



# The Quest Connect!

10.07.2026

Issue number 27

Assistant Principal: G Chenery

## Headlines

Our penultimate week and despite the rise in temperatures again there has still been a lot happening. Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition to the New Forest with **Year 10**, 100% Attendance celebration lunches and Achievement celebration events.

## Celebrations and Events!

The bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition took place Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> last week. The students were amazing! The weather was



good although quite warm and we had to ensure that students had water as they walked their routes. The first day students had a warmup hike on one of 5 different routes. They then had to set up their camps and then cook for themselves. After a night camping (it was dry but did drop a little chilly) they had to prepare



their breakfast, pack up their camps into their back packs and prepare their routes using their map reading skills. They completed their second assessed route, keeping together in teams before we all met back at camp and awaited the coach home. They did themselves proud. Thanks to Ms Rose for all her dedication throughout the year to get students ready for this and to Mr Garlick, Mr Spector and Ms Iwo for supporting students.

We are so lucky to be able to offer this experience to our students. **Year 9 students** can choose this as an enrichment option as well after school.



### Awards evenings:

These took place on Tuesday (**Year 7** and **8**) and Wednesday (**Years 9** and **10**) this week, celebrating students selected by subject leads and one tutee of each group. It is always very hard for staff to choose as we have so many wonderful students, so well done to you if you were nominated. We were treated to some amazing performers, **Gabriela and Isaiah (Year 9)** on the piano and our wonderful Quest Choir singing "**Someone to lean on**" and "**Thank you for the music**". Thank you Ms Erwee for arranging.

"Thank you to you and the entire Quest team for the wonderful KS4 Awards Evening. We thoroughly enjoyed seeing so many young people recognised and celebrated for their hard work and achievements."

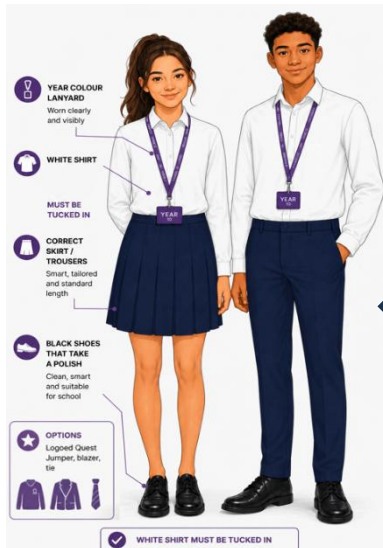
Thanks to Mr G for his piano accompaniment on the first night. Thank you also to the parents who we so supportive on the night and also were kind enough to email us: here are a couple of the comments, which we really appreciated. Thanks to Ms Thomas for her organisation and Ms Sami for comparing night two.



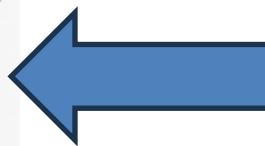
**100% Attendance lunches:** were held this week with Mr Henry where students received a badge, a certificate and free chicken and wedges and an ice cream if they had been in everyday this half term.  
**Year 7 - 44 students, Year 8 - 45 students**  
**Year 9 - 39 students Year 10 - 43 students** who took part.



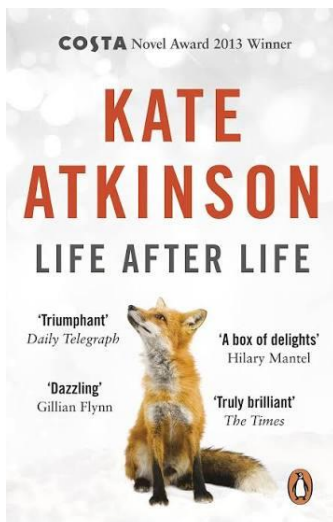
Lunch rota for next week **Year 8** are in first.



Thank you all for your support with the summer uniform. Students have remained smart and cool!



## Quest Regular Readers:



This week the **"Quest regular reader"** this week is **Tabitha J (Year 9)**: Reading "Life after Life" by Kate Atkinson.

*"Life after life" is a unique and constantly surprising view of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century with spectacular philosophical insights embedded into the text. I thoroughly enjoyed it and recommend it if you like history and strong perspectives."*

Tabitha J (Year 9)

What are you reading?

### 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.



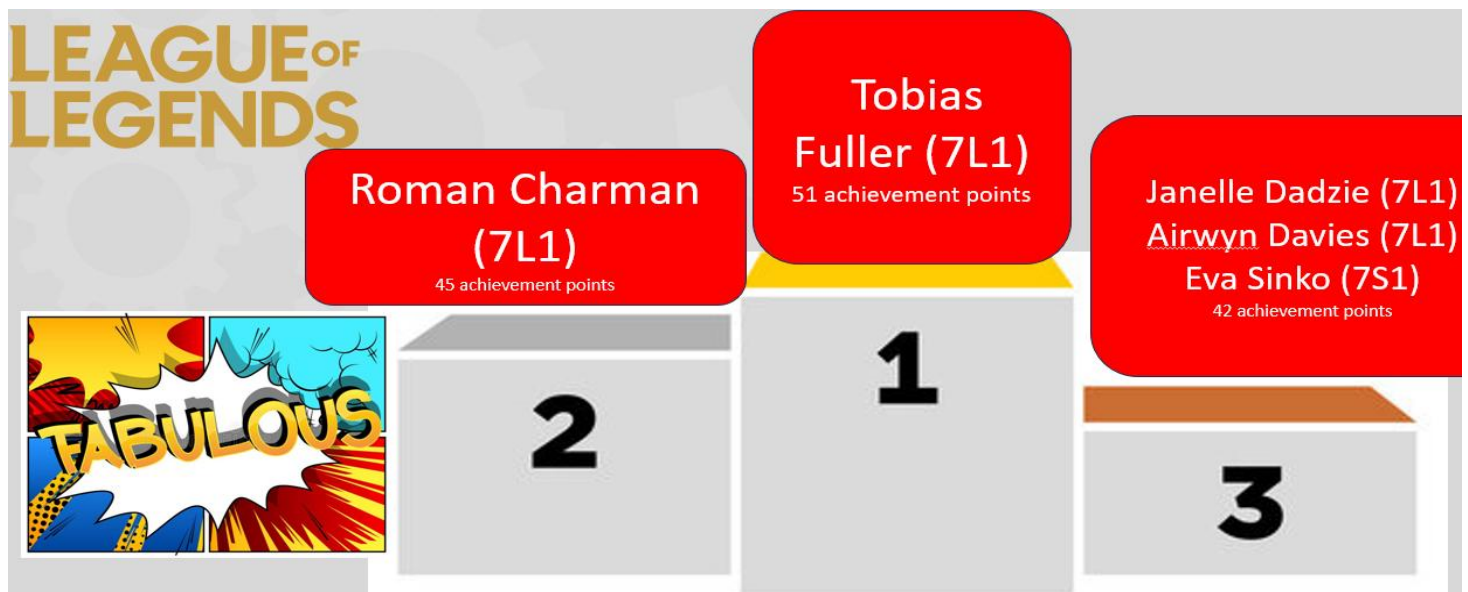
## Achievement Leaders

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!!** Ms Sami's "League of Legends" This week is quite a Year 7 clean sweep!! Massive well done to these students.



**Michael, Jake and Evie who presented to Governors as the Quest Assembly, student leadership team.**

**All those performing on culture day and have been practising hard.**

**Silver Duke of Edinburgh (Year 10)**

**Jacob Year 9: providing Jokes!**

**Tabitha Year 9 as Quest Reader this week**



# Student Leadership



Final meetings for the year have taken place and my thanks to Michael, Evie and Jake who presented to our Governors this week on the work of the Quest Assembly this year.

## 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:

|           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| Monday    | Year 8  |
| Tuesday   | Year 9  |
| Wednesday | Year 10 |
| Thursday  | Year 7  |
| Friday    | Year 8  |



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



## 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

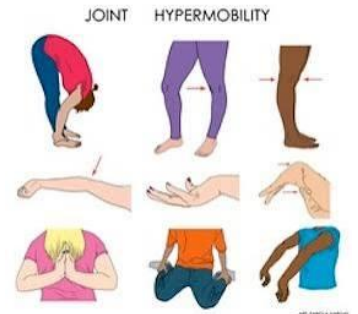


The Quest Anti-bullying ambassadors: Thank you to all our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors who have produced these posters for around the school and are presenting to the new year 7 this Friday. They have also come up with the plan to have 2 Antibullying Ambassadors attached to each Year 7 tutor group in September.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



## SEND Spotlight!

Hypermobility (better known as “double-jointedness”) is when a child’s joints move beyond the typical range, due to more flexible connective tissues. While many children with hypermobility experience no difficulties, others may have symptoms such as joint pain, frequent sprains, fatigue, poor coordination, or difficulties with handwriting and sitting posture. You might notice your child tires easily during physical activities, struggles to sit still comfortably, or complains of aching legs after school. Supporting a child with hypermobility can include encouraging low-impact exercise (like swimming), ensuring good posture, and using supportive seating or pencil grips where needed. If you have any concerns, speak with the SENCO.



Sites that explore hypermobility in greater depth are:

[www.reframingautism.org.uk](http://www.reframingautism.org.uk)

[www.bendybrain.org.uk](http://www.bendybrain.org.uk)

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

## 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.
- 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)                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                               |                                                                                              |                                                                                                      |
| <b>Strengths</b><br>Familiar to families                                      | <b>Strengths</b><br>Physically inaccessible                                                  | <b>Strengths</b><br>Maximum cognitive benefit                                                        |
| <b>Limitations</b><br>Does not address social media harms during break times. | <b>Limitations</b><br>High cost, logistical complexity, and students often find workarounds. | <b>Limitations</b><br>Requires clear communication and support for families regarding travel safety. |

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](https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/) with this [90s-video-shop](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=90s-video-shop) particularly powerful.

## Parent requests:

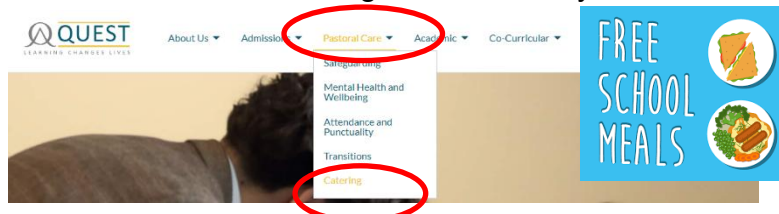
Regarding requests about preloved uniform.

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](mailto: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 9** for jokes this week!

What do you call a man with a shovel on his head?

Doug!

What do you call a man with a seagull on his head?

Cliff!



## 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 13th July 2026: (Week B)** Our final week in this academic year. There are no assemblies due to our sports day, Academy day and Culture day.

### Culture Day: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Our Culture Day is a celebration of the rich diversity that makes our school community unique. As a secondary school in Croydon, we are privileged to welcome students, families and staff from a wide range of cultural, linguistic and religious backgrounds.



This event provides an opportunity to recognise, celebrate and learn from one another, reinforcing the message that every individual belongs and every culture has value.

The event also supports our school's commitment to promoting equality, inclusion and mutual respect. It reflects the fundamental British values of respect and tolerance and helps prepare students to become thoughtful, responsible citizens who can thrive in a multicultural society. Through meaningful participation, students develop confidence, strengthen relationships and build a greater sense of belonging within the school.

Culture Day is more than a celebration—it is an educational experience that promotes dialogue, challenges stereotypes and creates lasting memories. It reminds us that while we all come from different backgrounds, we are united by our shared commitment to learning, kindness and respect. By celebrating our differences, we strengthen our community and reaffirm our belief that diversity is one of our greatest strengths.

We hope that this event inspires every member of our school community to embrace the values of inclusion, understanding and collaboration, ensuring that our school remains a place where every student feels seen, valued and empowered to succeed.

- **Students are invited to wear traditional cultural wear**
- **Wear colours that represent country flags**

### THIS IS NOT A MUFTI DAY

**If students do not want to participate with the change of dress, they are permitted to wear their PE kit.**

### **Heads up of things coming up from our calendar:**

15<sup>th</sup> July – **Sports day: please ensure students have sun cream and a hat as well as a drinks bottle. STUDENTS WEAR THEIR PE KITS to school: Quest Kit only not own PE. Please look for email from Mr Bevan regarding this.**



16<sup>th</sup> July is ACADEMY DAY – please see emails about booking trips and email Mr Bevan with any questions. If not trips have been booked students are still expected on site in uniform as usual.

17<sup>th</sup> July is our Culture Day and final day of the academic year. (see above)

**The academy closes by 1pm (12:30pm for students)**

## **Term Dates 2025 / 2026**

SUMMER TERM 2026 **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

End of Summer Term – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July **(last day finish by 12:30pm)**

Summer Holiday – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August

**More from The Quest next week Ms G Chenery**



**NEXT WEEK 13th July 2026 is WEEK B**