



# The QM Observer

Autumn Term Newsletter

Friday 20th December 2013

## QMGS goes global!

### AFRICA

#### #1 World Challenge in Uganda



Mr Stockley (centre) along with his group

**Mr Stockley reports:** Over the summer two groups of students accompanied by three students from last year's Year 13, Mr Stockley and Mr Hudson, embarked upon the World Expedition to Western Kenya and Uganda. It was split into two phases; an expedition across the various mountains and lakes of Western Kenya and a project phase where the students would help local schools. The expedition allowed the students to trek across Mount Elgon and Longonot, water raft on the River Nile in Jinja and visit the Lake Nakuru Safari Park. Furthermore it provided the opportunity to allow our students to help local primary schools in villages and rural areas by improving some of their classrooms and teaching of the African children. Overall it was a magnificent and inspiring experience for the students. The assembly given to the school by members of Mr Hudson's team was memorable and hopefully will inspire many to be involved in the 2015 Tanzania expedition which will attempt to climb Mt Kilimanjaro and work with the 'Light of Africa' charity.



Mr Hudson's team at the summit of Mt Elgon

### ASIA

#### The HM in China



Mr Swain and Mrs Wang delivering their talk

**Michael Sunner writes:** In November, the Headmaster and Mrs Wang travelled to China to speak at an international convention, opening up possibilities of further links between one of the largest developing countries and QM. Mr Swain said "It was a life-changing experience, opening up a new world of opportunity. At the Forum on the future of education, I was struck by the speakers' wisdom and ambition. Elsewhere, it was the warmth of the Chinese welcome that was humbling and unforgettable." We hope that this trip along with our connection with a school in Shaoxing will be the start of a long lasting relationship between ourselves and China.

### EUROPE

#### Languages in France



Members of the 2013 French Exchange

**Liam Allen writes:** From the 7th to the 14th of October, a group of eight QM sixth formers, two girls from the High School, and four from St Francis of Assisi school, along with Miss Horden and Mr Perrault, travelled to the South of France on the first leg of the French exchange with the Lycée Bellevue in Albi. During the week, we became better acquainted with our partners and their families, did various local tours organised by the lycée, and things that our partners organised themselves, including climbing and bowling.

The week was one of the best experiences of our lives: experiencing customs and traditions that were new and exciting; and making friendships that will last long. My thanks must go to Miss Horden, Mr Perrault for their organisation.

### AFRICA

#### #2 Training Teachers in Tanzania

**Mrs Lupton writes:** In August I travelled to Tanzania with a group of young teachers to deliver a programme of coaching methods to Tanzanian teachers with limited resources. I was involved with two schools; a new and progressive school and a town school with poor accommodation and overcrowding. The purpose was to engage Tanzanian teachers in the type of educational experience our students have every day such as group work, assessment for learning, positive encouragement and opportunities to think independently. It was an enjoyable and successful experience as 150 teachers graduated.





## Bar Mock Trial

**Kyran Kanda writes:** On November 23rd, QM's Bar National Mock Trial team took on various court roles to compete against fourteen regional schools in a series of trials at Birmingham Crown Court. Despite being nervous the team put in an exceptional performance and learnt more about the English judicial system. The barristers received a crash-course in advocacy and the witnesses learnt to deal with the intensity of cross-examination. Alex Philip's performance was a particular highlight receiving court-wide applause. Special thanks must go to Mr. Bryars and barrister Sarah Allen for their advice and mentoring during the weeks of preparation.



Mr. Bryars (centre) accompanied by participants of the Bar Mock Trial

## David & Broccoli

**Kodi Beveridge-Smith writes:** When you first hear of the play 'David and Broccoli', you would be forgiven for imagining a performance about a boy called David refusing to eat his vegetables or maybe of a boy called David dressed up in a broccoli costume for unknown reasons. However, neither is true. Instead it is a modern version of David and Goliath, only Goliath is replaced with an intimidating boxing teacher (played by Stuart Kirk) nicknamed Broccoli. David (played by Kodi Beveridge-Smith) sets out to humiliate him but discovers that this act of revenge has more complicated consequences than he first thought. Add in some hard work and a talented cast and you have an amazing play. The cast would like to thank all the staff members and students who gave up their time.

## Year 9 Peace Pagoda Visit



Year 9 students towered by the Peace Pagoda

**Oliver Mills accounts:** The Year 9 trip to the Peace Pagoda spanned over two days, where a group was taken each day to the Pagoda in Birmingham for a tour followed by a talk. The tour took us around the building and we were shown many of the symbolic elements of the garden such as the prayer wheels and fish ponds. We then enjoyed a talk by Mr Black who elaborated on many of the Buddhist traditions and revealed an insight into the religion. We also had a go at meditation and were told about some background history on the Pagoda, its initial set up and how it's being run. Overall, it was an interesting experience, giving us an insight into another way of looking at how we live.

## German Exchange

**Tobi Oloke writes:** Earlier this academic year, 20 Queen Mary's Grammar and High School students welcomed a party of German Exchange students from the Lahntalschule in Biedenkopf. The German party enjoyed trips with the school to the Black Country Museum, the Think Tank and Birmingham city centre, before we all went bowling together on the Friday. Out of school, some of us met together in local parks to enjoy each other's company, went out to Birmingham again to let them get souvenirs and go to Star City, while some even went to London on the final Saturday. The first leg of the Exchange was enjoyable and we have all made some new friends.

## Bio Soc

**Vijay Gogna writes:** From the start of this year we have done a variety of presentations, including Parkinson's disease, the secret universe inside cells and a look into organ systems; with sixth formers and younger years all contributing towards the society. The integration of lab practicals has also encouraged an interactive atmosphere for pupils, reinforced through practicals on analysing fingerprints and on using microscopes effectively. The future of this society will include more motivating presentations and intriguing practicals, enabling members to gain a greater insight into Biology.

## Year 8 RSC Visit

**Jai Sikka reports:** In October forty year eight students accompanied by Miss Timmins, Mr Fadden, Mr Thomas and Mrs Nicholls, embarked on a journey to Stratford-Upon-Avon to visit the Royal Shakespeare Company. On arrival, we toured around the modern theatre and were led into areas like the main control room filled with high-tech equipment where music was played and sound projected. For our workshop, we got the chance to act and play great games to warm up like real actors. An added bonus was that Katy Stephens was in one workshop, a famous actress who has been in at least 10 different RSC productions. Our next stop was Shakespeare's Birthplace where we talked through a video presentation on Shakespeare's life. It was a terrific day out and I would like to thank on behalf of year eight Miss Timmins, Mr Fadden, Mr Thomas and Mrs Nicholls for giving us such a wonderful experience.

## TARGET 2.0

**Kyrone Grossett reports:** This year, the school's Target 2.0 competition team was captained by Kyrone Grossett and consisted of 3 other upper sixth members: Arslan Awan, Bradley Adams and Lewis Hill. The team was tasked with analysing the current and future inflationary pressures in the UK economy, and proposing the monetary policy the Bank of England should set in order to reach the target inflation rate of 2.0%. The team performed brilliantly; winning the West Midlands' regional final and seeing off some tough competition in the process. The judges were particularly impressed with the team's in depth knowledge and understanding of monetary policy. The team now progresses through to the Area final in February.

From the left: Lewis Hill, Arslan Awan, Mr Byrars, Bradley Adams and Kyrone Grossett



## Arkwright Competition

**Mr Hughes writes:** Jaskieran Dhandwar has been awarded a sought-after Arkwright Engineering Scholarship. He is the first student from the school to be awarded an Arkwright Scholarship, which is a tremendous achievement. It provides students with a £600 financial award to enhance their A level studies and a range of activities to enhance their understanding and experience of engineering. The School will also receive £400 for each Scholarship awarded to one of its students. The award was formally presented at a prestigious ceremony supported by The Institution of Engineering and Technology (below, with Jaskieran pictured on the left)



## Year 10 Jaguar & Land Rover Visit

**Matthew Smith, Luke Curtiss:** On the 5th November, 28 boys from Year 10 travelled to the Jaguar Land Rover factory in Solihull as part of their GCSE Design and Technology course. In the morning they had a tour of the factory, witnessing any new processes and materials. In the afternoon, they then took part in a production challenge as well as an exciting robotics challenge to round off an educational and enjoyable day. Thanks to the teachers who accompanied the trip for giving us this great opportunity.

## RGS Young Geographer of the Year



**Oliver Mills:** In October, I found that I had won the 11-14 category of the RGS

Young Geographer of the Year with a piece of work on the Geography of my local area. I travelled to RGS for the awards ceremony where there was a short ceremony an Professor Danny Dorling discussed different ways of looking at the world as a whole. After the official photos had been taken in the gardens, we were given a tour of the buildings. Parts of the RGS had famous names, such as Shackleton, Attenborough and many more. This rounded off a very memorable day.

## Flying Scholarship

**Matthew Elliot:** On the 8th of November, I completed my flying scholarship and flew solo flying a total of 12 hours. A big thank you goes to the CCF officers for their support of my application.

## Senior Challenge

**Mr Eldsen reports:** Two teams from QM represented the school in the general knowledge quiz's regional final on Thursday 21st November. The second team of Joe Clarke, Matthew Elliot, Sherjit Ark and Ryan Horrigan reaffirmed the strength in depth in the school by beating Solihull School's 1st team before narrowly losing to King Edward's Stratford's 1st team. The first team of Liam Allen, Jacob Harding, James Murdoch and Isaac Walker dismantled Solihull's 2nd team and effortlessly reached the semi-final - where they beat Solihull's 1st team to reach the final against King Edward's. The final was marred by a mistake by the question master, which cost our team 50 points! The final was keenly contested, but King Edward's just won, but both teams were a credit to themselves and the school.

## CCF Tactics Weekend

**Jack Whitehouse:** On the 8th November, 17 cadets departed for the Nesscliffe base in Shropshire for a weekend's training. Firstly, ration packs were distributed and the following day, we were taught how to patrol and clear a building That night, we successfully assaulted an enemy camp before returning to camp outdoors, with sentry duties undertaken throughout the night. Awakening early on Sunday to an assault from the vengeful teammates came as a big surprise. We then held a Remembrance parade at 11:00, before beginning the journey home. A great weekend was had by all.

## History Society

**Alex Blundell:** In October, we set off and visited the fascinating site of an iron-age town, later arriving at Farchynys for a fish and chip supper. Saturday was spent visiting other historical points of interest, including a trip to Aberystwyth, where we visited the cliff railway and local museums. Sunday involved a trip to Chirk castle, which rounded off a very enjoyable and worthwhile weekend.



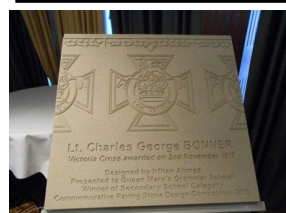
## Senior Maths Challenge

**Mr Litchfield reports:** Our mathematicians achieved 12 gold certificates, 24 silver and 35 bronze in the Senior Maths Challenge. 7 pupils qualified for the Senior Kangaroo competition, whilst Lorcan McCullagh, Callum Macintosh, Oliver Hanson and Shayan Ahmed qualified for the British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1. Lorcan's achievement was particularly notable, scoring full marks in the SMC!

## Outward Bounds Expedition

**Sam Garbett:** A group from the CCF departed to Farchynys on the 15th of November to take part in a range of activities. They set off to Moel Hebog and completed a mountain climb in 2 hours, which offered a fantastic view. Sunday concluded with a visit to the dry slope ski centre, which was certainly an eventful experience. On the homeward journey, as a result of a fun packed weekend there was barely a noise, a bliss way to conclude a fantastic weekend!

## Victoria Cross Design Competition



**Irfan Ahmed,** a Sixth Form Queen Mary's, won the secondary

school student prize for his design for the nationwide competition to design a special paving stone to commemorate each of the Victoria Cross recipients of the First World War. Many of the school's former pupils fought in First World War and 102 lost their lives. Queen Mary's also has a strong connection with the Combined Cadet's Force, making this a brilliant achievement for the school. Ahmed claimed "I think it's very important to help commemorate and remember those who have served our country," he said. "It's an honour to help memorialise that."

## London Geography Field Trip

**Elliott Farley:** On Friday 18th October, Mr Matley & Mr Larvin, along with a group of year 13 geography students; set out to London. Firstly, the students surveyed people around Canary Wharf about the London Olympics. Soon after, they witnessed projects around the Olympic stadium and met 2 times Olympic Gold Medallist- Geraint Thomas. The students then travelled to the ExCel Centre, to spend time in The Crystal sustainability centre. The students got a fantastic view of London in the Emirates cable cars, taking them to the O2 Arena, to end the day.





# The QM Observer

News & sport

## Cycling & Running Weekend

On Friday 29th November, eight QM boys, gathered to set off for the Years 7 & 8 Cycling and Running Weekend with Mr. Clements and Miss Alam. On the Saturday, we set off for Dolgellau where we parked the minibus to start the Mawaddach Trail towards Barmouth. We cycled for 6 miles, with cold hands, and had lunch. We then tuned back to the minibus to get back to the Coach House. On Sunday 1st December we set off for a 3 mile/4.5 kilometre run around the Coed y Brenin forest, taking the 'Sarn Helen - Short', yellow marked trail. A big thank you to Mr Clements and Miss Alam for giving up their time to take the trip.

## 50 Years of Farchynys



**Ben Whitehead writes:** Following on from the planting of a Welsh oak at the school in September, celebrations for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Farchynys moved to Wales on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Farchynys has been

symbolic to the development of our school. The guests gathered in the day room for a celebratory dinner. Amongst the gathered were former headmasters and wardens, old boys and current QM students. Following this, there was a tour of the grounds and a presentation by Mr Swain. Finally, a plaque was unveiled to celebrate the occasion. Photo above from the left: Mr Howard, Mr Holtam, Mr Law, Mr Swain and Mr Hudson

## New school band

**Rohan Dodhia writes:** This September marked the beginning of our new school band, formed mostly by those who have carried on with their instruments from year 7. We meet on Monday evenings after school. We were initially given two pieces by Mr Vause, but due to our quick learning, we soon had four pieces to practice. These are formed mostly of pop songs but we are also playing a jazzy tune as well. The pieces we are playing are: Louie Louie, the James Bond Theme Tune, Candy by Robbie Williams, and last but not least, Folk Frolic, a traditional folk song. Our band consists of trumpets, clarinets, baritones, trombones, saxophones, and flutes. We are really looking forward to our first public performance which will be the QMGS Spring Concert in 2014.

## Chess

**Kyrone Grossett writes:** The team has grown considerably in both strength and number from last year, with the introduction of a 3rd team, consisting of 6 year 8 boys, and a 2nd team consisting of 4 6.1 girls: Elizabeth Heinonen, Nichole Keen & Yasmin Warrilow. The season got off to a cracking start after the 1st team was able to win their first ever team chess tournament, and are now through to the national finals at Imperial College London in April.

## Rugby



The 1st XV in their new kit (above) after a comprehensive 45-0 win against the JCB academy. Other results have been mixed, but a number of younger players have gained valuable experience for next year

**Under 15s with Tom Olivo:** After a superb start, the U15's continued with their brand of fast-paced rugby, scoring tries left, right and centre. Another good year from Lemarl Grossett saw him run in with over 100 points and the emergence of Michael 'the animal' Whitehouse strengthened the pack enormously. New vice-captain Sol Clarke led 'the forwards' by example, and Jack Lowe and Liam Jones gave us some much needed stability on the wing. Immanuel Hazel heard his calling at full back, and Nico Bharj continued to play his no-fear rugby style. Harry Jones was again instrumental in our improved scrummaging this season, with Mohammed Allam finally fulfilling his potential. Tom Aston was an ever-present figure urging the forwards on, and was the driving force behind the pack. A great way to end 4 years of rugby together, now bring on seniors!

**Under 14s with Oliver Mills:** Overall, this season has been mostly a learning curve for the team as we play each game as it comes. This has shown in our latest game against Stafford Grammar with a solid win of 54-5 and a very strong second half against King Edwards Aston. We have had other close games where our inexperience have let wins slip through our fingers, such as at Newcastle. However, with every game we have improved and learnt so we look forward to more match wins in the remaining games of the season and the next season beyond that.

**Under 13s with Joel Pepper:** The year 8 rugby team started the season with a match against Walsall. It was a great start to the season as we won 41-12. After this victory, we played King Edward's and St Josephs, beating both teams. Then we came up against King Edward's 5 Ways and scraped a win, winning by 2 points. King Henry VIII and Derby were next, and we carried on our winning streak. Finally we played Newcastle Under Lyme. They scored a try in the first minute so things weren't looking good. By the last five minutes we were down 6 points. In the closing seconds, Jaffer Al-Husseiny stormed down the pitch and scored, meaning that we won by one point! We have yet to lose a game this year.

**Editorial Team** Editor: Mr R Langton; Sub-Editors: Michael Sunner & Lorna Barrett; Contributors: Mr Stockley, Mrs Lupton, Mr Hughes, Mr Elsdon, Mr Litchfield, Liam Allen, Kyran Kanda, Kodi Beveridge-Smith, Oliver Mills, Tobi Oloke, Vijay Gogna, Kyrone Grossett, Jai Sikka, Matthew Smith, Luke Curtiss, Matthew Elliott, Jack Whitehouse, Alex Blundell, Sam Garbett, Irfan Ahmed, Elliot Farley, Ben Whitehead, Joel Pepper, Tom Olivo, Rhan Dodhia, Sam Darby