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Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers

As another academic year draws to a close I'd like to pay tribute to the work of everyone involved in the education of your children.

The teachers who guide them through the various curricula,

the support staff who make sure our school and site are the best they can be, yourselves for the support, encouragement and challenge of your children and the young people themselves for their determination and resilience: never giving up in their aim to be 'the best that they can be'.

I have reminded everyone in Assemblies this half term how important behaving well and showing politeness and courtesy to others in the community is – I'd be grateful if you would reinforce that at home.

Congratulations to all our graduating year 11 and year 13 students. You've done really well navigating the first full examination series for three years and we wish you all the best in whatever is coming next.

We reopen in September for year 7 and year 12 students on Tuesday 6th September and everyone else on Wednesday 7th September.

A very pleasant summer holiday to you all.

Mr A. Crofts

Duke of Edinburgh



We have a long and successful history of students signing up to and completing the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Quest and this year saw our largest cohort of students getting involved! Year 9 students were invited to participate in the Bronze Award and years 10 and 11 the Silver Award.

The D of E Award is an internationally recognised award which encourages students to develop skills beyond those they develop in the classroom, including teamwork, problem-solving, time management and resilience as they work through the four sections:

- Physical (developing their aptitude in an individual or team sport)
- Skills (developing a new or existing skill)
- Volunteering (being productive members of their community)
- Expedition (navigating their way through the countryside and camping for either 1 or 2 nights)

In their enrichment sessions over the year, students have been learning skills for the Expedition section. Sessions have been based around map reading and navigation, compass skills, first aid, how to put up a tent, cook on a Trangia and how to pack a rucksack. Students have done incredibly well, and this term marked the time for them to put their skills to the test in their practice and real expeditions.

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Practice expeditions took place in late June around Downe where students navigated the area, getting lost and finding themselves again and learning the importance of packing lightly when you are carrying all of your belongings on your back the entire day!



Downe provides an excellent place for us to do the practice as it gave students experience of walking up and down hills and through a variety of different places. A highlight of the Silver practice expedition was making hot chocolate on a real campfire! The students did incredibly well on the practice expedition and learnt a lot in terms of what they would do differently on the real expedition.



Last week 90 students travelled to the New Forest to complete their real expedition where the students were assessed against the 20 conditions of the expedition section. The students excelled themselves and were a huge credit to the Academy.



Students spent their days navigating very different terrain than Downe and getting friendly with the local horses, donkeys and cows! Some students decided to 'embrace' the natural terrain by walking through bogs, rivers and lots of mud, but kept their spirits up and managed to find their way back to camp each day! Meals cooked this time by the students were of much better quality and rivalled the staff's dinner. Setting up camp was a much smoother process which of course meant lots more time for volleyball and football before bed!



Despite the very hot weather, our students were the best versions of themselves during the real expedition and it is with great pleasure and much pride that I can say all of those on the real expeditions passed this section of the Award with flying colours! All students need to do now is complete their remaining sections and we can begin handing out awards!



Thank you to all the staff and students for making these expeditions a pleasurable and successful experience. Well done to those who passed; you were brilliant. If you'd like to find out more, please speak to the students or come and find me!

E Thomas

Year 6 Induction Day

Drama	English	Science	Geography	Maths	RS
Period 3 English	Period 3 Geography	Period 3 DT	Period 3 Science	Period 3 Art	Period 3 Maths
Period 4 Science	Period 4 Maths	Period 4 RS	Period 4 English	Period 4 Science	Period 4 Drama
Period 5 RS	Period 5 Science	Period 5 Maths	Period 5 Art	Period 5 English	Period 5 Science

On Friday 1st July 2022, we officially welcomed 140 new Year 7 students to The Quest Academy. This was a great day for the students from many different primary schools as they got to meet their peers and teachers before the new school year and enjoy the events of induction day.

The day started with students being welcomed and introduced to members of the Year 7 team. This included Miss Millar and Miss Marler in addition to Mr Beecham, newly appointed Head of School and Mr Crofts, Executive Principal of The Quest Academy and Quest Primary School. Additionally, our Year 10 buddies were also introduced to the students so they had a familiar face to recognise throughout the day.

Once students were organised and settled into their tutor groups, students were escorted to their form bases to participate in their carousel of activities for the day. This included Maths, English, Science, Art, Drama, Food Technology, History, Geography and Religious Studies.

During break and lunch, students had a chance to make new friends. It was lovely to see the students build the confidence to make new friends, especially those who were quiet or anxious at the start of the day. Many of the students decided to use this time to play their 'kindness bingo' charts as a tool to facilitate new friendships.

The day ended with our Year 10 buddies awarding a certificate for great work throughout the day for kindness, resilience and intelligence to six students from each form – well done to the winners!

Students went home feeling more familiar and comfortable with the school and their transition for September. It was lovely to meet all the new students joining in September, we are looking forward to supporting them with their success in this new school journey.



Quest Primary Announcement

Quest's Principal, Andy Crofts has been working recently as Executive Principal over Gilbert Scott Nursery and Primary School and has helped drive forwards many improvements. This collaboration is now being further developed in order to build on this success and more effectively share resources across the two schools.



(and uniform) will help to tap into the growing profile and reputation of The Quest Academy and support ongoing improvements in the new Quest Primary School.

Therefore, from September, Gilbert Scott will become Quest Primary School, under the executive leadership of Andy Crofts and the day-to-day leadership of Jo Stawman, who has been appointed as Head of School. To date, Jo has been Deputy Principal at another Collegiate Trust School, Courtwood Primary. This change of name

The Quest Academy and Quest Primary School will remain two separate schools within The Collegiate Trust under the ultimate leadership of the CEO and Board of Directors, but we shall begin to develop provision as an all-through school under the Executive Principal's leadership, bringing opportunities and benefits to all concerned. This will be supported by the development of a single Local Governing Body over the two schools, with one primary and one secondary Learning and Quality sub-Committee.

Old Vic Workshop



In preparation for their visit to watch The 47th at the Old Vic, a group of Year 9 students were treated to a short masterclass into the world of a set designer.

Students were challenged to think about the context of the 2020 Presidential elections and the political climate that surrounded America and the world at this time.

This was a hugely enjoyable event and once again, our students showcased the talent that they possess in abundance.

Art Exhibition



A collection of 2D and 3D Fine Art sketchbooks and work from Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 students was put on display for all to see.

Year 11 and 13 students' work comprises their final outcomes for GCSE and A Level Fine Art alongside a selection of portfolio pieces from Year 10 and 12 students as they approach the final year of their courses.

Students have done exceptionally well in becoming independent learners, critical thinkers and creative practitioners, who will no doubt continue to innovate and inspire in the future.



History Trip – Munich 2023

Team History is very much looking forward to taking students to Munich in February 2023. The 25 students will see first-hand the city where the Nazi Party was able to consolidate support and begin the process of taking over Germany.

This trip will tie in excellently with both the curriculum at the end of Year 8 when we examine the inter-war period alongside Year 11

GCSE History, which focuses on the Weimar Republic and the Rise of Nazism in Germany.

We shall be flying from Gatwick and over the course of our 4-day experience undertake walking tours of the city, visit the Munich Documentation Centre and Court Room 600, visit the Dachau Memorial Site (home of the first labour and concentration camp

established by the Nazi regime for primarily political opposition in the early 1930s).

Alongside this, student will have some leisure time to explore the city with staff and have the opportunity to visit the Allianz Arena, home of Bayern Munich.

We look forward to updating you in a later Newsletter edition to give you the details and experiences from our trip.

A Boundy

Design and Technology 2021-2022

This has been a year that has flown by so quickly and the projects have been just as speedy.

Year 7

The year 7s started the year with a lamp design and make project. They were able to understand why templates were needed for their lamp bases. They also looked at the different woods, including understanding how MDF is made and why wood has a grain.

They gained understanding about recycling materials and assembling electronics for their led bulbs.



In Textiles, they made pencil cases using felt and other materials. The skills learnt were varied including hand and machine stitching. The results were amazing with different animal themed cases in many colours.

They then moved onto cooking and nutrition lessons making and evaluating a wide selection of main dishes and desserts, such as pizza

and fruit crumble. The skills learnt also included understanding hygiene, nutrition and health, and safety.

The year 8s started the year with jewellery boxes, for which the focus was understanding the different joints and finishing to a high quality. They researched the different woods in even more detail understanding the difference between man-made and natural woods as well as learning about the different finishes used.

In Textiles they made cushions with a nature theme. Many of them looked at trees, flowers, and animals to produce their quirky designs. For their projects they learnt how the sewing machine works and some were able to appliqué their designs.



For Cooking and Nutrition, they cooked many dishes including fajitas and savoury scones.

Year 9

Year 9 had a very challenging task to make a stool from pine wood in Product Design. This needed all the skills they had learnt in years 7 and 8, but also additional skills including understanding how a product would be manufactured in industry and used by real clients.

In textiles, they completed part two of their stool; designing and making the upholstery. They had to identify

the most suitable design and fabrics which would ensure durability and style.

In Cooking and Nutrition, students now understand the nutritional values and sources of different foods and learned how to design and cook a well-balanced meal, including, Tandoori chicken and rice, and chocolate and vanilla Marble cake.

Year 10

Year 10 started the academic year with a bang, and were allowed to explore, design, and make life sizes objects. This was to give them the freedom to start to develop their own ideas and be able to relate their products to real life and real problems. They made products including a round art deco inspired chair, children's toy cars and trains, a dog bed, and a modernist style desk. Most of their designs included elements of upholstery and lighting.

Alongside the theory elements of the course they had to research, they also had a mini project which allowed them to explore Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Computer Aided Manufacturing techniques (CAM).

The department is looking forward to all students having the opportunity to explore using the laser cutter, 3D Printer, embroidery machine and other specialist manufacturing machines and equipment.

Our enrichment classes also offer another opportunity for students to develop and enhance their skills. This year, some students designed and made Art Deco inspired clocks using CAD, CAM, and the laser cutter.

Photography Portraits

During Activities week, Year 10 and Year 8 students modelled for natural lighting portraits on the terrace. The students did a fantastic job and appeared to really enjoy being snapped! Importantly, these images celebrate the diverse and rich cultural mix of our students.





Cross-Curricular Day – How is our planet changing?



For cross-curricular day on Monday 11th July, Geography and Science collaborated to create a variety of activities for Years 7-9 related to the question, "How is our planet changing?"

Session 1 began with students exploring the changes across the world that already exist, relating to diversity of language, cultures, population, natural landscape, climate and biomes. This was collated into a large collage in the shape of a world map to be displayed in school.

Session 2 introduced students to their role in the changing climate of the world. Students were researching their personal carbon footprints and ways in which they can decrease their own emissions through everyday activities, even down to the food they eat.

In the last session, students moved on to consider natural changes that happen beneath our feet. Students researched volcano formation and proceeded to build their own fully functioning volcanoes in the science lab using a variety of household products and hydrogen peroxide.

Cultural Fusion



During Activities Week, on Friday 15th July, students in Years 7 to 9 were invited to attend our very first Cultural Fusion event in the main hall.

Students and staff were invited to wear cultural clothing to celebrate the diversity amongst our school community. We had a mini-showcase of music and dance which was hosted by our two Year 9 student event leaders.

Students also enjoyed the cultural fact-finding competition whereby they had to circulate the hall and find the key facts of over 30 different cultures.

We had a team of staff volunteers in the kitchen preparing food from around the world to add to the food table and students got to sample these delicious cultural foods at the end of the event.

Students were very supportive audience members and the event was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We look forward to planning our next event in the new academic year.

J Ibrahim



Activities Week 2022

During the week of 11th July 2022, all students were off-timetable to engage in a range of enriching activities where they got to learn new skills, work with different staff and students.

There were trips, workshops, cross-curricular projects, team building exercises, first aid sessions, study skills, financial literacy, university visits, careers sessions, Sports Day and a creative portrait photography challenge, just to name a few of the activities.

Students were excellently behaved throughout, they have no doubt benefited from these opportunities. Thank you to all the staff and students for their input.

Z Sami





Year 7 Geography trip to Brighton

On Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th July, Year 7 students visited Brighton to get their first experience of Geography fieldwork.

The first part of the day they conducted fieldwork to investigate the positive and negative impacts of tourism in Brighton. They looked at pedestrian flow counts, traffic surveys, land use surveys, environmental quality survey and questionnaires.

They really engaged in the different techniques and even asking members of the public their opinions!

Once this was completed, students had time to go to the arcade, try out a few rides and grab a bite to eat.



Madrid Trip



On Saturday 14th May, 34 tired students and 4 teachers arrived at school very early to board a coach heading to Madrid for four days. What an action-packed four days we had!

Our first day was spent getting our bearings and doing a walking tour of the highlights of Madrid, including the Royal Palace and the beautiful squares of the city. We also learned about the history of the Spanish monarchy.

We continued our cultural exploration with a visit to the Museo del Prado to see the art of the famous Goya and then spent a sunny afternoon in the beautiful Parque del Retiro where we had ice cream and played football next to the stunning lake and pedalos.

Our day ended with a flamenco workshop during which we learned

the basics of this famous Spanish dance and discovered that Mr Torrance has a promising career as a flamenco dancer should he wish!

Our second day in Madrid was centered around local delicacies; some of us tried the famous calamari sandwiches in the Plaza Mayor before we all went to the renowned Chocolatería San Ginés to try their chocolate con churros, a beloved Spanish dish since 1890.

After a metro ride outside of the city, we spent the afternoon in Madrid's theme park where we took full advantage of the water rides to cool down from the Spanish sun. Ms Little and Mr Torrance however were not prepared for the soaking from the ride and were screaming louder than the students!



The evening ended learning how to make traditional paella and tortilla and the students made us proud with the way they got stuck into gutting and cutting squid and cod and de-shelling prawns to make two delicious dishes for us to eat. We most definitely have some budding chefs among us!

Before our flight home, we visited Wanda Metropolitano Stadium, the home of Atletico Madrid, where we enjoyed an all-access tour including the changing rooms, the interactive games room and even the pitch. The VR headsets were a highlight; they transported you onto the pitch during a match and had several of our students kicking, ducking and diving from imaginary balls, much to the amusement of onlookers!

All in all, it was an incredible experience for students and staff alike and we cannot wait for the next trip to Spain. ¡Hasta pronto!

E Thomas



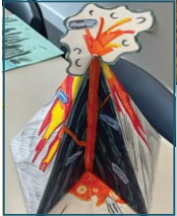
Tectonic Hazards Projects



This half term, the Year 7s have been learning about the different tectonic hazards and the impacts associated with them.



As part of the topic, students created either a structure of the earth, a volcano, earthquake or tsunami. This could be in any creative form – from models, to drawn pictures or factsheets, and even cakes!



We were really impressed by the creativity, geographical accuracy and effort which had gone into the structures and models!

Geography Field trip to Walton-on-the-Naze



On Thursday 23rd June, staff and 70 students travelled to Walton-on-the-Naze to complete an investigation into the effectiveness of hard engineering management strategies on the coast.

Upon arrival, the students were quizzed about their conceptual knowledge about coastal processes and change. The students compared both a managed and unmanaged beach, looking at the effectiveness of all the management in place.

They worked in groups to collect primary data which included groyne profiles, beach profiles and sediment analysis to answer their overall enquiry question of, "How effective is hard engineering at preventing longshore drift?"

The students will now be working on analysing and presenting their results, after which they'll write up their findings and conclusion, in preparation for their exams next year.

S Hollis

Year 10 Trip to the Natural History Museum

On Friday 15th July, the Year 10 Geography students went to the Natural History Museum, where they visited the 'Restless Surface' exhibition on volcanoes and earthquakes. They were able to compare the tectonic plates and the occurrence



of natural hazards using interactive displays along the plate boundaries. This was to support them with Paper 1, Natural Hazards as part of the GCSE Geography course. They were also able to visit Dippy the Dinosaur as it has returned to the museum after a 5-year tour around the UK!

Year 10 Geography Field Trip

On Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th July, Year 10 Geography students visited London to begin their preparations for the human geography fieldwork



requirement of their GCSE exam. The students visited Stratford to compare the quality of life in two contrasting areas and the impacts of regeneration, both positive and negative.

Students were investigating the different challenges the area continues to face and how the quality of life varies between two different sites (Carpenters Estate and the Olympic Village). For each site, the students completed typical



fieldwork techniques to help them answer their enquiry question, which included an environmental quality assessment, crime risk assessment, perception survey, quality of life analysis and an annotated field sketch.



Day of Dance



Eighteen Quest students attended a dance workshop and experience hosted by the Step Into Dance Programme.

This was a great opportunity for students to visit a professional dance studio, participate in different workshops catered to many dance styles in addition to performing and sharing their routine that they have been working on with our Step Into Dance choreographer throughout the year.

Many of our students found this experience insightful as they had a chance to speak to current students from the Rambert School and The Place for more information about a career and education in dance.

It was great to witness the maturity, dedication, and talent from all the students involved.

Allotment Day



On Monday of Activities Week, we braved the heat (with plenty of water breaks and time in the shade too) to tackle the school allotment. Over the Covid period it is fair to say that it had become a little overgrown, so our intrepid group of Year 7s and 8s went about reclaiming it ahead of a more productive season next year.

Students set about weeding, raking, tidying, and organising, as well as proposing a growing calendar for

the year ahead. We also learned how to plant both bedding plants and herbs, get the compost heap well and truly stocked and prepare the vegetable beds with a good turn and rake to reclaim it from the grass.

We look forward to bringing a lot more to life in the coming year and thank the Upcycle project team for their excellent contributions in terms of planters and furniture.

Watch this space for announcements of crops to come!



Sports Day Results

Hilary	1575
Shackleton	1436
Livingstone	1334

A full report on Sports Day will follow in the next edition of this newsletter (September). In the meantime, congratulations to everyone involved.

Important dates for your diary

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

SPRING TERM 2023

Tuesday 3rd January 2023 – Friday 31st March 2023

Half-Term

Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February

Easter Holiday

Monday 3rd April – Friday 14th April

SUMMER TERM 2023

Monday 17th April 2023 – Friday 21st July 2023

(Monday 1st May – Bank Holiday – Academy closed to students)

Half-Term

Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June

Summer Holiday

Monday 24th July

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 18th August - A Level Results Day

Thursday 25th August - GCSE Results Day

Tuesday 20th September - Open Evening, 5-8pm

Monday 26th September - Open Morning / School Tour, 9am

Monday 3rd October - Open Morning / School Tour, 9am

Monday 10th October - Open Morning / School Tour, 9am