

QHS Newsletter

End of Summer Half Term 2017



QUINTON HOUSE SCHOOL

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Dear Parents

The summer term is always a hive of activity across the school. At the top of the school public examinations are dominating. There is a palpable sense of nervous anticipation before each examination begins and then that sense of relief when they are over, which lasts just long enough for pupils to regroup their thoughts in advance of the final revision before the next one begins. For the pupils in Year 11 and Year 13 this marks the end of their GCSE and A level courses, their opportunity to show what they have learnt, the skills they have honed and the understanding they have gained in the different subjects across the curriculum.

But school is so much more than examination results. The young people at Quinton learn so much more than just how to pass examinations. They learn about team work and empathy, compassion and understanding, they sing, they play, they listen, they talk, they explore and they challenge. The examination results are incredibly important but young people should never be defined by a set of grades, but by everything that they are. This

newsletter hopes to give you just a flavour of the many things that have been going on across the school in the past few weeks. We hope to share just some of the things that we do to help Quinton pupils be the wonderful young people that they are.

Ms Cozens



**KEEP
Quiet
PLEASE**

**EXAMS IN
PROGRESS**

News from Nursery

Nursery has yet again been a hive of activity this half term.

Children have been enjoying a new role play area where they've been pretending to be hairdressers, Mr Capuano joined in with 'stay and play' getting to know everyone, and Sadie Sweetcorn and Brains Broccoli paid a visit to promote healthy eating. Children have also learned about recycling, outdoors and the environment.

The Nursery Team



Reception get Close to Nature!

We started the Summer Term by learning about Growing. We read the story Oliver's Vegetables and had fun identifying a range of vegetables including swede, asparagus and beetroot. In the story Oliver picked vegetables from his allotment to have for his dinner and had crumble for pudding. We had lots of fun making our own crumble using rhubarb. Children carefully used knives to cut up the rhubarb and rubbed the butter, sugar and flour together to make the crumble topping. They all said it was delicious! We planted a range of vegetable seeds and thought about what they needed to grow. We are very excited that they have already started to shoot! In numeracy we learnt about weighing. Children used scales to weigh items and used language such as light and heavy.

We then read Jack and the Beanstalk and children told the story using character masks. We have also been experimenting with planting beans. Children have said that beans need soil to grow so we have planted some in soil and put some in a pot with no soil. We are keeping a close eye on them to see if they both grow! In numeracy we have also been looking at money. Children have been naming coins and sorting them by colour, shape and size. They have been adding coins to make different amounts and buying items from our new 'Toy Shop' role play area.

We have also been learning about minibeasts and life cycles. Last week we read the story Mad about Minibeasts. We talked about their similarities and differences and the habitats they live in. Children really enjoyed going on a minibeast hunt in the woods and were keen to leave no stone or log unturned! In literacy we wrote about our favourite minibeast and we are all working hard to sit our letters correctly on the lines. We looked at the life cycles of a butterfly and children made pictures to represent each stage. We continued this work in numeracy by learning about symmetry and children have been busy making symmetrical patterns.

Miss Billington



Update from Q3

In Q3 this term our main topic has been WW2. The children have shown such enthusiasm and engagement with this topic and have been eager to learn more about it. We have linked our topic lessons to our English lessons. The children have written newspaper articles on The Battle of Britain, found out about the Blitz and have written detailed diary entries about time spent in a shelter. Q3 children have pretended to be evacuees and have written letters home to their parents. The children have enjoyed 'Hot Seating' where they dressed up as an evacuee and answered questions from the class.

In Science our topic has been Light and Shadow. The children worked in pairs to create a shadow box, using the shoe boxes that you kindly provided for us. They then had to create shadow puppets and create a performance explaining to an alien how a shadow is formed and how a shadow can be changed. I am sure you will agree that they did a very good job of this.

Just a reminder that our Holdenby House trip is on the 8th June and we would like all the children to be dressed up on the day as evacuees.

Miss Miller-Chalk



Q3 & Q4 Residential at Kingswood

Q3 and Q4 had a fantastic time at Kingswood! The children were all extremely well behaved, polite and positive (even after very little sleep). The children participated in: rock climbing, campfire, shelter building, scrap bottle rocket challenge, orienteering, nightline, zipwire, abseiling and caving.

When we arrived back from Kingswood, Q3 and Q4 wrote their own assembly to present to Q1 and Q2 to persuade those children to want to go on the trip in a few years' time. Thank you all for making sure that they were all well equipped for the trip.

Miss Miller-Chalk



Q4: The Science of Sound

As part of their science study on Changing Sounds, the Q4 children made musical instruments from junk and easily obtainable materials. The objective was to show how the **pitch** could be changed on their instruments. Having individually presented them, they formed bands to create their own 'sounds'.

Mrs Murrell and Miss Howard.



Northampton Festival of Performing Arts

This year we have seen around 30 individual pupils take part in the Northampton Festival. This is an amazing number and has seen Quinton House represented in both Music and Drama categories.

We have had a number of pupils placing first, second or third and many Good and Highly Commended so congratulations to all who have taken part. We are very proud of your efforts and how you have represented our school.

As well as these we have had our Little Quinton Singers (Q1-4 choir) go out to the festival and after a great performance of 'When She Loved Me' and 'Five Eyes' they gained a fantastic 2nd place. The judge said of their performance that "It was tuneful and showed promise... It was a lovely sound that was created in the church with their soft singing ...was focused and had clear intonation in the words". We were all very proud of the group's first public performance out of school and already the pupils are coming up with ideas of what we will be singing next year.

We also took Q4 Ukulele group to the Festival. This group have only been playing for a short while so we felt it was going to be a great experience but we had little thought of placing. The pupils sang and played with enthusiasm. The Judge was impressed that in 'It's Raining, It's Pouring' the pupils played in three different groups able to keep their own parts going as the others were playing and Mr White got a special mention for his beatboxing. In 'Try Everything' they all sang and played from memory creating a happy and enthusiastic sound and he said how great it was to see them all enjoying playing. We are delighted to say that we were awarded First place in the judging of this category and are now the proud owners of the 'Edward Chapman Cup' which was presented with the certificate. The pupils were amazed and delighted and very excited about winning as well as being full of what we could do in next year's performance to make sure we keep the cup!

The Quinton Quintet from the Senior School also took part this year singing a very traditional 3-part Harmony of 'A Whole New World' as well as singing a very modern Mash Up originally conceived by Tapi in Q9 and worked on by the whole group to create parts and harmonies. We were all so proud to see their original work performed and how well they handled being such a small group of singers against the much bigger choirs of other schools.

The Choir got a Highly Commended for their efforts and should be very proud of the huge strides they have made in their performances this year as a fledgling group.

A huge well done to all for their hard work and commitment to showing what an amazing school Quinton House is for the performing arts.

Miss Stone



Orchestra & Peripatetic Lessons

Orchestra

This term has seen the amazing growth in our School Orchestra. We have seen the numbers increasing and the sounds now coming out of the Ballroom are very exciting. We are delighted to say that this year the Orchestra will be joining us at the Q5/6 performance to play for the songs. Mr White is busy at the moment writing parts for each instrument and If you would like to take part and join the orchestra then it is not too late, we would be delighted to welcome you on a Wednesday after school from 4 – 4.50 pm in the Ballroom.

Peripatetic Lessons

We are very lucky at school to be able to offer a wide variety of music lessons to our pupils. These include;

- Drum Kit
- Piano
- Voice
- High and Low Strings
- Woodwind
- Brass
- Guitar

We are at this time looking at how many lessons will be needed for the next school year. If you would like your child to take part in any of these individual lessons then please get in touch with me on Joanna.stone@quintonhouseschool.co.uk For parents of pupils already having lessons there will be a letter coming out to you soon regarding the lessons for the next school year.

Miss Stone



The Little Quinton Singers

Q5-6 Parents Get Lost! (PGL)

At PGL Liddington this year we all took part in canoeing, raft building, cycling, fencing, quad biking, orienteering and archery. We put on safety equipment and threw ourselves off tall structures onto zip wires, giant swings and trapezes. We created temporary shelters and learned how to give CPR. We cooperated in team games and led each other through dark tunnels on the Tunnel Trail and in the evenings, we built parachutes and tested them with water balloons, made robots from cardboard and undertook photo challenges. On the last night we sang songs and ate marshmallows around the camp fire.

Not everyone enjoyed everything but everyone enjoyed some things. We were all challenged and pushed ourselves beyond what we thought we could do. We learned about each other and about ourselves and there was lots of laughter, some tears, late nights and early mornings. Overall, it was a great trip and we came home tired but proud of all that we had achieved.

Roll on 2019!!

Mrs Herbert

"Snapshot was an awesome photo game which was amazing!"

Lachlan.

"The food and drink were really good as well; I liked all of it"
Finn.

"The last night was great because we all gathered around the campfire and ate marshmallows"

Jessica.



Q5 Trip to Anglian Water

At our trip to Anglian Water this half term we learned what should and shouldn't go down the toilet, we toured the site and found out how they clean the water and we did our own filtering experiments.

We had a great day – thanks Anglian Water!

Mrs Herbert



'It was a very interesting treat given to us by Quinton House; a once in a lifetime opportunity.' Joseph D

'We liked how she answered all of our questions truthfully and we learnt a bit of her mum's side of the story.'

Isabelle F-N & Oliver P

'It was fascinating to know that people there thought it was a normal day until the Tsunami occurred.' Kieren W

Q7 Running Wild!

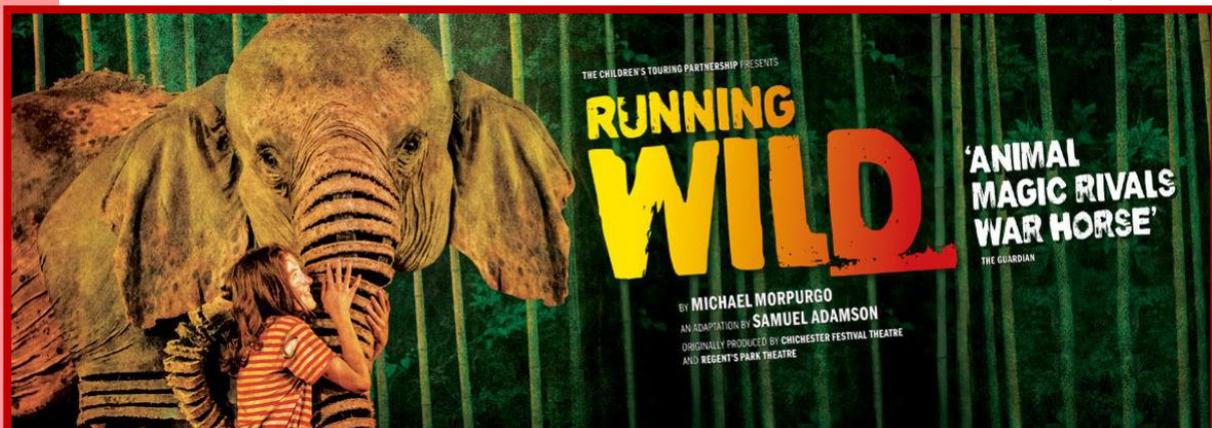
Former Quinton House Pupil, Amber Owen, the inspiration behind the former children's laureate and bestselling author of *War Horse*, Michael Morpurgo's hugely successful book, *Running Wild* met with year 7 English pupils on 25th May alongside her Mother Samantha Miles.

Amber, who attended Quinton House between 2006 and 2014 was on holiday with her family aged 8 in 2004 when the tsunami hit Phuket. She had been riding an elephant named Ning Nong, who saved her life after sensing danger and running away from the beach just as the wave came crashing around them.

Current year 7 pupils listened in amazement as Amber and her mother described their experiences of their holiday back in 2004 and how Michael Morpurgo later got in touch. The session provided pupils with first-hand inspiration for an internal creative writing competition on being rescued by an animal in a disaster situation and the opportunity to ask a range of interesting questions.

Head of English and Performing Arts at Quinton House School, Miss Georgina Pearson, said, "it has been incredibly inspiring for pupils to meet former pupil, Amber, ahead of seeing the production today. When we learned of the connection to the School we immediately booked the play as part of our curriculum on imaginative writing and we are thrilled that Amber and her Mother were able to visit the school in person."

Pupils attended a performance of *Running Wild* at the Royal & Derngate on 26th May. The production has already received rave reviews from the press.



Q8: Let's Design a Chair!

After half term, Computing and Design Technology (DT) are joining forces. Year 8 will be using the skills of both disciplines to design a product – a doll's chair.

In DT, students will be doing the planning and drawings on paper. They will then bring these to Computing, where we will be putting the drawings on to computer in a suitable format for them to be cut out on a laser machine. Once we have the pieces, it's back to DT to assemble them.

Can parents please encourage Year 8 students to do some research over half term and bring in some chair designs.

We may use this software which is free to download at home:

<http://sketchchair.cc/>

Mr Taylor



Bronze Shoe Art Installation

On 9th May bronze shoes designed and made by GCSE art pupils, as part of a project with Keepmoat Homes, were unveiled at an event at the Keepmoat office at Upton Place. The shoes are now sited across the Upton Place housing development as part of a sculpture trail.

Quinton House GCSE art students designed and made their shoes from wax at a workshop with artists, Philip Bews and Diane Gorvin last May, which were later cast in bronze.

Northampton has a strong connection to the fabrication of shoes and boots and by the end of the 18th century the town was a major centre of footwear and leather manufacture. It was therefore decided that shoes would make a fitting art installation for Keepmoat Home's Upton Place development.

Rebecca Whitby, Teacher of Art at Quinton House School says, "the project has been an amazing opportunity for the students to work with professional artists. It has truly inspired them and provided valuable evidence for their GCSE portfolios."

Charlene Withall, Community Engagement and Investment Manager for Keepmoat Homes (Midlands) says, "we were keen to engage with Quinton House School because as part of the existing community, we wanted to ensure there was a strong local connection to the development's public art which can be enjoyed by all. As a responsible community-focused business and local partner, we regularly engage with schools in the areas in which we work to educate students about construction and housing and try to generate interest in the field. It was great to create a stimulating project that helped the children to learn new skills and also learn about the practices that really made Northamptonshire a successful trading county."

Details of the installation will be available via the Land Trust.



Professional Chef Holds Masterclass

As part of the GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition course, students are required to learn and confidently demonstrate a wide range of cooking skills. On 25th May Q10 students took part in a masterclass with professional chef, Simon Cook from Chartwells Independent, to develop some of the higher level practical skills further through demonstrations and a cooking session.

Students watched a demonstration of chicken butchery and filleting of fish before attempting the skills themselves. Under the guidance of Simon, they then prepared and cooked a two course meal of Coq au Vin and Rhubarb and Apricot Galette which was taken home to be enjoyed at the end of the day!

Miss Jeffery



D of E Bronze Expedition

The bronze Duke of Edinburgh pupils have managed to complete their expedition section of the award. They have completed a two day practice in Milton Keynes and have recently completed their assessed expedition. They have represented the school brilliantly whilst out walking only taking a couple of interesting detours during the 24 hours of walking that covers the 4 days out in the Northamptonshire countryside. We now look forward to their presentations after half term that document the expedition and fulfil their aims and objectives as teams.

The silver team is going to the Peak District this half term and we are hoping for the good weather to continue for the 3 days of assessed walking.

Mr Muskin



Visit from David Capel

David Capel, former Northamptonshire and England cricketer, led a bowling masterclass with our Year 3 and Year 4 boys!



Sixth Form at UCAS Convention Centre

“A UCAS convention is definitely the place to start research if you’re thinking of going to uni. It’s a big decision and it could potentially affect the next few years of your life and your future after that – so you need to make sure you make it a good one. UCAS conventions are great because they bring together loads of unis & colleges, gap year providers and employers in one place. Not only that, it’s a person rather than a website. So if you have any questions you can just ask them. Whether you just want to confirm your decision or you have no idea where to start, a UCAS convention will give you some ideas.”

On Tuesday 28th March, all of Year 12, accompanied by Ms Weir and Mr Knox, set off for a UCAS convention at Excel in London’s docklands. The students spent about one and a half hours gathering extremely useful information and asking pertinent questions. After a packed lunch we then had a short visit to the colourful, fascinating Camden Market, which is a lesser visited sight of London. Our students in particular were fascinated by the variety of both food and goods on offer at the market. All in all the day was a great success, not least due to the expected but nevertheless mature attitude of our sixth formers.

Ms Weir and Mr Knox





Uniform Matters

Please may we politely remind you that summer uniform is compulsory for all pupils on return to school following half term.

Girls

For girls, the long sleeve shirt, tie and black tights are replaced by a short sleeve open-necked blouse and short white ankle socks. The blouse (preferably purchased from our school shop) must be plain with no motifs or embellishments.

Kilts must be worn below the knee in length.

Socks should be plain - no sport socks and not rolled under into the shoe.

Junior School Girls: QHS red & white gingham dress

QHS grey V-necked jumper or cardigan with red 'V' and logo

QHS white socks with gingham frill

For Q5&Q6 there is the option of short-sleeved white shirt and plain white ankle socks

Jewellery is limited to one watch.

Girls may wear one plain stud in each ear.

There should be no rings, bracelets or necklaces. Medical identification bracelets may be worn with the permission of Ms Cozens and Mr Capuano.

Hair should be neat and tidy and only one natural-looking colour (boys and girls).

Girls' hair should be off the face and if it is below the shoulders, it should be tied back with a band, which is black, red or white.

Boys

For boys, the long sleeve shirt may be replaced with short sleeves.

Junior School boys: QHS grey knee-length school shorts replace the trousers (Optional for J5 & J6)

Hair should be short and off the collar.

There should be no extreme hair-cuts or styles. (Boys who have their hair clipped short at the back and sides must have the length of the remaining hair graduated, thus avoiding extreme contrast in length.)

Shoes must be black polishable leather, of a 'traditional' style and not trainer type.

Thank you so much for your understanding and cooperation in upholding our traditional values.

Should you have any queries regarding uniform please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes

Mrs L Pates—Head of Pastoral Care

A plea

During the warmer weather, it is essential that pupils carry a bottle of water in their school bags to ensure they keep themselves sufficiently hydrated throughout the day. We also recommend that sun screen is applied before coming to school as pupils spend time on the field during break times and Games.

We do hold spare uniform in our pastoral care facility for those emergencies when pupils may need a change of uniform! We would be most grateful for any donations of clean uniform which your child has grown out of.

QHS Charitable Events

Red Cross

On Friday 12th May Quinton House School pupils and staff raised an impressive £740 for Red Cross First Call in Northampton through cake sales and a mufti day. The money will help fund a community worker in Northampton to release bed blocking at Northampton General Hospital. Thanks to all who contributed!



The Lewis Foundation

On 28th June QHS pupils will be supporting The Lewis Foundation, a charitable organisation that provides comfort and happiness to cancer patients receiving cancer treatment on all wards within Northampton General Hospital. The founder, Lorraine Lewis's, mother-in-law was treated at NGH and noticed how sad and bored patients looked on the wards and in the private rooms when they were on their own without family and friends being present. To help take their mind off endless treatments they donate around 80 gift bags a month for day patients, overnight patients and emergency patients. To support this valuable work, QHS will be holding a mufti day on 28th June. In return pupils are asked to donate items that can be included in gift bags and selected pupils will help to create the gift bags with all the donations received. We're sure you will agree that this is a fantastic cause and thank you in advance for your support. See opposite for a list of recommended items. Donations will be gratefully received on 28th June. Boxes will be available in each classroom.



Recommended items:
(Please note that due to the risk of infection, donations must be new and not second hand.)

- Single Pack Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Boxer Shorts - Small, Medium and Large
- Knickers - Small, Medium and Large
- Socks - Male and Female
- Deodorant - Male and Female
- Shower Gel - Male and Female
- Soap bar
- Eye mask
- Body butter
- Lip balm
- Knitting Kits - e.g. knit a scarf or hat
- Sewing Kits - e.g. sew a handbag
- Model Kits - Small - cars, aeroplanes
- Cross stitch
- Suduko book
- Crossword book
- Wordsearch book
- Playing Cards
- Adult Colouring Book
- Pencil Crayons
- Male and Female Books. Any genre.
- Male and Female Magazines. Any genre.
- Male and Female. Slippers and Nightwear in Small, medium and large.
- Mini board games for adults
- Mini Jigsaws