

QHS Newsletter

Autumn Half Term 2017



QUINTON HOUSE SCHOOL

Contents:

- p1. Note from Mr Hoyle
- p2. Update from Nursery
- p3. Update from QR
- p4. Q2 at the Farm and Meeting an Author
- p5. Q4 Topic: Stone Age
- p6. Q5 at The Space Centre
- p7. Harvest Festival
- p8. Tea Time Concert
- p9. School Uniform Reminders
- p10. Q7 Yorkshire Tour: The Pupils' View
- p12. Book Review on Jessica's Ghost
- p14. Year 8 Creative Writing
- p15. Enterprise Challenge Autumn 2017
- p16. GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition
- p17. Q11 Photography: Portraits
- p18. Artwork Examples
- p19. Careers Events 2017-18
- p20. Sixth Form Activity Day to Frontier Centre
- p21. World Challenge Training Expedition
- p23. Macmillan Coffee Morning
- p23. Jeans for Genes Day
- p24. Upcoming Events: Fireworks Night & Winter Wonderland

Music, Sport and Drama are the heartbeat of any good school.

The Ballroom provided a beautiful setting for this week's inaugural Tea Time Concert demonstrating that music is certainly a key feature of our school weekly calendar. The concert featured promising musicians from all ages of the school and included all levels of ability. It was especially pleasing to have our Senior School students demonstrating the fruits of hours of practice and dedication to our younger pupils. The applause of a full concert room after each performance must have encouraged all to persevere as they work towards performing in our school Training Orchestra and Orchestra. The singing of our Year 6 children in our Harvest Festival held in St Michael's Church was simply wonderful as our talented pupils combined song with poetry and drama performances. The future of both music and drama at Quinton House School appears to be extremely promising.

Sport is always a strong feature of the Quinton calendar. This afternoon I enjoyed watching our 1st XV in action and it is pleasing to see so many children enjoying participating and competing in a multitude of school teams and activities. As a member of the Independent Schools Association there will be an ever increasing programme of competitions for our children and I know that our Senior School rugby and hockey players are already working hard in preparation for their South Africa Tour next year.

Whilst the heartbeat is strong, there has also been much activity for the brain. This has been a very productive and purposeful start to the school year across the school. Our parents have also attended for studies in our Revision and Study Skills Evening, Stay and Learn Morning, and our Back to School Evening. It is certainly important to work in partnership with our parents and we look forward to continuing our programme of welcoming parents into the school and sharing in the education of their children.

We wish everyone an enjoyable and restful half-term. We do hope that families will join us for the Fireworks Night on Tuesday 7th November and we look forward as a whole school community to the events of the festive season.

Best wishes,

Tim Hoyle



Tea Time Concert, 16th October

Update from Nursery

As ever our Nursery children have been very busy this half term. We have embraced the Autumn weather and have been spending lots of time outside in our fabulous grounds. The children have enjoyed collecting Autumn finds from the woods and Zak found an interesting and safe way to pick up the spiky chestnut shells using sticks as chopsticks. Some of our children got to walk up to the Church to give our Harvest Festival contributions to Mr Capuano. Thank you to all our families for contributing food to the great cause. We enjoyed having our parents come into School for our 'Stay and Learn' session. We also celebrated World Post Day! The children designed their own postcards to send home to their families. We then took them to the Senior School office for them to be franked. We look forward to returning after the half term for more learning and fun!

Miss Parker



Update from QR

We have had an exciting and busy first half term in Reception. The children have all settled in very well and are already familiar with new routines. This term our topics have been Bears and Autumn. We have shared different Bear stories including Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Going on a Bear Hunt and Whatever Next.

Children also celebrated World Space Week which linked with our story Whatever Next when Baby Bear visited the moon. We thought about what we would take with us on a trip to the moon and learnt some facts about the different planets.

In daily Phonics sessions children have been learning new sounds and practising how to form the letters correctly using the formation rhymes. We are now practising putting sounds together to read simple words and sounding out words for writing.

In Mathematics children have enjoyed participating in a range of Shape, Space and Measure activities. They have been busy ordering bears by size, using positional language, naming 2D shapes and making repeating patterns.

We have also enjoyed learning about Autumn and Harvest and have completed activities linked to the story 'The Little Red Hen'. In Literacy we used our phonics to write simple sentences about the characters. Children worked together to make bread dough by weighing out the ingredients, then they carefully shaped their dough into rolls. We also went on an Autumn walk around the school grounds and visited the church for the Year 6 Harvest Festival assembly.

Next term we will be learning about different celebrations.

Miss Billington



Q2 at the Farm and Meeting an Author

Butterfly Farm:

Q2 travelled to Stratford Upon Avon to explore mini beasts and natural habitats. The children were lucky enough to hold millipedes and witness several types of ants, all trying to transport leaves to make a cosy home. They loved being out in the natural environment and particularly enjoyed counting numerous habitats once we were back to school!

Author Visit:

This half term Q2 had a special visitor; Kate Cunningham, the author of *Vlad & The Great Fire of London*. The children had the opportunity to act out the picture book, hold an original fire plaque and pass leather buckets in a re-enactment to put out the fire. K. Cunningham's book has been a big hit during our topic and literacy lessons as the children have painted the main character, written from a different perspective and described what it would have been like to witness the fire first-hand.

A small plea to Q2 parents; please ensure winter coats and PE jackets are in school ready for the start of next term, we predict some cold play times!

Miss Howard



Q4 Topic: Stone Age

Q4 have been learning about the Stone Age throughout the term. The children have enjoyed using natural materials to create a cave painting and have worked on their drawing techniques.

We have also linked our topic to our English lessons and the children have produced wonderful pieces of poetry based on the Stone Age, along with an informal letter and a newspaper report.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed using the iPads in their topic lessons, taking a virtual tour of Stonehenge and researching Stone Age sites and settlements. They especially enjoyed creating and acting out their own version of a haunted story at Belas Knap.

Q4 made us extremely proud when we visited Everdon Forest earlier in the term. Every child displayed impeccable manners and were fully engaged throughout the trip.

Miss Miller- Chalk, Mrs Woods and Mrs Murrell



Q5 at The Space Centre

On Friday 13th October, Q5H enjoyed a very successful trip to the National Space Centre in Leicester. Arriving well before the other schools, we were able to enjoy the exhibits downstairs and gather information about all the planets, the international space station and space travel then and now.

Then, we went into the Planetarium and had a lovely tour of the night sky, hearing stories about some of the constellations.

Before lunch, we climbed the many steps to the top of the rocket tower and had photos inside a space-man suit, as well as learning about what life was like for people living in the 1960s when the first landing on the moon took place.

After lunch we participated in an interactive workshop about life in space and learned how astronauts prepare to go to space, what astronauts wear when they go space-walking, what they eat and how dangerous life in space can be.

It was a great trip and we all enjoyed ourselves and learned lots of new things.

Mrs Herbert



Harvest Festival

On 4th October Q6 performed a number of fantastic Harvest songs as part of their Harvest Festival celebration in St Michael's Church.

Nursery and the Junior Guild also attended and handed over food donations for The Hope Centre to Mr Capuano.

Many thanks to all parents who attended and those who made kind donations.



Tea Time Concert

On 16th October parents were treated to a wonderful tea time concert; the first of a regular series of concerts in the Ballroom to showcase our pupils' musical abilities.



School Uniform Reminders

Dear Parents / Carers

Half term is an ideal opportunity for your child to replenish supplies of equipment for school. We would be most grateful if you could please check pencil cases and school bags to ensure your child has everything listed. It is essential that all belongings are named so we can return mislaid items to their rightful owners.

May I kindly remind you of a few uniform matters:

- On return from half term winter uniform is compulsory and girls are expected to wear black tights and long sleeve shirt with a tie.
- There should be no make-up in Years 7-9. Natural-looking subtle make-up is permitted in Years 10 and 11. No nail polish is allowed at any time.
- Shoes should be sensible, low, heeled, black, clean and polished. No buckles, insignia or trainers.
- Girls' skirts should be to the knee in length. If your daughter is in Y11 and her skirt is above the knee she will be asked to purchase a new skirt of the required length.
- Jewellery is limited to one watch with a simple dark coloured strap.
- Girls may wear one plain stud in each ear. There should be no rings, bracelets or necklaces.
- Hair should be neat and tidy and only one natural-looking colour (boys and girls). Boys' hair should be short and off the collar.
- 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.
- There should be no extreme hair cuts or styles.

Wishing you all a happy and safe half term break.

Mrs Pates

Q7 Yorkshire Tour: The Pupils' View

Flamingo Land

"As the huge coach pulled round the sharp corner after a long 45 minutes in the coach, the amazing place was in sight. As we stepped of the coach the fresh air blew in our faces; I turned around. I saw it.

Once we got off the coach the teachers blabbered on for a while; when they stop – we were finally free! We went on a ride, a slow, boring ride. The next ride was standing there waiting for me to go on it. It was like wires and cogs inside of something. We waited in the queue anticipating what is was going to be like. We got on; my hands were tightly gripping the cold, silver bar in front of me it was then when I realised I was ready! It was amazing I could see all of the park from up there, we were flipped, turned and dropped – it was amazing. I couldn't have asked for a better day – Flamingo Land!"

Sophie M

Barmy Bowling

"Finally the night has come, house bowling the air is polluted with nerves. As we leave the hotel to get on to the coach in my head I hear children trying to cry out their nerves.

People are silent on the coach, trying to focus for the biggest game of their entire lives. Once we arrive people step of the coach shivers spear down their spine they start shaking Goose-bumps start to appear as the road too much more starts now.

As they step into the theatre of dreams they struggle to breathe because there is so much anticipation in the air. This was the time we had all been dreading it was the big time now could they handle the nerves?

They start, the first bowler drenched in sweat it was like he was a swimming pool he bowls I could see the giant boulder being bowled slowly as the ball hit the pins.

Next bowler looked like he was going to faint what score will he get?

I can hear the pins crashing down like soldiers fighting in a battlefield.

People cry as if they are beaten, people walk home in shame there were two left standing Oliver L and Ollie P the tension was immense after loads of rounds it came down to the final bowl Oliver L bowled to win he just needed to get four pins but he only got one he knew he had messed up Ollie P had the chance to win it he took a deep breath he just needed to get more than five pins and he hit a superb strike he was filled with joy and he was the bowling champion for Quinton house school year 7.

The torture of going back to the hotel was terrible there was a two story arcade and we were not allowed to go on a single arcade machine it's not fair."

Daniel W

Q7 Yorkshire Tour: The Pupils' View

Thrilling Thursday!

“What a fun filled day at Flamingo Land. The day saw us being brave; going on lots of thrilling and exciting rides. The bravest among us even went on a record breaker – the steepest roller coaster in the world in 2009. Entertaining one another in trying to win giant cuddly toys by attempting to knock old rusty cans off a platform; spending all our money by having ‘just one more go’!

Satisfied at last, I won.....a bright neon pink fluffy unicorn, perfect for someone who dreams of playing for Northampton Saints Rugby one day!

During the day the excitement was also building inside all of us for the house bowling competition. Being the competitive folks we are everyone knew the competition would be tight and the banter started during the day with who would be victorious.

We returned to the hostel to shower, eat and change into our trendy bowling clothing ready to impress one another with our skills. The suspense was outrageous as everyone knew this would be the best night of the trip.

Arriving at the bowling alley we could hear others having fun as laughter echoed around the venue. I was on lane 1 with Alfred, Faith and Ruby. Laughing and joking we started to bowl.

Early on I got a strike, my bowling ball had flown perfectly down the alley crashing into the soldiers waiting in formation at the other end. It was the first strike of the night! The desire to win started to rush through me. The numbers on my scoreboard were ticking up. Suddenly another strike following by another one.....2 in a row.

The evening was drawing to an end and the final bowl was going to be the decider – 2 men left with a chance to be the victor. Me and Linieres! Nervously I went first...looking at the soldiers once more, I thought to myself, ‘None of you will survive my boulder that’s coming your way’. A spare! Linieres needed a strike to win, would the nerves get the better of him?

6 soldiers fell for him, frantically working out the scores I knew that was NOT enough to take the lead and beat me. Can you believe it? Ollie Pragnell, the winner of the bright neon pink unicorn, had now only gone and won the house bowling competition for Knightley in York! 134 points for the winning score.”

Oliver P

Book Review on Jessica's Ghost

Each half term I will be inviting students to read the same book and review it, giving us their unique opinion. This term the focus is on Jessica's Ghost by Andrew Norris and our reviewers were Ella S and Emily K. If any students are interested in reviewing a book later this year, please see Miss Pearson in the English Department.

Miss Pearson

'Jessica's Ghost' by Andrew Norris is a book that I think a lot of people can relate to. It touches on topics that are relevant to our life. The book is mainly saying that it is ok to be different and I think this underlying message is really translated well. When I first read the book, I believed that it was for a younger age category, but as it went on, my view of the book changed. The themes in the book are for mature readers – whether that is teenagers, adults or for younger children who do have knowledge about the subjects. But I feel Norris aimed his book at the teenage audience.

The title of the book makes you assume that it is going to be a horror story, or a book about demons – and in a way, the book is about a demon. But a different type of demon, a personal demon. Throughout the book, a consistent theme was death and this was introduced in the first chapter when you meet Jessica. Due to this consistent theme, the book did make me think deeply about aspects of our life and how we can never take anything that happens for granted; that no matter how nasty life or people can be, you need to carry on otherwise those demons win. Although some of the themes are upsetting, others are happier and add light to the book. These themes are friendship, support and love.

I think that as there are multiple types of themes in the book, many people can relate and feel empathetic towards the characters as there is more understanding. This is why the book really touched me. I also got attached to the characters because of how well Norris wrote them, that at the end of the book I really was hoping for more and I didn't want the book to end.

The book is about four teenagers - Francis, Jessica, Andi and Roland, all alone in their thoughts – who are dealing with and overcome many personal issues, whether it was finding out about their past or accepting who they were. In the end, everything is sorted out and Jessica, who has completed her task, can move on.

Overall, Jessica's Ghost by Andrew Norris is a really touching book from which anyone can learn from: Not to give up; There is always someone who will listen; and that friendship and support will always have your back. The characters, their stories, their dreams and their goals are so realistic that I feel that I personally know them and therefore this book is amazing. I really encourage everyone over 11 to read this book as I believe it will really touch them and they will understand what is going on.

From this book, I will now be aware that when I look at a person I'll always chat and say hello, and listen just in case.

Emily K

Book Review on Jessica's Ghost

"Heart warming, truthful and utterly fearless, Norris writes in a way that both younger and older readers will love.

It follows the story of a boy called Francis. Francis keeps himself to himself, he is bullied at school because he is interested in fashion and likes sewing. He spends his lunchtimes in solitude on a park bench by the school.

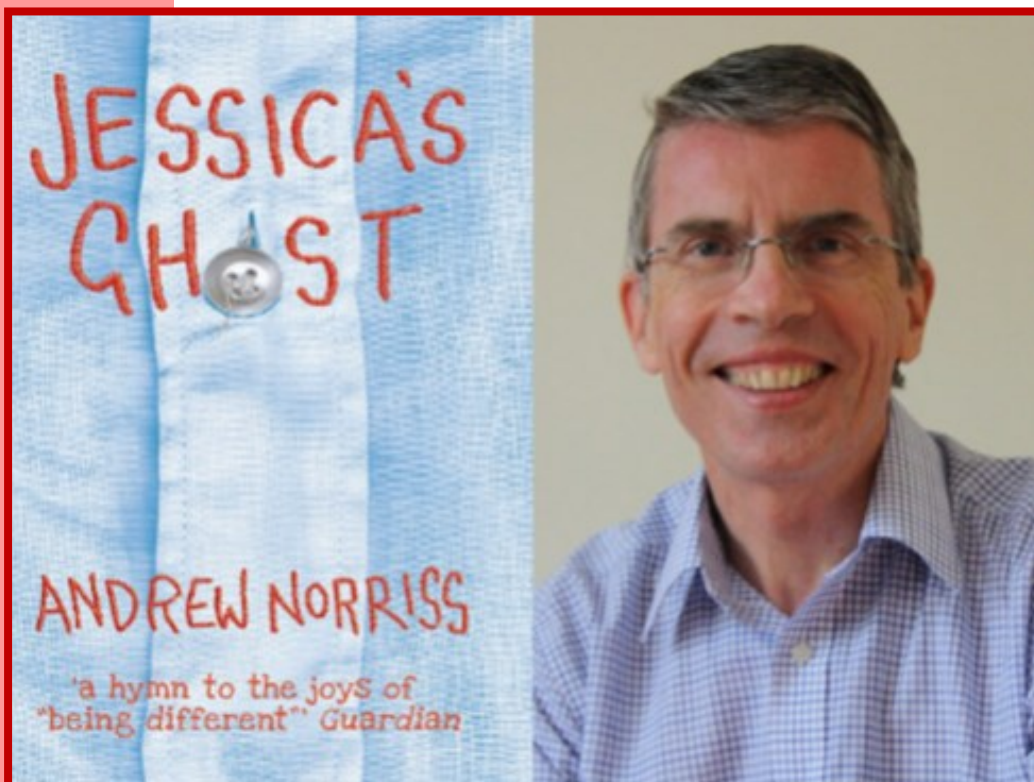
One day a girl sits beside him; on the surface she appears to be a normal teenage girl, only she is, well.... dead? Jessica is a ghost, hence the book title. Astonished that Francis can see her she explains that, until this moment, she has remained invisible to every other person that she has encountered. From then on their friendship blossoms and they pick up other friends that can also see Jessica. The novel unpicks just why Francis and the others can see her and the story becomes a truly special tale of friendship and strength.

"A hymn to the joys of being different" The Guardian

This book is aimed at children aged 9+ years. Its main themes and messages, although quite 'adult', need to be said, and Norris says it in a way that doesn't mock it, romanticise it, or make it upsetting for younger readers.

Because at the end of the day, everyone can experience the kinds of challenges that this book explores whether they are 10 or 100."

Ella S



Year 8 Creative Writing

In English this half term, Year 8s have been studying a dramatised version of Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein'. We have been thinking about how the characters feel about the events in the play and have completed some creative writing in the form of diary entries. Students chose to be either the monster or Frankenstein and wrote their diary entries to describe how they felt about key events in the play. Here is a selection:

Victor Frankenstein creates the monster...by Kacy L

18th March 1873

"Dear Diary

Today I am on the verge of changing the world on the unluckiest day of all. I'm going to create a living thing out of dead bodies. It will change how we live or how long we live. By making something BETTER than us humans. Imagine the future when everything will be so advanced. Imagine machines who can talk, imagine having a machine who could do everything for you – it would be paradise!

I believe what I am creating will be good for mankind."

The monster wakes up for the first time...by Amelia W

18th March 1873

"It's the 18th March 1873. When I first woke up it was very bright and strong and this weird creature that called himself Frankie kept telling me to sit down on this brown chair – that's what he said anyway but I was so attracted to what was out past the window and the light. I wanted to go out there but Frankie wouldn't let me. At first I found it hard to understand him but when he went out of the room, a weird four-legged creature came in, I sprinted as quickly as I could and then the four legged creature ran off! I was confused and then suddenly people were shouting so I ran..."

The monster kills Frankenstein's brother...by Ohuwamayowa O

23rd November 1873

"I am so angry but I know that it is only adults that have learned to hate hideous creatures like me, so I found a little innocent boy playing on his own. I thought to myself that I could raise him to love and not hate. I took his hand and he looked at me and screamed but I put my hand on his mouth and told him to be quiet. He stopped and said that his brother, Herr Frankenstein who is my creator, would destroy me. At that moment I thought I will destroy anything that is Frankenstein's. So I killed him..."

The monster prepares to die...by Noah P

December 14th 1876

"Dear Diary

I am distraught, my creator, master or father – whatever you want to call him – has been found and has died of natural causes. I am now travelling to the North Pole where I will dig down into the ice and bury any evidence I was ever here. Let my dogs freeze and I will crawl into the frozen lake of death and sink to the bottom and drown. Goodbye world!"

‘Enterprise Challenge’ Autumn 2017

Set-up as an activity in the Senior School Enrichment Programme, two teams of keen budding entrepreneurs have stepped up to the challenge of starting and running their own businesses.

The students will get to keep any profit they make, minus 20% which goes to one of the school’s charities.

This is what the students have said about their businesses, ***Snack Stop*** and ***Candigram***:

“We are four boys in Year 10 who have set up ‘*Snack Stop*’, selling food and drink in the sports hall foyer 3 days a week. We sell suitable snacks for all the students in between lessons up at that end of the school – having spotted a ‘gap in the market’ for students who did not have time to walk down to the main hall to buy their snacks. We sell low sugar sweets and snacks and zero-sugar/caffeine drinks, with prices ranging from 30p to £1. Our business is growing through word of mouth and we are hoping to branch out into different areas and become even more successful in the future.”

(Richard C, Steven M, Arthur A and Dylan I - Year 10)

“We have launched ‘*Candigram*’ to provide edible Christmas treats and gifts for friends and loved ones. The product we will be producing come in three different packages :

- our standard package containing a candy cane and a handwritten card, priced at 50p.
- a Christmas gift bag containing a candy cane, our handwritten card as well as a few sweets and chocolate, costing £1
- Our premium packaging contains a candy cane, in addition to multiple Christmas treats and our handwritten cards. These cost £1.50

On top of these services you can specifically order a specialised Christmas hamper that contains your pick of the products, as well as a handwritten card. This is priced at £7.50.

Discounts will be given if you order 10 or more of our Candigrams.

An order form for any desired purchases and a Facebook page website will be available after half-term.

(Grace W, Tapi K and Anya D - Year 10)

Mr Chapman

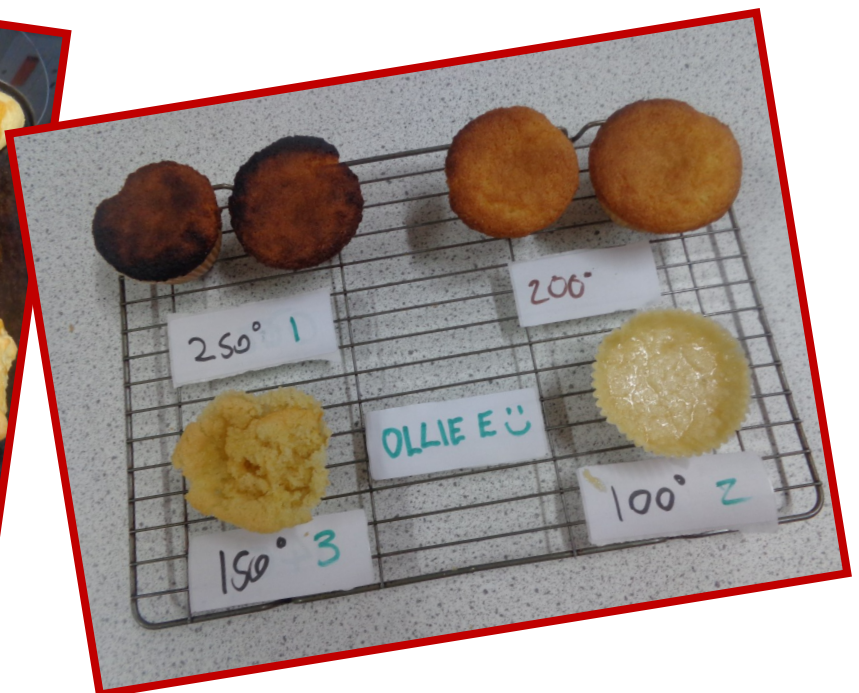


GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

We have seen a fantastic uptake this year for GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition and all students have made a positive and enthusiastic start to the course. We have worked on developing pastry making skills as well as using different cutting techniques. Alongside this, students have been learning about basic nutrition, in particular the Eatwell Guide and the 5-a-day campaign to encourage healthy eating. We look forward to seeing many more successful products over the next few months.

On another note, the department is very short on spare containers for students to take their food home in if they forget to bring their own. If you have any spare sweet boxes, biscuit tins or ice-cream tubs, we would be very grateful if they could be donated to the school.

Mrs Jeffery



Q11 Photography: Portraits

Photography students from Q11 have produced some amazing portraits both with low key and high key lighting this term. Here are a selection with the photographers name below. Thank you to the willing models who may have received a few copies for their troubles.

Mr Worby



Aidan B



William D



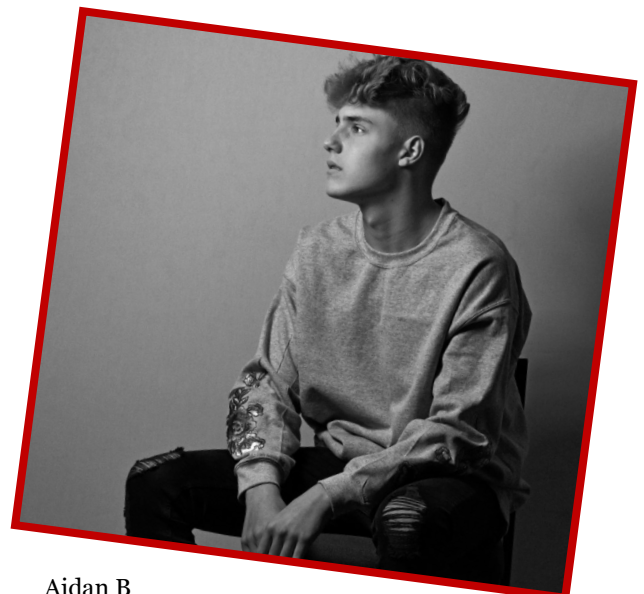
Beth B



Oliver M



George H



Aidan B

Artwork Examples

Students have endured some project work and produced some magnificent outcomes showing a range of mixed media skills. Exceptional work is here for you all to see! - Mrs Whitby



Mathushan K, Q13



Clara O, Q9 –Drawing of old worn boots



Kelly T, Q9 - Still Life study



Crystal F, Q9—Pop art portrait alongside a drawing of old worn boots



Careers Events 2017-18

Careers events and fairs are an ideal way for school leavers to seek out potential employers and get a feel for what kind of jobs are on offer.

For those who are still unsure as to what they want to do post-school, then a careers fair can be an excellent way to gain insight or inspiration. For those who are already sure of where they are going then a careers event can be a networking opportunity – a chance to meet companies face-to-face, discuss job openings or future vacancies, or even to hand in a CV and make the first step in a job application.

Careers events in the UK come in a wide variety of flavours: you have your massive national exhibitions like The Skills Show or The National Career Guidance Show as well as your regional or sector/skills specific events (e.g. STEM Apprenticeships Fair). On top of these, many colleges will hold their own careers fairs and some larger corporations or training companies will have open days.

Whether you want to leave school after your GCSEs at 16 or later after A Levels or diplomas, NVQs, BTECs etc. at age 18 or later, there are lots of opportunities to attend career guidance events. Use them to widen your horizons, learn more about companies and professions, ask questions and practise talking to people in a professional manner.

Here are some events in 2017 and 2018 for your diary :

(please check the booking requirements carefully for each event)

The Skills Show, NEC Birmingham, Thurs 16th, Fri 17th and Sat 18th Nov 2017 - this is the UK's largest skills and careers event . Learn as a family about the huge variety of skills and career opportunities in a fun and interactive environment. The show features five skill sectors: Engineering and Technology, Media and Creative, IT and Enterprise, Hospitality and Lifestyle, Construction and Infrastructure.

Skills London 2017 at the ExCel, E16 1XL (930 to 4pm), Fri 24th and Sat 25th Nov 2017 - Aimed at 15-24 year olds, this two day (FREE) event will provide young people with a chance to discover careers through interactive activities and demonstrations. Hosts a combination of educational institutions with employers under one roof, enabling visitors to find out about careers and the training required. To find out more and book: skillslondon2017.co.uk

'What Career Live' and 'What University Live' - Fri 6th & Sat 7th Oct 2017 at Olympia, London Fri 2nd and also Sat 3rd March 2018 at the NEC, Birmingham. 10am to 4pm

The **'What Career and What Uni'** show takes place every year in London and Birmingham will help school leavers decide what to do next, whether it's an apprenticeship, training programme or heading to university after A Levels. *What Career Live?* is co-located with its sister show, *What University Live ?* which will help school leavers identify and select which university they wish to apply to, and give parents the opportunity to find out more about how much it will cost, whether it's 'value for money' and the truth about student fees and debt.

National Apprenticeship Roadshow, Arena MK, Mon & Tues 12th /13th March 2018 - following the success of the 2016 and 2017 Roadshows, Arena MK in Milton Keynes will host the second National Apprenticeship Show.

The event has been split into time slots: If you and your family would like to attend the event then you are welcome to attend the dedicated evening opening between 4.00- 6.30pm on the Monday 12th March. Whilst it is also possible to attend on either day between 9.30am – 3.00pm these sessions will be very busy with school groups attending. *You must book tickets (they are FREE) to guarantee a place.*

Mr Chapman

Sixth Form Activity Day to Frontier Centre

On Monday 9th October students in Q12 and 13 went on an activity day to the Frontier Centre at Rock UK for a bonding day experience.

In total 22 students in the Sixth Form took part with the aim of better integration across the two year groups.

There were two activities, Canoeing and Raft Building, and the latter involved having to sail the raft that students had just built down the river, hoping of course that it would be up to the task and not result in getting a sudden immersion in the water.

Ms Weir & Mr Knox

“I think it’s fair to say we all had a good time. We were split into two groups, with one group raft building in the morning and canoeing in the afternoon, and the other group doing the opposite. Despite looking questionably fragile, the rafts all managed to float reasonably well and we all were laughing and having fun while trying to do set challenges - and only a few ended up in the water! The morning canoe group, I was told, didn’t actually have any people ending up in the water. I wish the same could be said for my group! All three of us in the one canoe were soaking wet after capsizing TWICE! However, it was still funny and all round great fun playing ball games in the canoes, doing the challenges and not even a few dunkings could dampen the mood! Thank you to Ms Weir and Mr Knox for organising the trip.”

Ethan W



World Challenge Training Expedition

After much preparation, we made our way to Cleator in Cumbria. Mr Muskin and Miss Power met our students at school at o'dark thirty, roughly translated to 4:15 am! Thank you so much for giving up your weekend to drive the students to Cumbria. Several hours later, stuck behind the odd sheep lorry, having crossed cattle grids on the M6 slip roads (I kid you not, it was that rural), we all met up at the World Challenge centre.

Challenge one, erect a tent. This was an interesting task, some students had never done this before, others more familiar with tenting practice took an early leadership role. However despite previous experience on D of E, there were still some tents that rocked back and forth, a little, or maybe a lot. Some pole adjustments saw to it that finally all tents were now stable, and pegged to the ground. It wasn't until later that students realised that pitching a tent on a slight incline was not a good idea, particularly if you happen to be the student at the lower end, being woken every time your tent buddy toppled onto you in the night. But it is all a learning curve.

Students were set up in 2 or 3 man tents, beds ready and big bags deposited. The staff were then given their tents, a 1 one man tent each. Apparently these tents are supposed to be big enough to sleep a 6'4 man, with his bag. Well, I'm a 5'7 woman with a bag, and there wasn't a lot of room I can tell you, so the bag slept in the porch, and got slightly damp, however, rather it than me!

It was around 1pm by the time we were ready to leave the campsite, and enjoy our first trek. Some of the students set off with everything in their bags, including pasta, pasta sauce, porridge... Others had slightly less, but all waterproofed up and ready for the weathers. It was supposed to be heavy rain after all. However, it wasn't so heavy in the rain department, more of light misting. Layers came off, and as we walked around Ennerdale Water, we stopped for our first team challenge, this involved a loop of material that had to be passed over every individual in the team, against the clock. After some discussion various attempts were made, the team reduced their time on each attempt, and after the fourth reduction in time we called that a win, and picked up our packs, and marched on. Parts of the trek were on paths, others not so much. But due to the dampness of the ground, many of the roots and rocks underfoot were slimy and slippery. I certainly lost count of the oooohs, arrghs and other yelps made as students slid onto, off or across various obstacles.

It was getting close to 5:30 pm, and we were still not back, not able to see the campsite, and loosing light. But all was well, and we found the campsite without any bother in the end. Then next challenge was dinner. How to cook on a Trangia? The good news was that James knew, and so he took charge. The bad news was that cold water takes ages to boil using Trangias, I mean really ages. Darkness fell, and the water was still heating up... Eventually it was ready, and so the pasta was cooked. By this point everyone was very hungry, having had lunch consisting of a pitta (or two for those who ate Sunday's lunch on Saturday) smeared with Nutella or marmite as was your preference. Thanks to Ella for preparing these before our departure. Some had eaten other snacks on the route, not realising that the food they were carrying were our supplies for Sunday also... Anyway, pasta and sauce it was on Saturday, and thank you James, it was worth the wait. Some students made their way through second and third helpings. *(continues on next page)*



World Challenge Training Expedition



All the students were in their tents by 8pm, and some already asleep, others still talking at 9pm, but nobody had the energy to be up and about in the cold night air. I can safely say I've had better nights' sleep, but it wasn't bad. The students were up and at around 7:30am, however to my knowledge only the staff showered...

Cuppa porridge for breakfast, then a combining of the group food supplies, hmmm. The food challenge was set before we departed for the Lakes, the students had to plan 4 meals for 13 people with a total budget of £39, £3 each. This was a challenge, and after the team decided on the food Sarah offered to buy all that was on the shopping list, thank you Sarah. Unfortunately menus and calorie requirements were not areas of strength. Again, it's all a learning curve. So looking at the remaining food, we had a nutritious lunch consisting of a fun size bag of Haribo, a similar sized bag of fruit coated in yogurt, and one of croissant or a chocolate crepe, or a chocolate chip cake, with a piece of flapjack for dessert. Learning curve.

On the Sunday we embarked on a more challenging route. It started with more team building skills, where students were required to pass a very precious stick across a gorge with sheer edges. The stick could not be dropped, and students could not step over the line. They managed to pass the stick, not throw, but pass from one hand to another, a distance of 13 feet. Quite impressive and involved a significant amount of trust in your team, great effort guys.

So on with the walk. I mentioned this was a challenging walk. I nearly died. Well, that's what it felt like, my lungs were most definitely protesting. The start of the trek was off the beaten path, off the path suggests that there may have been one nearby. Allow me to clarify, there was no path, not even the sheep tried to take the crazy route our dear leader Richard took us on. On hands and feet we made it past the pathless practically vertical route, then continued on up to a little waterfall. Here students were challenged to drink from the fall. Some took the challenge on, some dunked their heads; Millie, she went in for it whole heartedly. I mean really she went in, head, feet, water over her boots, legs in fall... Brave move Millie. As we continued up, the summit seemed to be just over the next brow. No, maybe the next one, still no... Eventually we made it and had photos around the cairn. Lunchtime, tuck into your Haribo!

More team challenges on the top, this time with a climbing rope, skipping rope, what's the difference? Run through the rope without it touching you. Some were good at this, and have fab timing, others, not so much. But with the team counting down everyone managed to get through, first individually, then in pairs, then in fives, and finally in one hit.

We sat atop the hill, as it was only a hill, not a mountain despite how it felt, in the fluorescent yellow group shelter. Everyone sharing their peaks and pits of the weekend. Some shared peaks of putting up their tent, others of making it to the top, my peak was seeing the students come together and work as a team.

Then came the decent, and would you believe it, there was a path all the way down to the bottom. Odd that Richard didn't know this on the way up...

Back to camp, tents down, washing up to be done, 36km walked, and muddier, sweatier, rosier cheeked, wind-swept but all smiling, we departed from Cleator. A challenge, definitely, a learning curve, for sure, and a more cohesive team, absolutely! Next stop Nepal!

Well done everyone.

Mrs Khan

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Macmillan's 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' is the charity's biggest fundraising event, where people across the UK are asked to hold a coffee morning and raise money for people living with cancer. This year on Friday 29th September, Quinton House raised over £260 and we would like to thank parents for their participation in this excellent initiative. We hope they enjoyed a chance to meet up over a coffee, catch up with friends and do something for charity at the same time. A big thank you to all the Year 12 students who volunteered to help at this worthwhile event.

Ms Weir and Year 12



WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT



Jeans for Genes Day

Quinton House pupils raised more than £600 to support medical research by wearing their jeans on Jeans for Genes Day.



Fireworks Night: 7th November



Come along to our popular annual professional fireworks display on Tuesday 7th November in our stunning grounds and enjoy a delicious BBQ and refreshments. The bonfire will be lit at 6pm followed by a professional fireworks display at 6.30pm. Tickets are available from our Sixth Formers on the gate on the night priced at £4 for an adult, £2 for a child (under 5s free) or a family ticket for £10 (2 adults + 2 children). Family and friends all welcome!

Winter Wonderland: 9th December

Join us for this wonderfully festive event on Saturday 9th December 3pm-5pm with ice-skating, live reindeer, Santa's Grotto, Christmas gift stalls, music from the School choir, mince pies and other refreshments as well as a chance to enter our competition to win a fabulous Winter hamper. Family and friends welcome! Entry is free and open to all.

Live Reindeer
Ice Rink
Santa's Grotto
Choir Singing
Food
Gifts
Festivities

Winter
at
QUINTON
HOUSE
SCHOOL
Wonderland

FREE ENTRY
OPEN TO ALL

Saturday 9th December 3pm-5pm
Quinton House School, Upton, Northampton, NN5 4UX

BOOK NOW!

www.quintonhouseschool.co.uk/winter-wonderland