



# The QM Observer

Summer Term Newsletter

Wednesday 18th July 2018

## A Spirit of Generosity at QMGS

### 24 Hour Maths Challenge



**Jeevon Grewal writes:** On 5th July, 19 Year 12 pupils participated in the 24 Hour Maths Challenge to raise money for Day One Trauma. This consisted of 24 one hour lessons taught by both Maths teachers and non-Maths teachers. The topics covered ranged from finite group theory and partial differentiation, to which country is the most likely to win the World Cup. Though the students were tired, they pushed through, fuelled by food donations from Harrison's, Papa Johns, The Frying Machine, and even Mr Scott's mother-in-law. In the end, the students raised over £1,000 for charity.



### QM Joins the Fight to Delete Blood Cancer

**Mrs Mehta writes:** This year the school has taken an active role in increasing awareness of blood cancer and how, by being a bone marrow donor, we could potentially help give someone a second chance at life. With the support of the whole school community and the charity DKMS we were able to organise our first bone marrow drive to raise awareness and clarify misconceptions about becoming a stem cell / bone marrow donor. Over 120 new donors were enlisted onto the Bone Marrow Registry. We were also successful in the drive we held at Open Evening where over 70 new donors registered. My thanks to everyone that was involved... but there is still a lot more that needs to be done, and as a school we plan to do annual drives to raise awareness and get more people to register. Anyone between the ages of 17-55 and in good health can register to be on the stem cell donor list and be a potential life saver.



### Farewell to the cohort of 2018



**Ms Roberts-Gawen writes:** Inevitably at this time of year, the School says goodbye to it's A Level examination groups, wishing them luck as they take their first steps beginning a life beyond QM. The 2018 cohort have been an exceptional group—both academically but also in their contributions to school life. Particular mention must go to Captain of School, Kodi Beveridge-Smith, Head Girl, Francesca Adams and the rest of the PSLT Team. Thanks also to the Prefect Teams, who have all been invaluable in the running of the School. The very best of luck 2018 cohort! Go forward and "live life to the full" always remembering QM for the life we prepared you for.

### 2018 Battlefields Trip

**William Roberts writes:** On 23rd May, 40 students embarked on the annual excursion to the battlefields of Belgium and France. The four-day trip included visits to landmarks of the Great War, including the Somme, Tyne Cot Cemetery and Passchendaele. The impact of experiencing the physical landmarks, and the emotions that they evoke, cannot be understated and will stay with students for a long time. It gave us all a real perspective on the devastation, and remembrance, of war. The trip inspired deep thought and reflection, but we also enjoyed some free time in Ypres. It was an extremely valuable trip for everyone, made even more pleasurable by the knowledge passed on by the accompanying teachers.



### USA Geography Trip

**Mr Matley writes:** 24 pupils from QMGS and QMHS took part in the first joint Geography department trip, travelling to Las Vegas in the week before Easter. After a short blast of the bright lights of The Strip and wonderment at the enormous buffet meal offered in Circus Circus we travelled through Nevada, Utah, Arizona and California over the next week. Zion National Park and Bryce Canyon were spectacular highlights, even managing to overshadow the Grand Canyon. This was a truly unforgettable experience for all involved.





## Celebrating a Wonderful Year of Music!



**Mr Vause writes:** This year's spring concert was the biggest yet and took place on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. With over 280 pupils involved from both QMHS & QMGS, it was great to see the musicians coming together once again with huge success. The evening featured a joint orchestra, choir, string ensemble, training band, QMGS jazz band, an item from the Year 7 instrumental project and a few brave soloists. Rhys Thornett (Year 10) began the concert by performing one of his recent grade 8 pieces, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Movement from Sonata in E by Beethoven. Keval Nathwani (Year 13) impressively sang a whole piece in German, and Nick Green (Year 12) gave us a fantastic rendition of AC/DC's 'Back in Black' on electric guitar. An audience of approximately 450 came to watch, so there was a terrific atmosphere. I was immensely proud of everyone that took part and I'm looking forward very much to our next concert.

## QMGS pupils play with the National Youth Orchestra of GB

Mr Vause writes: We are delighted to have been invited to take part in a day of workshops with the National Youth Orchestra who are visiting Walsall on 11<sup>th</sup> July. A number of our orchestra members will be taking part. I'm sure it will be a wonderful experience playing alongside some of the best musicians in the Country.



### Music Website Reaches 6600 hits!

Have a look at the latest photos, videos and information on Music exam success. 56 boys have passed instrumental grade exams this year and the list is growing. Congratulations!  
[www.Qmmusic.info](http://www.Qmmusic.info)

### Music Theatre Trip

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April, the Music department took a coach of pupils to Birmingham Hippodrome to see the show Wicked. Mr Vause writes: 'We are lucky to have such fantastic theatres so close to school so the fact that Wicked is on the GCSE music syllabus seemed a golden opportunity to see it live.' A great time was had by all.

### Grade 8 Successes

**Congratulations** to the following pupils on their recent instrumental exam success. All have passed grade 8 this term:

Harvey Clarke, (drum kit),  
Rhys Thornett, (piano)  
Manveer & Harjeet Wilkhu,  
(violin).



### The QM Skiffle Group Tour Goes on

The QM Skiffle Group continued its 2017-18 tour with performances at Burntwood, Chasetown, Chase Terrace St John's Church and St. Matthew's Church. A new addition to the playlist, a song by Lonnie Donegan, brought a touch of World Cup excitement to the programme! But the old favourites also remained, bringing joy and laughter to the audiences. Altogether now... "My old man's a dustman..."



## Wreath Laying



**Dil Patel and Ayaan Parkar write:** After a 6.45am start at Walsall train station and following several train and tube journeys, we finally reached London at 10am. We headed straight to the National Art Gallery where we had a tour of some of the pieces that were created around the time of our school opening in 1554. The actual wreath laying took place around 1pm in Westminster Abbey. We gave prayers and thanks to our founder, Queen Mary, while we stood next to her tomb. After we left Westminster Abbey, we took a boat tour along the River Thames. We saw many different sites such as the Tower of London and the Shard.

## Economics Trip



**Mr Sunley writes:** 22 Year 12 Economics students along with PSU, NJB and MOR made the trip by train to the very heart of the UK's financial services industry in the City of London to gain an insight into the workings of some of the key institutions along with study and career opportunities with the London Institute of Banking & Finance (LIBF). The day included a fact-finding visit to the Bank of England museum, careers talks at the LIBF and culminated in a fascinating walking tour of the financial district where students gained insight into the origins of the financial services industry and the history and function behind some of the city's most iconic buildings.

## CCF Field Day



**Cadet Aidan Burns' reports:** On 28th and 29th June, the Year 9 RAF and Army Cadets completed Exercise Dawn Chorus, a challenging overnight experience involving little sleep but a lot of learning. We arrived at Swynnerton training camp on the Thursday evening ready for an exciting and eventful night, which included building bashas to sleep in; cooking from military ration packs; a tactical patrol and sharing overnight sentry duty. After an early start on Friday, our field day began and our day was spent orienteering, shooting on a range and completing engaging command tasks. Overall, the experience was enjoyable for all and taught us many new lessons.

## Childnet Film Competition Success

**Mrs McPhee writes:** Congratulations to Shaanu Naguleswaran, James Lawrence, Euell Bulusan and Anees Saeed, all of 9A, who were awarded second place at the Annual Childnet Film Competition. The competition received over 200 entries across from across the UK. Queen Mary's Grammar School was one of the six schools to attend the finalists' event with their film 'A Better Internet'. This film will now be used as an internet safety resource to educate other young people about how to use the internet.



## MMI Day

In support of our aspirations to read Medicine and medical related courses at university, Mr Rendu organised an event designed to prepare us for the application process. The event consisted of talks from medical professionals and then a carousel of stations that tested interview skills and our current medical based knowledge. The 30 guests included practicing doctors as well as ex-students who are currently reading medical-related subjects at university. Each station was challenging but useful and all QM students who were involved found the event invaluable.



## Go4SET

**Amaar Hussain writes:** Go4SET was a very memorable experience. It was amazing to work alongside IMI Engineering on a project. Our project was to consider how our school could successfully operate if it was on an island. We had to solve problems such as how we were going to power the island, how pupils would get to-and-from the island to attend class and how to get food to the island. When our project was completed, we took it to The Big Bang Fair. There, we presented our project and it was judged. We spent time going around the fair and got to see some very inspiring inventions.



## History Essay Success!

**Dominic Knight writes:** On 28th June, I visited Merton College, University of Oxford for two days to attend talks and participate in activities about studying Law. This opportunity was as a result of winning a prize in the Merton College's essay competition. The experience was invaluable as I learned about the College as well as life at Oxford in general. Talking with current Oxford students and tutors was informative and made me realise that I must take advantage of all opportunities now to help me make informed choices about my future.

## 2018 Fustie Weeks

**Sasha Shadrouh writes:** Five fun filled days away from home, learning vital skills and discovering new experiences. This was education in a whole new way. These skills are now being applied in everyday life, helping us be more independent whilst helping improve our teamwork skills. Activities included the Precipice Walk and a visit to the CAT (Centre of Alternative Technology) where we learnt about how to make the world more sustainable. In the evenings, we immersed ourselves in classical games like table football, card games and board games.



### Cricket 2018 Summer Update



**Mr Gibbons writes:** At senior level, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI have enjoyed a fantastic season, recording victories against Lawrence Sheriff, Solihull 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, N-U-L, Derby GS and KE VI CHB. Hashim Iqbal (239 runs), Rohit Suglani (324 runs) and Joe Millerchip (332 runs) have led the way with the bat. Suglani (10) has taken the most wickets but Devansh Tandon (9) has been the pick of the bowlers with an impressive economy rate of 5.97 and best figures of 3-13 vs. N-U-L. At the Bablake T20 Tournament, victories vs. John Hampden GS and KE Aston ensured QM achieved their best placed finish to date. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI also competed in the Senior 6s Tournament at Stratford and recorded a victory against KH VIII. Perhaps the highlight of the season was Suglani's match-winning knock of 83\* from 44 balls against KE VI CHB as he snatched victory from the jaws of defeat.

The U15A team can reflect with great satisfaction after a highly successful season where they reached the final of the Staffordshire Cup, only to be defeated by N-U-L. They still managed to achieve silverware at the QMGS 10s Tournament and won the Staffordshire Chance to Compete Tournament and will be representing the County at the Regional Stage. Hashim Iqbal scored over 500 runs for the U15s with a top score of 106\* vs. Wolverhampton GS. Ronan Bagry (15), Muhammad Raheem (12), Jairaj Kooner (12), Hashim Iqbal (10) and Suchir Gella (10) all achieved 10 wickets for the season, highlighting the strength in depth within the side.



The U14s have had plenty of opportunities with both bat and ball this season with their talisman Jacob Clarke often missing fixtures due to his Warwickshire County commitments. They reached the semi-final of the Staffordshire Cup. On the way to the semi-final, Jacob Clarke narrowly missed out on a maiden century against both Wolverhampton GS (94) and Rawlett School (95). From a bowling perspective, Sarujan Rupan has led from the front taking 12 wickets and recording incredible figures of 4-2 and 5-9 vs. OSH and Solihull U14B respectively. Matthew Smith is one of the most improved players, scoring over 100 runs and taking over 10 wickets for all teams in the school.



The U13s have had a memorable season winning the Tettenhall T-8 Tournament and qualifying for the Regional Stage of the Chance to Compete Tournament. Shivansh Tandon, Aryan Tirugulla, Dilraj Sohal and Joe Dickson have all hit 50s. With the ball, Tandon (15 wickets) and Karamveer Kulair (10 wickets) have been the leading bowlers despite brilliant spells from Rahul Sohal, Manivardhan Parigi, Karam Uppal and Samraj Bains. The highlight for the team was the U13 IOM Cricket Tour where the boys played 5 matches in 3 days.

An inability to post competitive totals with the bat has cost the U12 team this season despite notable victories against BVGS, Derby GS and KES Birmingham U12B. They finished as runners-up in the inaugural QMGS U12 10s Tournament with Varun Dewitt scoring 58 runs in 3 matches. On an individual level, captain George Matthews has scored close to 100 runs whilst Cameron Mahal (8) has picked up the most wickets. Recent performances in House Cricket suggest there is potential in the team with brilliant performances from Faris Afghan and Nikhil Gupta.



### Walsall Schools' Athletics

**Mr Francis writes:** We retained our title by somehow increasing the gap from a very strong Walsall Academy. In fact, the winning score of 213 points was a championship record! Out of the 29 events we participated in we won 23 medals - 13 gold, 7 silver and 3 bronze.

Joseph Dickson of Year 8 led the way with 4 golds. Winning the 100m, 200m Long Jump and 4 x100m - a feat Jessie Owens would be proud of. Kyle Corbin also stormed to victory in the 200m and 400m. It was very much a team performance demonstrated by the relays gaining 2 golds and a silver in 3 races.



### Tennis

The U15A & B teams were all U14's bar one U15 and so made the 2nd place finish in the league, by the A team, a very impressive result. The B team, whilst not winning any fixtures, did begin to secure more individual victories and confidence grew throughout the season - hopefully this will stand us in good stead next season. My thanks and recognition must go to Rohan Sangha and Amun Sidhu who co-captained and organised the teams so well!



### Rugby

These U15 boys volunteered to referee/officiate in the Black Country Tag rugby matches. Their knowledge and control of the game, when officiating, was impressive. Many staff from other schools, along with the officials organising the events, commented on the professionalism of our boys. They were true ambassadors of the sport and of Queen Mary's.

