



The Quest Connect!

21.11.2025

Issue number 1

Assistant Principal: G Chenery

Headlines

Launch of our QUEST CONNECT! First Edition!

Welcome to the first of our new and regular opportunity to share all the really exciting things that are happening at The Quest Academy. We have spent the first few busy weeks planning the journey forward. This first issue is a bumper one as includes so much from the term so far. It is planned for this to be a weekly communication publication full of information and celebration of our amazing students and what they are participating in as well as letting you know about things coming up!

In this first issue: Reviewing Years 7's first few weeks, celebration events and review of trips, the results and actions from the parental survey (and invite to be part of our next one!), sporting events, and what's coming up at The Quest Academy.

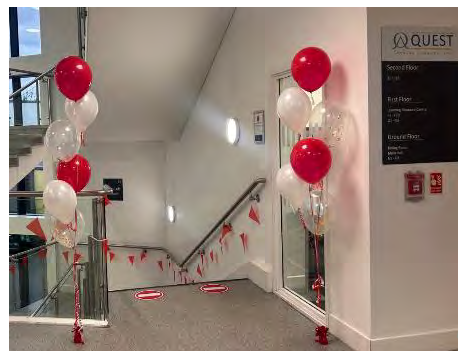
We also saw The Quest Academy mark Remembrance Day on 11.11.2025 by observing a 2 minutes silence. Again, we are proud of how respectful students were in their own personal reflections.

One for your address book! Any Photos students have taken on trips and could feature here, please send to Questconnect@thequestacademy.org.uk: Your sending them will be taken as permission to publish!



Celebrations and Events!

The 17th October saw our **Year 7 transition celebration event!** This was a wonderful evening seeing all our new year 7 receiving awards. They have settled so well into life at TQA. We couldn't be prouder!! We had a selfie frame on the night! Please send us your photos to Questconnect@thequestacademy.org.uk.



November 13th Year 10 Celebration Event!

Well done to all the **Year 10** who have achieved the 4 star standard! It was great to see so many of you at the event organised by Mr Houghton and Mr Falaiye.



Ms Berry led the **Year 11 Geographers** on their final fieldwork expedition to Brighton on 18th and 19th September. Thanks to Ms Todd, Ms Manuel and Mr Pace for their hard work on what was a really hot day and Year 11 who were a lot of fun to spend the day with!! The work directly supports their GCSE exam.

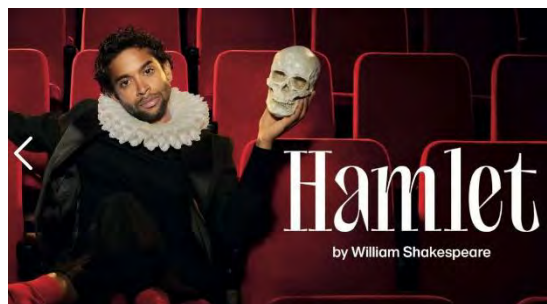


ACADEMY DAY

Our first Academy Day of the year was on the 19th October 2025 where year 7-9 were off site visiting an array of places from the British Museum to The National Portrait gallery. The students were amazing ambassadors of the school. It was my first Academy day and I really enjoyed spending time off site with the students. Members of the public said how impressed they were with the behaviour and politeness of the students!

Year 10 completed a day of valuable work experience and Year 11 were on site working with an external team from "Elevate" to help them with revision techniques ready for their mock exams and beyond.

Trip to Phantom of the Opera: Ms Abay took students from all years to see Phantom of the Opera. What an amazing event and opportunity for our students:



The English Department took our Year 12 students to see Hamlet. They were of course great ambassadors for the school and it really helped bring to life their A level studies!

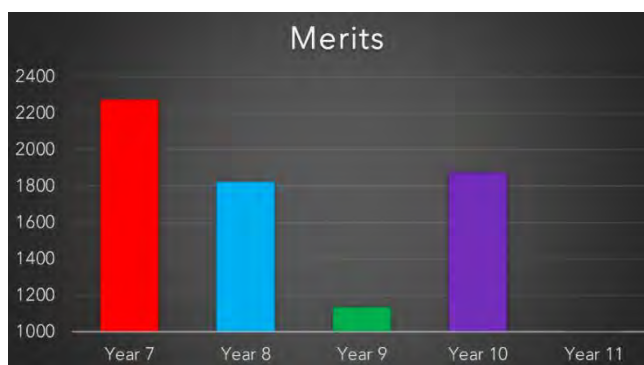
Fundraising: On the 27th October Hurricane Melissa hit the Caribbean leaving a trail of destruction. This hits all communities hard, but our Quest community has many connections, so we feel this even more deeply. A letter will go out with more details, but a fundraising initiative led by the Croydon BME Forum (cbmeforum – Non Profit Charity) to help communities in Jamaica affected by Hurricane Melissa will be held. Our Friday dancers also have something planned.



Careers assemblies for different Year group by visiting speakers: Year 11 had an assembly from the Civil service and Year 7 and interactive assembly from London Zoo (extra details sent by email to year 7 parents). Quest 6 have also been focusing on their futures with Year 13 completing UCAS applications and going on university visits. All the Quest 6 visited Olympia last Friday to go to the "What University? What Career?" event, which was great to see so many future paths under one roof and help students see the many options open to them.

Achievement Leaders from 2.9.2025-14.11.2025

Each student is collecting Merits for their own records and for the Year competition! Each week we will look at the totals by Year Well done to year 7, but Year 10 aren't far behind this week. (Year 11 were in exam so not in the running this week). Watch this space as we begin to look at how the Merits can be used in school!



Student Leadership

We have launched our new Quest Student Leadership Team! Each form now has 2 form representatives, who will meet in year teams. Shortly there will be election for 2 students from each year to go forward to the Whole School Student Leadership team. This is a really important step for Quest so that Students have an opportunity to feedback their excellent ideas and be part of driving improvements at the Academy. We have held applications for **Student President and Vice President**. This has been hotly contested and I am honored to announce **Benjamin 13.2**

As our Student President. He has already started work to ensure that we have a purposeful Student Leadership team. Watch this space! Congratulations Benjamin. Vice President will be announced in the next issue as we have been so overwhelmed with excellent applications!

Sports and clubs

We are lucky to have an array of sports at The Quest Academy. Its been great to see some of the matches, its great to see the skills students have from sporting prowess to sportsmanship and support for others. Year 8 footballers have played away at Shirley High School and Year 7 hosted here at The Quest Academy.



Its great to see the Netballers from all years playing! (photos in next issue!). Basketball club also runs on a Monday.

See the PE department to be part of the action!



Our CCF (Combined Cadet Force) operates in school- See Ms Rose for more details of what is happening at Quest. See [Combined Cadet Force | Homepage](#) for more information on the organization. There are lots opportunities from this and cadets can wear their Cadet uniforms at certain times instead of uniform.



We are also lucky to run the Duke of Edinburgh award at Quest! Assemblies have been held for year 9 and 10 who are eligible to take part.



Safeguarding

We are lucky to have our new Pastoral Director Ms Waterhouse join us as she has a wealth of experience and knowledge of useful links so will share some of these each week.

Safeguarding spotlight: Social media checks

Are you in the habit of regularly checking your child's phone? Do you know who they interact with online and what content they are accessing?

Here are a few simple steps you can take to keep your child safe online:

- Review their social media profile and make sure it is set to 'private'
- Review the accounts who follow their page – are they able to tell you who these people are?
- Review the people they follow – is the content they are accessing age appropriate?



For further information and support, please visit the NSPCC: [Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)

Thank you for your input! Parental Survey

“You Said, We Did” – The Quest Academy, Summer 2025: Our Journey so far:

This update shares how your parental and student feedback is shaping our next steps. Thank you for your honesty and support.

Parents' Survey You Said

- Most children are happy (87%) but parents raised concerns about safety (17%) and behaviour (37%).
- Communication is inconsistent – emails unanswered, mixed platforms (Arbor, Talaxy, Google Classroom), and unclear reports.
- SEND support is valued when consistent, but not all staff are aware of needs. Concerns raised about The Hive space.
- Parents want more homework, challenge, and academic stretch.
- More extra-curricular clubs needed, beyond sport.
- Worries about cover lessons and staff turnover.

We Did / are doing

- Relaunched behaviour expectations across the school in September with stronger follow-up with time for reflection and staff expected to meet with the student in detention
- TQA Welcome in place to have orderly, calm start to every day.
- Year teams opposed Houses to improve consistency in managing issues and having clearer pertinent year focus e.g Revision for year 11, transition for year 7, careers etc. House still exist for competitions as important to have cross year interaction too.
- Improving communication: clearer use of Arbor, more timely responses, and consistent updates. Launch of weekly news bulletin.
- SEND strategies uploaded to Arbor so all staff can see quickly the agreed strategies; The Hive has moved and been redesigned
- Homework support clubs to be introduced (**work still to be done here and exploration of lunchtime clubs**)
- Homework review underway to set clear expectations across subjects (on going)
- Exploring expanding after-school clubs, including creative and academic options.
- Monitoring and quality assurance for cover lessons. (on going)

Pupil Safeguarding Survey

You Said

- 67% feel the school promotes equality and respect.
- Only 55% feel safe most of the time; 21% rarely or never feel safe.
- 76% say bullying happens, but only 28% think staff deal with it well.
- Behaviour in lessons is inconsistent.
- 30% don't feel confident they can talk to an adult if worried.

We Did/ are doing:

- Appointed Pastoral Director for September (Ms Waterhouse)
- Appoint more Teaching Assistants to the SEND team (interviews have taken place)
- Strengthening anti-bullying strategies – Selection and training of Anti-bullying Ambassadors (see further in the news) and training from **the Diana Award**.
- **Palace for life program** introduced September 2025- to support students to boost confidence.

- Relaunching behaviour expectations with consistent staff training (Monday PLDTS)
- Expanding pastoral support and ensuring every student knows who they can talk to (links to relaunch of Student leadership and their ideas HOW this can happen)
- Mentoring at Year 11
- Building on positive work around diversity, respect, and responsibility. (Diversity club with Ms Rose every week- this will feature in a later Quest Connect!)
- Expanding more duties at lunch by offering paid opportunities to staff
- Exploring use of Quest 6 students at being ambassadors on going
- Prefect team selected to support at events and the Student leadership team.

Your input has been invaluable in addressing concerns and shaping our holistic approach:

Next Steps Across the Academy

- Improve communication with parents, staff, and pupils (weekly updates: Mr Henry has already started with Attendance bulletin) and now we have our weekly Quest Connect
- Relaunch the Student Leadership within the school in line with the new year system: this will bring about new ideas (this has started)
- Ensure consistent behaviour systems and stronger pastoral support via HOY system
- Look to expand SEND provision, with earlier identification and more effective spaces /resources.
- Review / recruit more SSA support (on going)
- Review homework and academic challenge (started)
- Develop a broader extra-curricular programme (started)
- After school detentions: ongoing work: as we know this isn't quite right yet: These need to have a purpose and to try and avoid repetition with restorative conversations
- Use of 3 strikes to be strengthened: too many pupils not knowing why in detention.

We need you!

We would really appreciate your feedback again: Please complete the next survey using the links which will be in the next Quest Connect.

We are keen to have a Parent forum as we want to increase our work with parents and careers. Please watch this space for how to be part of this.



Attendance

Attendance is a big focus and Mr Henry has been updating you every week and will continue to do so separately, but each week we will also celebrate the student successes:

Congratulations to the following Form Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 14 November 2025.

MINUTES LATE TO SCHOOL	IMPACT ON YOUR ATTENDANCE IN 1 YEAR
5 MINUTES Per day =	3.4 DAYS MISSED 98.4% ATTENDANCE
10 MINUTES Per day =	6.9 DAYS MISSED 97.6% ATTENDANCE
15 MINUTES Per day =	10.3 DAYS MISSED 94.6% ATTENDANCE
20 MINUTES Per day =	13.8 DAYS MISSED 92.9% ATTENDANCE
30 MINUTES Per day =	20.7 DAYS MISSED 89.2% ATTENDANCE

This Weeks Attendance: Tutor Groups

7H1 97.14%	7H2 99.05%	7L1 96.36%	7L2 96.19%	7S1 95.71%	7S2 95%
8H1 95.34%	8H2 96.15%	8L1 94.98%	8L2 88.89%	8S1 91.12%	8S2 96.09%
9H1 93.33%	9H2 97.14%	9L1 92.01%	9L2 93.45%	9S1 92.42%	9S2 95.19%
10H1 89.58%	10H2 88.93%	10L1 92.45%	10L2 91.7%	10S1 97.92%	10S2 96.14%
11H1 96.8%	11H2 94.23%	11L1 94.38%	11L2 98.26%	11S1 87.26%	11S2 86.16%
12.1 87.78%	12.2 85.71%			13.1 81.92%	13.2 81.71%

Congratulations to the tutor groups highlighted in Yellow (above our minimum target of 95%).

Dates for the Diary and other upcoming events

Tuesday 25th November – Shakespeare Visit Year 11

-Year 8 Science Museum Skills Fair

Wednesday 26th November Quest 6 Visit to University College London (UCL)

Week Beginning 24th November: Year 7 letters out for limited placed for Panto

Friday 14th December Antbullying Ambassador Training by the Diana Award

Thursday December 4th Year 11 Results assembly

Thursday 11th December – Christmas Jumper day!

- Year 11 Parents evening @SHS

Term Dates 2025 2026

AUTUMN TERM 2025

Monday 1st September 2025 – Friday 19th December 2025

~~Monday 1st September – Staff INSET day~~

~~Tuesday 2nd September – Year 7 and Year 12 only~~

~~Wednesday 3rd September – open to all students~~

~~Half Term – Monday 20th October – Friday 31st October~~

End of Autumn Term – Friday 19th December (1pm finish)

Christmas Holiday – Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January 2026

SPRING TERM 2026

Monday 5th January 2026 – Friday 27th March 2026

Half Term – Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February

Easter Holiday – Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April

SUMMER TERM 2026

Monday 13th April 2026 – Friday 17th July 2026

(Monday 4th May – Bank Holiday – Academy closed to students)

Half Term – Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May

End of Summer Term – Friday 17th July (last day)

Summer Holiday – Monday 20th July to Friday 28th August

This is just the start! More from the Quest next week: Ms G Chenery