



## “Well crafted and touching”

Miss Dyke brings Steinbeck's classic 'Of Mice and Men' to life on stage



## Who wants to raise £1,000,000?

### Matthew Tuner reports:

For a number of years our senior students have had to put up with a rather run-down, almost dilapidated, sixth form centre which is simply unfit for purpose. However, this is set to change. Last year, the Headmaster, Mr Swain, began to seriously consider the prospect of building a new sixth form centre. Our search for government funding, however, proved to be fruitless. Surely then the plan could not go ahead? Undeterred, in September of last year the school employed a professional fundraising company to help raise the £1,000,000 needed through a process of philanthropic giving. Since then the campaign has been going strongly and, as of last week, the school has raised £745,000. For the last six months the 'Gift of Learning' campaign has been coordinated by Mr Tom West, the Campaign Manager working for Compton Fundraising. He has worked alongside Mrs Lawrence, the Campaign Administrator, full time in order to help raise the money, through making connections with old boys, friends of the school and parents. His role has been to “provide the insistent voice to the campaign”. The Campaign Board is made up of old boys, staff and parents and is headed up by Sir

Gary Hickinbottom, only the fifth solicitor ever to be appointed a High Court judge, and an old Marian. So far, fourteen Information Events have taken place, two of which were held at The Royal Courts of Justice in London, where the project has been showcased to an invited audience and questions fielded.

Initial designs for the proposed 'Sixth Form and Community Centre' are impressive. The current Sixth Form 'houses' will be knocked down and replaced by a two-storey signature building that will have a main entrance facing the Sutton Road, and a rear entrance facing the school. This is intended to create a welcoming and open feel to the school. The centre will provide high quality facilities, ample space, and a comfortable environment for sixth formers to be able to work and thrive in their senior years at school. However, it will also be used to host educational, extra-curricular and enrichment activities for both pupils at the school and also the wider community. It really is an exciting venture and should be ready for use in September 2011 if the rest of the money can be successfully raised in the summer term.

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**In Sport — “He's got everything” -  
Drayton-Chana shines in 1st XI**

## Picture Perfect

**Randeep Soor writes:** On the 26<sup>th</sup> of February, the school hosted its first ever photography competition exhibition following on from this year's competition. Headed by professional freelance photographer and Old Marian, Ben McPhee, the exhibition showcased the top twelve photos of this year's entries. The winning photo was a study of a horse-rider on a beach taken by Joe Wright of Year 9, with runners up being Daniel Chorley and James Nowell, both of the Lower Sixth. The event was reported in the *Express and Star* and all of the finalists will have their photos displayed at the Chameleon Gallery.



Joe's winning photo of Barmouth Beach

## Magical Morocco

**Alex Weate reports:** From the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December, a group of fifty pupils (pictured to the bottom right), along with four members of staff, travelled to Morocco for a Geography Field Trip. The trip was hectic, as we covered many hours on the road, via the Tizi-n-Tichka Pass through the Atlas Mountains, the enormous Todra Gorge to the Sahara Desert. While other students at home were leaving school for the Christmas holidays, we were being carried by an army of camels into the desert to see the sun set over the sand; an amazing experience. Earlier in the day, we visited a tiny Saharan village, which opened our eyes to the poverty in Morocco, where many simply had nothing. An introduction to rugby for the children of the village was one of the most touching moments of the trip. The only dampener on an amazing trip was the British weather. Having had two cancelled flights due to the snow, we arrived home in three batches more than a day later than expected. On behalf of all those on the trip, I wish to thank our guide: Ian Hardie, our translator: Larbi, and most of all the staff who accompanied us: Mr. Law, Mr. Matley, Mr. Lilley and Miss Horden. It was an amazing experience and one that will never be forgotten.

## Farchers outing for new recruits

**Oliver Beddard writes:** Leaving on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March, a group of 14 Year 9 cadets from both the army and RAF sections of the schools CCF left for Farchynys accompanied by 6 NCOs and a small group of officers. Being a "Recruits" weekend, the aim was to give the new cadets the opportunity to put learnt skills into practice and also be trained in a few new areas. Training for the weekend included an introduction to the newly issued L98 A2 Cadet GP rifle, a round robin of patrolling, cam and concealment and voice procedure as well as orienteering and air rifle shooting. The main day of training was Saturday, where the cadets were out in the highlands of Farchynys for most of the day and having set up camp in the morning using military issue bashas, string and whatever objects they could fashion into tent pegs, they returned to camp to try their hand at cooking out in the field. All cadets returned home on Sunday afternoon in one piece and with an improved understanding of their cadet training. As one of the attending NCO's in charge of training on the weekend, I thought that it was fantastic to see the cadets' enthusiasm for the CCF grow over the weekend and I assume much to the delight of their parents, their energy levels depleted after the action-packed weekend!

## Students Help Haiti Victims

**Matthew Wells reports:** The overwhelming media coverage of the devastating earthquake in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince motivated the international community to raise money in order to support the people and aid the relief effort. Many pupils felt that it was only right that the school also contributed to the cause in any way they could. To launch the appeal a video was depicted in assembly, which graphically depicted the level of devastation in the country and initiated the drive to raise money. They managed to raise a great amount of £1,184 which was generously doubled by the Headmaster. The school community reached a grand total of £2,368, which was sent to the Disasters Emergency Committee.



## QM Comes Alive with Bollywood Fever

**Vivek Sarin reports:** On the 13<sup>th</sup> of March at 7pm, the QMA hosted the spectacular Bollywood Night at QMGs. Amongst the many parents and pupils that attended the night, our very own Headmaster was present, just one of the teachers who booked a table. Each table, each amusingly named after a famous Bollywood actor or film, was laid out with various advertisements, and a quiz testing guests' knowledge about the Bollywood culture. The night kicked off with various performances including a dance acted out from the Indian movie Devdas, which received constant applause. Swiftly after came the main part of the night, that pupils, parents, and even teachers had been waiting for, the dancing. Our very own Suraj Desai and Rupesh Patel got the adrenaline pumping with their brilliant dhol playing. At 10.30, sticking to traditional Indian timings, a range of delicious Indian food was served, after which more music was played. The night ended on a high, with the sixth formers singing Indian songs, S Club 7 songs, and even nursery rhymes. It was, safe to say, yet another great year for Bollywood Night.



## Oxbridge Offers

January each year can be a nerve-shredding time, as the brightest academic prospects around the globe await news from Oxford and Cambridge Universities as to whether or not they will receive offers to read for a degree there. This year, seven of our boys were offered places with Captain of School, Robert Castledine leading the way with an offer to study Languages at Cambridge. Daniel Threlfall, Matthew Wells and Jason Zhang were also delighted to receive confirmation of their success in the ultra-competitive admissions process from the same university. Oxford, if all goes to plan, will welcome three of our boys, with Christopher Crompton, David Loh and Thomas Small receiving offers. These pupils deserve the highest praise for capping seven year's hard work at Queen Mary's with this fine achievement. We wish them luck in their A Levels as they seek to gain the necessary grades to ensure that they secure their places.



## Steinbeck's classic comes to the Mayfield stage

Glover and Smith lead the cast in school production

**Mr Walton reviews the play:** With a committed cast working alongside Miss Dyke directing her first performance on the Mayfield stage, this play set out to capture the power and humanity of Steinbeck's 'Of Mice and Men'. Even to those familiar with the story, this production still possessed a shock factor, thanks to its well-crafted and touching moments depicting the unreachable American dream. Simple, yet effective setting, allied with convincing acting, created a believable piece that pulled you into George and Lennie's world from the start. The character of Lennie is notoriously hard to take on, but Jordan Smith succeeded impressively and one couldn't help but feel affection for the childlike character he created. This made the ending all the more heart-wrenching. Bradley Glover was compelling as George

and carried the play with his sincere performance and stage presence. The noble Slim was played with poise by Sabeeh Syed, while Alex Hackett brought spirit to the usually pathetic, one-handed Candy. Curley, played by Richard Ng, exuded nastiness and his sneering expressions made your skin crawl whenever he stepped on stage. Ayushi Vyas played the unlucky lady married to this contemptuous man. While she accomplished the characterisations of the flirtatious girl that the men accused her of being, it was her ability to gain the audience's sympathy in her desperate loneliness that was impressive. The cast and crew should be congratulated on a fine achievement.



## Kieran's Cadet Campaign

**André Rhoden-Paul writes:** Kieran Bhakta is in with a shot of winning one of the most coveted CCF awards, the Sir John Thomson Memorial Sword. The Sword is awarded to the best RAF Combined Cadet Force cadet in the country. The Cadet Warrant Officer has been shortlisted to the final nine cadets. Nominations of cadets displaying the highest level of commitment and involvement to the CCF were taken in November, from the 200 RAF sections at schools and colleges across the UK. Kieran's nomination recognises a string of personal achievements during his cadet career, as well as outstanding contribution to the Queen Mary's CCF. In the summer, Kieran will undertake the International Air Cadet Exchange in the Netherlands for 3 weeks. Wing Commander Robert Chalkin visited the section in January, to interview Kieran and see the contingent in training. The winner is announced in late March. If Kieran wins, he can expect to be presented with the Sir John Thompson Memorial sword at Air Squadron Award Day at the RAF College, Cranwell. We all wish him the best of luck.

## Cadets set to fly!

On February 16th 2010, a group of 20 QMGS RAF cadets travelled to RAF Cosford to experience a very rare opportunity; the chance to go flying.



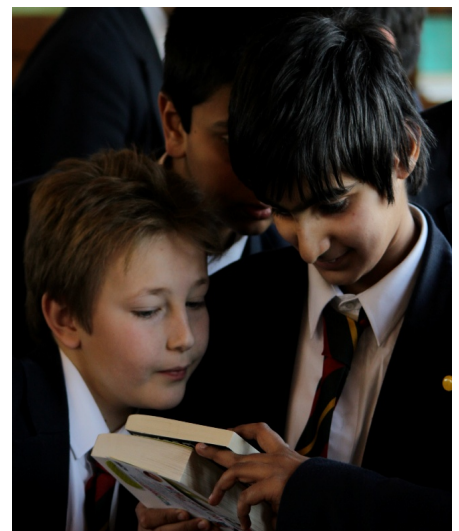
## Learning Languages in their Native Lands



**Matthew Turner writes:** Since Christmas it has been exchange season at QMGS, with pupils travelling to Germany, Spain and France. The longest running exchange is to a secondary school in the town of Biedenkopf, Hesse. The pupils spent two days in the school with their exchange partners, visited the nearby historical town of Marburg and went rock climbing and shopping in the town of Kassel. There was a whole host of activities arranged for the pupils in the evenings, from bowling to Go-Karting. In recent years more exchanges have sprung up; one to the town of Vigo in Galicia, northern Spain and the other to the town of Albi in the south of France. One student who went to Spain said it was "incredible to experience a totally different culture, try new food and, for once, enjoy sunny weather". The party that went to France unfortunately experienced the effects of the French air traffic control strikes, and after they had arrived at the airport and boarded the plane were told they would have to take another flight three days later. Despite the trip being cut short the group still had a fantastic time. Highlights included a visit to the 13th century town of Cordes and a nearby bio-site and wind-farm. These trips have not only developed the pupils' language skills but also offered an amazing opportunity to experience a foreign culture. Our appreciation must go to Mrs McPhee, Mrs Miranda and Ms Horden for all their time spent in arranging these amazing trips.

## World Book Dave!

World Book Day went off with a bang this year with a variety of activities taking place. The highlights included a book sale in the library and a visit from a guest speaker who was charged with the task of motivating our boys, as **Joshua Wooldridge** reports: "On Thursday 4th March, a mixed group of Year 10 and 11 pupils, including myself, attended an English workshop with the well-known comedian and writer Dave Smith. The afternoon was enjoyably witty, as he described his career so far, particularly how he got to where he is today. He was a very intelligent man, and had clearly lived a fascinating life. I also found him very humorous, with his dry and yet down to earth comedy. We were then invited to write a piece of comedy of our own, within which lots of creative and unique ideas were expressed on paper by the participating students. I really enjoyed the workshop, and I hope the school does something of a similar variety next year for the new students"





## Hockey Heroics as QM dominate

### Janak Pachchigar and Gagandeep Sandhar in conversation with Mr Walton

It has been another very successful year for our hockey teams. The 1st XI achieved some notable victories, the highlights being a 6-2 victory against Newcastle-under-Lyme School and a 4-1 hammering of Solihull School. These results were even sweeter, given the long term rivalry between these schools and the desire for us to prove which team is the best in the region. The top scorers in the team were Gagandeep Sandhar and Arjan Drayton-Chana, who both racked up an impressive tally of 20 goals. Arjan (pictured far right) made it a hat-trick of triumphs by being voted the Player of the Season and receiving a call-up to the England Under 16s squad. His team-mates have the utmost respect for his ability to dictate the outcome of the team's matches: "He's got everything!" was just one comment made. Another positive factor to emerge from the season was the growing confidence of Rishi Sharma in goal. He was the hero against Bishop Vesey's, when he saved a last minute penalty flick to secure a memorable 1-0 victory. He then went on to keep 5 clean sheets in the final 7 games. This feat is made even more remarkable by the fact that he had never previously managed to keep a clean sheet in his goalkeeping career at QM.

The success certainly doesn't end with the 1st XI however. The 2nd XI have had a solid season captained by Sam Grundy, with Amardip Rama, Sam Lindsay and Manraj Dhugga showing great promise. The talent also keeps coming through lower down the school. The U14 team reached the last eight of the Midlands competition with Jeevan Dhanda and Umar Kasujee particularly impressive. The U13s (pictured below) won the County 7s tournament, the first time that QM has ever come away with the trophy. Luke Boniface, along with Tom Bunn and Ravi Patel, have shown considerable potential. Finally, the U12s are showing promising signs of developing into a solid team, with Jack Mellor to the fore showing both commitment and nimble stick work. The inspirational coach behind all this success is of course Mr Francis and he must be thanked for his commitment to achieving success with his teams.



## Sports Shorts

### Cross-country

The cross-country team was captained this year by Daniel Threlfall and he led a successful campaign with the A team finishing in 5th place in the league, he was ably assisted by Vice-Captain Adam Barnes. Next year's captain, hoping for even greater success, will be James Sloan.

### Cricket

The cricket season is just around the corner and under the supervision of Mr L Taylor, the school's teams have been preparing avidly since October. With the new Year 7 intake working hard, and practices every Monday for various years, it is hoped that this year all the scheduled fixtures can be fulfilled (and hopefully, of course, won). Preparation for a cricket tour of New Zealand in 2012 is also well underway. There is also a new portable net for the cricket square, an important addition to the facilities available to the teams. We hope that 2010 will be a successful year.

### Sports colours

Members of the sixth form have been rewarded for their contribution to school sport over a number of years by being awarded colours. Liam Hardy, Hardeep Sahota, David Gelder and Amar Singh were awarded colours for their commitment to QM rugby. Kieran Bhakta, Gagandeep Sandhar, Rishi Sharma, Man Lok Tse and Shisan Patel were awarded colours for their performances in the highly successful 1st XI hockey squad.

### And finally....

Thursday 1st April is a landmark day for the school. The Staff 1st XI football team, captained by Mr Johnson, take on 6.2's finest to raise money for Sport Relief. The build-up has had the school buzzing. Watch this space for further details (if the staff win!)

#### Editorial team:

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