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Executive Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of another busy term, I'd like to thank everyone who works together to make our students' learning journey a success.

That includes our Governors, who scrutinise our work and make sure that we are delivering on our commitments, yourselves as parents and carers who support us in ensuring your children work as hard as they can, the students themselves for their hard work and diligence in all aspects of school life and our staff, both teaching and support who work hard both in delivering excellent lessons, but also in organising a range of additional experiences that make for a rich and successful school experience.

I really do appreciate everyone working together to ensure our collective success.

I hope you have a very happy Christmas and new year.

With best wishes,

Mr A. Crofts

Charitable Giving at Quest

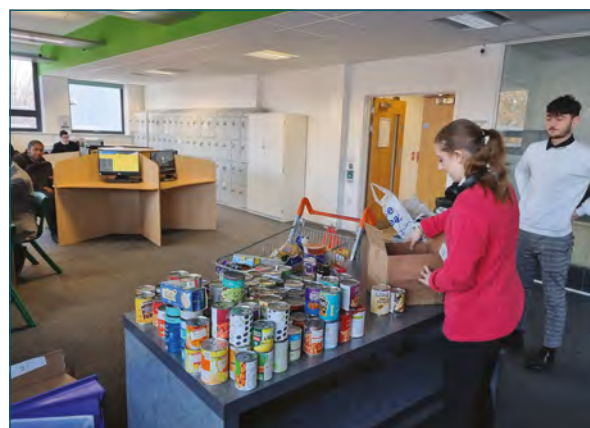


During December, Quest Academy students have been collecting for our local food bank. Our amazing Quest6 house captains have been instrumental in the process. First they went round and spread the word and then they started to collect.

It has been incredibly impressive to see how students, from all year groups, have really got behind the good cause.

On the last day of term, we packed up 12 big cardboard boxes of tins, dried goods and treats to take to the Trussell Trust Food Bank in Croydon.

Special thanks to Mr Bevan's form for being the form that contributed the most and to Year 7 who were the year group that gave the most.



Consultation on Admissions Criteria

The Quest Academy is now an oversubscribed school, with more than 500 applications received each year for 180 available places in Year 7. The admissions criteria have remained largely the same over recent years, with only one minor amendment for entry in 2018: the addition of a children of staff criterion.

The Collegiate Trust, the admissions authority for the academy, is proposing that pupils attending Quest

Primary are given preference for Year 7 admission from September 2024.

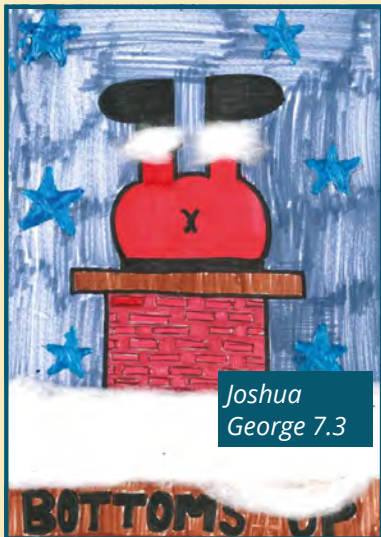
If you would like to comment on this proposal, please visit the Admissions page of the academy website, where you can download the full letter in which you'll find a link for submitting comments. The Directors of The Collegiate Trust will consider all responses, which must be received before 23rd January 2023.

Christmas Card Competition

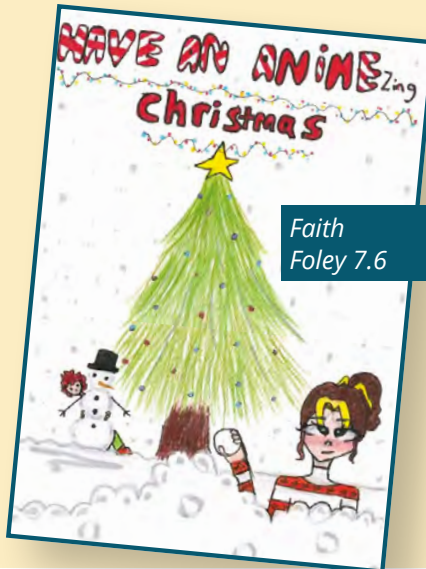
The Creative Arts department held a Christmas card competition, trying to find the funniest and the most traditional cards.

Up for grabs was a beautiful watercolour painting set.

The winners of the competition were:



Joshua
George 7.3



Faith
Foley 7.6

Trip to Tate Modern

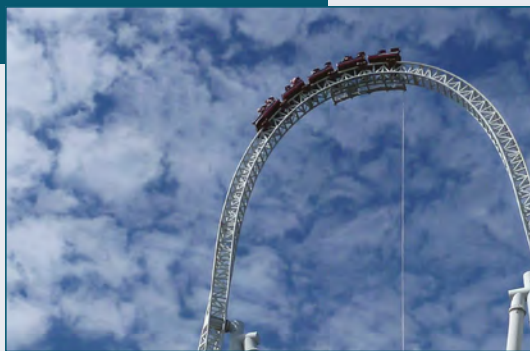


During the Autumn term Academy Day, we took Year 7 and 8 students to the Tate Modern where they saw work from a range of world renowned and contemporary artists including Bob and Roberta Smiths' Thamesmead Codex, still life painting from Paul Cezanne and the delicate, nature inspired sculptures from Maria Bartuszova.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the day and remarked on how great it was to spend a day out in Central London.

Thorpe Park

A group of 40 students, along with three teachers and staff went to Thorpe Park on the 19th of October 2023. Students were extremely energetic and enthusiastic on the day and after some delay due to the coach being late, we eventually got to an overcrowded Thorpe Park just before noon.



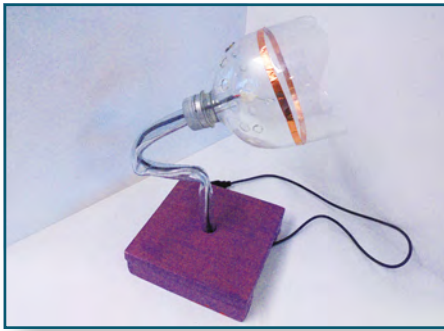
Students were already prepped upon entry with instructions and a meeting point where a teacher would be all times in case of an emergency and shortly thereafter, we released them to go and enjoy over 30 exhilarating rides and adventures!

Students thoroughly enjoyed themselves at Thorpe Park. We departed Thorpe at 15:40 and got back safely just after 5pm.





Update from the DT Department



produced other innovative ideas like melting holes and adding copper strips. A high percentage of parents and carers will be receiving lamps for Christmas.



The year 8s did very well with their jewellery boxes. To enable the students to complete their making in the allotted time, we eliminated the finger joints and allowed them to use a simple Butt joint. However, they did make a finger joint as a stand-alone task. The theme for the jewellery box was Memphis movement, and as you can see, they translated this very well to their final designs.



Once again, the year 7s smashed it with the design and completion of their Pop Art lamps! We slightly changed the design so instead of painting the shades, the students



The year 9s once again made tables. Here you can see the Art Deco inspired finished examples.

And finally, staff from the Design and Technology department were treated to Christmas cookies! A big thank you to Gee for all her efforts.



Old Vic Drama Workshop



On Monday 4th October, our GCSE and A-Level Drama students were treated to a workshop led by practitioners from the Old Vic with a focus on playwrighting. Students were able to use their own voice to respond to controversial topics such as, "Is there a place for the Monarchy in 2022". This led to them asking their own questions with a stand-out being, "Do those who commit crime deserve our sympathy?" This sparked a huge conversation in which students were able to observe conversations and debates in their natural habitat and harness these observations to form the basis of their own script.

As of today, 32 new pieces of theatre have started to be written... now to finish them!

The Crucible Conference

Quest's GCSE Drama cohort, and a couple of A-Level students, visited the National Theatre for a full day conference with the Director, designers and cast of The Crucible. We were lucky to be invited to take part in this opportunity as it is the group's set text for their Drama qualification.

The day proved invaluable in teaching our students how to approach a text from the various lenses of the creative team and improved their ability to speak eloquently and accurately about theatre as a whole. We now feel fully prepared to not only attack our written exam but also to spot all of the symbolism and depth of thought when we see the show next Thursday!





Go-Kart Racing for Academy Day

The atmosphere of excitement the morning of Academy Day was palpable among the Go-Karting cohort, and after a brief wait followed by an epic journey involving a tram and two trains, we finally arrived on site at the track.

Once our first racers had received their safety briefing, I joined the buzzing crowd of other spectators gathered by the side-lines all desperately excited for the opportunity of a good view to see their friends compete alongside none other than their Year 10 Achievement Co-Ordinator, Miss Southworth.

There were some tense moments involving near misses as the karts whizzed round the track, but as the flag waved to indicate the return to pit, a wave of relief washed over us all that only minor collisions had occurred. So excited was one student to set off on his race, that he abandoned the chicken and chips he had ordered from the café so as not to miss the changeover! (The staff were kind enough, once I explained the situation, to keep it warm for him in the oven until he had returned.)

After a long and arduous day of racing it was finally time to return.



There were a few complaints of aches and pains from the time squeezed into small karts, but the overwhelming air among the students and accompanying staff as we set off on the long trip home was of triumph, comradery, and the satisfaction of a race well driven.

G Callison

Madame Tussauds



On Wednesday 19th October, we took a group of 30 Year 7s and 8s to Madame Tussauds for some celebrity spotting and cultural learning. Before we got to Madame Tussauds, we ate lunch at Regents Park; the students were able to enjoy the beautiful scenery and the unusually lovely weather - whilst trying to protect their food from some very hungry geese and swans!

When we arrived at Madame Tussauds, the students were able to take pictures with A-list celebrities like Stormzy, David Beckham and the members of the Royal Family, including the late Queen Elizabeth II. Having made our way through most of the museum, we then took a ride through the history of London, during which we explored the impact of different ages and eras. There were key historical figures, such as Queen Victoria and famous writer and philanthropist, Charles Dickens. The ride informed the students about what impact they had on London and our modern lives now.

At the end, we learnt a little about how they make the wax figures, although I'm not sure many students were pleased with the box full of glass eyes and hands, as well as the half-finished faces!

All in all, the whole day was enjoyable for both staff and students and the journey back to school was filled with students sharing who they managed to take pictures with.

Miss Khanan

The Science Museum

The Science Museum in Central London was an interesting venue for the students. They enjoyed looking around the exhibits and investigating all parts of the building.

Spirits were high on the journey to the museum as students were really excited but having an enjoyed a wonderful day, they maintained their enthusiasm on the way back to school.





Bunker 51

On Academy Day, 40 lucky students went to Bunker 51 (laser tag) in Greenwich where we played three 10-minute games. Green team (Year 9 boys + Miss Hollis) remained strong throughout all the stages and won overall.

We also had the opportunity to visit the Thames Barrier as it was next door! The barrier protects central London from flooding and was exciting for the students to see the sheer size of it as we study



flood management strategies during our river topics in KS3 and KS4!

Kensington Gardens



Year 10 enjoyed a great day out in Hyde Park on Academy Day. We walked around the park and learned about Kensington Palace, who lived there and notable events that took place there. The students saw many sights including the Serpentine Lake, Diana Memorial and Wellington Arch, again finding out all sorts of information about each.

We were all very tired indeed by the end of the day, but have some great memories; even if some of the dogs we encountered were a surprise to some of us!



Flip Out



Year 7 and 8 students took an Academy Day trip to Flip Out in Croydon and spent three hours exploring the various indoor activities they had to offer.

These included mini golf, bumper cars, inflatable obstacle course, and even indoor ice-skating. Students demonstrated great agility, strength, and teamwork throughout our time

here. Some even enjoyed snacks and hot-dogs from the café to re-energise after working hard!

Flip Out was easy to get to on the tram and the students' behaviour was excellent, travelling to and from the venue.

This trip was a good opportunity to demonstrate to students that teachers are human and to bond with colleagues. The different activities were fun and engaging ensuring a fun time was had by all. The venue was happy for us to take up residence in the canteen area, where they served tea, coffee and other drinks and a variety of snacks. The students did overdose on sweets and Slush Puppies, but most remained calm and enjoyed the day!

Oxygen Freejumping

Mr Bakare, Mrs Marwood and Miss Connolly took 28 pupils to "Oxygen Freejumping" in Croydon on Academy Day.

After a minibus ride to the venue, the pupils took part in activities ranging from Free Jumping (trampolining), Mega Airbags, Slam-Drunk, Basketball Reaction Walls, Dodgeball and Squishy Foam Pit.

The pupils really enjoyed the day out as these activities were able to help them raise their trampoline IQ; they felt lighter, brighter and bouncer.

They stayed super active throughout. The activities helped them to burn off excess energy and boosted their energy.

Overall, they really enjoyed the day out.





Year 11 Football Update

The year 11 football team started the defence of their A League title last week against collegiate rivals Riddlesdown.

The boys who had never been beaten in the league since joining the academy in year 7, were sadly beaten 3-1 in what was a disappointing performance in tough boggy conditions up at Honister Heights.

The team went 1-0 down after some questionable defending but battled back to equalise after Divine A scored a great header assisted by the talented and lively Subby N. In the 2nd half, the game could have gone either way but Riddlesdown nicked it with 2 late goals as the light faded, to finally end the team's amazing unbeaten league run.

Despite the loss, the boys are still in good shape to have success this season, having qualified for the



5th round of the National Cup (last 64 nationwide out of 634 teams) where they are due to play Esher CofE in the first week back after the Christmas holidays. The team also hold high hopes of winning back the

prestigious Croydon Cup trophy they historically won in year 7!

Keep your heads high boys, there is still plenty of history and memories to be made this season!

Important dates for your diary

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Monday 19th December – Monday 2nd January 2023

YEAR 7 VIRTUAL PARENTS EVENING

Wednesday 11th January

YEAR 13 FACE TO FACE PARENTS EVENING

Wednesday 8th February

MUNICH TRIP

Wednesday 8th to Sunday 12th February

SKI TRIP

Friday 10th to Saturday 18th February

YEAR 9 AND YEAR 13 SPRING MOCK EXAMS

Monday 20th to Friday 24th February

YEAR 11 SPRING MOCK EXAMS

Monday 27th February to Friday 10th March

YEAR 10 VIRTUAL PARENTS EVENING

Wednesday 22nd February

YEAR 9 GCSE OPTIONS FAIR

Tuesday 14th March

YEAR 9 VIRTUAL PARENTS EVENING

Wednesday 15th March

YEAR 9 GCSE OPTIONS APPOINTMENTS EVENING

Wednesday 22nd March

YEAR 11 FACE TO FACE PARENTS EVENING

Wednesday 29th March

ACADEMY DAY

Friday 30th March

TERM DATES

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