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Executive Principal's Message

Dear Parents / Carers

As we approach the end of another academic year I would like to thank Mr Beecham and the team at The Quest

Academy for another excellent year working tirelessly to secure the best outcomes for our students and also providing them with a range of enriching experiences that make their time with us more special. We've also worked hard to help students catch-up from the effects of the pandemic, a task that will be ongoing.

With great sadness I also have to let you know of the death of a much loved former colleague, Louise Stotesbury, who was Pastoral Director here for a number of years. She was dedicated to helping families and students achieve their best and we will all miss her and her support for the Academy into her retirement.

I do hope you have a relaxing and rejuvenating summer break and I look forward to seeing our students back in September.

With best wishes.

Mr A. Crofts

Careers Department Awards

Two members of the academy's staff have been recognised by the South London Careers Hub for their work in careers education for students.

Melba D'Mello won the prize for "Collaboration of the Year 2023", for her efforts working in collaboration with the Croydon Careers Clusters. The awarding body recognised that setting up work experience for students has been challenging this year, but Melba has worked tirelessly through the difficulties of getting students off timetable, enabling a variety of placements from year 10 to year 13.

In addition to Melba's success, Reshma Patel won 2nd place and was Highly Commended in the category, "Career Leader of the Year 2023".

Five members of the Department for Education attended the celebration evening, which took place on 12th July. It was an opportunity for them to hear about the fabulous careers work being done at The Quest Academy and in the wider Croydon Cluster.

As an academy, we are grateful to all staff who put so much effort in to preparing our students for their future careers.





Louise Stotesbury 27.6.1955- 29.6.2023



Louise Stotesbury, former colleague and Pastoral Director at The Quest Academy, sadly passed away on 29th June 2023. Louise had worked at Quest since it began in 2010 during which time she enriched the lives of very many students and staff, both professionally and personally.

Sadly, in 2019, Louise was diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis, a very rare, progressive and ultimately fatal illness that causes scarring of the lungs rendering them unable to let oxygen through to the blood. There is no cure.

During her life, Louise consistently put other peoples' needs before her own. In her memory, if you'd like to make a donation, please do so in favour of Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis, an organisation that is striving to find a cure for pulmonary fibrosis so that everyone affected by the disease has a better future. Every penny donated is a victory against this devastating disease.

We thank Louise for her love and service to the school's community and mourn the loss of a loved and respected colleague.

Charity Car Wash

On the 4th May 2023, about a dozen members of the year 11 prom committee took part in a staff car wash to raise money for their prom event, an annual event that takes place after all GCSE exams have ended.

The students spent an hour and a half washing the cars, showing great team work and a positive attitude even with the struggles faced due to the little equipment available to us! Despite the endless trips with buckets and boxes of water back and forth from the taps inside, the girls were in high spirits throughout, and got the job done!

Staff seemed content with their cars and the money raised was put towards decorating the hall for prom night. Thank you, Prom Committee.



New House System

The Quest Academy moved a new "House Structure" this half term. Part of the motivation for the new system is to make it easier for parents and carers to become involved in the life of the school, as they get to know a house team really well over a number of years (with siblings being in the same house too).

As the new academic year begins, we will embed the new structure into everything we do. Parents/carers can expect to receive letters separately from House teams before we return in September, explaining how your child's House will operate.

I am particularly pleased to introduce Mr Peel (Head of Hillary who will be

moving into the role from his current position as Team Leader of English), Mr Frith (Head of Shackleton) and Mr Kubilius (Head of Quest6).

The year has been busy and hugely fulfilling for us as a school. I am very proud indeed of our students; they have had significant achievements in a range of areas. The hard work and progress they have shown, day in and day out, has been exceptional. As ever, we are extremely grateful to everybody who supports our students in their studies and other endeavours.

Wishing you a restful summer break.

Mr T Beecham

Curriculum Evening

We are very grateful to parents/carers for the support you show us. In the Autumn Term we encourage you to attend the Curriculum Evening on 14th September, in addition to normal parents evenings.

Last year, we welcomed about 150 parents and guests to explain how your children's education is structured, the fantastic things going on in lessons day in and day out, and crucially, the things



they can be doing at home to help support progress.

This year there will be a particular focus on study skills for KS4, and supporting at home through the GCSE programme.



Junior UKMT Mathematics Challenge 2023

On the 26th of April, nine of our year 7 students and 49 of our year 8 students took part in the Junior UKMT Mathematics Challenge.

The Challenge comprised of 25 problem solving-style questions worth five marks each, with the questions becoming progressively more challenging towards the end; calculators were not allowed. Students had the possibility of obtaining a Gold, Silver or Bronze award depending on their score.

Two students in year 7 achieved

the Silver Award and three students achieved Bronze Award. Furthermore, eight students in year 8 achieved a Silver Award, one student achieved Silver Award (Best In School) and 18 students achieved Bronze Award in this year's Junior Maths Challenge.

In year 7, the students who achieved the Silver Award are: Javan Li (7M2/Ma1) achieving 68 marks and Libby Norris (7M2/Ma1) achieving 69 marks (best in the year).



In year 8 the students who achieved the Gold Award are: Noah Hudson-Oyelekan (8M1/Ma1) achieving 87 marks and Lara Hussain (8m2/Ma1) achieving highest mark of 88 (best in the school).

DT Key Ring Project

During the last term of the year KS3 students completed a textile project. They were required to design and make key rings or stress balls out of felt.

The students drew inspiration from Henri Matisse's work with colour and looked at how they could reflect this in their own work. The project was very successful with students making products for family and friends.

Here are a few examples.



Year 10 Design Technology

Year 10 have produced some excellent work. They completed an electronic portfolio of work based on the AQA Scheme of Work and designed and manufactured some very good products. They should go on to complete a very successful GCSE course in year 11.

Here are some of the projects they completed and examples of their coursework. I wish them all the best for next year.





Geography Hazards Project

In the first half of summer term, year 7 worked hard at home creating posters and models to represent tectonic hazards and earth structures. These were displayed after school in a showcase where students could show off their work and appreciate others' models and posters.

Well done to Daisy, Jacob and Tanae who were the winners of the competition, after receiving the most votes from teachers (as well as pupils who put in a good word for them!) Each student was commended for their dedication and innovation.



Summer Showcase



On Wednesday 19th July, a group of students from Quest Primary and years 7 to 10 took part in a performance evening. It was an opportunity to showcase some wonderful talent, and for the students to develop their performance skills.

We have been overwhelmed by the commitment and creativity of those involved, and look forward to more events like this in the future. Here are some of the students' reflections:

It's been such an honour to be a part of this magical group. We have been rehearsing in Enrichment and in after school rehearsals to perform this wonderful show. Performing on stage and showing everyone that we can do more than study. (Year 7 student)

Some of the people here would never have seen themselves being here right now, but words can't express how wonderful it feels when the music starts on stage, the lights turn on, and you know that's your cue to begin the show! I will always remember that last line, the last song and ending an amazing journey today. (Year 7 student)

Being part of the showcase has been an amazing experience; from meeting new people, the fun (but stressful!) rehearsals and the show itself. I can't wait for more showcases to come. The Quest Primary students have been a pleasure to work with and I can't wait to see their faces on stage in the future. (Florence Lacovara, 8S2)

Geography Field Trip



Year 10 GCSE Geography students went to Stratford on Thursday 13th and Friday 14th July investigating their hypothesis, "Regeneration has a positive impact on quality of life". This field work forms part of their Paper 3 exam.

We visited Carpenters Estate (which has not been regenerated) and students completed a field sketch and an environmental quality survey. We then walked across to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park where students started to see the changes in infrastructure and land use. We walked through the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park to East Village (which has been regenerated) where students completed their second field sketch and an environmental quality survey.

Back in the classroom, students will now analyse and present their data, before drawing a conclusion about whether the regeneration of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park has positively impacted quality of life for the local people.

We were very lucky with the weather on Thursday, but it rained all day on Friday! Despite this, the students were fantastic, and it was a pleasure to take them to Stratford.





Visit to SES Water

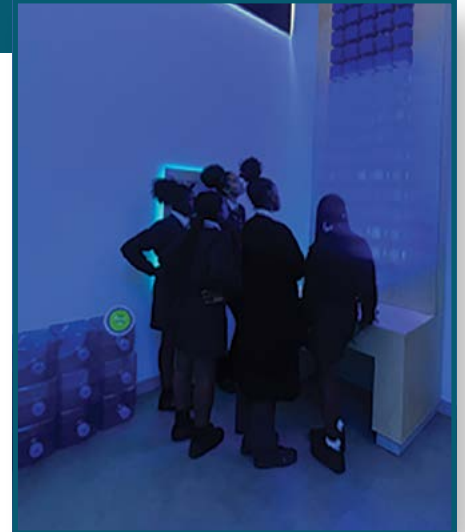
We visited SES Water in Redhill to find out about the water treatment processes.

Firstly, we learnt about the overview of the clarification process to make water drinkable. We then walked up to the reservoir where the water is collected and pumped back to the main centre for treatment.

It was an incredibly insightful experience and great for the students to understand the water treatment process.

Two fun facts learnt:

1. The government target for each person is to use no more than 150 litres of water a day
2. You should aim to shower for only 4 minutes!



Kew Gardens Visit



Students from Hillary House visited the Temperate House, one of the largest greenhouses in the world where we encountered a variety of rare, endangered and even extinct plant species from every corner of the world.

On the way to our next destination, we climbed up 20 metres to the treetop walkway where we were able to walk among the treetops and canopy as many animal species naturally do. This gave us a great view of the gardens below and the skyline of London.

After lunch we made our final stop and visited the Palm House, where students were able to experience first-hand the climate of the rainforest with extreme humidity and heat to mimic the plants' natural environment.

Natural History Museum

During Activities Week, we visited the Natural History Museum in London, particularly looking at the Volcanoes and Earthquakes gallery.

On route to the museum, the students got to experience the busy-ness of the London tubeline and handled the experience expertly (even if we had to wait for the platform to clear to even get on it).



Once at the museum, we embarked on the giant escalator into the red zone entrance which takes you through a giant metallic globe – something the students found to be quite awe-inspiring.



Inside the gallery, students got a chance to explore the origins, geology, scientific understanding and human impact of our planet's most powerful natural forces.

One very interesting part of the experience was the earthquake simulator which is a replica set up of a supermarket which was affected by the Kobe Earthquake in 1995.

After some time exploring the museum, we spent lunch sat outside in the sunshine before making our return to Croydon.



Quest6 Update

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson once said, "Success isn't always about greatness. It's about consistency. Consistent hard work leads to success. Greatness will come." This absolutely resonated with our year 12 and 13 students this half term.

Our year 13 students have just completed their final examinations and it has been a real privilege to have had so many truly inspiring and ambitious students act as ambassadors and role models for our Academy community.

After the final booster sessions finished, we missed the energy these students brought to the Academy from their inquisitive minds, determination, and strength of character. We look forward to

celebrating on results day another set of outstanding results and the range of exciting and highly academic pathways the students will progress onto.

Our year 12 students have had a plethora of inspiring and aspirational opportunities this half term in addition to the rigor and challenge of their end of year examinations.

Some students have graduated from the Scholar's Programme as part of the Brilliant Club; others have been on university residentials with Aim Higher. There have been scientific and enriching trips to Temple chemical engineering, Thames Water microbiology, Financial Conduct Authority, Brighton University and University

College London. We have had guest lectures from The Money Charity, Deloitte, and Kent University.

Students have invested a wealth of time into their university and apprenticeship applications and have all had opportunities to have 1-to-1s with the Sixth Form team. For many, this has been a half term where they have completed their UCAS application and are ready to seek offers at the most prestigious universities in this country.

I wish year 12 a restful summer holiday so they too can have future success from another academic year of consistent hard work.

Mr S Cox
Director of Sixth Form

Kent University Guest Speaker and the Money Charity



During activities week, year 12 students had personal statement masterclasses with the sixth form team, and all created their UCAS profiles along with a range of other activities targeting their futures.

Delegates from Kent University spoke to all students about personal statements, the university experience and different types of degrees.

Later in the week, students found the Money Charity guest speaker to be really engaging and thought-provoking with information about student bank accounts, budgeting and being financially independent.

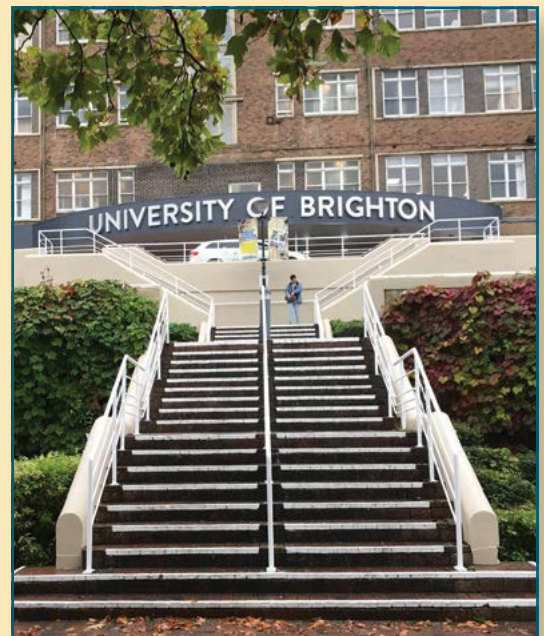
Brighton University visit

14 Quest6 students were selected to attend the third University and Apprenticeship Fair we have attended this year, this time at Brighton University. Previously, we attended apprenticeship fairs at both London and Surrey University.

Students attended seminars about personal statements, UCAS, degree apprenticeships and Russell Group Universities.

Many other universities also sent delegates and a large range of apprenticeships from media companies to the police, science, engineering, and the marines were also represented.

Students were able to ask questions to representatives and with eight seminars to support them with their future aspirations, this was a very motivating day for the students.





Thames Water Microbiology Laboratory

Year 12 biologists were invited to visit the Thames Water microbiological laboratory in Reading, which plays the vital role of testing water from taps, pipes and reservoirs for bacteria and other microorganisms.

Supplying 2.6 billion litres of fresh water, through 32,000 pipes to 15 million customers, the analysis of coliforms using membrane filtration and mass spectrometry is vital science.

The students experienced a tour of the laboratories, were given a masterclass in microscopy and were shown a

variety of methodologies. The company put on a workshop for the students on aseptic techniques, an important aspect of A Level Biology and showed students later in the day how these methods are used in practice.

Students met colleagues at the company that had progressed through different routes, from apprenticeships to a variety of chemistry and biology-based undergraduates. The company is a world leader in Cryptosporidium testing and



in the afternoon, students were able to have a go at identifying these microbes.

Temple Group Visit



On Wednesday, the Science department took the year 12 chemistry students to Temple Group, an environmental sustainability consultancy in London Bridge.

The students were involved in workshops and activities throughout the day in which they learnt about green careers and sustainability across different markets. They took part in problem solving tasks and various activities which developed their critical thinking skills.

Visit to FCA



During activities week, the Science and Maths departments collaborated to take year 12 students to the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) in Stratford. This was a great experience for them as the FCA is the conduct regulator for around 50,000 financial services, firms and financial markets in the UK.

Students attended a workshop on early careers at the FCA which included apprenticeships, internships and graduate schemes. The FCA team also ran a bespoke money management workshop which involved learning about bad/good debt, student loans and saving.

Students also took part in a negotiation activity where they were split into two groups, where they developed their presenting and debating skills.



Sports Day

Congratulations to every student (and staff member) who took part in Sports Day 2023. There were some fantastic performances with a close finish!

The final results were:-

Livingstone	1606
Hillary	1591
Shackleton	1297

Congratulations to Livingstone!



Important dates for your diary

- A Level Results Day** Thursday 17th August
- GCSE Results Day** Thursday 24th August
- Curriculum Evening** Thursday 14th September
- Open Evening** Tuesday 19th September
- Year 7 Settling-in Evening** Thursday 28th September
- Quest6 Open Evening** Tuesday 3rd October
- Academy Day** Wednesday 11th October
- Year 10 Parents' Evening** Thursday 19th October

TERM DATES

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 2024

SPRING TERM 2024

- Monday 8th January 2024 – Thursday 28th March 2024
- Half-Term** – Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February
- Easter Holiday** – Friday 29th March – Friday 12th April