

THE QMGS TIMES

22.06.11

Magazine

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Anna Owen at the Summer Festival

"The huge grin was probably a bit of a give away"

Stephen Paddock on his new role

"Only donkeys don't change their minds"

Mr Swain reflects

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Contacts The story behind the pictures - Sports Day



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Some highlights from a memorable Sports Day for Gryphon House are recorded here. The top photograph tells the story of one of the most enjoyable races of the day, with the Walker twins straining to beat one another to gain first place in the Year 9 100m. The competitive spirit of the runners is there for all to see in these snapshots.





What I've learnt

Mr TJ Swain

Two wheels are better than four

It's been 26 years since I cycled from John O' Groats to Land's End. Getting back on a bike and doing some serious training for a Sportive in the Lake District has been one of the most enjoyable experiences of 2011.

Everyone should be bilingual

The first new language I learnt was Brummie when I moved to Walsall from Surrey.

It was something of a crash course! A second language allows you to see things from a different perspective; it's a built-in counter-balance to prejudice.

Only donkeys don't change their minds

That's a translation from French. It applies to me and mobile phones: I used to hate them but a new Blackberry is dragging me, kicking and screaming, into the twenty-first century.

You would go a long way to find a better motto than *quas dederis* ...

When society focuses almost exclusively on what you can *get*, it is so refreshing to think about what you can *give*.

Enjoyment and success go hand in hand

Learning should never be dull. If our only aim is to get good grades, then we have missed the point. Our business is not to fill minds, but to fashion them for the future. That process should be full of excitement.

We should never underestimate what our pupils can do

The achievements of Queen Mary's pupils continue to amaze me. We should always set our sights high and find new ways to stretch and challenge them.

The main thing is to make the main thing the main thing

It's all too easy to lose sight of the big picture and to get bogged down with trivia. Our core business as a school is teaching and learning; we do well not to forget that.

Accept that some days you're the pigeon and some days you're the statue

You can't win them all!

Stephen Paddock

When the QMGS Times team had the opportunity to interview Stephen Paddock, we asked about his responsibilities as School Captain, his experiences so far and also that moment when he was informed that his name would be engraved on the school honours board. **What was your initial reaction when you found out that you had been chosen?** “I felt very privileged to be able to take upon such an important role for the school. I knew that I needed to keep the decision a secret until it was announced to the whole school in assembly, but I think that many guessed my new role due to the huge grin on my face when I arrived at assembly” This it seem is a sure sign of the pride he takes in his appointment. **What are the roles of the School Captain, and what are you most looking forward to?** “Many people underestimate what the role as school captain involves, but after a stressful first week of three maths exams and organising the surprisingly not-so-easy duty rotas; everything seems to have settled down. Anyone who has previously held this post will tell you how much he relies on the team of Vice Captains and Senior Prefects” Stephen now looks forward to events such as the Old Boys’ Dinner and Speech Day, where he will undertake his most daunting task of delivering the response that his predecessors have described as one of the highlights of their final year!.



Connor Butler

The slightly shocked smile on Connor Butler’s face says it all. This was the moment that he had found out that he had been voted by the audience as the winner of the Flare Talent Final that took place at the Summer Festival. His dazzling display of juggling skills wowed the audience and heralded the arrival of a new talent to the ranks of QMGS.



“I think that many people had guessed my new role due to the huge grin on my face when I arrived at assembly!”

Eating in

Why not try cooking your own simple dish this summer. Try this no sauce pasta for a quick and easy meal, recipe courtesy of Mrs Phillips:

INGREDIENTS: 1 medium red onion (chunks), 2 courgettes (chunks), 3 garlic cloves (peeled), 3 tbsp olive oil, 250g cherry tomatoes, 140g pasta, grated cheese. **METHOD:** Preheat the oven to 220C/gas 7. Put the onion, courgettes and garlic into a large ovenproof dish. Evenly spread the olive oil, season well and give everything a quick stir, then roast for 15 minutes. Stir in the tomatoes into the veg and continue roasting for 15 minutes more. At the same time, bring a large pan of salted water to the boil so the sauce and pasta will be finished at the same time. Add the pasta into the boiling water and cook. Drain the pasta. Take the vegetables out of the oven and take the garlic cloves out of their skins. Stir garlic through the vegetables. Add in the pasta and toss everything together, tearing in some basil as you go. Serve with grated parmesan.



What We're Wearing

Anna Owen & Richard Williams

My experience of the Fashion Show is one I probably won't forget for years to come, and also one that my fashion show partner, Richard Williams, won't ever let me live down. Shaking like a leaf, I emerged from backstage with a plastic sword and a beard drawn on with black eyeliner; it was our turn to walk out as Pirates of the Caribbean. I'll admit we were pretty pleased with ourselves, having practised a rather elaborate routine backstage. Unfortunately I was a little too enthusiastic, and at the first clash of our swords the end of mine snapped off and went flying towards an unlucky member of the audience, who very graciously returned it at the end of the show. All the effort, hard work and stress paid off; although I don't think any of us will be looking to model anytime soon!

Cadets in Cyprus



Arzana Gulab, Chenise Howe, Ahmed Sarwar, Kaiser Majeed, Ravinder Jhutie, Zain Iqbal and Sabeeh Syed (from left to right)

On the 23rd March a group of Cadets left their homes to travel on a four hour flight from London Heathrow to Larcanna in Cyprus. We left rainy Britain in the early morning and arrived in Cyprus mid-afternoon to be met with a cool breeze and summer sunshine. The week consisted of getting up at 6am, so that we could get to breakfast at seven. As we walked around the base to the mess, we all realised the sheer scale of the site was mind blowing. The camp consisted of many interesting sections such as Air Traffic Control, Fire Section, Survival Equipment, Engineering, and Visiting Aircraft Services. As well as these, we got to look around an American U2 plane that was stationed at Akrotiri, in support of Operations in Libya. Other great experiences included banana boating, which was one of the most thrilling activities we experienced at camp. Although nothing could match quad biking along open roads, where we saw some of the most beautiful scenery of the coastline. The Cyprus camp is one of the most rewarding camps to go on, as it gives you a chance to learn about lots of aspects of both the RAF and the Air Training Corps. Everyone was able to take advantage in the wide range of activities on offer, and is a camp which we recommend warmly to all the current Cadets in the QM contingent.

“Nothing could match quad biking along the open roads, where we saw some of the most beautiful scenery of the Cypriot coastline”

Cricket at QM



Mr LJ Taylor reflects on work in progress during the 2011 season

How would you describe the season?

The season has been busy as always and for me it has been a six day a week job. James Hawkins (pictured left) was the standout amongst the 1st XI. The under 12s have had lots of close games but still need work to improve their batting. The under 13s are the most improved team in the school with Ethan Walker, Nilan Patel, Mohammed Akram and Sanesh Patel raising their game significantly. The under 14s team has been broken up slightly, but remain a team full of potential first-rate cricketers. The under 15s have impressed, notably Hamza Kalyal, Harvin Bhogal and Ummar Kasujee. They have also benefitted from the inclusion of a few under 14s in their side.

What would you regard as particular standout performances this season?

A particular mention would go to the under 12s for their first ever fixture against Old Swinford Hospital School. This is made extra impressive by the lack of depth in this year group. Another highlight would be the performance of the under 13s, demolishing Five Ways by nine wickets, without two of their key players. Sadly, there are no centuries to report this year.

How can you improve the results in the future?

The junior sides have been very committed this year. When the current Year 11 is in Year 13, we will begin to see an improvement at senior level. From that point on I feel we will grow in strength.