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Executive Principal's Message

Dear Parents / Carers

As this term draws to a close I'd like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to wish all of our students taking examinations in year 11

and year 13 all the very best when these start in May. We all look forward to celebrating your successes in August and wishing you well on the next stage in your educational journeys.

As always there has been a lot happening this term and details can be found in this newsletter, on our website and from our socials. If you do have more time to give to the school, QAPA, our parent association, would be pleased to hear from you. There is a contact form on the website to get in touch with them.

At this time of year my thoughts always turn to family and how we can spend more time together as the weather improves. I hope you get the chance to do that in the coming weeks.

Happy Easter.



Mr A. Crofts
Executive Principal

The Addams Family

The school production is our annual opportunity for the theatre kids at The Quest Academy to SHINE! With our 8-year streak of fabulous shows, 2025 was no exception with our school's production of The Addams Family! It was a show full of comedy, love, and of course a lot of death. It was performed for three nights and one matinee, all of which received fantastic reviews.



"Amazing performance, the props and execution were phenomenal!" – Y13 student

"The school productions get better every year, this year was no exception!" – Y12 student

"The students worked tremendously hard, and the audience could sense the dedication, effort and enthusiasm!" – Mr. Joseph

I have participated in the school productions since I joined The Quest Academy in year 7 (2018) and have loved every second of every one. I



have so much respect for the performing arts community in this school and have never failed to be surrounded by students who want to give the the best performance as possible. This passion is what fuels the school productions.

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This year in *The Addams Family* I played Wednesday Addams, a role I not only enjoyed immensely, but gained a new production experience with. With new teachers and new cast members who were the staples of this production, we all came together and created an astounding final product.

I also want to take a moment to praise the effort and commitment that goes into a production, especially with *The Addams Family*. Three times a week we stayed after school for multiple hours rehearsing and refining as much as possible, as well as weekend rehearsals closer to show time. It takes an extremely talented group to be able to show up to rehearsals and give it their all every time. This alone is what makes a school production so refined and professional.

We look forward to next year!

by **Aimee Steele**



Jack Petchey – Speak Out Award Thursday 27th March

On Thursday 27th March I had the pleasure of attending the Croydon finals of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge to watch Archie Spackman represent The Quest Academy.



The event, held at Riddlesdown Collegiate, had a strong start with three fantastic speeches. The bar was set high. However, Archie's speech really set the standard for the rest of the evening. It was a very powerful speech full of insight and clearly coming from the heart. Archie used his speech to highlight the challenges young people with Autism face in schools.

Archie's passionate prose sought to tear up outdated stereotypes and prejudice and replace them with a more authentic and realistic portrayal of being a student with autism. Archie's speech, whilst not afraid to confront some of the more unpleasant responses to his autism, also contained several humorous anecdotes and touches. The speech ended to huge applause as it was clear that this was going to be a tough speech to beat!

Whilst Archie did not win the overall award it was a strong contender and my own personal favourite as I agreed with Archie that more needs to be done to challenge society's outdated and hurtful views on autism. It was great to hear Archie's rallying call to do more to fight ableism and create a society where young people with autism are accepted for themselves and can stand tall and proud as part of a diverse community. It was a great night – filled with amazing students from around Croydon all doing their bit to raise awareness of injustice and highlight how we as a community can do more to improve the lives of others.

J Kubilius

“Risking It All!” Performance

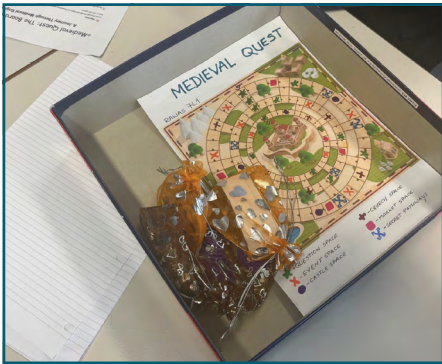
Year 9 students had the privilege of watching a live theatre Performance in the Main Hall! On Thursday 20th March, Zengage (a Theatre In Education company) came to The Quest Academy to perform 'Risking It All.'



'Risking It All' explored a number pressing issues such as grooming, coercive behaviour, healthy relationships, and vaping. Just to name a few of the issues explored. 'Risking It All' allowed students to witness the impact of poor decisions, on the other hand, students were introduced to support networks they can access if they need guidance, help and support. As a school we provide a comprehensive PSHE curriculum and live performances such as 'Risking It All' solidifies the work we do at The Quest Academy.



Year 7 Students Bring Medieval Life to Life with Creative Board Games

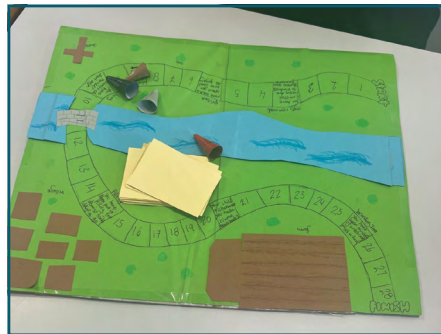


As part of our History curriculum, Year 7 students were tasked with creating board games as part of a homework project that explored various aspects of medieval life, from feudal systems to the intricacies of daily routines during the Middle Ages. This engaging project was designed not only to help students understand the historical period but also to foster creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills.

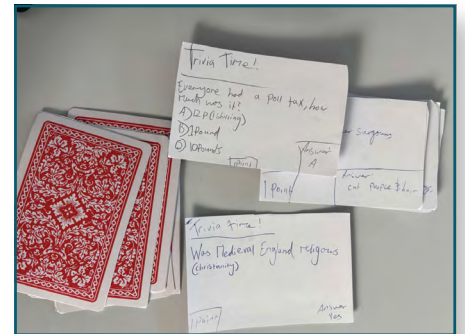
The results have been nothing short of impressive. The board games

ranged from strategy-based games requiring careful planning to more luck-driven games, ensuring that there was something for every type of player. The level of detail and thought that went into these creations exceeded expectations.

The board games were showcased in class, where students were even given the chance to partake in testing out the board games. The project was a resounding success, with students gaining a deeper appreciation for medieval history in a fun and interactive way.



This hands-on approach to learning not only helped students connect with the past but also fostered pride and confidence in their ability to create and present their ideas. The History Department is looking forward to more innovative projects like this in the future.

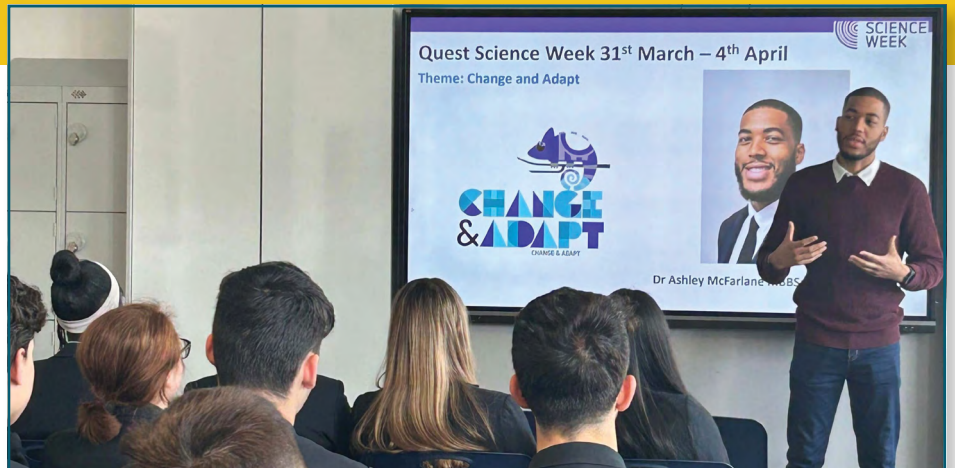


Science Week

This year's Science Week, held from March 31st to April 4th, was a celebration of the theme "Change and Adapt." The week was packed with exciting lessons and activities for KS3 that helped students understand the fascinating ways in which nature adapts and how we, as a society, can adapt to environmental challenges.

Throughout the week, three engaging lessons focused on the theme of adaptation. Students explored the remarkable ways animals adjust to their environments for survival. They also learned about the importance of sustainability by examining how waste can be transformed into valuable resources, highlighting the importance of innovation in tackling global issues.

One of the highlights for KS4 was a STEM Q&A session with Dr. Ashley McFarlane, MBBS, who shared



insights on his journey through medical school and how the field of science continuously evolves to meet new challenges. Dr. McFarlane encouraged students to think critically, embrace change and practice discipline in relation to their education.

The grand finale was the Science Fair held on April 4th, where students showcased their creativity by

presenting models made entirely from recycled materials. This hands-on event was a perfect way to demonstrate how resourcefulness and innovation can lead to positive environmental impacts.

Science Week was a resounding success, inspiring students to think about change, adaptation, and the power of science in shaping a sustainable future.



Trip to Houses of Parliament



On Wednesday 15th January, Year 11 students on the GCSE Citizenship course had the incredible opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament in London led by Miss Tijani and supported by Miss Johnson. The trip was designed to enhance their understanding of the UK's political system and provide an engaging, hands-on learning experience.

The day began with a guided tour of the historic Houses of Parliament. Students explored key areas, including the House of Commons and Westminster Hall, while learning about the fascinating history and inner workings of UK democracy. The highlight of the tour was sitting in the House of Lords, where they observed a live debate on healthcare led by MPs and Lords. This provided students with valuable insight into how national policies are discussed and shaped.

After the tour, students took part in a thought-provoking workshop on politics, which challenged their perspectives and encouraged them to think critically about current political issues and their role as active citizens. The interactive session deepened their understanding of the importance of political participation and sparked meaningful discussions among peers.

The day concluded with an inspiring meeting with Natasha Irons, the MP for their constituency. Natasha shared her journey into politics, discussed the challenges of representing her community, and answered students' questions about the role of an MP. This session motivated many students to consider how they could make a difference in their own communities.

Overall, the trip was both educational and inspiring, giving students a first-hand experience of parliamentary processes and encouraging them to engage with the democratic system. It was a memorable day that brought the concepts they've studied in class to life.

Year 12 and 13 Sociology Students Visit UCL for A-Level Sociology Talk



On 9th January 2025, Year 12 and 13 sociology students embarked on an exciting trip to University College London (UCL) for an A-Level Sociology talk, organised and led by Miss Tijani. This enriching experience provided students and teachers the unique opportunity to engage with leading sociologists, explore contemporary sociological issues, and gain invaluable insights to further their studies.

The day featured presentations from some of the most prominent voices in sociology:

- Caroline Oliver: Her talk focused on Resettled Afghan young people's accounts of education, place, and belonging, exploring how visual methods can shed light on their experiences.
- Dylan Kneale: He discussed Health and LGBTQ+ people, offering a critical analysis of health disparities and sociological perspectives on identity.
- Louise Archer: Using Bourdieu's theoretical framework, she explored Nike girls and 'bimbos': The pathologisation of working-class femininity in education.
- Ozan Aksoy: His presentation, Sundays Unbound: Blue Laws, Church Attendance, and Shifting Moral Attitudes in the US, examined the sociological implications of religious practices and legislative changes.
- Ann Phoenix: She captivated the audience with her talk on Childhood and the global polycrisis, linking childhood experiences to global challenges.
- Stephen Ball: His thought-provoking session, What are schools for?, questioned the purpose of education systems in contemporary society.

A standout moment of the day came during one of the seminars when a student bravely asked a powerful question



about the desexualisation of ethnic minority girls and how this is changing with the rise of social media. The question was highly praised by Louise Archer for its depth, articulation, and relevance to the topic at hand. Further highlighting the intellectual curiosity of the students on the trip, demonstrating their engagement with complex sociological issues.

Students had the chance to meet and greet the speakers, allowing them to ask questions and engage in deeper discussions about the topics presented.

Two students shared their reflections on the trip:

- "It was an amazing opportunity to hear directly from experts in the field. The topics were so relevant and helped me understand how sociology applies to real-world issues."

- "I found the talks inspiring and thought-provoking. It gave me a new perspective on how diverse sociology is and how I can apply it to my own studies."

The trip not only deepened students' understanding of key sociological concepts but also ignited their enthusiasm for the subject. Miss Tijani's leadership in organizing the trip ensured that the experience was both educational and inspiring. This visit to UCL exemplified the value of connecting classroom learning to the wider sociological community, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended.

Year 7 Boys vs Harris Invictus

The Year 7 Boys football gave it their all in the game against Harris Invictus. Quest started off strong with some excellent passages of play and incisive passing which created goal scoring chances. We went 1-0 up after 10 minutes, but conceded shortly after. We were happy to go into half time at 1 -1, but it could have been a different if we had taken our chances.



Second half begins and Quest continue to put pressure on the opponents as we scored a quick second goal to put us 2-1. As the boys worked tirelessly the opponents noticed we were running out of steam. They scored two quick fire goals in the final 5 minutes of the game to put them 4-2 up.

I'm proud of how Quest played and managed themselves throughout the game; their resilience was on display as we kept trying for the third goal.

Unfortunately we didn't take our chances and it ended 4-2 to Harris Invictus.

Mr Brett

Rugby News

Year 9 Rugby v Graveney

The Year 9 rugby team travelled to Wandsworth for a match against Graveney School. The boys put in an excellent performance but came up short against a very strong Graveney team. Richard was the star in attack with two tries. The boys displayed immense defensive effort making some strong tackles restricting Graveney to a solitary try in the second half. They can be very proud of their efforts.



Year 10/11 Rugby v Graveney

The Year 10/11 rugby team lost a nail-biting match with Graveney. Both teams showed excellent attacking prowess in a high scoring match in which Graveney won due to two breakaway tries in the last few minutes. Kishawn scored four tries for Quest whilst Thomas and Billy showed excellent resolve with some crucial tackles. If it wasn't for a last-minute tap-tackle on Junior, Quest could well have run out as winners. A great effort of which the boys should be very proud.



Year 11 Team Through to Croydon Cup Semifinals

Quest's Year 11 football team are through to the Croydon Cup semifinals after beating Woodcote High School 2-1.

The game started slowly, with both teams looking to make a strong start. It was Woodcote who took the lead from a set piece after some confusion in the Quest penalty area. The Woodcote striker was on hand to tap the ball into an open goal after 10 minutes—1-0 to Woodcote.

The Quest boys responded well, creating multiple chances but were unlucky in front of goal. Despite arguably having the better opportunities, they couldn't convert. Still, they didn't give up. After creating chance after chance, Quest were finally rewarded with an equaliser before the halfway mark—a through ball from midfield and a good low finish from Johan.

The second half started slowly again, with neither team wanting to make a mistake. Quest had a few early opportunities but were unable to take the lead. The second half was relatively quiet until the final 15



minutes, when Woodcote failed to clear their lines and the ball landed at the feet of Aaron M, who struck from around 30 yards out—the ball looping into the top corner. 2-1 to Quest.

After wild celebrations, the game resumed with Quest now defending their lead. The last 10 minutes saw

a few late chances for Woodcote, but the Quest defence stood strong and held the scoreline at 2-1.

Mr Iseghohimen would like to shout out the Year 11s and 10s who played in the game for showing great resilience and teamwork to secure their place in the semifinal, which will be played against St Joseph's College.

Important dates for your diary

TERM DATES

SPRING TERM 2025

Easter Holiday

- Monday 7th April – Monday 21st April

SUMMER TERM 2025

Tuesday 22nd April 2025 – Friday 18th July 2025

(Monday 5th May – Bank Holiday

– Academy closed to students)

Half-Term

Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May

End of Summer Term

– Friday 18th July

Summer Holiday

– Monday 21st July to Friday 29th August

AUTUMN TERM 2025

Monday 1st September 2025 – Friday 19th December 2025

Staff INSET day - Monday 1st September

Year 7 and Year 12 only - Tuesday 2nd September

Open to all students - Wednesday 3rd September

Half-Term

- Monday 20th October – Friday 31st October

End of Autumn Term - Friday 19th December

Christmas Holiday

- Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January 2026

MAY 2025

Year 8 Face to Face Parents Evening

Thursday 15th May 4-7 pm

Year 7 Face to Face Parents Evening

Thursday 22nd May 4-7 pm

JUNE 2025

New Year 7 Parents Evening

Wednesday 25th June 4:30-5:30pm