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Executive Principal's Message

Dear Parents & Carers

At this time of year we are fully focused on helping our students in Year 11 and Year 13 do the very best that they can in their upcoming examinations.

A number of additional intervention sessions are available after school, on Saturdays and in the holidays

which I encourage students to take full advantage of.

Many students feel anxious as exams approach. My advice to them is that anxiety is reduced when you are fully prepared for what is to come. I remind them that they should make sure all their work is up to date and complete, if they have any questions they should talk to their teachers now and leave plenty of time for revision so that nothing is 'last minute' or a rush.

They also need a healthy body and mind to do their best. We recommend eight hours of sleep each night and a good breakfast

in the morning to set them up for the day. They should also bring a refillable water bottle to remain fully hydrated throughout their exams.

I'd like to thank the staff for all the effort they are putting in and thank you for your support of your children as they take their examinations. The effort that they put in now will bring dividends.

Happy Easter.

Mr A. Crofts
Executive Principal

Oliver!

The biggest highlight of the Creative Arts Calendar is of course our Whole School Production, this year, "Oliver!"

Students from Year 7 through to Year 13 were involved either



as performers, stage managers or designers. Every year, the school production brings students together to unite under a common purpose and gives each student something to be proud to be a part of.

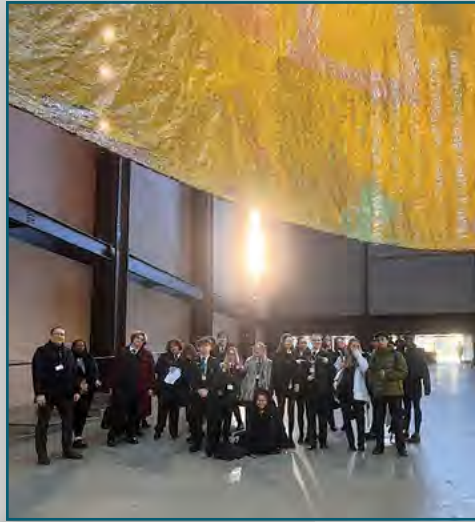
This year's production of Oliver! was no different. James Colvert (7S2) performed the role of the titular character with conviction and confidence, supported by veteran performer Aimee Steele and Nagnouma Conde (Year 12) to guide him down a troublesome path.



It always goes without saying that it takes a special kind of student to give up their time after school, almost every day, for 5 months. Those who make it to the end have worked their socks off and I am beyond proud of them all. We better start thinking about how to top it next year!

Trip to Tate Modern Gallery

Year 11 students visited the Tate Modern Gallery on Friday, 26th January 2024. It was a fantastic day for the students to be inspired ahead of their exam, as well as having the opportunity to take the necessary photographs needed for their individual projects in various locations.

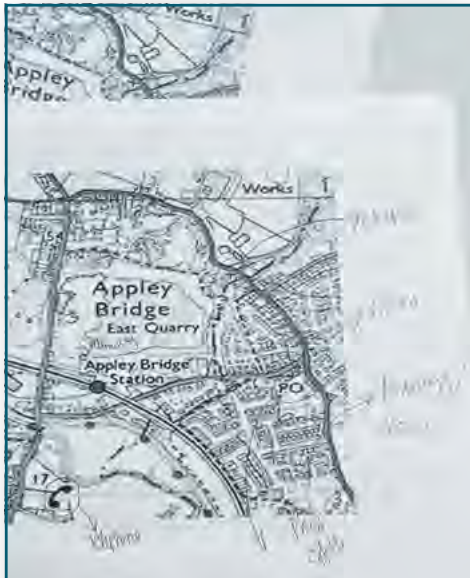


This trip aimed to help spark ideas and develop creativity on the theme of "Power". For a few students this was their first visit to Tate Modern Art gallery, and they enjoyed learning about various type of arts and somewhat challenging art pieces sparking a deep-thinking discussion.

Art engaged our students to thinking and discussion, just like it was supposed to do. Success!



Duke of Edinburgh



Quest's Duke of Edinburgh Award participants have now chosen what activities they are aiming to complete for each of the three required sections - Volunteering, Skills and Physical. They are treating the opportunity with enthusiasm, which is great to see.

They are all excited about the upcoming expedition. We are currently using the Enrichment Period to learn many of the skills that will be needed such as map-reading, putting up tents and cooking outside.

Combined Cadet Force



The Quest Academy's CCF recruits have completed their basic training and are now officially known as 'cadets'.

From the 10th-14th February, the cadets attended a Recruits Camp, which allowed them to learn new skills such as navigation, putting up tents, learning how to cook an army ration meal and passing their weapons handling test at the basic level.

The recruits represented The Quest Academy to the highest standard and won the end of camp Tug-Of-War contest against the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force recruits.





Battlefields Trip

At 6:30am on Friday 9th February, a coach filled with budding historians set off from school to begin an exploration of the First World War via a visit to the Battlefields of Belgium. A short coach journey later and we checked-in to the ferry terminal at Dover, with many of us endeavouring to discover our sea-legs, some more successfully than others.

Upon arrival in Calais, we headed straight to the Passchendaele Memorial Museum in which we saw an array of artefacts and displays before descending to a re-creation of an underground dugout system. Afterwards, we explored a trench system and saw the contrasting shelters, innovations and technologies that made these muddy fortifications a little more practical. On our drive to the hostel we visited Essex Farm cemetery, the resting place of the war poet and army surgeon John McCrae, and location of some preserved forward dressing station bunkers, where casualties would have been triaged.

On our second day, we headed to the In Flanders Field Museum in central Ypres, to explore the exhibits and follow stories of various individuals through the conflict. A range of audio-visual displays really helped to support



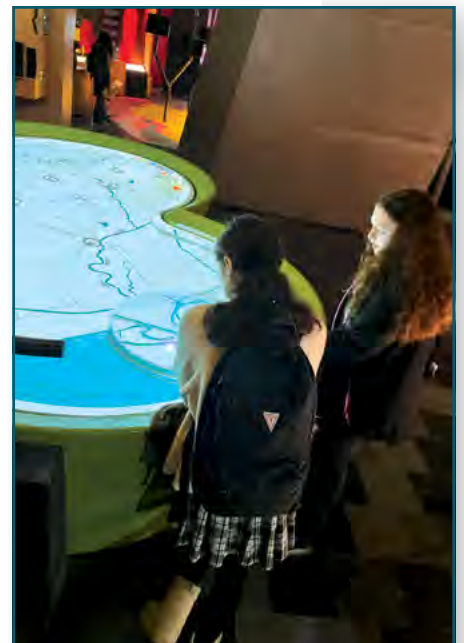
the understanding of the events. After a pause for lunch and a little local market exploration, we headed to St George's chapel, an Anglican church in the centre of town. The chapel is decorated in the assorted regalia and standards of regiments associated with the conflict, which gave an opportunity for a moment of quiet solemnity.

We then met our guides, who took us to the Yorkshire Trench; a preserved trench system that was uncovered by a group of enthusiasts in the 1990s. After this we moved to Langemark, one of four major burial sites for German soldiers containing 44,000 graves. A final stop was made to Tyne Cot cemetery, the largest British site of the First World War. For a somewhat sombre afternoon, students really reflected on their surroundings.

Late afternoon and evening were filled with visits to a local chocolate shop (who did some very good business out of Quest) a hefty dinner of roast chicken and chips and an evening of entertainment in the games room at our excellent hostel.

Final day, we packed up, loaded the coach and explored more of historic Ypres. Students visited the Menin Gate, the memorial to the Indian soldiers of the First World War, and the historic fortifications and moat surrounding the town. After this we jumped on the coach ready to head to the beach.

We arrived in Dunkirk with great curiosity for this place of deep historical significance in Operation Dynamo and the evacuation of British and French soldiers in 1940. As we ventured deeper into the town, we encountered an array of vividly dressed individuals, in neon clothing, costumes and umbrellas. We had unwittingly come to Dunkirk on the main day of its carnival celebration which date back to the early 17th century!



After lunch on the beach and some duty-free shopping we headed to the ferry and the drive back to school. A good time was had by all, students were a credit to the school and we very much look forward to a similar trip in the coming years!

Mr Boundy



Charity Fundraising Events

On Wednesday 20th and 27th the Livingstone House community action enrichment group hosted two fundraising events. The aim was to raise as much money as possible for their chosen charity - Save The Children.

Wednesday 20th saw them host a cake and snack sale in which students sold home baked cakes and shop bought snacks after school. Special mention must go to Lia Johnson, Zac Rutland and Arham Mansha who baked delicious, cupcakes, brownies and a chocolate cake!

On Wednesday 27th, they hosted a movie event showing 'Chicken Run: Dawn of the Nugget'. This was very well attended with approximately 200 students paying the 50p entrance fee. Despite some early technical difficulties, students relaxed and thoroughly enjoyed the movie. A lovely way to end the term.

An incredibly successful two events which have raised over £160 for a great cause.

Well done to all involved!

Creative Break Time

Mrs Sami caught this lovely moment on camera whilst Year 8 students from all houses gathered around the piano. Always great to see students getting creative during a rainy-lunch break!



International Women's Day Trip to Selhurst Depot

On March 8th, Quest Academy Year 9 students were invited to the Selhurst Depot to experience how women are changing the STEM industry.



During this empowering excursion, students delved into the world of transportation and engineering, exploring the pivotal roles women play in these industries. The girls got an insight into the avenues they could take in the engineering world and how important it is for women to start taking part in STEM.

From insightful workshops such as a tour of the depot, to seeing how trains are taken apart (we learnt that these were called boogies), learning about the different train types all led by female leaders, to hands-on activities, it was a well-rounded experience for the students. The students were also given tote bags of goodies to take home, they got to keep their orange high-vis jackets, and they enjoyed an amazing buffet of all-you-can-eat pizza.

The company has expressed how much they loved having the students from Quest at their company and said, "They were the best school group we ever had; all very respectful and interested in the event". The students really enjoyed themselves and asked great questions. Some of their feedback is below:

Savannah said, "I really enjoyed this trip, I want to find out how I can do an apprenticeship here".

Nene said, "This was the best trip ever! We got free advice on our futures, got to tour the train depot and got an amazing experience."

Theatre Visit to "The Play that Goes Wrong"

On Tuesday 19th March, a group of students from years 8 to 12 travelled to the Duchess Theatre to watch the wickedly funny "The Play that Goes Wrong".

After studying both theatre design and slapstick comedy, students had a greater appreciation of theatre creation and the absolute energy that can be created on stage.





A Level Politics Trip to Parliament

On Monday 22nd January, Quest A-Level Politics students visited Parliament. Our trip started with an extensive tour of the Parliamentary estate, including Westminster Hall – which has been the site of a Royal Palace for the last 1,000 years, and has had the same roof for 650 (without a single screw or nail in it!) Students were able to see the spot where the late Queen Elizabeth II, and her forebears laid in state, alongside the locations where Nelson Mandela and President Obama had addressed Parliament.

We were then lucky enough to walk through St Stephen’s chapel, the location of the only assassination of a British Prime Minister (Spencer Perceval) and where the House of Commons sat for over 300 years – it was in this room that Charles I had attempted his arrest of 5 MPs

and sparked the outbreak of the English Civil War.

After this, we went up to the galleries to watch the debates taking place in both the House of Lords and House of Commons – seeing questions put to the Housing, Levelling Up and Communities Minister, and trying to spot familiar faces, before heading across to a session facilitated by the Parliamentary Education Service.

Students were shown the process of the passage of the bill and were given the opportunity to select and debate their own ideas for legislation, which in turn led to an impassioned debate surrounding the morality and economics of assisted dying.

To wrap up our trip, students were met by Sarah Jones MP,



representative of Croydon Central and the school’s local MP. Sarah kindly took the time to explain to students the role of an MP, some of the challenges facing our community and meetings and schemes she is championing within the constituency. She also gave us an insight into her role as a shadow minister for Trade and Industry and the decarbonisation brief that she holds. She wrapped up by giving students an insight into how to get involved in politics. The students were excellent, very much enjoyed the trip and were a credit to the school.

Goldsmiths University Visit



Outside the University

Upon arrival at Goldsmiths, University of London, we were greeted by student ambassadors who took us to a lecture room for introductions, and a questions and answers session for the students to ask about university life. They were extremely helpful, and went out of their way to accommodate us right to the end of the day.

The first taster session was on business, delivered by a professor from Mont Rose. He explained what makes a good research paper speaking about the three key components: an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. Students were impressed with what he delivered.

We then enjoyed a delicious three-course lunch in the diner followed by a tour of the campus. The hot sunny day made the tour particularly enjoyable.

Our last taster session was with a lawyer who had studied Sociology and Law. Her lecture was very animated. She gave a number of legal scenarios and students had to decide whether it was the right or wrong outcome for the client or victim. Quest students

were very engaging with lots of feedback.

This event was well attended, and students are now keen to visit more universities to compare what each has to offer.



Lecture





Footballer Tope Fadahunsi Inspires Quest Students



The Quest Academy recently welcomed Tope Fadahunsi, a notable figure in football playing for Sutton United and owner of Lazone Sports. In an engaging session with students, he emphasized perseverance and the critical role of education in overcoming life's hurdles.

Fadahunsi's path to success was filled with resilience amidst educational struggles. Relating to students with his initial disinterest in school, he highlighted a significant turning point during his time at Loughborough University. There, a scout recognized his potential, setting him on the path to professional football. This underscored his key message: unexpected opportunities require readiness through diligent effort.

Despite his academic challenges, Fadahunsi's achievements are impressive, including 11 GCSEs, a Triple Distinction at Lambeth Southbank UTC, and a Loughborough University degree in Architectural Engineering and Design Management. He shared these milestones to illustrate that success encompasses both academic and personal growth, encouraging students to value their education as a cornerstone for future success.

His visit underscored the essence of hard work, perseverance, and educational commitment. Tope aimed to motivate students to pursue their goals relentlessly, irrespective of the obstacles, highlighting that determination and education can lead to boundless achievements.

Football - Croydon Schools



Mr Wilder and Year 8 Quest pupil Demario Treasure will be representing Croydon Schools on Sunday 5th May in the prestigious ESFA National Cup Final to be held at Stoke FC's Bet365 stadium, where they meet current holders Liverpool.

Mr Wilder's Croydon District U13s will be hoping they can reach the pinnacle of district football by winning the game and becoming only the 3rd Croydon District team in 40 years, across all age groups, to achieve this feat.

The game will be live streamed online, so if you're interested in watching and showing your support from home, please email Mr Wilder at:

RWilder@thequestacademy.org.uk
Come on you Croydon!

Important dates for your diary

Academy Day
Thursday 25th April

Year 11 Prom
Friday 28th June

Activities Week
24th-28th June

Duke of Edinburgh Expedition
Practice: 30th-31st May
Real: 13th-14th July (probable)

Year 6 Transition Day
5th July

Sports Awards Evening
18th July

Hillary Celebration Evening
9th July

Livingstone Celebration Evening
10th July

Shackleton Celebration Evening
11th July

TERM DATES

SUMMER TERM 2024

Monday 15th April 2024 – Friday 19th July 2024
(Monday 6th May – Bank Holiday – Academy closed to students)

Half-Term - Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May

End of Summer Term - Friday 19th July

Summer Holiday - Monday 22nd July to Friday 30th August

AUTUMN TERM 2024

Monday 2nd September 2024

– Friday 20th December 2024

Wednesday 4th September - open to all students

Half-Term

- Monday 21st October - Friday 1st November

End of Autumn Term - Friday 20th December

Christmas Holiday

- Monday 23rd December - Friday 3rd January 2025