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Executive Principal's Message

At the Quest Academy we prize two things: academic achievement and personal development. They complement each other and ensure that our young people develop the knowledge and skills they need to become successful adults in a challenging and complex world.

We continue to develop our curriculum so that it remains aspirational for all students, supported by excellent teaching which is underpinned by the latest pedagogy and practice from across the sector.

We provide an enrichment offer which we are extremely proud of. This includes an options programme within the school timetable that all students take part in, a well-developed Duke of Edinburgh scheme, numerous trips such as the annual ski trip and trips abroad to places like Germany, France, Spain and Iceland and our termly Academy days which include residential, visits to museums and other cultural, creative and sporting venues. Please do have a look at the latest news section of our website for all the details.

In the sixth form we continue to send a high proportion of students to Russell Group universities, including Oxbridge and our retention rates for the proportion of students who remain in Higher Education are well above the national average.

Thank you for your continued support of the Academy as we work together in partnership to ensure we deliver on our commitment to an exceptional education for your children.



Mr A. Crofts

Grease



It was automatic! It was systematic! It was hydromatic... Why, it was Greased Lightning! Throughout the Autumn and Spring terms, whilst students were working hard in their subject areas, the Creative Arts team were hard at work with a collection of truly talented students to put on a production of Grease the Musical.

This was the first large scale production post-pandemic, and it certainly did not disappoint. With some astonishing performances from Savannah Campbell-Laval (Danny) and Natasha Asante (Sandy), supported by a large ensemble throughout the entire school, the audience were treated to a spectacle event!

With new breakout stars of Sienna Smith (Marty) Deja Ryan (Frenchy) and Filipe Sousa Pina (Sonny) the audience were in tears of laughter and often singing along to the wicked soundtrack.

I have always said that it takes a special kind of student to pull off a school production and I was fortunate enough to work with 31 of some of our top talent. It was tough... but they pulled it off.

Bring on next year where hopefully we can add even more of our talented young people who I know have been hiding from the Creative Arts team! Watch this space for further announcements for next year's auditions.

J. Russell



Quest Got Talent



On Thursday 15th December, after a much fought for place in the final, we finally crowned our Winner of Quest Got Talent. Kaia Zephir (9.5) with an angelic vocal range wowed the audience and the judges to claim the top spot.

We have such wonderfully talented students and a big shout out to all the student finalists and those from home who came to support them in this event!

Quest Podcast



Before Christmas, a group of students from 9.2 were given the chance to work with the local charity Duffus Community Foundation following their successful win of a grant of £1,000 in First Give last year.

In this work, the students produced a podcast focusing on positive mental health entitled 'Quest Life Podcast'. These have now been produced and published on YouTube. Just search "DCF Presents Quest Life Podcast" on YouTube to find them!

The students worked amazingly and produced what I think are a great pair of podcasts with thoughts and feelings that are well articulated.

Quest6 Student Heads to Oxford University

Congratulations to all our Quest6 students who have so far received university offers.

Particular congratulations go to Joshua Thomas who has secured a place at University of Oxford, to read Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE), one of the most competitive and sought-after courses. Well done, Joshua! We look forward to watching an exciting career unfold.

Other offers for students have come in from the Universities of Bristol, Cardiff, Exeter, Greenwich, Hull, London South Bank, London St Mary's, Reading, Roehampton, Surrey and many more in subjects as diverse as architecture, civil engineering, English literature, computer science, law, biomedical sciences, finance and education.

We wish all our Sixth Formers the very best of luck in their public exams in the Summer.

CREST Awards

The CREST Awards scheme is the British Science Association's flagship programme for young people. At Quest, students can choose to participate in this programme through the enrichment activities programme.



The following students in the CREST enrichment successfully completed their Bronze award for various projects:-

Dhrasti, Amelia, Ava, Keyley, Sana completed a project on monitoring the pH of acid rain.

Gabriella, Sarah, Abbey, Marius

completed a project on measuring the rate of bath bombs dissolving.

Zaida and Leanne completed a project on altering the consistency of bath bombs and how this would affect its use.

A big congratulations to all the above students!

Fundraiser for Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal



Congratulations to the Year 7 students for taking part in the Design and Technology Cookie and Cupcake fundraiser for the Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal. The students made the cakes, and our wonderful technician, Gee, decorated them. £51 was raised, which will go towards this great cause.

The students each received a certificate, signed by their teachers and head of school.

- Faith Foley
- Ksenia Nestoros
- Josh Davies
- Bernado Boimer Arnold
- Elif
- Tasmin Jannat





Dragons Den Competition



Over the last term, some students in years 7-9 have been working to identify a gap in the market and developing a brand idea and product to meet the demands of today's modern society.

This week, we held the final pitches where students presented in front of our very own "dragons". They worked hard to deliver detailed pitches and showed great courage presenting in front of the class and answering some gruelling questions from the dragons.

Thanks to all who took part and well done to the winners!

Composition Workshop

On the 14th March, The Quest Academy's Year 10 music GCSE students and a selection of promising Year 9 music students took part in a composition workshop called Finish This.

The workshop was led by musicians from English National Opera and explored how to tell and respond to a story through music.



The students took part in a variety of musical activities to warm up, which then led to them watching and discussing an extract from an ENO performance of The Force of Destiny. They then split off into small groups, each with a professional musician, and made their own compositions in response to the ENO performance. The day culminated in a series of exciting and varied performances where each group performed their own piece of music.

As part of the workshop, the students also had their work recorded and some were interviewed for an ENO promotional video about the project.

Well done to everyone in Year 9 and 10 who took part; you are all amazing!

Medieval Society Board Game Project



Year 7 historians have spent this half term learning about life in Medieval England.

For their assessment, each student created a board game to consolidate their learning around topics such as religion, medicine, employment, pastimes and the role of women in medieval towns and villages.

They all displayed great creativity, innovation and understanding and enjoyed competing against each other in the final lesson!

Theatre Design Enrichment

Over the last term, Mr Russell has led a Theatre Design enrichment for Year 7 and Year 8 students.



The focus shifted away from the regular performance side of Drama and put more of an emphasis on what theatre looks like and how to create the world of a play.

After weeks of research, decision-making and creating, students created model boxes and presented their work to the group.

DT Showcase at Year 9 Options Evening



The DT Department was pleased to be able to showcase some of the current Year 10 practical and coursework projects at the Year 9 options evening.

We had some great feedback about the students' work.

Thank you to those students that have shown interest in taking the GCSE course. Staff in the department are looking forward to working with you next year.

Ms Downie



British Science Week

The theme for this year's British Science Week was "Connections". Our year 7 and 8 students made models of different organ systems to show connections in the body with some of the best models showcased at our Science Fair.



The winners for this year's Year 7 competition were Faith (7.5) and Josh (7.5) for their realistic model of the muscular system. In Year 8, the winners were Lily (8.1), Rosie (8.2), Chloe (8.3) and Weronika (8.2) for their innovative model of the circulatory system.

A special mention also goes out to Emily (7.1) and Daisy (7.2) for having an interactive model of the digestive system.



Year 9 students took part in various practical activities during the week such as the eye and brain dissections. They also had the opportunity to extract DNA from a strawberry and learnt about polymers.

DT Department Drum Rescue!



The Design and Technology department often help other departments with their DIY dilemmas. This time it was the music department who had a drum which was fine on top but had deteriorated at the bottom.



Our DT Technician, Dave Harding, a super talented carpenter, took this job on board. He spent quite a few hours on the laith shaping MDF to the correct shape and size. He then was able to level off the damaged drum and attach the new component to the drum base.



As you can see from the photos the drum now looks as good as new and can go on to be used for many years.



Quest Ski Trip 2023 – Saalbach Hinterglemm



traditional Austrian meal.

For the next few mornings, we all came downstairs for a breakfast consisting of cereal, bread with butter, jam, marmalade and other toppings as well as hot drinks such as kaffee (coffee) and heiße schokolade (hot chocolate). We also could make our own lunch with the options of bread with



On Friday 10th of February, a group of 34 students, two PGL leaders and four teachers set off in a coach waved off by anxious parents and teachers for a two-hour trip to Dover. Once in Dover, we met our drivers for the week, George and Jacko, who kept us safe and well entertained our entire stay.

Once we had crossed the English Channel and docked in Calais, it was a 16-hour journey until we finally made it to our destination - Großgasthof Unterwirt Inh Fam, Maishofen, Austria.

Once we arrived, we hurried round to the ski-hire shop where everyone got their boots, helmets, skis and poles. After this, everyone got settled into their hotel rooms but soon were rushed downstairs to the dining hall by the smell of fresh soup and a home-cooked

cheese and meats, cartons of juice, apples and oranges and a sweet treat.

Then it was time for action. With everyone geared up with their boots, thermals and fleeces, we piled onto the coach for a 15-minute drive to the ski resort where we were met by our ski instructors for the week – Hannah, Anna, Alenka and Primosh. We were divided into two groups, beginners (taken by Alenka and Primosh) and intermediate (taken by Hannah and Anna).

Throughout the week, people were moved into different groups based on their ability and the progress they made. We also moved to different ski areas every other day so as to not get bored and to benefit from the full range of slopes Saalbach Hinterglemm had to offer.



After 5 hours of skiing each day, dinner was welcomed with open arms, but after that came the evening activities.

Sunday evening was ice-cream night. However, the ice-cream parlour we planned to go to was closed and we instead went to McDonalds!

Night skiing was the following night, with many testing their abilities to navigate the slopes and stay upright. Valentine's Day was pizza night, or so we thought. The restaurant we were meant to go to was at full capacity and other pizza places were also closed or full so, you guessed it, we yet again went to McDonalds!

Wednesday evening offered students the choice of ice skating or bowling which was in the hotel basement. Thursday evening was Awards Evening, where a handful of students were given awards for a variety of categories, such as best skier and most sunburnt. Friday evening, we left for home. We also endured coach-a-oke, a wonderful mixture of well-sung songs and Mr Bevan's questionable singing.

Overall the week was enjoyable, relaxing and fun. The teachers and PGL leader made sure everyone was included, safe and happy but overall ensured that the Quest Academy Austria Ski Trip of 2023 was a success. A huge thank you to Mr Bevan for organising such an incredible trip.

Connie Goswell - Year 10



Adventures in Munich

Day One

A bracing Thursday morning, we set our scene. The time is 2:30am and 3 rather chilly History teachers are kerbside in front of the school await our merry band of travelling companions' arrival. Without a hitch we set off for Gatwick with our group; destination – Munich.

A short flight, a brief coach transfer and we are in sunny Bavaria. After a brief shopping pitstop to grab snack-based essentials for the day we set off on the train for the short journey to Marienplatz in the centre of Munich. Our charming Irish tour guide, Kevin, proceeded to inform us of the rich culture and history of the city, from the role of the 6 major breweries in land ownership, the flip-flopping history in the Napoleonic wars, the trials and tribulations of 1860 football club, to the city's dark links to the Nazi party.

Concluding our tour by witnessing some city-based surfing, a quick tram and train journey and checked into our accommodation for the evening. (Some were certainly glad to see freshly made beds and having an opportunity for a quick power nap).

Day Two

We awoke well refreshed for a day of two halves. We boarded



our coach for the journey to the Dachau memorial, on the preserved site of the concentration camp established in 1933. Students explored the sombre exhibition halls, set in the main administrative block, seeing the evolution of persecution under the Nazi regime. Dachau's primary early role was to isolate and remove political opposition, whilst also using prisoners as forced labour to further the war effort. It was not until far later in the war that its role was expanded to cope with systematic persecution of the Jewish populace. Students were highly reflective and curious during our time here and dealt with the stark realities of seeing a preserved gas chamber and crematorium in a mature and considered manner.

In a contrast for the afternoon, we set forth to the Allianz Arena, home of Bayern Munich football club, for a stadium tour. Our guide showed us the highly impressive stadium, showed us the backroom operations (including the press conference room, player changing room, and the walk out tunnel) alongside gave us the opportunity to sit pitch side in the player dugout. It may interest you to know that on match days the grass must measure between 2.3cm and 2.4cm! After a quick visit the



club shop, and perhaps a few new fans converted to Bayern football (especially considering how reasonable the season tickets are!), we headed back for an evening of relaxation, games and conversation.

Day Three

A slightly longer coach trip north took us to the historic city of Nuremberg. This walled, fortress city famed not only as the site of Nazi rallies, but also having a history pre-dating the Holy Roman Empire, it being an essential node of the Silk Road. Our guide, Charlotte, facilitated our exploration of this sizeable city, which in one night sustained 90% destruction during Allied bombing raids of the Second World War. After a comprehensive tour and the sampling of a few local delicacies (gingerbread and currywurst being two strong contenders) we set off for Courtroom 600 – the location of the Nuremberg trials, where senior Nazis were held accountable for their actions during the war.

Day Four

Our last day started with a visit to the Munich Documentation Centre; built on the site of the former 'brown house', the political home to the Nazi party, students were able to explore the exhibition on the impact of the Nazi regime on Munich. After which we headed back to the city centre to discover, much to our delight that Munich



was in carnival spirit with the 'Damischen Ritter' parade (the parade of Silly Knights) which forms part of the wider celebrations before lent. Students were pleased to do a little dancing and be inundated by free sweets falling from the sky!

A final quick exploration of Schloss Nymphenburg, a beautiful palace with exquisite gardens before we then embarked on the coach, heading back to the airport. Our only issue with transport of course being a cancelled train from Gatwick to East Croydon, just to push our arrival into Monday morning.

In all, a fantastic trip and one that we as staff would not hesitate to repeat. The students were excellent, it ran somewhat seamlessly, and it is delightful to see History at the heart of extra-curricular provision.

A Future Trip...

This is thus perhaps the perfect opportunity to say that we are running another trip, the same time next year, to Ypres in Belgium. At the heart of the World War One battlefields, it will serve as a base for us to explore the rich history of the First World War, from preserved trenches to war memorials and how remembrance still works to this day. Places are available on ParentPay – with only 16 spaces remaining (with many already gone), at a cost of £315, broken into instalments over the rest of the year. We look forward to it!



Old Vic Theatre Visit

On Monday 27th February, a group of GCSE and A Level students visited the Old Vic Theatre to watch Sylvia. This piece of theatre explored the fight for women's suffrage through the medium of rap, hip hop and R&B.

With lots of cultural references, the writer and director made a difficult to



understand and heavy history into a foot tapping relevant experience for our students to understand.

Year 9 Theatre Trip

On Tuesday 7th March, a group of 30 superb Year 9 students travelled to the Duchess Theatre to watch a performance of The Play that Goes Wrong.

After studying Commedia Dell'Arte and Physical Comedy, this was a perfect opportunity to watch this style of performance in action.



Students were impeccable and were introduced to the joys of live theatre in preparation for potential studying at GCSE and beyond.



A Level Theatre Trip

On Monday 20th March, the A Level Drama cohort travelled to the Lyric Hammersmith to watch a production of Accidental Death of an Anarchist; a play steeped in political rebellion that challenges a corrupt police force.

This version of the play was rewritten for a modern day audience that challenged the Met Police alleged corruption which opened up superb conversations for students to engage with on their way home.

Revision Weekend at Marchant Hill

On the weekend of the 4th & 5th February, a targeted cohort of Year 11 students were given the opportunity to undertake a focused, yet fun, revision weekend at Marchant Hill Activity Centre.

With sessions delivered by subject specialist Quest staff, students were taken through core subject skills, with of course an additional smattering of History.

Alongside this, a variety of engaging activities including abseiling, axe

throwing, climbing and of course the traditional campfire were undertaken.

We hope to see the positive impact in their next set of mocks.

We are sure we'll see a positive impact when they sit their public examinations in the summer term.

Mr Boudy





Girls Football at The Quest Academy

The girls football team has been growing and growing since the start of September. We now have nearly 30 girls at every training session across Years 7 to 10.

The U13 and U15 teams have been playing an abundance of friendly and league matches since October. Recently the U15 girls beat Orchard Park 4-0 on home ground with many other wins under their belt this season.

So many girls have stepped up and played above their year group, with shoutouts to Karabyo Shema, Hollie Carter and Gabrielle Crankson.



The U15 girls have an upcoming match against Riddlesdown this week, so we wish them the best of luck!

I am super proud of every girl who decides to turn up to training having never enjoyed or played football before and come away wanting to return week after week. Well done girls, keep up the good work. There will be lots of memories made this season!

Miss Grove

Important dates for your diary

Academy Day
Friday 30th March

Iceland Trip
11th to 14th April

Year 8 Virtual Parents Evening
Wednesday 3rd May

Year 8 Vaccinations (HPV1)
Wednesday 4th May

Year 9 Vaccinations (HPV2)
Friday 5th May

Year 11 Prom
Friday 30th June

Activities Week
3rd to 7th July

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition
3rd to 4th July

Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition
5th to 7th July

Year 6 Transition Day
Friday 7th July

Sports Awards Evening
Wednesday 12th July

TERM DATES

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

AUTUMN TERM 2023

Monday 4th September – Friday 22nd December 2023
Tuesday 5th September – Year 7 and Year 12 only
Wednesday 6th September – open to all students
Half-Term – Monday 23rd October – Friday 3rd November
Christmas Holiday – Monday 25th December
– Friday 5th January 2023