



The Quest Connect!

17.07.2026

Issue number 28

Assistant Principal: G Chenery

Headlines

We have completed the year, but this final academic week has been packed with activities. Our very successful Year 12 induction day, Sports Day, 3rd Academy Day and finally today our Culture Day. This has been my first year at Quest and I reflect back over the year and have enjoyed seeing our students grow in confidence and all their achievements. They are truly wonderful. I wish you all a safe break and look forward to seeing students back on Thursday 3rd September. (new year 7 and Year 12 are on the 2nd September).

An apology: We are sorry that the Sports day overran, leading to some concern from parents. This was due to some speaker issues meaning students couldn't hear their events being called so caused delays, we are sorry this led to some worry on parents' behalf. This was never our intention.



Celebrations and Events!



Our Year 11 had their long awaited prom last Friday 10th July. This was a wonderful event at the Croydon Aerodrome Hotel. Students arrived in style from Maseratis to Minis! They dresses were beautiful, some sewn by immensely talent parents. We all felt so proud of this year group and how amazingly grown up they looked. This was a wonderful evening of laughter and friendship. Thankyou class of 2026 and to Mr Henry and Ms Ogunseye for organising.

As we were witness to this chapter closing we said a big **"Hello and Welcome!"** to the



year group on Monday 13th July as they attended our Quest 6 induction day alongside a number of external candidates. Students met tutors and undertook team building exercises. We look forward to seeing them in September.

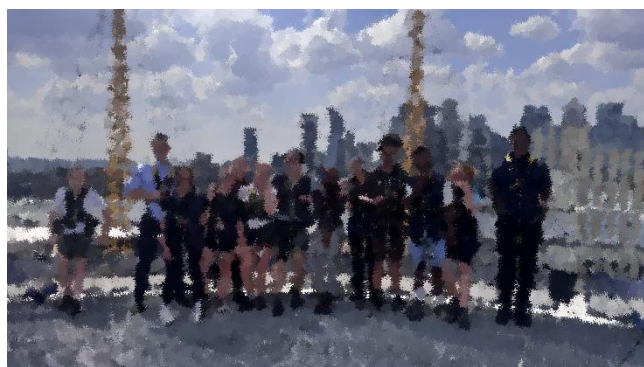
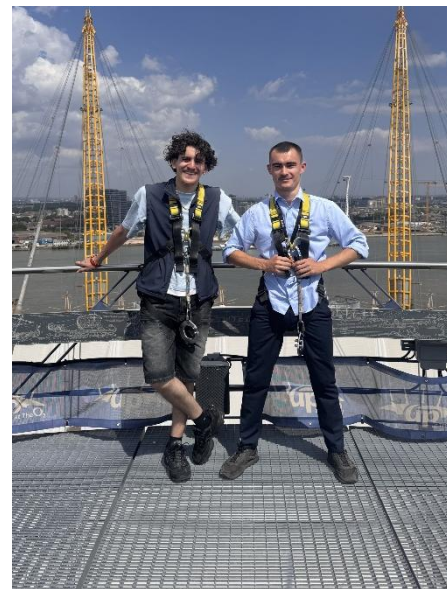
Sports Day 2026: This was on Wednesday this week. After many rounds of activities from chess to cheerleading, rounders to relay the results were very close: with **Hilary House** emerging the final victors! Well done **Hilary!** Thanks to all the students who showed not only skill, but sportsmanship. I was with Shackleton house who were lovely to spend time with.



Academy day 16th July 2026:

This saw over 16 trips going out from Quest, ranging from Climbing the O2 to Castles, Skiing to Sealife Centre. Thankyou for your support and completing permission forms in a timely manner as this avoided any disappointments. When students say how much they have enjoyed their day it makes all the organisation worth it!

"You should all be incredibly proud of yourselves. Throughout the day, your behaviour was outstanding and you represented The Quest Academy brilliantly. It was fantastic to see the way you encouraged and supported one another, helping your friends every step of the way. Most importantly, many of you faced your fears and conquered them, showing real courage, resilience and determination." Mr Pace and Mr Garlick



Students at the Sealife Centre was amazing and enjoyed get so close up to sharks, turtles and other wildlife. We even managed a little detour to see Parliament! They were a joy to be with, thankyou Ms Chenery

I know Mr Boundy had a great day with Year 7 at Pevensey Castle, Mr Thomas was loving Dover Castle with years 9 and 10, Ms Zami commented how amazing her group of Year at Frylands were. At time of typing Lego land trips were still making their way home, but I know the Golf, skiing, flipout, Hangloose, Brighton, Chessington trips etc will all have their exciting stories to share.

Culture Day:

Our students have worked so hard on this and brought us an amazing showcase of talent and culture and is such an important part of what Quest stands for. We are united in our differences.



Saying goodbye to colleagues:

Finally a massive thankyou to all the staff and those who are moving on this year, to promotions and new locations we really wish you all the best and thankyou for all you have done for Quest. It's always sad to see people leave, but we wish them all the very best.

Quest Regular Readers:

This week the "Quest regular reader" this week is **Faith H (Year 8)**: "Summer I turned Pretty" by Jenny Han.



This book is about a teenage girl who is stuck in a love triangle with her mothers best friends sons. She would for and stay with them every summer, until this summer where her mothers best friend is diagnosed with cancer. Meanwhile the main character Belly is finally being seen as more than a "little sister" to her. I especially enjoyed this book as it always keeps you on your toes with the love triangle growing problems while also trying to have the best summer on the cousin's beach. Overall this book is very addictive an mainly directed at 12-16 year olds. I personally loved this book and would recommend it to anyone who enjoys romance books. Faith H Year 8

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

Shout outs!!

All the Culture Day Dancers

Faith Year 8 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

Sports day covered in this week's sporting story and less said about football at the moment the better (too soon).

Safeguarding spotlight

Please be safe over the summer: if you are worried about anything please email our safeguarding team on: dsl@thequestacademy.org.uk

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. They have also come up with the plan to have 2 Antibullying Ambassadors attached to each Year 7 tutor group in September. Great idea.



Brain Gym!

Thanks to **Year 9** for jokes this week!

What do you call a bear with no ears?

A "B!"

Why did a scarecrow win a Nobel prize?

He was outstanding in his field!



SEND Spotlight!

Here is a flyer if some great family fun things that might be useful over the break.

FREE Family Fun!

• Workshops from 4th August •

Keep the kids busy this Summer

Fun and Free! For parents, carers and children over 3 (unless stated), this is an amazing opportunity to create and learn in a nurturing and inclusive setting. **Come and get involved!**

Craft & Sew • DIY Squishy
Nature Art • Drama • Dance
Comics & Manga • Den Building

...and loads more!
Teddy Bear Crafts • The Joy of Reading & Playing
Mindful Monkeys • Bags & Badges
Nature Crowns • Wilderness Journey Sticks

Croydon Clocktower: 4, 7, 12 August
MHA Wilderness Garden (Shirley): 11, 13 August

To book your places, scan the QR, pop in to one of our centres or email:
familylearning3@croydon.gov.uk
www.calat.ac.uk/free-summer-fun

Croydon Adult Learning And Training

Parental Voice!

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

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.

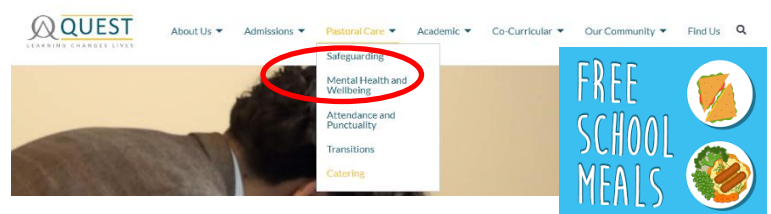


Free School Meals: provide eligible children with nutritious meals during the school day, supporting their health, learning, and wellbeing.

More information on applying for Free School Meals and menus can be found on our website under the "Pastoral Care" tab then select "catering".

Smart phones! Thankyou to those of you who took part in our parental survey on smartphones and the upcoming new government legislation. Lets make sure we are Ready for September:

Ms Dean has sent several communications regarding alternatives etc.



Smartphone-Free School

Information for parents and carers

In short: from 1 September 2026, The Quest Academy is a smartphone-free school. Students in Years 7 to 11 do not bring a smartphone or smartwatch into school at all. This document explains why we have made this change, how it works day to day, the sanctions that apply, and answers to the questions parents ask us most.

To be clear about what this covers: by smartphone we mean any internet-enabled mobile phone or device with a touchscreen that can access the internet and social media, run apps, and take photos and videos, such as an iPhone or an Android phone; it also includes smartwatches with the same functions. A 'dumb' phone (a basic handset with no internet access, camera or apps, used only for calls and texts) is not a smartphone under this definition, but is treated identically if it is seen or heard during the school day.

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.

Who is who? At Quest.

There will be some changes to year groups in September, so here it is!

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	Mr Henry
Year 11	Ms Morgan	Mr Henry
Year 10	Mr Wilder	Mr Frith
Year 9	Ms Southworth	Mr Houghton
Year 8	Mr Brett	Ms Chenery
Year 7	Mr Falaiye	Ms Thomas

TIE EXCHANGE: A new tie will be issued on return in September, and please return the old ones. Thankyou.

Attendance

Last week attendance remained high and over all we as a school were doing well. Thankyou for all you have done this year to help with this.

Attendance this week: Tutor Groups

7H1	7H2	7L1	7L2	7S1	7S2
94.21%	92.86%	93.81%	93%	89.58%	100%

8H1	8H2	8L1	8L2	8S1	8S2
91.25%	91.25%	92%	97%	87.62%	88.5%

9H1	9H2	9L1	9L2	9S1	9S2
94.83%	89.29%	98.28%	90.69%	91.74%	92.59%

10H1	10H2	10L1	10L2	10S1	10S2
82.76%	95.36%	88.21%	83.7%	87.54%	80.36%

12.1	12.2
80.62%	80.67%

Dates for the Diary and other upcoming events

Week Beginning 31st August (week A) please see below for start times.

Term Dates 2026 / 2027

To help you plan here are the term dates: I will add parents' evenings etc in next year's Quest Connect.

Start of Autumn Term:	Tuesday 1st September 2026 (Staff Only) Wednesday 2nd September 2026 (New Year 7 and Year 12 Students only) Thursday 3 rd September ALL students return. Glass gates open at 8am
Half Term Holiday:	Monday 19th October 2026 – Friday 30th October 2026
End of Autumn Term:	Friday 18th December 2026 (Early finish)
Christmas Holiday:	Monday 21st December 2026 – Friday 1st January 2027
Start of Spring Term:	Monday 4th January 2027
Half Term Holiday:	Monday 15th February 2027 – Friday 19th February 2027
End of Spring Term:	Thursday 25th March 2027
Easter Holiday:	Friday 26th March 2027 – Friday 9th April 2027
Start of Summer Term:	Monday 12th April 2027
May Bank Holiday:	Monday 3rd May 2027
Half Term Holiday:	Monday 31st May 2027 – Friday 4th June 2027

End of Summer Term: Wednesday 21st July 2027 (Early finish)

Summer Holiday: Thursday 22nd July 2027 – Tuesday 31st August 2027

Academy Days: 16th October 2026
25th March 2027
20th July 2027

More from The Quest in September Ms G Chenery.

I wish you and your families a safe and restful summer.

NEXT SCHOOL WEEK 3rd September 2026 is WEEK A

