



The Quest Connect!

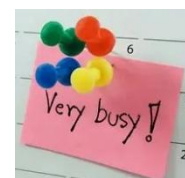
03.07.2026

Issue number 26

Assistant Principal: G Chenery

Headlines

Thankfully a little cooler this week and it's good to be all back together on site. It's been yet another busy week, with our Sports award evening, Year 12 trip to Thorpe Park, Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition to the New Forest, Art Year 11 GCSE moderation show case, Year 8 football event, and welcoming our new year 7's on Friday in their transition day.



Celebrations and Events!



This week has seen the most amazing sports award evening. The work that has gone into this by the PE department with a polished video and all the awards and medals is matched only by the skills and commitment of the students who won awards. Wonderful to see some of the Year 11 back to collect their awards. Our thanks to Mr Bevan, Ms Flanagan, Mr Wilder, Ms Millar and Mr



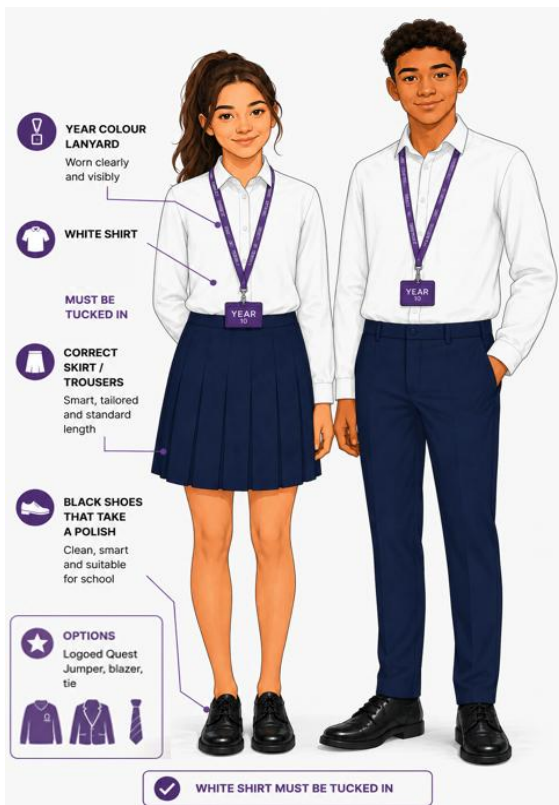
Brett for the organisation and dedication to sports teams over the year and Ms Bolan for her input with the cheer team. It was great to see the excitement generated by voting for the "SPORTS PERSONALITY" of the year throughout the day on Friday! Congratulations to **Amelia T Year 9** winning this for a second year in a row, for her representation of Quest in netball, football and athletics.

The bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition is took place Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd of this week so that will feature in next weeks QC.



On Friday we welcomed Year 6 students who are joining us in September and Ms Thomas, Mr Pace and Ms Sami have put together an exciting day to welcome them. Year 10 Prefect selection has been happening this week and Mr Henry has been impressed by the sheer number and quality of the applications. One of their first tasks will be supporting at the Year 6 transition day on Friday, along with representatives from our Student leadership team. We know they will be a great support.





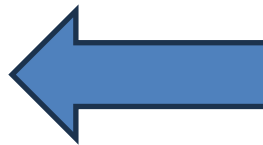
Ms Abay and the art department have turned S9 class into our own Quest Gallery with the most beautiful display of **Year 11** art ready for the moderator this week. This will be shared with you later once all the marks are in! Year 11 are really talented artists.



Lunch rota for next week **Year 9** are in first.

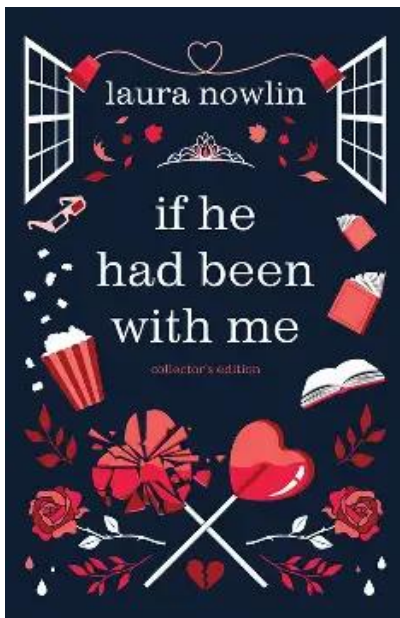


Thankyou all for your support with the summer uniform. Students has remained smart and cool!



Quest Regular Readers:

This week the “**Quest regular reader**” this week is **Faith K (Y7)**: Reading “If He Had Been With Me” by Laura Nowlin: A heart-rendingly romantic story of lost love and second chances that has taken TikTok by storm, *If He Had Been With Me* charts the ebb and flow of Autumn and Finn's feelings for each other.



“I was initially finding it difficult to become invested with these characters, but after a really intense love triangle emerged, I couldn't put it down!”

Faith K Year 7

This goes to show that sometimes it just takes some time for us to warm up to a book! Ms Mason

What are you reading at the moment?

Music Reminder:

If you have been inspired and want to learn an instrument or just get better at one you play already, here is how to sign up through Croydon Music and Arts (CMA).

Go to <https://www.croydonmusicandarts.co.uk/> - select 'Learn with us' -> 'Learn an instrument in school'. Or use the QR code below.



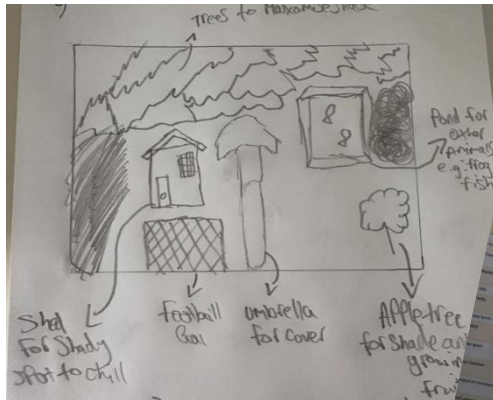
Achievement Leaders

Each student is collecting **merits** for their own records and for the form and Year competition.

Keep watching here for more on Rewards! All **shout out** students are entered into a raffle with a chance to win a guided trip around Crystal Palace football ground! Great Trip opportunity!



Shout outs!! As last week was remote learning this shout out is a focus on some of the work that was completed. **Our Year 10** Geographers had the disappointment of their field work being postponed due to the red heat warning. Undeterred, the Geography department set some home tasks to support their research: here is some of their work.



All sports award winners

Amelia T Year 9 for being voted “sports personality of the year” by the Vox populi! (Pupils, parents and staff!)



Peter M and Josh D (Year 10) for great remote fieldwork (Ms Berry)

Antibullying Ambassadors for presentation to new year 7 and final pieces of work for their community badge.

Student Leadership



Final meetings for the year have taken place.

Sports and clubs

Summer term after school sport clubs:



Day	Club	Year group
Monday	Cheer	All
Tuesday	Cricket	All
Tuesday	Tennis/Pickleball	All
Wednesday	Cheer	All
Thursday	Rounders	All
Friday	Athletics	KS3/4
Friday	Trampolining	All years



The Astro rota is under constant review as we want all participants to have a safe experience:

Week A

Monday	Year 8	Year 9	Year 11
Tuesday	Year 7	Year 10	
Wednesday	Year 8	Year 9	Year 11
Thursday	Year 7	Year 10	
Friday	Year 8	Year 9	Year 11



The MUGA (Multi Use Games Area): The MUGA is for basketball use only for safety reasons. However, a number of students are currently using footballs, often switching between football and basketball when challenged. To ensure clarity and consistency for both students and staff, only **basketballs** will be allowed on the MUGA moving forward. Ms Ogunseye



Lunchtime Clubs

Lunchtime clubs for week A with more in the pipeline. **We are still waiting to hear about funding for more table tennis tables!**

Week A	Indoor Clubs	Outdoor Clubs
Monday	KS4 Table Tennis (Mr Bevan)	- Basketball (Mr Brett) - Astro Football: KS3
Tuesday	Board Games (Ms Alagoa, G4)	Astro Football: KS4
Wednesday	- Music Club (Mrs Erwee, G6) - KS4 Debate Club (Mr G, G4) - Drama Club (Mr Baptist, G8)	Astro Football: KS3
Thursday	- Music Club (Mrs Erwee, G6) - KS3 Movie Club (Ms Manuel, S15) - French & Spanish Club (Mr Ble & Miss Thomas, G4) - KS4 Table Tennis (Mr Bevan) - Diversity Club (Ms Rose, F5)	Astro Football: KS4
Friday	- KS3 Table Tennis (Mr Brett, Activity Studio) - KS3 Daley Creators (Ms Daley, G5)	Astro Football: KS3

Safeguarding spotlight

Pastoral Director Ms Waterhouse:

Everyone's invited!

At Quest, we are proud to be part of the Magic Breakfast scheme, providing all students with **free breakfast every morning**. Students can attend school from 8am, and are offered bagels, toast, crumpets and cereal to set them up for the day.



All students should be eating lunch, whether that is provided by the school or a packed lunch brought in from home.

Magic breakfast is available for all from 8am

Anti-bullying

The Quest Anti-bullying ambassadors: Thank you to all our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors who have produced these posters for around the school and are presenting to the new year 7 this Friday. They have also come up with the plan to have 2 Antibullying Ambassadors attached to each Year 7 tutor group in September. Great idea.



SEND Spotlight!

The team have been completing flyers to share with parents and staff giving information about all the intervention they run in our Hive provision. These will be shared in due course.

Changing the vocab! Many of our children, especially those with SEND currently have a “key worker”. As a team we felt that this term needs updating to reflect what we do. So, we are going to change to use the term “Champion” as we feel that reflects how we work with our students to help them be the best they can be.



Parental Voice!

Thank you for continued feedback: **Please let us know of achievements of students outside Quest so we can celebrate them.**

Smart phones! Thankyou to those of you who took part in our parental survey on smartphones and the up coming new government legislation.

Giving the Day Back: The Quest Academy's Smartphone-Free Proposal

Quest Academy proposes a smartphone-free environment for Years 7–11. This evidence-based shift aims to eliminate “brain drain,” reduce mental health risks, and ensure the school day belongs fully to student learning and human connection.

The Case for a Phone-Free Day

The “Brain Drain” Effect
Even a silent phone in a pocket significantly reduces a student's cognitive capacity.

14.5% Boost in Achievement
Smartphone bans improve academic performance most significantly for the lowest-achieving students.

14.5%

A Crisis of Wellbeing
Longitudinal evidence links ubiquitous smartphone use to sharp increases in adolescent anxiety and depression.

The Safer Way Forward

The Smartphone-Free Policy
No smartphones or smartwatches are permitted on the school site for Years 7–11.

Safer Journey Alternatives
Basic “brick” phones and GPS trackers are cheaper and lower the risk of theft.

Firm Legal Foundation
The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 requires schools to be phone-free environments.

Comparison of School Phone Management Strategies

Off & Out of Sight	Lockable Case Systems	Smartphone-Free (Recommended)
Strengths Familiar to families Limitations Does not address social media harms during break times.	Strengths Physically inaccessible Limitations High cost, logistical complexity, and students often find workarounds.	Strengths Maximum cognitive benefit Limitations Requires clear communication and support for families regarding travel safety.
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Ms Dean our deputy who is leading on, this says that we see that location tracking and being able to communicate while travelling to and from school is clearly important to you. Considering this there are suggestions on cheaper and safer alternatives to smartphones. This is the website Ms Dean strongly suggest parents visit: [Smartphone Free Childhood](#) with this [90s-video-shop](#) particularly powerful.

Parent requests:

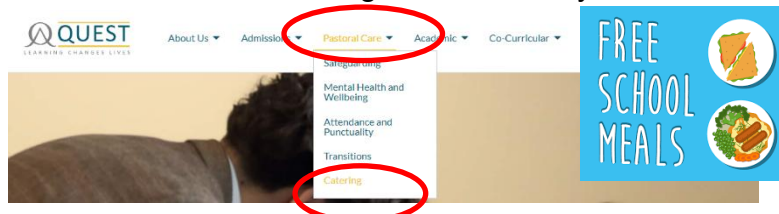
Regarding requests about preloved uniform.

The Academy does have a limited supply of second-hand uniform items. We can help families by providing them with items of pre-loved uniform such as blazers, jumpers and PE kits. Anyone is welcome to donate pre-loved uniform or collect anything they need, subject to availability.

Pre-loved uniform is available throughout the school year. Please contact the Academy's Pastoral team by telephone or email at inclusion@thequestacademy.org.uk with requests for uniform items, or to donate and items. This link is also on the Website.



Free School Meals: provide eligible children with nutritious meals during the school day, supporting their health, learning, and wellbeing. More information on applying for Free School Meals and menus can be found on our website under the "Pastoral Care" tab then select "catering".



Brain Gym!

Thanks to **Year 8** for jokes this week!

What do penguins wear to the beach?

Flipper-flops!

Why did the chicken join a band?
Because it had the drumsticks.



Who is who? At Quest.

Parents raised they were aware of staff changes but would really like to know who is who?

Mr Crofts – Executive Principal

Ms Ogunseye – Deputy Principal

Ms Dean – Deputy Principal

Ms Sami – Deputy Principal (Safeguarding Lead)

Year teams:

Year	Head of Year	Assistant Principal attached
Year 12 /13	Ms Lawmann	Ms Thomas
Year 11	Ms Southworth	Mr Henry
Year 10	Mr Falaiye	Mr Houghton
Year 9	Mr Wilder	Mr Frith
Year 8	Ms Millar	Mr Frith
Year 7	Mr Brett	Ms Chenery

Attendance

Ms Boylan is launching a new initiative, the **Quest 8 Challenge with Year 8**. The initiative is designed to improve attendance through a friendly competition between tutor groups.

Each week, tutor groups will compete to achieve the **most improved attendance**, with the winning tutor group receiving a prize every Friday. We will also be recognising **Quest 8 Star Students** who achieve 100% attendance during the week. Due to the remote learning this week, more will be reported in the future.

What is The Quest 8 Challenge?



The Quest 8 Challenge is a competition between all **Year 8** tutor groups to improve attendance and be in school every day.



By attending regularly, you help your tutor group earn rewards and recognition.

Dates for the Diary and other upcoming events

Week Beginning 6th July 2026: (Week A) the focus this week is Recognition and Review of the year. Assemblies will be held by heads of year. Summer uniform is in place:

Heads up of things coming up from our calendar:

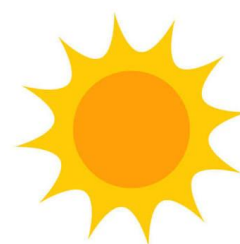


7th July - **Year 7** and **Year 8** Celebration evening

8th July - **Year 9** and **Year 10** Celebration evening

16th July is ACADEMY DAY – please see emails about booking trips.

17th July is our Culture Day and final day of the academic year. **The academy closes at 1pm.**



Term Dates 2025 / 2026

SUMMER TERM 2026 **Monday 13th April 2026 – Friday 17th July 2026**

End of Summer Term – Friday 17th July (**last day finish at 1pm**)

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

More from The Quest next week Ms G Chenery



NEXT WEEK 6th July 2026 is WEEK A