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Principal's Message

As another term draws to a close, thank you very much for all of your support in ensuring we have remained fully open throughout this term.

In this edition of the newsletter, I want to focus on the two biggest influences on how well a child does at secondary school.

The first is attendance. You can't beat being here every day! That's why we don't allow any holidays in term time and we ask for all routine medical appointments to take place outside of school hours.

Every student should aim to achieve 97% attendance or better across the year.

The second is reading. Reading is crucial for academic success. You can help by ensuring your son or daughter reads some good quality fiction or non-fiction for at least 30

minutes a day. That's the level that really makes a difference.

If you can help ensure your child is here almost every day and becomes an avid reader, you will have put them firmly on the path to exam success!

Best wishes for a happy Easter.

Mr A. Crofts

First Give



This term, year 8 took part in The First Give programme as part of their "My Quest Journey". This social action campaign enables students to identify local social issues and engage with charities that address them. The

students then compete to win £1,000 for their chosen charity.

Across the cohort, students worked incredibly well together and united ideas in order to best support a social issue. The form groups' chosen charities were as follows:-

- 8.1 - Mind** - supports people with mental health issues
- 8.2 - Duffus Foundation** - helps young people impacted by cancer
- 8.3 - St Christopher's Hospice** - supports people at the end of their lives
- 8.4 - JAGS Foundation** - works to build better foundations for young people in Croydon
- 8.5 - Bromley and Croydon Women's**

Aid - supports victims of domestic violence

8.6 - Lives Not Knives - helps young people avoid knife crime

Students across the year group showed maturity and compassion with emotive issues, and commented that this project has given them a deeper understanding of modern life. Miss Dixon was especially impressed with 8.4's questions and engagement with JAGS, who delivered a talk to 8.4.

All classes worked hard to produce a social action and fundraising campaign which included bake sales,

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car washes, creating educational resources, designing badges, raffles and sports events in order to raise money.

On Thursday 31st March, we held the Year 8 First Give Charity Final. With support from their My Quest Journey teachers, students worked hard to perfect their presentations. They all performed amazingly, and it was fantastic seeing them grow in confidence and improve their presentation skills.

Congratulations to the winning team of Ana, Deja, Sienna, Filipe, Morris and Kishawn, representing 8.2, who received a cheque of £1,000 for their chosen charity the Duffus Foundation. Individual awards for public speaking went to Honey Durling and Asaru Parr who showcased an excellent ability to captivate and educate their audience.

Thank you to all those that supported the students with this project. We are very pleased with the achievements of Year 8 and would like to thank them for their dedication and amazing work!



Year 10s visit Roehampton University



Upon arrival at the main building, students were given a brief talk about what to expect from their day at Roehampton. The ambassadors introduced themselves, and we were pleased to see one of our own Quest alumni, Frankie Cummings (who left

Quest in July 2021), taking the lead and talking about what she studies at the university.

Frankie mentioned that she was on the NCOP programme at school and how it had helped her. It was great to see her, and our students were full of questions.

Another ambassador mentioned that the university offers some scholarships. Quest student, Nathan, was particularly interested in the Esports scholarship since this is one of his hobbies. On our tour of the

campus, we stopped at the Esports centre where Nathan was over the moon to see all the technology and had a long conversation with the staff member that was running the course.

All students were impressed with how the ambassadors talked to them and really made them feel at home. All of the ambassadors were extremely helpful and went out of their way to accommodate us.

It was a great day and all the students mentioned that they now want to study at Roehampton University.

University of Surrey Visit



Quest6 students enjoyed a day at the University of Surrey, finding out more about university and apprenticeship options. Everyone learned something new and, as ever, the students were a credit to the academy.

Year 9 Old Vic Schools Club

A group of Year 9 students have been involved in an outreach project from the Old Vic Theatre. So far these students have watched a series of monologues, A Christmas Carol and A Number. They have even had workshops delivered by industry professionals which cover developing a character, lighting design and directing.

In our most recent excursion on 2nd March, we visited the Old Vic to watch Caryl Churchill's dystopian play 'A Number' followed by a Q&A session with BAFTA nominee Paapa Essiedu and Acting Legend, Lennie James.

Two weeks later, they took part in an intense workshop on the skills of a



director and had the opportunity to make their own creative decisions for the play.

We will soon be visiting the theatre again to watch 'The 47th' and we can't wait! Watch this space for another update.



Drama Work Experience

Through collaboration with the Old Vic Theatre, students were given the opportunity to undertake work experience over the February Half Term. This was open to a limited number of young people aged 15-18 throughout London. Yesmine Marouani (11.1) was lucky enough to be selected to take part in this. She writes...

“One of the main things I enjoyed about The Old Vic work experience week had to be meeting people with similar interests to me which meant we were able to instantly connect and work with one another. It was a space to discuss ideas and interests as well as learn, progress and execute them.

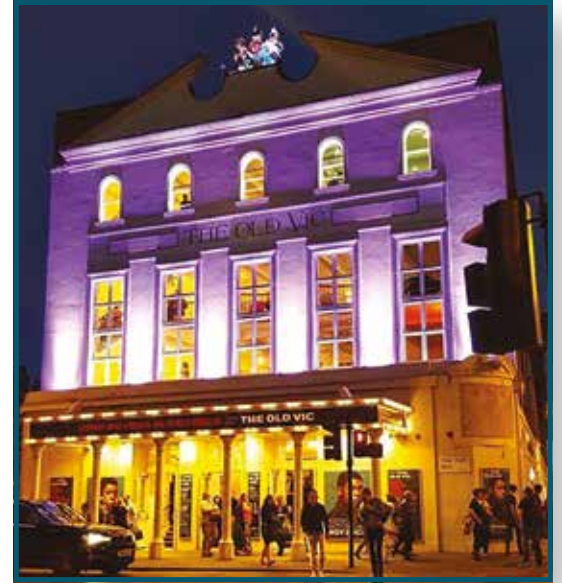
Despite my nervousness, the mentors we'd met at the beginning of the week to help guide us had put in great amounts of effort to make us feel welcome, included and heard. I truly felt as though they ensured, to the best of their ability, that each of our creative ideas were considered.

I'd expected engagement and communication to be difficult due to the meetings being held on a Zoom call and yet it proved to be

no challenge. We were met with various activities to help us understand and gain knowledge about our desired career opportunities, which in turn kept us excited and involved.

Over the week we met with multiple professionals from different areas within the theatre industry who were able to explain to us the significance of their role and how they got where they are now. It was interesting to see the different paths each of them had taken, as well as provide us with some knowledge on how we could advance our own careers. I also learnt the importance of socialising and self-confidence whilst experiencing the benefits of teamwork and group dedication.

Our end goal had been to create an online event in the style of a panel where we'd intended to highlight what we had learnt during the week and our personal plans for the future of theatre due to our collective desire to assist in making it more sustainable and accessible. We were given full creative freedom in all



aspects and it was our responsibility to advertise, organise and host the event. Provided with a budget of £120, we decided which industry professionals we'd like to interview on the panel and we paid them accordingly.

Overall, it was an enjoyable experience that I would most definitely take part in again. It taught me new skills in communication and leadership whilst teaching me how to be independent yet not refusing help if it was needed.”

Medical Presentation



On Wednesday 23rd March, students had the opportunity to have a session with Dr Elissa Abi Raad. Dr Elissa has completed her Foundation 1 and Foundation 2 and is currently working at Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust. She specialises in General Practice and Emergency Medicine. The session was aimed at any year 10-13 students who have an interest in Medicine.

Dr Elissa gave the students first-hand insight into her journey to becoming a doctor, different pathways and the requirements needed for this career.

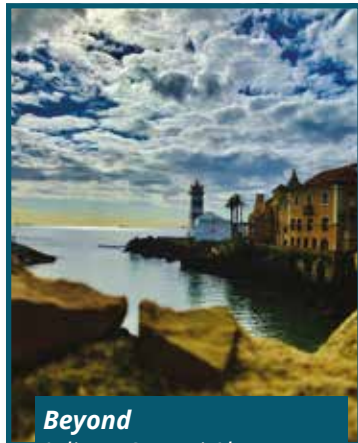
Students also had the opportunity to ask questions (including questions about salary) and any general tips and advice she could give them. They found this session useful and were very thankful that Dr Elissa took the time out of her busy schedule to give this information.



Royal Academy Summer Show

Some amazing work has been submitted for the Royal Academy Summer show, for which judging takes place in May.

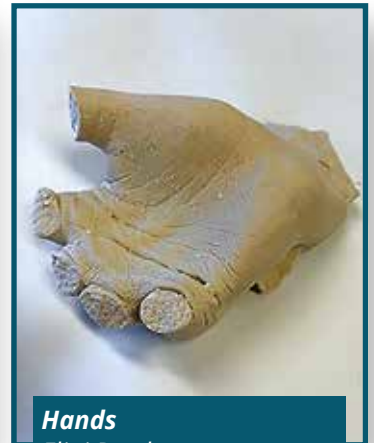
Fingers crossed for Quest participants! Here are some examples of the work that has been submitted so far.



Beyond
Juliana Sarasti Alzate



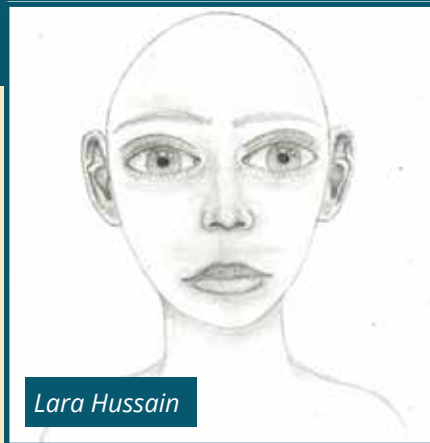
Singed
Kai O'Connor Quinnell



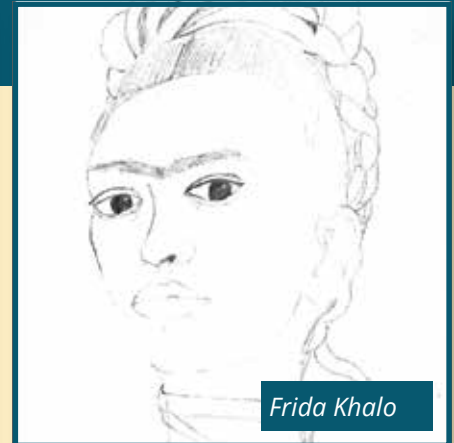
Hands
Elini Patel

Art – Year 7 Portraits

Year 7 has been looking into Portraiture and Frida Kahlo. We started out by practising how to draw a portrait in proportion then moved on to creating our own artist responses to Frida adding aspects of our own identity. Here are some beautiful examples of their work.



Lara Hussain



Frida Khalo

History Department News

An exciting time for History at Quest with some excellent work taking place across all year groups.

Year 7 are in the process of producing board games as part of their assessment on their understanding of the similarities and differences of experiences in medieval life.

Year 8 are endeavouring to understand the impact and legacy of empire whilst Year 9 are dipping their toes into GCSE content with an exploration of Crime and Punishment, having just completed some insightful and reflective work on the realities of genocide.

At GCSE, Year 10 should now be fully confident in their understanding of the major causes and consequences surrounding the significant events of the Cold War, and the impact they had on international relations, whilst Year 11 continue their revision ahead of their impending exams; refining their skills and ensuring they have perfected exam technique.

Both Year 12 and 13 are working hard with the rigorous demands of A Level, with Year 13 readying



themselves to ensure they get the grades they need to take up some of their excellent university offers.

Team History continues to also look at opportunities beyond the curriculum and we look forward to launching a planned trip for next year very soon!



British Science Week 11th – 20th March 2022

Last week at The Quest Academy, year 7 and 8 students celebrated Science Week by making models of eco-farms during lessons.

The theme for this year was growth, and students had to make models which used renewable energy resources with materials found at home. They came up with great ideas such as making water filters and even made circuits to create working mini wind turbines!

The best entries from each class made it to the Science Fair where students and teachers were able to vote for their favourite model and presentations.

Year 7 Winners:

Miranda Mota Gonzalez & Thaksiga Sritharan

Year 7 Runners up:

Andrei Ion, Yassine Marouani, Jamie Hawkins, Ellen Bathmaker & Riley Austin-Till

Year 8 Winners:

Kaia Zephir, Maisey Everett & Anoosha Uddin

Year 8 Runners up:

Abdulmalik Agha, Keisley Namrit, Mehduy Neil & Cairon Emanuel-Stevens

Congratulations to everybody who took part.



New Laptops in DT



The Design and Technology Department welcomes 28 laptops to the department. This allows for the lessons in Cooking and Nutrition, Product Design, Textiles and CAD CAM to incorporate more research, design development, laser cutter design and presentation work to be developed in class.

The photo shows year 9 students completing their cooking and nutrition work on nutrition and their sources in class. Here they can receive one to one help and individual feedback while completing the task.

Design and Technology - The Course for You

Design and Technology are very pleased to have a year 10 Product Design GCSE class running this year. The students have the benefit of being taught by highly qualified professionals who have all worked in the design industry, and the support of a technician who is a highly qualified carpenter and craftsman.



Students have the opportunity to use multiple pieces of equipment including the lathe (pictured), 3D printers, a laser cutter and a vacuum forming machine. The students are making good progress and one student was confident enough to lead the class in how to use the software blender.

The year 10 students are very passionate about the subject and some hope to go on to be engineers, architects, product designers and project managers. There are many more career paths which can develop from the study of design and there are also life skills, leadership, and management skills that students develop throughout the two-year course.

The course has the benefit of being 50% coursework and 50% written exam and is a highly respected course throughout the industry and educational establishments. The e-portfolio produced is a very useful tool when applying for A levels and universities.

Please contact the department to find out more about the career paths open to students who would like to choose this subject.



Combined Cadet Force



Resuming the CCF partnership with Trinity School post-pandemic since the beginning of the school year has proven to be very successful. The students have shown great interest in both joining the CCF and being proactive in all their activities and expeditions so far.

As part of their weekly training, the cadets are learning invaluable skills and values while working alongside highly trained professionals. The cadets recently enjoyed a Field Day with a chance to take part in several

activities including March & Shoot, Field Gun Completion and even Archery!

The cadets also had a chance to visit an army camp in February as part of their first recruit's camp where they enjoyed themselves immensely as the pictures show.

The experiences they are receiving are truly unparalleled which is why all of us who are a part of CCF are looking forward to the summer camp.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Update

The Spring Term has seen us continue our preparation to complete our D of E awards by the end of the year.

We have spent sessions looking at maps in greater detail and learning about how contours, map scales and different types of terrain might affect our journeying time when we come to do the expedition in the summer.

We have also been getting familiar with the D of E route card so we know what information we will need to put into this when designing our expedition routes. More recently, we have been focusing on practical skills such as putting up tents and first aid. We have been practising bandaging each other and putting our arms into slings so we are well prepared and can look after each other as a team!



Quest Academy Parents' Association

On Wednesday 30th March, we welcomed our parents for the first time in two years, face-to-face to our Parents' Forum. Our Parents' Forum is resetting after the pandemic and is re-emerging bigger and better! The role of the Parents' Forum is to be a form of communication between parents and the school and provide an opportunity to discuss key issues for parents.

Parents met and mingled and shared experiences amongst staff and Senior Leaders in a relaxed social environment. Many good ideas and plans were generated about how parents and the school could work together this year. The agenda for the next meeting was requested by parents at the meeting who felt that they wanted to know more about the school's strategy for catching up after the school closures and also specific workshops on how to help their child at school.

You can find details of the next meeting along with the minutes of the 30th March 2022 meeting on our website. We warmly invite you to our next meeting on the 14th July 2022. To become involved in the Parents' Forum, please email: ParentForum@thequestacademy.org.uk

Year 10 Update - Mr Boundy writes:

It's been great to see the focus and engagement from year 10 as it sinks in that we are only 14 months away from GCSE exams - as few as 120 lessons in some subjects! On recent lesson visits, I've seen the effort and higher level of thinking with which students are regularly engaging, particularly in core subjects.

I continue to recommend that beginning the revision process now (30 minutes to recap a topic every other week) will pay huge dividends. Congratulations to Savannah Hall-Bonnick for being the first year 10 to receive the Silver badge this year.

I am filled with confidence that with focus, we have the strong foundations necessary for exam success next year and meeting the entry requirements for our 6th form.



2021/2022 Football Season Review



It's been a positive season for our football teams with over 50 fixtures played!

Year 7: The 7As have had some positive performances and steady progression this season. They currently sit 4th (of 7) in the Premier 7A Croydon Schools' league, winning 1 game, drawing 1 and losing 3. They reached the ¼ final of the Croydon Cup and round 3 of the National Cup. Shout out to captain Bailey Powell who is top scorer with 8 goals in 11 games.

Year 8: The 8A team have battled for survival in the premier 8A League. It's been a mixed bag of results, with the standout performance being a 3-0 victory over Lanfranc. This year group is known for their passion and determination to improve, evidenced by their early morning training sessions with Mr Torrance before the school day starts.

Year 9: The year 9s had a decent season finishing mid-table in the premier 9A Croydon Schools' league. The standout performance was a 3-2 win over Harris CP with a last minute win. Shout out to Kayden James-Thomas who has been superb all season and to Murat Ipek for going in goal when the team needed someone between the sticks.

Year 10: The year 10s have had a successful season ending in silverware. They won the premier A Croydon Schools' league with a game to spare, winning 6 and drawing 1 making them the best year 10 team in Croydon! A pivotal moment in the

title chase was a great performance with a 4-2 victory over Coombe Wood in front of a large crowd. The team remain unbeaten in the league since year 7.

There was heartbreak in the Croydon Cup where the team was knocked out in the ¼ final stages by Trinity in a 4-3 classic. In the National Cup, the team had a brilliant run reaching the last 32 out of 620 teams including a 5-2 victory over Carshalton Boys in the 5th round. Sadly, they were beaten 2-0 in round 6 in a game in which luck was against them from start.

The team ended the season with further silverware after a sensational victory in the charity football tournament, 'Palace for Life – A Legacy for Zaian'. The tournament was held at Crystal Palace training ground, in memory of Zaian, a student at Oasis Shirley Park who was tragically murdered last year.

The team also raised £40 for the charity.

Shout out to top scorer Rizgar Bedir who managed 10 goals in 10 games from defence/midfield.

Girls' Football: This season saw girls' football at Quest really take off with training held most Thursdays and 5 fixtures. There were some real positives to take from the season and lots of talent demonstrated.

The team has real potential if the girls keep showing the passion and commitment they have shown this season. Well done!



Netball Updates

During the Spring term our netball teams participated in a range of fixtures.

The term kicked off with the Year 7's first match against Coloma. Despite the defeat, the girls showed great resilience and drew in their next match against Woodcote; this was a terrific and fair game between the teams.

The Year 7 team also participated in the Croydon Borough netball tournament. This event was an enjoyable experience where all the girls got to showcase their dedication and passion for netball.

The Year 8 team has had a tough season, losing all their games. However, despite defeat, the girls' last match against Riddlesdown was their best game of the season as it demonstrated improvements in both their skills and teamwork. We are sure next season will bring them some solid wins.

The Year 9 team showcased great potential this season. The girls' dedication to the team, commitment to training and support of their younger colleagues has been inspiring. We are looking forward to seeing more success from them next season.



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The Year 10 team has had an amazing season and finished first in their division – well done girls! They won all their fixtures and have really developed into a strong solid team. We are looking forward to their achievements next year.

Finally, we say goodbye to our Year 11 netballers. They have had a great season where they won most of their fixtures. It's been a pleasure watching the girls progress over the past five years and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours.



Rugby Round Up

Rugby has continued to grow at Quest, especially in KS3 where years 7 and 8 have endured a tiring term with one or two rugby fixtures each week. Although some year groups have been far busier than others due to fixture cancellation and mock exams, rugby has been an emphatic part of the Spring term.

The busiest of our teams being the year 8s who had their first experience of rugby 7s when they attended an all-day festival at Trinity school. They also had a standout win against Carshalton boys where they won convincingly 40-15.



Like our year 8, team the year 7s have enjoyed participating in pitch up n play festivals at St John's School; a brilliant opportunity for our newest crop of rugby talent to learn the game and develop their skills.

Sadly, due to cancellations, the year 9s have not had as many fixtures as the rest of our KS3 teams, although have they continued to excel on the football pitch.

Lastly, our year 10/11 team have not had the same degree of fixtures due to mock exams, though they have managed to take to the field and put in an excellent performance against a very strong Carshalton side and show that there is life in the old dog yet.

Rugby has really started to thrive this last year, with our KS3 team stepping up and driving rugby on at our school. Due to the covid situation both year 7 & 8 started the academic year with little to no rugby knowledge but have come



to the end of the rugby season with several solid performances under their belts and an array of fundamental knowledge to develop going forward.

I would like to give a massive hand to every student that has represented The Quest Academy for rugby so far and look forward to spending many more hours listening to their singing in the minibus on away days and developing their skills and love for the game on the training pitch.

One more rugby outing after the Easter break before we bring down the curtain on an extremely successful rugby campaign.

Important dates for your diary

SUMMER TERM 2022

Monday 25th April 2022 – Friday 22nd July 2022
(Monday 2nd May – Bank Holiday – Academy closed to students)

Half-Term

Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June

Summer Holiday

Monday 25th July – Monday 5th September (INSET Day – Academy closed to students)

AUTUMN TERM 2022

Monday 5th September 2022 – Friday 16th December 2022
(Monday 5th September – INSET Day – closed to students)
Tuesday 6th September – Year 7 and Year 12 only
Wednesday 7th September – open to all students

Half-Term

Monday 24th October – Friday 4th November

Christmas Holiday

Monday 19th December – Monday 2nd January 2023