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## Principal's Message

This term has been a very unusual one, predominately because of the Coronavirus situation. Thank you all for your support and resilience through what has been a very challenging time for everyone.

We remain focused on our main purpose: to deliver an outstanding education that enables your children to excel academically and personally. We will also be working hard to ensure that our Year 11 and Year 13 students get the grades that they deserve this summer, as soon as Ofqual have determined the exact procedure to be used.

I do hope that we get back to some kind of normality soon. Happy Easter.

Mr. A. Crofts

## The Quest Academy Wins National Award



### The Quest Academy is recognised as one of the highest performers in England

The Quest Academy has been presented with a national award for outstanding key stage 4 results. The award is based on 2019 data provided by the Department for Education (DfE).

The Quest was among the best performing non-selective secondary schools in the country, receiving an award for being in DfE Band 2 for student progress at key stage 4.

The SSAT Educational Outcomes database compares all state-funded schools in England and the highest performing schools in a range of key measures are awarded an SSAT Educational Outcomes Award.

Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT said, "Congratulations to The Quest Academy on winning an SSAT Educational Outcomes Award. This success is down to the superb learning and teaching, outstanding support and inspirational leadership of students, staff, parents and governors. You have made a huge difference to the lives of the young people in your school. Thank you."

In 2019, The Quest Academy reported an excellent set of GCSE results with 60% of students achieving at least five GCSE passes (Grades 9-4). Over a third of all students had a Grade 5 or better in both English and Maths and 15% of all grades in Maths were Grade 7 or better. In total, 75% of students passed (Grade 4 or above) English and 63% in Maths. Based on these results, The Quest Academy currently has a Progress 8 score of +0.3 (where a score of 0 represents national average). The Quest Academy has delivered progress above the national average every year since the Progress 8 marker was introduced.



## Les Misérables

Students from all year groups at The Quest Academy recently put on a much-anticipated production of Les Misérables.

This was the 1st ever performance of the "Quest Company"; a group of performers afforded automatic rights to inclusion in the production on the basis of exceptional performances in last year's production of Little Shop of Horrors. In addition, other students were auditioned to enrich and enlarge the group. The Quest Company is now an ensemble that will craft each year's school production and develop their artistic abilities. Each year there will be some turnover but 80% will remain.

This year, the Company took on a behemoth of a show, vastly superior in

difficulty to anything else we have ever attempted. This was only possible due to the commitment and dedication by the ensemble and those around them. Since September, the students have exhibited persistent determination, unwavering from the knowledge that we had a show to do and nobody else was going to do it for us! They have been magnificent.

There were many others beyond the cast who made this production possible. Most



notably, Felix and Jay who have been steadfast in their assistance from day 1. The team really is a team and I thank every one of them for making education a holistic experience.

**G Kensit**



## Alumni Destinations

The most rewarding part of being the Director of Sixth Form is on A Level results day seeing the joy when students open their results and the excitement of meeting their University offers.

The second most rewarding part of my role is when students remain in contact with me and even when they pop back in to visit. They often go around and thank all their teachers for all the support, guidance and advice they were given during their time at The Quest Academy. This year has been no exception. Over the first term alone I have had numerous emails and students returning to let me know how grateful they are for the work we do to enable them to make a smooth transition to undergraduate level study and independent life.

It was a pleasure to unveil the new destinations poster showing the University and course that each student from last year's cohort has moved onto. It was a privilege to have a number of alumni come back from their first semester at University to be a part of the unveiling and they certainly couldn't hide their pride as they pointed at themselves!

**S Cox**







## First Give Final



Across the school, Year 8 pupils have worked tirelessly to raise awareness, fundraise and engage with a variety of different Croydon charities. Numerous activities took place, including sponge the teacher, dodgeball, sponsored silences, bake sales and many more to tackle a variety of social issues.

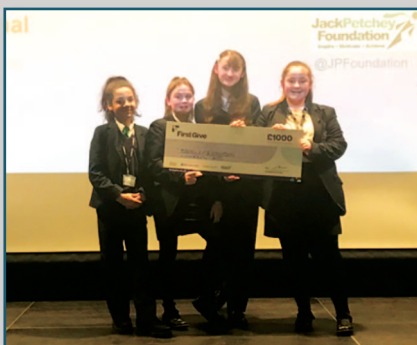
Across the 8 weeks of fundraising, the pupils raised over £300, on top of the final £1,000 prize for our winning group. All classes selected one group to represent their class and showcase the hard work and dedication they have put in over the term.

All the pupils did excellently in their presentations, and did the school proud with their enthusiasm, effort and focus on the day of the final.

Winning the £1,000 for their selected charity was the class of 8C2/Qj3. They dedicated their time to Bromley and Croydon Women's Aid and showcased their understanding of their charity through producing and performing an original song.

First Give were very impressed with all the students in Year 8 and gave a big congratulations and well done to the year for all their hard work.

**C Valbuena**



## Drama Workshop at The Old Vic

On Tuesday 7th January a group of Year 10 Drama students kicked off the decade with a workshop that was delivered by theatre professionals. Still clinging onto the Christmas spirit, the workshop explored the themes, design and decisions made of a production of A Christmas Carol at The Old Vic.

The workshop was excellently delivered with our students contributing really clever, slick and confident performances and answers.

The following day, (Wednesday 8th) we took the students to a production of the show so that they could identify everything that had learned in the workshop. We were greeted with warm mince pies and oranges, in keeping with the festive spirit.



The students and staff were captivated by the clever blocking and staging which was rich in symbolism and abstract themes that everyone interpreted brilliantly. The whole event culminated in a Q&A with three of the actors in the performance which was invaluable to the students as they start the process of bringing their own text to life.

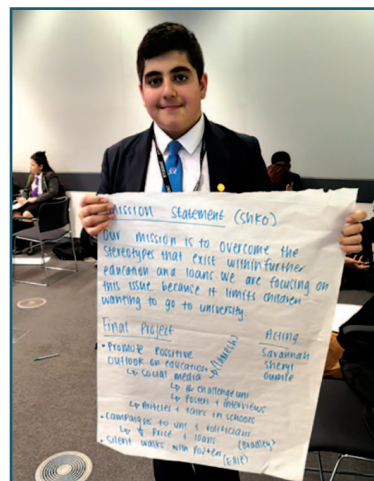
**J Russell**

## Mayor of London's Youth Forum

In partnership with WE, the Mayor of London invited students from The Quest Academy to join in with the annual Youth Summit in the City.

Seven Year 9 students were selected to take part in the trip. They were tasked with the job of devising a plan to tackle social integration in the local South Croydon area.

The pupils worked for the entire day to build up a plausible plan, which they then presented to the other 150 pupils that took part in the initiative – being one of only six groups to be selected to present.



Savannah, Sheryl, Oumie, Lamech, Bradley, Ellie and Shko all worked together to focus on encouraging young people to aspire to go to university, focusing on tackling the guilt students may feel for putting a financial burden on their parents.

Their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm led to a creative, powerful and moving presentation.

Huge congratulations for their work and participation in the Youth Summit.

**C Valbuena**

## Creative Writing Intervention

In English intervention, Year 11s, Phillipe, Josh, Ugbaad, Mayuri, Connor and Kristian developed an exceptional piece of creative writing. The pupils were challenged with writing a creative piece together, without seeing what the other pupils were writing. They were allocated a section of the story and could only focus on that. Their final piece was brilliant. Please take a moment to read their response below. Well done!

It was sharply freezing. No scream could be heard; but only those of one in pure plight. He peacefully prayed while the rapid darkness enclosed him. Alone. No screams could be heard.

He was looking at the rose petals in a sentimental way. His hands gripped firmly onto the stem like he didn't want to lose it. The flower looked depressed. His fingers were scraping the ice away, freeing the mind forged manacles inside.

He looked at the bruised flower with grief, the clouds quickly turned black and began to cry. The man's body began to become heavy from the weight of the sky's tears. The sky's

sorrow was contagious, as before he knew it – the man began to cry. So heavy the lamp's flame burnt out. Tears continued to fall.

The bench sighed sympathetically. With every sniffle and sob it clung tighter. Desperately persevering to ignite his withered flame. His tears fell like bullets, piercing the tough, time-worn timber, as he fell back in agony.

Endlessly wondering, why it had to happen to him. Why is it that every time he anxiously sees her, he still gets the same butterflies as the night they met, even when he is rested six-foot under silky, soft soil? Gazing into her most treasured flower like it was her beautiful eyes that once used to love him.

Of course, he grieves, why would he not? The storm heading closer, closer and closer. Monstrous growls from the tenacious thunder echoes all around him, as if he was not alone, reminding him that he is no one. In a room blocked off and trapped. And he will never gain back what he lost.

This is Phillip, and this is his story.

## QAPA Selsdon Community Plan

On Wednesday 24th January, the Quest Academy parents at the Parents' Forum were joined by Echez Ubaka, the Croydon Council Regeneration Manager and Robert Ward, Councillor for Selsdon and Addington to present the Selsdon Community Plan.

The Selsdon Community Plan (2020-2025) is all about the community coming together to share a vision to improve Selsdon as a place, by developing key project priorities and actions to achieve this aim.

There was a lively debate about the local community and what it offers and how it could be improved. Ideas ranged from ways to improve the high street with the

planting of trees and encouraging new business to regenerate the green spaces in and around Selsdon. More amenities and facilities were discussed alongside many suggestions as to what we could offer young people.

Many thanks to all who participated and I know that our parents' views were gratefully received.

### Next steps - Engagement events/activities

- Quest Academy – getting pupils' views - February 2020
- Letters to Selsdon Schools

The Selsdon Community Plan wants your views. On-line survey now open.



Have your say! All are encouraged to complete this short survey by following the link

[www.croydon.gov.uk/selsdonCPsurvey](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/selsdonCPsurvey)

Closing date: 12th March 2020.

**J Devereux**

## Important dates for your diary

**In line with government advice, parents' evenings and other planned events are postponed. We will communicate with parents and carers when new dates have been set.**