



The QM Observer

Spring Term Newsletter

Friday 30th March 2012

QM's Interest in the Challenge Hits the Target



Alex Weate, Mr Bryars, Zain Iqbal, Charles Bean (Deputy Governor of the Bank of England), Bradley Glover and Jeevan Sahota

Maths Challenge success

The Intermediate Maths Challenge produced an excellent set of results with 25 gold, 25 silver and 11 bronze certificates being awarded and only 8 pupils failing to gain a certificate. Congratulations go to Oliver Hanson, who was best in school and qualified for the Intermediate Maths Olympiad along with Lorcán McCullagh, Callum Macintosh, Omar Rafiq, Shayan Ahmed, Liam O'Connor and Namir Chowdhury. In addition, Hashim Naqvi, Alex Phillips, Jaskaran Kohli, Harvin Bhogal, Tom Walker, Jayesh Gumber and Sandev Bath all qualified to take part in the European Kangaroo paper. We now wait eagerly in anticipation for the results.

Mr Litchfield

Alex Weate reports: A team of Upper Sixth students finished third out of 284 schools in a prestigious national competition this term. The Times and Bank of England Interest Target 2.0 competition involved deciding on the monetary policy that should be pursued by the Bank, in order to meet its inflation target of 2%, and then presenting on their decision and outlook for the economy to an expert panel. Having negotiated the local final in November, the team, - consisting of Alex Weate, the captain, Zain Iqbal, Bradley Glover and Jeevan Sahota, and accompanied by Mr Bryars - won through at the Wales, West Midlands and West of England final in Worcester, beating Bishop Vesey's and King Edward's School in the process, to reach the National Final for

the first time. The national final was held over two days at the Bank itself in London. The judges, who were made up of the Editor-at-Large of the Times, Deputy Governor of the Bank Charlie Bean and two other members of the Monetary Policy Committee, were impressed with the team's "passion" and the structure of their presentation. Competing against 5 independent schools, our team was placed third, behind winners St Paul's School, Barnes and the Grammar School at Leeds. This outstanding achievement earned the team a prize of £2000 for the school. The team wishes to thank Mr Bryars in particular for helping to prepare them for the competition.



Schools' Brightest Business Brain

Jack Gorman writes: The day started with networking drinks and finding out how to make the most of the competition. This was followed by a talk from CIMA about their qualification. We were then split into groups of ten for tasks including building a structure out of straws, a debate on university and deciding upon a new rollercoaster for a theme park.

Also in the day were talks by National Grid and RBS offering alternatives to university. After a final chance for networking with the sponsors we found out Zain Iqbal had placed second and gained £300 for himself and £300 for the school. All in all it was a very useful day to meet other people as well as find out about different opportunities and gain valuable experience.

Saha Walsall's Chef Of The Year



Mrs Phillips writes: As in previous years, the School entered 2 boys in the Walsall final of the Young Chef of the Year Competition.

After 4 heats within the school to select a QM KS3 and a KS4 contestant to represent us in the final, Mrs Phillips and several judges chose Anshuman Saha as the KS3 representative chef, and Jaskaran Kohli at KS4 level. The 2 boys, together with Mrs Phillips went along to the final where they had to prepare, cook and serve a healthy main meal for 2 for under £7.50. We were very pleased when Jaskaran secured third place in his round, and Anshuman won first prize at KS3. So, Anshuman went on to the Regional finals at Hadley College in Telford, and, although he didn't win the competition, performed admirably. Well done to all QM boys who braved the school heats (20 boys in all), and especially to Anshuman for his achievement.

School Society Shorts

Jack Pickering: With a steadfast group of regulars, LitSoc has kept the same high quality of discussion and debate as ever, moving through innovative novels such as "Time's Arrow", "Slaughterhouse 5" and reading Susan Black's modern revival of the classic ghost story "The Woman In Black". With the loss of many regulars due to the leaving of the upper sixth, there is always a welcome to fresh faces, and the next book to be read "A Short History Of Tractors In Ukrainian" will be available soon.

Update: National Mandarin speaking finals

Preet Singh recounts: The London School of Economics hosted the heats of the Mandarin Speaking Competition, which would decide who was to be going into the final. I anxiously waited for my turn in the Individual Competition, which consisted of a two minute speech, a series of questions from the judges in Mandarin Chinese and a translation of 3 English sentences into Chinese. On the first assembly of the New Year, I was astonished to find that I was to be going into the finals, as I hadn't known myself. Next was the preparation for the finals, which were also to be held in London, at the National British Museum. Fortunately, I kept my nerve during the finals but despite my best efforts, I didn't win the competition, but I managed to come 7th overall. However, I found that this competition was a great experience in terms of understanding the Chinese language, as well as speaking in front of crowds.

Report: QMGS CCF Biannual Review

Alec Burns: On a very important day in a typically eventful calendar, QMGS CCF hosted Air Commodore Cooper, the highest ranking female in the Royal Air Force for Queen Mary's CCF biannual revue. Upon arrival it soon became apparent that she was extremely impressed by the high standards that the contingent is renowned for, and praised the contingent, even mentioning the fact that she would put "a big tick" in the box for future Queen Mary's funding. So overall, thanks to the high quality of both senior and junior NCO's and the cooperation and willingness of the cadets the day was a complete success and definitely beneficial for the already outstanding reputation of the Queen Mary's Grammar School CCF.



Cadets getting ready for a helicopter ride

Alessi Success

Abishek Gupta: The task given in the DT competition was a simple one; to redesign an everyday product in the style of Alessi. My design, named Ele-Roll took its inspiration from the elephant, which seemed appropriate as Alessi often take inspiration from exotic animals. As I set out to design it, I found myself relying heavily on my love of drawing and my love of animals, and I incorporated the head of the elephant into making a novel toilet roll holder.

After completion of my design, I saw that it fulfilled my requirements of it; it was a unique product which had not been seen before. Although I was satisfied with my product, I did not expect to win, as the other designs seems slightly more neat and colourful. I think I won because of the uniqueness of my product, and I was amazed that I did that well while designing for the first time.



An Olympic Achievement

Bhargav Rambhatla writes: In a recent run of scientific competitions, one in which QMGS has performed particularly well is the British Biology Olympiad. In a gruelling 2 hour long online paper, candidates are pushed to the limits of their biological expertise, with few achieving any kind of accolade. It is pleasing to report, therefore, that QMGS achieved many mentions, with the highest achiever being Nick Fraser, who achieved gold, and has also gone on to be chosen for the National finals, a point which only 16 out of 4000 will reach. Kudos goes also to Luke Burgoyne and Michael Jevon, who both received silver medals for their efforts.

Physics Olympiad

Nathan Price Reports: Shortly before the Christmas holiday, seven members of Year 13 sat the British Physics Olympiad paper. This was a chance for bright minds with a keen interest in Physics to have a chance to look at some questions of a difficulty beyond that of A-levels. Whilst the topics that were on the paper were similar to those studied at GCSE and AS, the questions set were of a much higher level, requiring both a good understanding of the concepts and theories surrounding them, as well as good mathematical skill to deal with the large values and complicated equations.

One student in particular should be congratulated; Michel Jevon received a Silver certificate, the highest out of all seven who entered. Nick Fraser, Matthew Brown, Kieran Macfarlane, Ryan Jones and I all achieved Bronze certificates, and Stephen Paddock was highly commended. And all of the students did well to make it through the paper alive and mostly sane. It was a tough challenge that all seemed to find intriguing and encouraged them all for similar challenges in the future.

Reflections on the Spanish Exchange

Jack Gorman reports: On February 2nd a group of pupils set off to our partner school in Vigo. After an action packed weekend which included meeting our host families, eating at restaurants, and beach trips, we could still look forward to a trip to Santiago de Compostella as well as a tour of our partner school. This was complemented by other excursions in the evenings such as to a karaoke bar. On a personal note, I went on the Spanish Exchange and without this I wouldn't be still studying and enjoying Spanish as much as I do now. Exchanges offer much more than just practising the language; you experience another culture, use various social skills and thus meet people who you stay in contact with as I am still in contact with many of the people I have met in Spain. Take the opportunity, experience a different country, and go on an exchange.

To the right: Spanish and English students thoroughly enjoy the weather, friendship and the experience

Exchanging Cultures

Sukhdarshan Sagoo: This is my second trip to Germany on an exchange, and my experience this year, like last time, was exceptional. All the families welcomed us and made us feel at home. Amongst activities such as rock climbing and visiting churches and museums, there was ample time to explore the towns of Marburg, Frankfurt and Biedenkopf. The German school seemed very relaxed, and everyone was very friendly and helpful.

Overall, this trip has developed my language skills even further, and in recognition of the dedication and hard work of Mrs McPhee, I offer my thanks to her, for putting together such a wonderful exchange.

Scrapheap Success



Mr Hughes writes: This Autumn, QMGS was represented by eight year 9 pupils at the Leon Jessell Challenge held at Walsall College.

The day started with a short talk about engineering as a career before the students had a tour of the Green Lane Campus, after which each school then started the challenge. Each school had to design and build a self-propelled car using "scrap" materials provided. It was a "scrap heap challenge".

After the cars were built there were tests to see which car travelled the furthest. There were then races to see which car travelled fastest. There were marks for the results of the races, the design of the car, quality of manufacture and team work.

QMGS came second, with each student receiving a £10 Amazon or Waterstones voucher and a certificate for an admirable effort.



Readathon

Mrs Nicholls writes: It is the second year we have run our QMGS 16 Week Reading Challenge; it began on World Book Day and it is a house point competition, with a point awarded for each book read. Boys are set the challenge of reading up to 24 books during this period with: eight books gaining a Bronze certificate; twelve books for silver; sixteen for gold and twenty four for diamond and the chance of winning a £10 book token. Also running alongside this is the school Readathon with over £2000 raised last year for charity with the money split between Readwell, CLIC Sargent and Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity. To the participating students, I wish the best of luck.

Sixth Form Centre Update

Stephen Paddock writes: With the Sixth Form Centre progressing rapidly and due to be completed for the forthcoming academic year, focus has now moved towards the interior of the building. The job of furnishing the centre has been left to the Sixth Form pupils. A recent assembly showcased the designs of two old boys of the school: James Mercy and Joseph Duffell. These designs were modern, striking and functional; they've even proved worthy of a place in the Google offices! The hope is that the space will become somewhere the school and community can be proud of.

Music Competition 2012

Paulina Adamo writes: This year I was lucky enough to compete in the QMGS Music Competition against seven very talented musicians. From the intermediate section the audience was treated to performances from the violinist Jason Mutt amongst others, and Ellen Wightman and Peter Bloxidge played the clarinet skilfully in the senior section. This also featured dextrous guitar playing from Casey Tang. I decided to sing "Bless The Lord" which was written by my former music teacher at my previous school, and I was fortunately voted to first place, which felt like a great achievement, and I am very grateful for such an opportunity

Cross Country Thoughts

Hassan Ali writes: Three years of QM cross country have taught me that our secret doesn't lie in physical prowess. In fact, we would be hard-pushed to even dream of beating the likes of some of the serious running schools. However, the close-knit team has a lot to be proud of. QM runners race together, both as a matter of personal pride and to spur each other on; it often makes all the difference, especially with regards to the B team. Grimaces of the final sprint immediately turn to huge grins of relief as we finish. Perhaps this signals that there is more to come from the team in the future, and there is more of an effort that could be made. That said, it has been great to belong to a team with personality, rather than the monotonous automatons that make up Old Swinford.

First Taste of 7s for U15s



Reece Bhatoe writes: In late February the Under 15's played in their first ever 'Rugby Sevens' competition. The competition included many teams that have a regular sevens season, unlike QM. Despite the huge effort from the team, they lost all 3 of their games but there are many positives that can be drawn from the competition. The team's performance during the competition improved as the team got used to the game (this was the first time the team had ever played sevens) as they showed improvement in every game. The competition was enjoyed by all and gave the team a chance to look forward to more rugby in the future. Overall this season the team has done really well and got to the 6th round of the Daily Mail Vase, and the semi-finals of the Staffordshire cup.

Arron Loey's evaluation of the senior 7s team focussed on it being a 'learning experience'. After a good season of 15 a side, the team found it hard to adapt to the running game and went down in a strong group.

Editorial Team

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This year's Cross Country team with coach Mr Law

Looking Forward in Hockey

Rajpal Jabbal recalls: This year has been a tough challenge against many tough teams with quite a young side, as the majority of the teams were made up of year 11 pupils, but still some players have showcased their talents throughout the year. These include Bryce Strathdee who has played an excellent game each week and Jeevan Dhanda who was our top goal scorer and a key man in our first team. Both of these players are ones to keep an eye on, with a high possibility of both being Captain of the first XI in the next few years. Here's to looking forward to a stronger team overall next year as our players grow and get more experience at the game.

Tom Bunn writes: The U15 hockey team has gradually been getting back to putting in the performances of last year. With losses to Bishops Vesey, Nunnery Wood and Solihull the team started the season badly. However Captain Thomas Bunn, Luke Boniface, Rishi Patel and Ravi Patel, helped to get the team to play good passing hockey and the team got their rewards with victories over Princethorpe College and Sandwell Academy.

Cricket success before season begins

Jack Gorman reports: Congratulations to Anaesh Patel of 6MB who has been selected to represent the County of Worcestershire (Cricket) U17s for the forthcoming 2012 season. He is a talented leg spinner and an elegant/ technically correct batsman.

The School has already acknowledged Anaesh success by sending him a congratulatory letter and wishing him all the best. He has also received a personal email from Michael Holding (West Indies Legend) congratulating him on his success. Anaesh is also going on a tour with Worcestershire U17s to St Lucia, West Indies this Easter where he will be pitting his cricketing talents against the best of the West Indians.

This is a great opportunity for Anaesh to strengthen his cricketing credentials and enhance QMGS' cricketing reputation on and off the field. He would like to thank Mr T Swain and Mr L J Taylor for the kind support he has received over the years.