



Dramatic Days with the RSC

Sixth formers benefit from Shakespearean experts (see page 3)

IN THE NEWS

Emmanuel triumphs in annual Poetry Competition -
See page 2

An Old Marian remembered -
See page 2

French exchange visitors from Albi -
See page 2

MYP Imiose speaks in the Commons -
See page 2

Zain heading for Sandhurst -
See page 3

Senior Maths team victorious in regional finals -
See page 3

Fireworks night a success again -
See page 3

Staff cyclists hit Farchynys -
See back page

Inside today

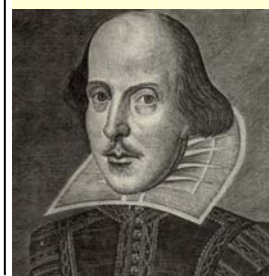
Showtime! RSC comes to Mayfield -
See page 3

The International Term at QM

Mr Donnan writes: When the Autumn Term started, we didn't quite know how remarkable it would be in terms of the sheer number of international friends who would pay us a visit. We knew we would welcome old friends from Germany and new ones from France, but it was only after the beginning of term when we discovered we would be hosting people from Shaoxing, China. First up was the party from the Lahntalschule led by Frau Mehren who despite having visited at least six times was keen to transmit the excitement of experiencing another country to her pupils. Time spent in school was supplemented by trips to venues such as Birmingham and the Black Country Museum. The Chinese Party arrived on the last day of September, spent an amazing Chinese National Day with us on October

1st, before heading for a wonderful day out in Oxford and on to an evening tour of London. Memories of their time with us will stay with everyone who witnessed their generosity. The first visit by the Lycee Bellevue from Albi led by Mme Faure and Mme Salvador was a great success, with some of the visiting party even taking some Queen Mary's uniforms back to France as examples of chic! Foreign teachers such as Marius Hoffmann from Germany and Maarten Duunstjie and Mayke van Harten from Holland all came to exchange ideas. In December Year 7 went to Frankfurt in the shape of the Christmas market in Birmingham. Watch out for the chance to do work experience in Germany next term, whilst there may well be a major development in our Chinese link very soon. Watch this space for further details.

In Sport — Rugby team wins Staffs Cup
Senior 10s team triumphant in inaugural event



In pictures - Emmanuel Daniel's performance



Agboaye speaks out

Since his election in January as Member of Youth Parliament for Walsall, Imiose Agboaye has committed himself to his pledge of giving a voice to young people and changing their perception in the media. Recently Imiose attended the Youth Parliament's annual meeting at the House of Commons. 300 MYPs graced the famous green benches to discuss student tuition fees, the war in Afghanistan and post-16 employment. The session was presided over by John Bercow, Speaker of the House of Commons. On his address to his colleagues, Imiose called for the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan and a diversion of funds from the war to young people. To his surprise, a picture of Imiose delivering his speech, was shown in a BBC news article. Back in his constituency, Imiose has regular meetings on ending bullying in schools and campaigns for cheaper transport fees. We congratulate Imiose for his work and hopes he continues to make a difference as a MYP.



Imiose Agboaye of Year 11 makes his voice heard

Return of the French

Kieran Macfarlane recounts: A sunny Wednesday in October saw the arrival of a party of pupils from the Lycee Bellevue in Albi, France, accompanied by two of their teachers. This was the second half of the pioneering QMGS French exchange, with pupils from year 11-13 having visited Albi earlier in the year. The day after the arrival of the French was spent in school which, to my surprise, both of my exchange partners seemed to love, insisting on buying blazers as souvenirs. Strange. The French also enjoyed trips to Lichfield, Stratford-Upon-Avon and Cadbury World in Bournville during the week. We didn't waste any time after school either, meeting up to play football in the Arboretum, and to visit Drayton Manor Park at the weekend. It seemed as if no time had passed before it was time to part ways, which is always the saddest part of any exchange. I'm certain everyone enjoyed the week thoroughly, and I for one am hopeful for a return visit in the summer.



Old Marian Kenneth Brown

Poetry promise

Jack Pickering reports: On the first day of November, twenty three pupils from across the school took confident steps into the world of performance poetry, participating in the final of the annual Poetry Competition. This was a great event, and it really gave the pupils to show their flair for the poetic arts, with impressive results from all areas of the school. David Calcutt, a noted poet from the West Midlands kindly judged the poems, and also treated those watching the competition to a reading from his new book. The poems from the Senior and Junior sections were awarded separately, and the results were as follows:

SENIORS:

1st: Imiose Agboaye.
2nd: Alice Whiteoak.
3rd: Hailey Pottinger.
Highly Commended: Alec Burns

JUNIORS:

1st: Reece Bhatoe.
2nd: James Walkerdine.
3rd: Paramveer Bhachu.
Highly Commended: Jack Whitehouse.

OVERALL WINNER:

Emmanuel Daniel of Year 8

A Marian remembered

Oliver Beddard speaks to Mr Hughes: Kenneth Brown (pictured left) attended QMGS for only one year in 1904. When his family moved to Cheltenham, Kenneth signed up, serving as an officer in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment on the Western Front. He returned to England to recover after being wounded in the hand. In August 1917, he was on a long route march with a reserve battalion near Blyth when some men decided to go for a swim in the sea. Due to the strong currents, they immediately got into difficulties and so Lt. K. Brown organised a line of men stretching out into the water to save the struggling men. Eight men could not be reached in time and drowned. Owing to his injured hand, Lt. K Brown lost his grip and was also swept away. His body washed up on Blyth beach one month later.

Sixth form student gains coveted Sandhurst scholarship

Niharika Chadha reports:

The QMGS Times took the opportunity to speak to Zain Iqbal, recipient of an Army scholarship, about this fantastic prize that will help sustain him during his studies in the sixth form and then follow him through to university. Upon being told that he would make a perfect candidate by the army careers adviser, Zain applied for the scholarship this summer and was then informed in November of his success in gaining the truly prestigious award. There had been over one thousand applicants and fewer than forty scholarships were awarded. After speaking to Zain, it was evident that the application process had been very testing, with the number of applicants having been reduced to a mere ninety in the first round, meaning that many were dismissed based on their forms alone. After a further cull, Zain and his fellow competitors had to undergo a series of physical and mental tests to ensure that they had the required ability to reap the full benefits the scholarship can bring. It can be said that what he has already achieved is very impressive and it is of no doubt that Zain acts as an excellent role model to our boys in the younger years. We wish him the very best and who knows, maybe another QMGS student will follow in Zain's footsteps...



In pictures - Chinese National Day marked



The Headmaster gratefully accepts a gift from Shaoxing No.1 High School - see the front page for the full story of the remarkably international term at QM

“Once in a lifetime opportunity” - students star on RSC stage

Bradley Glover reports: When you think of theatre companies, the Royal Shakespeare Company immediately comes to mind as one of the best in the world - so any chance to work with them is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Over the past half-term, myself and three other sixth formers did a week-long acting workshop, looking at movement, voice and music in theatre before casting the scripts we were working on for the project alongside two girls from QMHS. The nature of this project, “Writing On Your Feet”, meant the scripts we were performing were written by Year 6 and 7 pupils. The project came to a thrilling climax on the two newly refurbished stages in Stratford - the RST and the Swan. Given that we were performing for around a thousand people each time, it was truly an awesome experience, and one I won't forget in a hurry. Nor will Hailey Pottinger judging by the photograph to the left!

The numbers add up

Bhargav Rambhatla reports: On the 9th December, four students represented QMGS in the Senior Team Maths Regional Challenge, which took place at the Jenny Lee centre in Wolverhampton. The team, which consisted of Matthew Brown, Michael Jevon, Robert King and Jacob Swain, were accompanied by Mr Elsdon and they undertook a set of fiendishly difficult questions, designed to challenge them, while also showing how interesting maths can truly be. There were three sections; an individual forty minute paper, a “cross number”, and a relay round. Our boys quickly proved their worth, scoring very highly in all the rounds, even being awarded full marks in the group round (although they were not told this until the end of the competition). After this impressive performance, the team knew that they would be ranked in the top five of around eighteen teams. As the end of the day approached, the results were announced; they had come first. In previous years, a QM team had made it only once before into the next stage of the competition; the National challenge. With this in mind, their inclusion in the next stage of the final came as welcome news to the team, who can now look forward to facing even tougher maths in February. All we can say is congratulations, and good luck.

QMA Fireworks extravaganza goes off with a bang

Thomas Greatrex writes: The School hosted its annual Fireworks Night on November 6th of this year, with high hopes of making money, having a great time, and giving the people an event to look forward to, all objectives that were fulfilled with great aplomb.

Many new features appeared this year, including a dance mat set up in the hall, which went down extremely well. Many people turned out to the event, with spirits high even throughout the rain as the fireworks lit the night sky, creating a spectacular show

QM rugby teams in rude health

Our chief Sports Reporter Bankolu Alo writes:

The Autumn and Winter programme of rugby at QM unfolded with the usual fervour this term, with the school boasting an expansive and competitive fixture card. So far this season there have been results which have given positive signs for both now and the future, right from the rugby newcomers of year 7 to the seasoned 1st XV. However, it is with these senior campaigners arguably the most success has come from this term. Bouncing back from the disappointments of last season, the fruits of a tough pre-season regime came to the fore as the team won the inaugural Staffordshire County 10s Cup. The team are also on the cusp of making history by progressing further than any 1st XV has for the school in the Daily Mail Vase National Competition; a tantalising 4th round fixture against John Taylor High School awaits.



U14s scrum against Walsall

Cross Country Conquest



Junior runners show a clean pair of heels

Hassan Ali writes: A world away from the mildly relaxed atmosphere of inter-house cross country, the Greater Birmingham Schools Cross-Country League competition consists of a series of aggressive races over hill and dale in, what often appears to be, the middle of nowhere, with about one hundred wild adolescent boys running on each other's heels with spiked shoes. Despite this grim outlook on the sport, the QMGS Senior Cross-Country Team have ran a fantastic start to the season under captain James Sloan; the A Team holding a very respectable 2nd place at present, while the B Team are enjoying quite a comfortable lead in 1st place. In particular, Kieran Macfarlane should be congratulated on his spectacular (and consistent) performances, earning him a position of 4th in the individual league. This promising start is well deserved and puts the runners in high spirits for upcoming fixtures.

Editorial team:

Chief Editor—Mr TM Walton

Sub Editor—Bhargav Rambhatla

Features—Hassan Ali, Keran Macfarlane, Niharika Chadha, Sunayna Shinh, Thomas Greatrex, Siddhartha Mohan, Oliver Beddard, Jack Pickering, Bankolu Alo, Andre Rhoden-Paul

Staff cyclists finish in style

Sunayna Shinh writes: The Farchynys cycling weekend saw QMGS' finest: Mr Swain, Mr Law and Mr Clements battling it out against the gruelling 45 mile course. However, in the latter stages of the race, Mr Clements suffered an injury which meant he could no longer participate in the race, and had to admit defeat.. Nonetheless, Mr Swain and Mr Law continued the race, fighting it out between themselves until the very end. The toughest battle began when the pair faced cycling up a 5 mile long hill. This caused the two to separate and truly made the race competitive in its final stages, meaning victory for Mr Law was all the sweeter. He finished in a time of 2 hours 36 minutes. Mr Law is a fine example for all of our students to look up to, and he demonstrated that what may seem impossible can be achieved with sheer dedication and hard work. On behalf of The QMGS Times and all the students, we would like to congratulate Mr Law for his tremendous achievements.

In pictures - house table tennis



A year 7 pupil prepares to return an attacking forehand