

QHS Newsletter

Spring Half Term 2017



QUINTON HOUSE SCHOOL

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Dear Parents

It is hard to believe that we are already half way through the academic year. It seems no time at all since we started the year back in September and this half term in particular has just flown by. It is either because I am getting older or that the busyness of being in a school, being surrounded by young people and so much activity that just makes the time go so fast. I'm going for the later.

This half term is often one for exciting weather. There have been days with bright sunshine and blue skies but we have also had fog so thick that we couldn't see down the drive, mornings so cold that frost seemed to have covered every blade of grass, days so wet that we wondered where the sun had gone and let's not forget that for just a few hours we had snow.



This half term has been equally exciting in terms of what has happened in the school and we hope that this new style newsletter will give you just a flavour of our activity during what has been just a few weeks. We wanted to show you what has been happening across the whole school, as we are one school, one community on one site, so we felt we should have one newsletter. Please do also keep an eye on the school's website and our twitter feed for up to date news during the term.

News from Nursery

It has been a busy half term in nursery again with lots of visitors dropping in! At the end of January we had the Chinese students from the Senior School come to Nursery to help make decorations for the Chinese New Year celebrations. We met Cindy and Emily (year 9), Charlie and Leo (year 10), Darlene and Jinhao (year 11) and Jing (year 13).



We have also been out and about this half term. The Children loved our walk around the school looking for transport. We found lots of different vehicles but we still haven't seen Mark's Tractor! The children took the photos themselves on the Ipads. We then looked at them and talked about what we had seen when we returned to Nursery. "This car might have broken down" - Bertie commenting on a car on a recovery truck. "From the pedals" - Dylan telling everyone how bicycles get power.



We also had to say good bye to Mr Davies this half term. We have been saying our fond farewells by writing our names on his chef's uniform for him to keep forever. We will miss all the lovely meals that Mr Davies has prepared for us over the years but even more we will miss our favourite story being read by him which has become something of a tradition in Nursery.

QR Out and About and Getting Artistic



We started the term by learning about Winter and discussed the signs of Winter during a walk around the school grounds. Children talked about the trees losing their leaves, the weather getting colder and animals hibernating. In literacy we wrote about what we had seen during the walk. We enjoyed making bird feeders and have hung them on the tree outside the classroom window so we can watch for visitors. Children also played in the new igloo role play area which is home to Penguin. However, during week 2 we returned from playtime to find a trail of snowy footprints across the classroom, which led outside. We then noticed a letter in the igloo, which explained that Penguin had gone off to Penguin School and he asked us to write to him. Children were very keen to write letters to him and to make maps to show his journey. I am pleased to report that Penguin has now returned to the igloo and the children were very excited to see him.



Reception then celebrated Chinese New Year. Children enjoyed learning facts about China and identifying some of the similarities and differences between their traditions and ours. We enjoyed the 'Great Race' story and learning about how each year is named after a different animal. We concluded our celebrations by performing a traditional dragon and ribbon dance in the courtyard.



Over the last two weeks we have been learning about artists. We have been experimenting with colour mixing and making our own paint brushes using objects from the classroom to create different marks. Children have also been learning that artists can use different media to create a masterpiece. We looked at portraits by David Hockney who used photographs and children made their own portraits by layering up photographs of themselves. We also looked at natural art by Andy Goldsworthy. Children collected stones, sticks and leaves in the woods to create their own work.

As you are aware Mrs Swallow will be starting her maternity leave shortly. I would like to thank her for her hard work and wish her well at this exciting time. During Mrs Swallow's absence Mrs Duncan will be working in Reception on Thursdays and Fridays.

Q3 Get Hands-On with Forces!

This term Q3 have been learning about Forces. They have really enjoyed learning about how to measure gravity and got soaking wet during an investigation whilst trying to defy gravity. The children had to fill a cup with water, place a piece of card over the top of the cup and then turn it upside down hoping that the card and the water would not fall to the ground. We also really enjoyed seeing you on the 9th February at our class assembly on Forces.



Q4 Perform Exciting Science Experiments

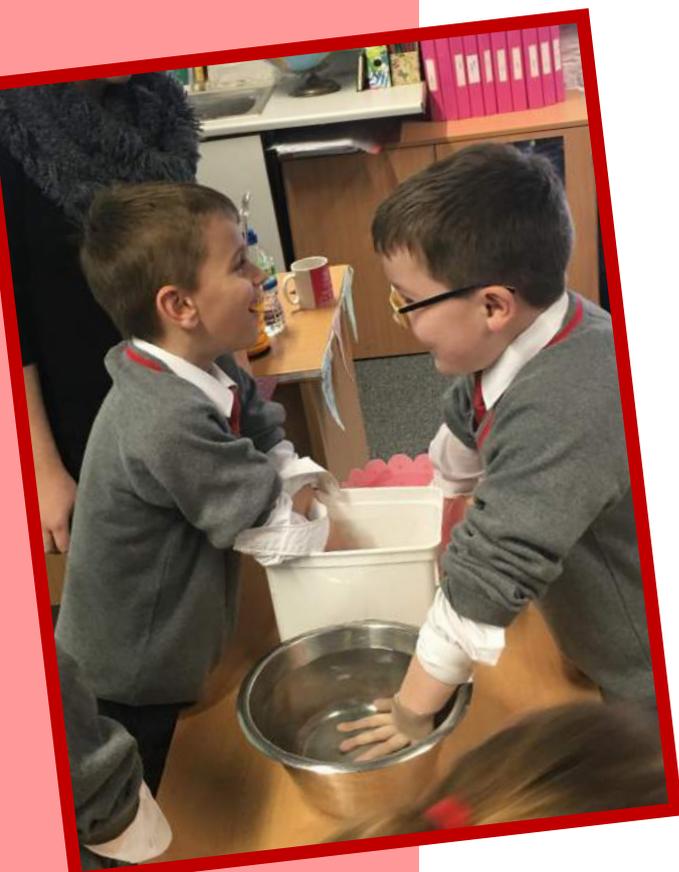


Q4DH have been very busy learning about solids, liquids and gases. To begin with, the children had to find out how the particles are formed depending on which state of matter they belonged to. They investigated whether a solid can be a liquid at the same time by conducting a Non-Newtonian experiment.

Miss Howard says, “We had to mix lots of cornflour with water until it became a slime. When we touched the slime we expected it to splash everywhere, however the liquid gloop turned into a solid! We found out that this is because the particles act differently depending on how much force you apply to them. When we rested our fingers on the mixture they sank down, when we tilted the mixture it ran, but when we hit the mixture it was hard!”

The children also tested to see if their bodies are a good measure of temperature. They particularly enjoyed the experiment to see how long it would take for a chocolate button to melt on their tongue! And the results are in, if you don't chew the yummy chocolate, it takes roughly 1.5 minutes for the particles to vibrate enough so that they melt.

Q4DH have lots more experiments to come and Miss Howard cannot wait to test another hypothesis!



500 WORDS 2017



And here are some fantastic entries from the Junior School...

As I floated onto the London Midlands train, I stopped to look at the carriage. There were lime green seats, a plain blue damp wall and plain tray tables. I went to sit on one of the seats but just fell straight through... By India H

In a deep, dark forest with towering trees there was a gloomy building and that building was a train station. From the outside it looked unwelcoming and dark. On the inside it was quiet, so quiet you could hear a pin drop. The station was as cold as Antarctica! By Nicholas M

Squelch, squelch, squelch the gooey, sticky mud squelched under my now muddy feet. The place was so deserted, the only people I could see were the strange looking amusement attendants – and they freaked me out, it was like they had no soul, their eyes were full of blankness. There was nothing surrounding the place, it was so remote and isolated. The lights were like licking an ice cream, every time your tongue touched the ice cream the lights would flicker again...By Isabelle P

In the snowy white desert the snow is as fluffy as a woolly coat. There is nothing to see for thousands and millions of miles, the desert is huge as big as Russia. There are no trees, no food, no water, no shelter, it snows everyday 24/7. The temperature goes down to -246 degrees and can go up to -17 degrees, -17 is the warmest temperature they have ever had. Today it went down to -93 degrees. If you stepped into that world you would have a 90% chance of dying and a 10% chance of getting your whole body covered in frost bite.

You can't hear anything – only silence. By Finn S

I sat quietly squashed in the corner of the old, dusty train. I looked around the carriage and it seemed oddly familiar but I think that is because it's dark and smelly, just like London. It reminded me of the coal shed at the back of the workhouse where I worked, it had the same damp walls and dirty air. As the image outside became clearer I realised there were crowded rooftops stretching on for miles and miles. They were crowned with thick, black smoke and even though I am in the train it is filling my lungs so much that I feel that I am drowning.

Everywhere I can hear chit chat of people. I am surrounded by voices and yet I feel very alone! The train rattles, it chugs and echo's through my body like a volcano eruption. The smoking pipes of the men clambering on makes me remember Mr Pitts. The man I feared the most. The head of the workhouse. By Felicity H

500 WORDS

2017



Students participated in the BBC 500 Words Competition this year by creating their own stories with fantastic settings, characters and plots.

Here are just a few of the wonderful pieces of writing by our students...

I made a deal with her. But she used me. Twisted the deal and then never gave me my wish, but something far worse. She isolated me ...

She made harsh rules. I was so loyal to her that I let her do whatever was necessary. But she didn't treat me right. She didn't really care about me.

She put me down, killed my spirit, my relationships, my social life. Just because I had one desire.

The desire to be skinny.

So, this is the story of the struggles I faced due to the liar I thought was my friend ...

By Emily K, Year 8

One day in the grand city of London there was a cat who was known as Mr Meow. He skulks around in the night. It is rumoured you can hear the bellowing sounds of a cat at dusk.

It was an ordinary day when Mr Meow was in his secret base in the core of the world. His job was to defend the planet from aliens. He uses satellites to track anything about to penetrate the ozone layer. Then suddenly he got a signal that an unknown species of aliens had just arrived from the neighbouring galaxy of Andromeda...

By Joseph D, Year 7.

Midnight hit as footsteps were made...Number 21 Bodwell Lane was empty. No cars, no people and no light. It was always a mystery where Mr Wilt went at midnight...

Harriet's window looked over the graveyard. She was a dreamer which meant every night she would be found looking out the window. Occasionally she would see a silhouette of a man. Sometimes she wondered if it was Mr Wilt, then realised it just can't be, so she left the window and thought about who it must be... *By Naomi L, Year 7*

It's night. It's cold. A cool breeze drifts through my window and sends a shiver down my spine. I wake with a start. It's still night, I look at my alarm clock, it's three o'clock. I sink back into my bed. I look at the window, it's open, I need to close it. I reluctantly lift myself out of bed and walk to the window. I look out the window for a bit; I see stars glowing, bright and beautiful, but one glowed brighter and stronger, then I realised... it was moving.

By Luke C, Year 8.

Like a bolt of lightning the train moved, the smoke funnelled out like a graceful dancer in the wind of a cold winter's night.

His gun relentless, his hands bled; the sleep deprived nights catching up to him but he didn't feel tired. There was no room for error, no mistakes!

Guilty - it's a strong word with many meanings, a word for beginnings and a nasty excuse for an end, it was his fault he's dead and guilt was the only word to describe the teary emotions that devoured his once charismatic and likeable person...

By Luke W, Year 8.

Quinton Music



This term we have seen the re-introduction of the school Orchestra. Mr White is doing a fantastic job of custom writing parts for whoever would like to come along, be it trombone, clarinet, percussion or even bass guitar. It doesn't matter what level you are either, from just starting out to Grade 7. It's great to hear pupils having fun making music together and the version of 'Uptown Funk' that I heard them playing was fantastic. If you play any instrument in or out of school then you are welcome to join us on a Wednesday at 4pm in the Ballroom.

Aladdin

On Thursday 19th January 83 Q8 and Q9 pupils visited London's West End to watch the Disney production of Aladdin. Tickets have been hard to come by and we were extremely lucky to be able to get so many. The production was amazing and showed so well how music can be used to enhance plays and films. We had great comments from the pupils and are now wondering which production to see next year!

A Pupil's View

'We had a great time going to see Aladdin. It was so good to go to the West End as this is where the best plays and musicals are shown. The show was amazing and really funny in places. All we want to know now is what are we going to see next year.'



Music Clubs



Monday – Keyboard Group & Rock Band

Tuesday – Music Theory, African Drumming, Beginners Brass Group, Jazz Group

Wednesday – Little Quinton Singers, Orchestra, Recorders

Thursday – Quinton Quintet, Quinton Singers, Woodwind Ensemble

Friday – Recital Club

Please don't forget that all those taking music lessons in school time should also be part of a school club.

Drumming Lessons

There are spaces available at the moment with the drum kit teacher. Anyone wanting to learn please see Miss Stone or contact her on joanna.stone@quintonhouseschool.co.uk.

Young Voices

On Wednesday 26th January we were able to take Q5 and Q6 plus some choir members to Young Voices in Birmingham. The concert is a mass choir made up of pupils and their teachers and this year on our date there were 6668 singers in the choir. We all had an amazing time singing and dancing in front of the 8000 strong audience and watching the amazing talents of the soloists, including the World Beatbox champions.

A Parent's View:

'It was such a good feeling to watch my son having such a great fun time so thank you so much for that and memories he will never forget.'



GCSE Grades are Changing

GCSEs in England are being reformed and will be graded with a new scale from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade. English literature, English language and maths will be the first subjects to be graded in this way from August 2017. The subjects with the highest numbers of candidates (e.g. arts, humanities, languages) will follow in 2018 and most others in 2019. During this transition, students will receive a mixture of letter and number grades. This is happening as GCSEs are being reformed to make them more challenging, to keep pace with employers' and universities demands. In the first year each new GCSE subject is introduced, students who would have got a grade C or better will get a grade 4 or better. Grade 9 will be more difficult to achieve than a grade A*. To see how the numbered grades compare to the current A* to G system, visit www.quintonhouseschool.co.uk/gcse-grades-changing/ or Google "ofqual 9 to 1 postcard".



Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	A
7	A
6	B
5	B
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
1	G
U	U

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above

U16 Netball Team Qualifies for Nationals!

The results were as follows:

Loughborough 12-2
Spalding 10-3
Queen Elizabeth 13-3
Ockbrook 11-5
Oakham 13-0
West bridgeford 8-1
Nottingham Girls High School- 6-4
Ecclesford 12-4
Oundle lost 9-6

The girls have done it! They've qualified for the nationals!

The team involved in the regional netball tournament were as follows:

Holly W (captain), Ashleigh I, Eve W, Melissa R, Sophie H, Tabitha B, Libby S, Millie W, Jess H

Overall QHS came 2nd in the East Midlands and qualified through to the England Netball National School Finals on Saturday 18th March, in Welwyn Garden City.

We've set up a web page where you can follow the girls' progress on their journey to the finals—

www.quintonhouseschool.co.uk/netball

You can also see a video of the very special moment they qualified! Well done team!



GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition—Pasta Making!

The Year 10 Food students have been busy developing new practical skills as part of their GCSE course. So far they have mastered skills such as bread, pastry, biscuits, mayonnaise and hollandaise sauces and recently they have had lots of fun making pasta.

They started with a basic fresh pasta dough which was turned into spaghetti and this week we attempted Tortellini which was time consuming but enjoyable.

If any Year 9 students are thinking about this GCSE as one of their options next year, please come and speak to me at the Options Evening in March. Mrs Jeffery





National Citizen Service for Yr 11 & 12

We are delighted to have partnered with **National Citizen Service**, a government funded programme for 15 -17 year olds. This is something we as a school are excited to be a part of, as we see the positive impact NCS has on young people and their personal development. We would highly recommend this unique and valuable opportunity, and hope you too will encourage your son/daughter to take part as appropriate.

What is National Citizen Service (NCS)?

NCS is a once in a life time opportunity for 15 – 17 year olds in Year 11 and Year 12 and allows young people to develop the tools, skills and belief to unlock their potential and make a positive impact in their community.

NCS takes place during the summer holidays and is being offered on a first come first serve basis. Each place on the programme is valued at more than £1,200; however due to government funding the programme will cost you no more than £50. This £50 includes all transport, food and accommodation whilst away with NCS.

The NCS programme breaks down into four action packed weeks:

Phase One – (Mon-Fri) This is a residential week and takes place at one of the best outdoor activity centres in the country, young people will participate in a week of team challenges such as rock climbing, kayaking and archery.

Phase Two – (Mon-Fri) This residential week young people will get the opportunity to live away from home in university accommodation. The aim here is to develop skills for the world of work and for life, such as confidence, leadership and communication.

Phase Three – (Two weeks; Mon-Fri) across two non-residential weeks, young people will get to make their mark on their community. Using skills they have developed during phases one & two, young people will create and implement a project that they believe will positively impact their local area.

Upon completion of NCS, young people will graduate and receive a certificate signed by the Prime Minister. NCS graduates will emerge with a range of essential skills for College, University and Work; as well as the character, communication and confidence that will stand them in good stead for life.

All the skills developed on NCS will help young people to boost their CV and personal statement. UCAS continues to recommend students to include NCS in their personal statement when applying for university.

Mr P Chapman

Head of Business Studies and Careers Coordinator

For more information about the programme, or to get your son/daughter signed up to NCS:

www.ncsem1.org.uk
0121 766 1303



Senior Prom for Year 11,12 & 13

**Sixth Form
and Year 11**

**Quinton
House School
Senior Prom**

**Saturday 1st July
2017**

**Northampton
Marriott Ho-
tel,
Eagle Drive,
Northampton**

In the past the Senior Prom has been a wonderful occasion for the pupils to celebrate the end of the school year, dress up in their finest attire and enjoy each other's company. This year the Senior Prom will be held on Saturday 1st July at The Marriott Hotel and includes a drink on arrival, a three-course meal and a disco. We anticipate the event will be as successful as it has always been and we are looking forward to this exciting summer event.

Ms Weir/Mr Knox



The Importance of Developing the Whole Child

Ms Cozens recently published a paper on the importance of developing the whole child which appeared in the Northants Telegraph in January. If you'd like to take a read, you can find it on our website at www.quintonhouseschool.co.uk/importance-developing-whole-child/



‘For a child to flourish, they must be recognised as individuals. A dangerous belief still prevails among schools, exam boards and the wider education establishment which stipulates that the role of schools is limited to simply getting pupils through exams, often at the expense of extracurricular activities. But through participating in extracurricular activities character is built, creativity is sparked and talents are fostered. The skills that pupils develop – individuality, perseverance, ambition – complement the core curriculum. Is it any wonder why the child who captains the football team on the sports pitch is more likely to exude confidence in the classroom? Or the child who turns up to music practice every morning before school is likely to show the same dedication toward their academic studies?’

News from the Catering Team

A reminder that menus are published half termly and are available at this link:

www.quintonhouseschool.co.uk/parents/school-menus/



Goodbye and Good Luck to Mr Davies

As we close this half term we say good bye to Catering Manager, Mr Davies, who leaves us after 4.5 years at the school. In this time he has kept all the pupils and staff fed and watered, and catered for a wide variety of events from sports teas to open days, concerts and sports days. We would like to say a massive thank you to Mr Davies for all his hard work. He will be missed and we wish him all the very best in his new role.

Pupils Celebrate Chinese New Year



On 27th January pupils across the school enjoyed a delicious Chinese lunch in celebration of Chinese New Year.

Happy new year!