; the activity is expected to be repeated in the near future with regular sessions. The soap made will be sold at major school events. Head of Chemistry Dr. Rowley added "Although it seems a fairly easy process, the pupils must consider their target audience and market the soap by using colours and shapes as appropriate; this is what makes it such a unique and enjoyable enterprise activity!"

How would you invest £100,000?

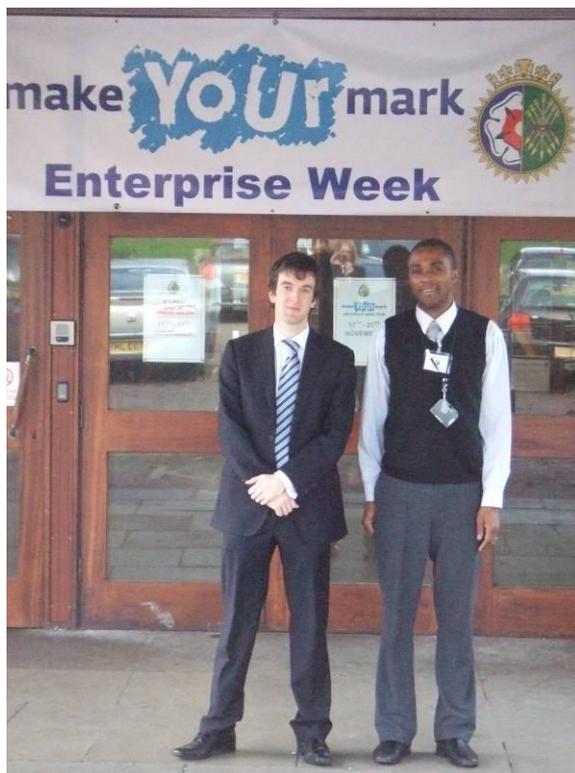
The year 10 'Stock Market Challenge' was held this Friday. The year was divided into teams of four and challenged to invest £100,000 in an interactive replica of the stock market. They discussed which shares they thought would be best to invest in and then were able to buy and sell shares in a number of different companies. The stock market was always changing, with shares rising and falling. Also, there were TV, radio and newspaper reports regularly updating the pupils on events which affected the companies.

A huge benefit of this enthralling day is that it counts for the 'speaking and listening' part of their GCSE English as the pupils were assessed while they discussed and considered their options. It also provided the students with very useful knowledge of the stock market and how it works, as many who entered completely unaware, left well informed and itching to know more. The fact that it was made to seem so realistic meant that they were kept on the edge of their seats throughout. One of the pupils we interviewed said:

"It was a really fun day and using shares like this has broadened my knowledge for the future as I am now really interested in the world of stocks and shares - something that before I barely knew existed."

This event was in many ways similar to that of the Student Investor Challenge launched this week, designed and administered by our very own Daniel Moran of Year 11, who we were fortunate enough to interview. We were told the aim of the event was to encourage participation of the younger years of the school in enterprise, as well as being fun and educational. "Pupils should gain a sense of the stock market and how it works, prepare them for business studies or economics and so that they can understand the stock market later on in life. It also helps with maths, for example, when buying and selling shares." Now that it is established it will run continually with monthly winners and yearly prizes. So what's next for the budding entrepreneur? "For the website itself, I hope to add some flash games and movies to make it a bit more fun, and I am going to offer some advertising spaces to hopefully make some profit". Visit the Challenge at

<http://www.xandonline.net/>



Vine Trust Chief Executive Kevin Davis (right) and Mr Sunley

The Dragons of the Victorian era

The riveting task of promoting a venture in the cruel and competitive Free Market of the mid-Victorian era was given to Year 9 on Tuesday. The pupils had to study maps, research transport and put together a successful bid in an attempt to convince potential contractors (i.e. the ‘Dragons’) to invest in the construction of their new transport route. It was an enjoyable learning experience about the profits, risks and hard work involved in endorsing an enterprising project during those times.

Our very own Superstars

The year 7 ‘Superstars Competition’ has also been running during the course of the week, organised by Mr Gray and the Biology department. Each form has entered a team of four young sportsmen to take part in athletic events each day, similar to the popular TV show, such as swimming, basketball and football. There is a cost of entry and donations have been requested, with the proceeds going to charity. The idea is to encourage exercise and fitness, whilst also being a demonstration of a fun and easy way to be enterprising and raise money.



Heard It On The (Grape) Vine

In recognition of the school’s close partnership with the Vine Trust and Thursday’s theme of Social enterprise, we were privileged to be able to listen to and interview guest speaker Kevin Davis, Chief Executive of the Vine Trust. Now in his 11th year as a member of the Trust, he has the key job of providing a broad vision and overseeing the four fundamentals of the organisation: education, engagement, business and public relations. After growing up in Walsall he wanted to give back to his community by providing this valuable service to the public.

The Vine Trust is a worldwide charity that endeavours to transform lives and societies, especially in isolated regions of the world. It is a business with social objectives, as such all profits are reinvested into the community. The Walsall branch of the Trust, which Queen Mary’s is currently supporting through marketing, is specifically geared to provide a ‘second chance education’ for hard-to-reach youths, and is also spearheading a new joint initiative with IKEA. Through its many projects and facilities it is certainly a valuable contributor to our society in Walsall.

Mr Davis feels that enterprise week is extremely important in schools because pupils are presented with a variety of models of enterprise and it will help Britain to acquire a leading edge. Young people have plenty of creative ideas; the challenge now is keeping hold of them - especially with the current credit crunch and recession looming. The Vine Trust acts as a voice for those who don’t have one and fights for a second chance for those who need it. It may be that some of the most talented individuals have their creativity squandered for a number of reasons, but the Vine Trust is just one in a series of channels through which young people may discover and make use of their skills. Indeed, many students from the school volunteer to aid the Trust in its difficult mission to support and help those in the community.

Make Your Mark Challenge

Four Teams competed in a Make Your Mark competition on Monday of this week. Their challenge was to invent a business concept that represented the seven Olympic Values: respect, inspiration, equality, excellence, determination, courage and friendship. The winning sixth form team’s idea was to construct an Olympic Museum incorporating these key values and facilitating education and training at the same time. They considered key marketing factors like promotion, competition and their target audience. The Year 11 team came up with an equally serviceable idea; to send an Olympic workshop round schools to test students mentally and physically. The winning sixth formers will now proceed onto a national competition if chosen and the Year 11 team will go through to the regional finals. A lot of hard work was put into it but key skills such as teamwork and leadership have been gained.

Social Enterprise

The school’s Debating Society got stuck into enterprise week on Wednesday where the pupils argued for or against the phrase, “Money is the root of all evil.” Convincing arguments were put forward from both sides, but in the end the students came to the conclusion that money is a necessity of life and because of this, people go to extreme lengths to acquire it and can become selfish once it is obtained.

The Economics society also hosted an enterprise week-themed showcase about the ‘credit crunch’. In the meeting an informative talk was given about its causes and effects. Many interesting ideas were brought forward, including Sean Southall’s view that what is simply a term given to the availability of loans decreasing is being misused and blown out of proportion by the manipulative media.