



The QM Observer

Summer Term Newsletter

Tuesday 18th July 2017

A term of adventures at QMGs!

CCF



Stuart Kirk (back row, left) reports: On Monday 19th June, a team of six cadets, accompanied by Captain Hudson, were invited to take part in the Flag Raising Ceremony for Armed Forces Day by the Mayor of Walsall, Councillor Marco Longhi. Sergeants Sam Shackleton, Toby Harrington, Aadam Khan and Corporals Kodi Beveridge-Smith, Sam Garbett and Stuart Kirk did the School and contingent proud. During the ceremony, to commemorate the service of all those in the Armed Forces past and present, Cpl Kirk was nominated to raise the flag during the playing of the Last Post. Following the ceremony, the Mayor invited the squad to the council chambers for a tour with his consort and fellow pupil, Monica Longhi. Congratulations to the boys on their recent promotions to senior positions, in particular, Sam Shackleton to CWO and Kodi Beveridge-Smith to RSM. We also wish Kodi well, along with Tom Burns and Alex Blundell, for their Canadian Cadet Exchange courses over the summer.



Ben Whitehead: The first week of the Easter holidays saw seven cadets travel to Farchynys for Adventurous Training. This was a five-day trip to Farchynys with activities such as hiking, orienteering, an overnight camp in the Rhinogs and dry slope skiing taking place. Many thanks go to the accompanying pupils and staff for allowing this trip to be a truly enjoyable experience for all involved!

Farchynys



Erranvir Josan writes: From 15th to 19th May, 7G went to Farchynys to enjoy a fun and educational trip, which produced enjoyable memories for all of the form. My personal favourite part of the trip was our visits to Barmouth, because we enjoyed ourselves on the beach, in the ocean and spent time in the shops buying souvenirs to take home. My favourite educational part of the trip was Harlech Castle, as we were able to explore the interior and look for features we would use to either defend or attack the castle.

Project Horizon



Sam Shackleton (above, second left) reports: On the morning of 1st July, Team Celsius met on the School Field for the Project Horizon 2017 launch. Final preparations were completed, including checking the tracking and sensor systems. In the culmination of a year of planning and work in engineering the payload and programming the electronic systems, the 1.1kg probe was launched at 11.05. We quickly packed away and jumped into the minibus, ready to chase the payload. Predictions plotted it landing near Cheltenham, so we made the journey down there and paused for a pit-stop at the nearest fast-food restaurant.

Celsius, Project Horizon's sixth instalment, reached a peak altitude of 37,864m. We began the chase towards the landing site, now following GPS signals, and found it at 15.05 in a wheat field near Evesham, with the whole team extremely proud of our success. Whilst we captured fantastic HD footage of the flight, including capturing the burst of the balloon which QM hadn't seen before, the aim of Team Celsius was to carry out science experiments in the stratosphere, with data analysis currently in progress. Huge thanks to the staff involved for their support over the year. Stay tuned for Project Horizon 2018!



Houses

Sports Week 2017 was a tremendous success. As my first Sports Week at this school I was very impressed to see everyone get involved, including the teachers, to represent their House, either through House sports such as Handball, Softball, Football or Volleyball, track and field events or helping behind the scenes. The input of the Sixth Formers as umpires throughout the week assisted in the smooth running of all the House events. The involvement and participation of Year 12 showcased the involvement Sixth Form have in the House system as the final totals were very close indeed. I would like to congratulate all those who took part, who achieved personal bests or records. In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Gibbons, Mrs Youngman, Mr Francis, Tech Crew and the Heads of Houses for their organisation of this year's Sports Week.

Mrs Youngman

Maths

Mr Litchfield: The Junior Maths Challenge results are in. This year 137 pupils in Y7/8 took part, taking the opportunity to tackle some fiendish problems. I am pleased to report that 22 pupils achieved the coveted gold certificate, 36 achieved silver and 38 achieved bronze. Particular congratulations go to Sarujan Rupan, Alex Wilson, Nirav Sharma, Mohammed Hassan, Joshwan Jagpal, Dylan Heydon-Matterface, and Adnan Khan for qualifying for the Junior Kangaroo competition, and to Saad Mohammed for being "Best in School" and qualifying for the devilishly difficult Olympiad competition.

Geography

YEAR 12 FARCHYNYS FIELDWORK

March saw 26 A-Level geographers and 5 staff travel to Farchynys for a four-day fieldtrip exploring the geographical gems of North Wales. Upon arrival the students explored Coed y Brenin, collecting data to work out how much carbon is locked away in the dense forest. The following day saw a journey north to Snowdonia to observe the classic glacial landscape around Cwm Idwal. Wednesday saw a turn in the weather and theme with students battling through the wind and rain to study inequalities in Barmouth. A trip to Morfa Dyffryn on Thursday saw no real improvement in the weather, with students displaying grit and resilience in wet and windy conditions. The students and staff returned to school after four days of immersive and exhausting fieldwork. Year 12 Geographers journeyed up the M6 to Salford University to gain an insight into life at university hosted by Dr Mike Hardman.



GOOGLE EXPEDITIONS

The Geography department were visited by Google who brought their immersive Google Expedition program to the school. Led by Mr Brooke and Miss Davies, all pupils in KS3 were treated to virtual reality trips around the world including volcanoes in Russia, rainforests in Borneo and the Great Barrier Reef. The innovative project plans to bring this experience to over a million school children across the UK.

Mr Larvin

DT

Suchir Gella reports...

On 13th June a group of 40 students went to the Jaguar Land Rover factory in Wolverhampton. This factory is used for engine manufacturing and after a short introduction we had a tour of the factory and saw how the engines were built. This was a very interesting experience as before I was unaware of how complex the engines in our regular day to day cars are. After this we had a careers session where many routes into work in JLR were discussed. To conclude the day we had an engine building session where we tried methods of building and compared them.



Go4Set- Yash Jiwa (9A) writes... On Thursday 22nd June, the Year 8 and Year 9 Go4Set teams travelled to Ricoh Arena, Coventry to the Big Bang Fair to present our models of eco-hotels. This was the regional and national competition, where we had to give a presentation about our work over the 10 week period to Ambassadors to be shortlisted to the next round. Unfortunately, the Year 8's were not shortlisted however the Year 9 team (Modular) qualified and finished in the top 3! We had a lot of fun and enjoyed the different workshops from the Wasp's rugby training to the tyre change and car racing workshop. Overall the whole day and opportunity was thoroughly enjoyed by all!



Year 8 House Competition- Joe and James from JDD furniture chose the first place students in each class and decided upon the final rank order for Year 8 as follows: 1st - Nikhil Patel 8P, 2nd- Dominic Smith 8G, 3rd- Alex Wilson 8D, 4th- Harkaran Dhillon 8A.

Year 9 House Competition- The DT Year 9 House competition is now finished. It was the Alessi re-design task once again which all participants really enjoyed. In 1st Place with a superb crocodile stapler design was Joseph Daniels of 9A. 2nd with an elephant shaped toilet roll holder was Ben Thorn of 9D. 3rd with his cartoon like scissors was Jacob Morrall of 9P. Well done to all involved!

Chemistry

Dr Pilkington writes: This year's Cambridge Chemistry challenge was one of the hardest of recent years, almost Olympiad standard. It required application of pupils' chemical knowledge to the chemistry of potassium permanganate and pharmaceuticals made from bromoalkenes. We fared well and collected two silver and five copper medals. 19 Sixth Form students also took part in R1 of the 2017 UK Chemistry Olympiad. The competition is suitable for students predicted a high A or A* at A Level. The exam tests at a level well beyond that of A Level, and it is a great achievement to receive any recognition. This year 8 of our candidates received bronze awards and 4 received silver: James Murdoch, Jeevan Bansel, Usaamah Ahmed and Kaa-Yung Ng.

Art

On Tuesday 27th June the school hosted an enriching exhibition featuring art from students in the school. The work ranged from GCSE to A-level, and showcased the excellent work and commitment of students, together with the dedicated help of the Art department. Huge thanks go to Mrs. Mcgranaghan for organising such a beautiful event.

Francesca Adams

Battlefields Trip



Sam Hart reports: This term, a group of 43 pupils and 5 staff made the journey from school to Ypres in Belgium for the annual battlefields trip. Each day saw us visiting different landmarks and memorials in both the Ypres Salient and the Somme such as preserved trenches at Hill 62 and Vimy Ridge. The German mass cemetery at Langemark proved to be the most powerful site visited on the trip, as over 25,000 German soldiers are buried in an area the size of a swimming pool within dark, compressed woods at the side of a small road. On the second night, we all attended the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate and paid respects, by laying a wreath, to those who gave their lives. I would like to thank, on behalf of everybody who went on the trip, all five of the teachers who organised and ran it, with a particular emphasis on Mr Hughes, who's experience and knowledge made the trip even better.

Wreath Laying at Westminster Abbey

Francesca Adams reports: On 30 June, 80 Year 7s and several Sixth Formers honoured a tradition central to QMGs by laying a wreath on Queen Mary's tomb in Westminster Abbey. After experiencing the dizzy sights of London from the London Eye, we had a short service led by Canon Ball and Mr Langton together with Mr Swain commemorating the founding of our School. The day was successful and all enjoyed their time in London. Thank you to all the teachers and students who made this trip possible.

Youth Parliament

Balraj Jhoothy Reports: Alongside the regular impassioned political debate for which JDSoc is usually known, this year has also proven successful for local junior politics with the election of Mohammed Abir Hussain (10P) as Deputy Member of Youth Parliament for Walsall. Another candidate, Hassan Naqvi (6SA) was unsuccessful for Youth Parliament, but has been invited to attend the Youth Council.

Economics and Politics Lectures

Bronwen Armstrong reports: On 12th June we were lucky enough to hear Professor Michael Clarke. He increased our understanding of topics ranging from Whitehall's history, to terrorism and morality in politics. His experience in the Civil Service was also interesting and especially valuable to students interested in this field of employment, particularly concerning the 'Westminster bubble' and national defence given the current political climate in the UK.

Barcelona Trip



William Roberts reports: On 29th June, 40 pupils from 8P and 8G (pictured above) met for an early start and embarked on a trip to Barcelona. During the trip, they experienced Spain's breath-taking architecture, it's passion for sport and sumptuous food. Highlights included Nou Camp, La Sagrada Familia, Tossa de Mar and many more interesting destinations. All pupils were given a chance to test their bargaining skills on Las Ramblas, and improve their Spanish as we visited the wonders of the Costa Brava. We would like to give a huge thank you to Mrs Sharp for providing this wonderful opportunity. We all returned home with many happy memories, and a fantastic insight into life in Barcelona!

Performance at UK Annual Chinese Conference

Mrs Wang Reports: 6 QMGs pupils (Yash Jiwa, Ben Walker and Amrit Singh of 9A, Kush Nathwani and Robert Peacock of 10P and Sai Nathwani of 10G), pictured below, presented a fantastic Chinese play in front of over 300 Chinese teachers at the Conference last Saturday. Our pupils were very confident and their performance was well received, making the audience laugh on numerous occasions. Many teachers praised the high calibre of the students' performance before we left. Well done to all the pupils for their hard work and an excellent performance.



Wizard of Oz Performance

Hannah Watts writes: Recently, members of the Romeo and Juliet cast were lucky enough to experience a live performance of the Wizard of Oz at Walsall Studio School. Not only were the cast able to enjoy a brilliant performance but also had the opportunity to compare and hone their craft for the upcoming QM production in November. It was also brilliant to see a creative collaboration within the MAT. Thank you to Mr Clay-Croome for making the trip possible.

Mental Health Visits to Primary Schools

Jamaal Butt writes: Over the course of this term, the school council (members Kodi Beveridge-Smith and Jamaal Butt) have been visiting Year 6s in local primary schools to run workshops raising awareness about mental health and the transition into secondary school. The initiative started as an entry for the Speaker's School Council Award which is a national competition aimed at making an impact upon a local community. However, it has since extended far beyond and following overwhelmingly positive feedback from schools, plans are being made for more outreach next term. I would like to thank Kian Kushman, Pavandeep Josan, Mrs McPhee and all who helped make this project a success.

Normandy Trip

Anees Saeed: Our trip started at 11:45 on a Sunday night, the atmosphere was full of excitement! After a long journey, we arrived in France and spent the first day in Honfleur. After lunch we went to the beach and then rested at the hotel. The beach was amazing and we went every day! Some played softball, football and volleyball with Mr Monier, Mrs Swain and Mr Scott while the rest of us sat down and relaxed, watching the ocean and scenery. Highlights included the theme park, having "mini parties" in the hotel and even visiting the Bayeux Tapestry! Overall, I think that all future years should take part in this trip as it is a once in a lifetime opportunity that you will remember for the rest of your life!

Parliament Trip

Ethan Moore reports: On July 6th, pupils from Years 11 and 12 met to visit the Houses of Parliament in London. Upon arrival, students were given a tour across Parliament and invited to consider its historical intrigue—from the grand statues of political titans in St Stephen's Hall to Westminster Hall; previously used as Henry VIII's Tennis Court. Pupils had the opportunity to observe debates in both Houses (the Lords and the Commons). The day was informative and provided an invaluable insight into the fascinating history of British Parliament.

The QM Observer

Sport

Cricket

Mr Gibbons writes: At senior level, the 1st XI recorded victories against Lawrence Sheriff, Solihull 2nd XI and KE Aston. Joe Millerchip was the stand out batsman scoring 233 runs including a top score of 68* vs KEFW. However, 1st XI Captain Rohit Suglani led the way in the Bablake T20 Tournament, contributing impressive scores of 39, 43 and 45 against KE Aston, Wellingborough College and Warwickshire U15s respectively. Hashim Iqbal (9D) matched the efforts of Rohit Suglani, Joe Millerchip and Seth Jordan by achieving 5 wickets for the 1st XI, recording a season's best 3-7 vs KE Aston. In addition to this, Hashim scored a magnificent 101* for the 2nd XI in their only victory of the season vs Lawrence Sheriff, in a match that also saw Parmdeep Kalsi (10D) hit an impressive 51.

The U15A team (below) can reflect with great satisfaction after a highly successful season where they reached the semi-final of the Staffordshire Cup, only to be defeated by eventual winners Denstone College. However, in the second year of the QMGs 10s Tournament, QM defeated Lawrence Sheriff in the final after being set 66 to win, with Hashim Iqbal contributing 23 in the chase. Moreover, the boys made it two trophies in two weeks in the middle of June when they were crowned Adams' Grammar 10s Tournament Winners beating Bridgnorth Endowed, Charlton and Adams' Grammar. Both Parmdeep Kalsi (201 runs) and Matthew Curtiss (167 runs) have contributed significantly with the bat, although Jacob Clarke (8G) recorded the highest individual score of 72* vs Sandwell Academy. A special mention to Danial Shah in Petypher who smashed an unbeaten 105* in their House match versus Darby in an innings that included 16x4s and 3x6s.

The Year 9 side experienced a frustrating season as they were unable to perform to the best of their ability in high pressure situations. They were runners-up in the Adams' 10s Tournament and were beaten in the semi-final of the Staffs Cup by eventual winners Denstone. Their most notable victory came in the quarter-final, defeating previously unbeaten John Taylor HS with Jacob Clarke contributing 53* in the run chase. From a bowling perspective, Ronan Bagry (11), Suchir Gella (11), Muhammad Raheem (10) and Jairaj Kooner (9) have all chipped in with vital wickets at important moments. However, captain Hashim Iqbal led from the front as he recorded two further centuries, scoring 100* vs Bablake in only 62 balls and 100* vs Aragon in only 58 balls in a House match. He scored over 600 runs this season in all formats - an incredible achievement.



The U13s may feel an element of disappointment after their early promise this season diminished after their narrow defeat to St John Fisher Catholic College in the quarter-final of the Staffordshire Cup. Nevertheless, the inconsistent form of the boys allowed others to grasp opportunities and Rahul Patel and Rohan Sangha have continually impressed with the ball and bat respectively. Jacob Clarke recorded the highest individual score and the best individual figures by a pupil in Year 8 with an impressive 56* vs Bablake School and 5-4 vs Tettenhall College. Tinu Dominic recorded impressive bowling figures of 6-11 for Gryphon in a House match vs Petypher.

The Year 7 team (above, right) experienced a highly successful season, finishing as runners-up in the Adam's Grammar 10s Tournament and securing a top four finish at the prestigious Solihull 6s Tournament. The boys recorded impressive victories against OSH, St. Joseph's College and Derby GS. On an individual level, Aryan Tirugulla scored 130 runs with a top score of 38* vs Derby GS and captain Shivansh Tandon achieved an impressive haul of 21 wickets across the season for both the Year 7 and Year 8 team. His best performance was for the U13s where he recorded figures of 4-9 against Wolverhampton Grammar School.

A final thanks to all who attended the school's inaugural Summer Cricket Festival on Saturday 8th July. In the Adult 6s Cricket Tournament, the Staff (below) proved why form is temporary and class is permanent as they beat every other team to secure the title!



Sports Day & Sports Week

Mr Gibbons & Mrs Youngman: National School Sports Week and Sports Day both managed to beat the weather and the events went very well. Gryphon were the winners in Year 7 but victories for Darby in Years 8, 9 & 10 meant that they were crowned overall Sports Week Winners. On Sports Day, school records were broken by Joseph Dickson, Abazz Shayaam-Smith, Kyle Corbin, Ravaell Bailey and Ross Beale and Darby won the overall competition as they finished 10 points ahead of 2nd placed Gryphon. A big thank you to the Sixth Formers and Tech Crew for their assistance with officiating during Sports Week and the set-up of Sports Day. Check out the House trumpet blog online for much more information and photos.



Rugby

Mr G Taylor & Joe Dickson: On Thursday 27th April the U12's Rugby Squad exceeded everyone's expectations at the Staffordshire Cup rugby tournament. We played a total of 9 matches in 2 group stages. In the initial group stage we conceded no tries and scored 45 points. This meant we progressed to the Cup group with the other 4 best U12 teams in the County. In this group we won all our matches - bar one, losing by 5 points to 0 to the eventual winners KE Lichfield. We did produce convincing victories over Birches Head, Newcastle, Walsall Academy and Christ Church. The top try scorer of the tournament was Nomso Ndozi with an amazing 13 tries! Other try scorers for QM were Joe Dickson (8), Joseph Mitchell (2), Eashan Mall (5) and Thomas Ralph (1). All of the squad played extremely well and considering many of the team had not played rugby before September they performed superbly against some tough opposition. Congratulations to all the players and thanks to our coaches for all the time and effort they have put into creating a successful side.



Sailing



The school wishes the very best of luck to Gregory Cornes (8P) who has been selected to compete in the World Sailing Championships taking place in France in July.

Editorial Team Editor: Mr R Langton; Sub-Editors: Glen Foster, Vincent Jordan, Ethan Moore, Pavandeep Josan