

QHS Newsletter

End of Autumn Term 2017



QUINTON HOUSE SCHOOL

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The end of term has fully demonstrated the strength of the community at Quinton House with an array of festive events for all sections of the school to enjoy and display their talents. St Michael's Church has been the venue for the Christingle and Nativity Services in which our Junior School children have excelled with their singing, acting and public speaking. Each event has been well attended by parents and each has provided all in attendance with some special memories as we move towards Christmas. The school provided every member of the school with the opportunity to enjoy ice skating with their friends prior to our two showpiece Christmas events. The quality of the music and singing at our Special Quinton Christmas concert performed outside Upton Hall made for a magical, if extremely cold, evening of seasonal cheer. The Winter Wonderland then provided an opportunity for our own families to come together with those outside of our school to enjoy a truly wonderful evening with live reindeer, ice skating, Christmas stalls, choral singing, and a visit from Father Christmas.

As often happens at the end of term, the school offers its very best wishes to departing staff. Mr Taylor has now retired from his role as Head of IT in the Senior School and Mr David Roe moves on to new challenges at Southfield School from his work in the Humanities Department at the school. Mr Roe has made a significant contribution in many different aspects of school life since joining the staff in September 2013.

Although our Carol Service was sadly cancelled, the school pupils and staff joined together in their Christmas jumpers for a final day whole school assembly that celebrated the efforts and achievements of a memorable Autumn Term. There have been impressive performances on the sports field and much with which to be impressed when sampling the work of the children at all ages. The students and pupils should be commended on their hard work and progress reflected in some very positive school reports. A glance at the school Facebook page and contents of this term's newsletters provide a demonstration of the quality of the activities and events on the school calendar. There are certainly exciting times ahead when the children return to school in January.

Mr Tim Hoyle



Ice skating outside The Lindens

Update from Nursery

Yet again Nursery children have had a rich and varied half term, including learning more key words, launching balloons during Anti-Bullying Week and getting involved in a host of festive activities.

At the beginning of December the children decorated the little house with lots of brightly coloured tinsel– it looked amazing. They then had a go at ice skating! The children all seemed to love wobbling their way round the ice.

The Nursery decorations were completed with the children planting their very own real Christmas trees. An elf then arrived to watch the children make all their Christmas crafts.

In the final week of term the children have performed a fabulous nativity, enjoyed story time with the story elves and eaten a wonderful Christmas lunch! Yummy!

Miss Parker



Extra Nursery Sessions

Due to high demand, our nursery sessions are filling up fast. Before these are given externally, I would like to offer these to our existing parents on a first come first served basis. If you are interested in increasing your child's nursery sessions, please contact me on 01604 684828 by the beginning of next term and I will do my best to accommodate you.

Have a wonderful Christmas.

Mrs Sainsbury

Update from QR

Christmas preparations are well underway in Reception, the classroom is decorated and the glitter is out! During our Celebrations topic we learnt about Christingle and what each part of the Christingle represents. Children really enjoyed visiting the church for the Year 2 Christingle service and joined in with the songs that they had been practising during singing assembly.

We read 'Santa's Sleigh is on its way to Northampton', children then made maps of Santa's journey on Christmas Eve. We looked at an atlas and children included different countries that would be visited before Santa comes to visit us in Northampton. We have also been learning about the Christmas Story and children have been retelling the story using the Nativity scene.

The children have been working very hard during rehearsals for our EYFS Nativity. I would like to thank parents for their support providing costumes and learning lines. We really enjoyed performing for you.

The children have worked extremely hard this term and I am very pleased with their progress. After Christmas our topics will be Winter and People Who Help Us. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

See below some photos of the children on the ice rink.

Miss Billington



Q1 Get Seasonal in Science

In Science this term, Q1 have been learning about Seasonal Changes. We have been on Autumn walks around the school grounds and used our senses (last term's science topic!) to see, touch, listen and smell Autumn. We looked at the trees, gathered fallen leaves to observe their colours and learned the difference between Evergreen and Deciduous trees.

We also made Rain Gauges to observe and record weekly rainfall, and we put one in the woods and one outside Nursery. We then made predictions about whether there would be any rain in our Gauges. We recorded 15 millilitres of rain outside Nursery in the third week of term, but none in the woods. We thought about reasons for the differences and were able to draw conclusions from our results.

Mrs Kelly



Update from Q2

After a busy term, I would like to send a big pat on the back to the children of Q2 for their magical performance on Thursday 30th November. Their Christingle was mesmerising and each child spoke clearly and sung louder than I have heard. A lot of patience was required in the run up to the performance, but their hard work and enthusiasm certainly paid off. Another big thank you to Mrs Murell for organising the glowing christingles (although the sweets did not last long after the service!) and to Miss Stone for her perfect voice and allowing the children to sound like angels themselves too!

The children really enjoyed learning about hygiene in their science lessons, especially when the glitter germs invaded our hands and classroom. They have been learning about inventors and trying to determine weather certain inventors use science in their work. They decided that a doctor was very much scientific and we felt thankful for those who look after us in such a way.

For our next topic we will be following this up by looking into the lives of historical nurses. If you happen to be a nurse/doctor or know of anybody who is, and would like to talk to the children about the types of activities you do in work, please let me know so we can arrange a session.

Thank you to all of the parents who have provided the children with winter warmers; keep these coming in throughout January too. Please also ensure these are clearly named, just like the rest of the uniform.

We have really enjoyed seeing Barnaby return to school each Tuesday and would like to thank you for the efforts you are showing. I am sure Barnaby enjoys your company as much as we enjoy reading about your week together. Barnaby Bear will be visiting each household once a week in the new year too!

Q2 children are extremely lucky to have such wonderful learning support assistants in the classroom and is it with elation and sadness that we have to say a short farewell to Mrs Hunter as she leaves to have her baby. The children and I are very excited to see if Mr and Mrs Hunter have a baby boy or girl. Many congratulations to their family in advance.

The children have been very busy over the last six weeks so a rest is very much deserved. Enjoy the festivities and have a big mince pie and hot chocolate for me!

See you all in January.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Miss Howard



Q3: Roman Day and Think Tank

See below pupil accounts of Roman Day and our Trip to Think Tank.

Mrs Cheney

Roman Day:

On Roman Day we all went to our Roman classroom in Roman Empire and Roman God costumes.

First we each made a mosaic tile and after that we had play. Then we did two Roman dances and had a Roman Feast for lunch, it was delicious! We also made a Roman road that you could eat. It was made out of biscuits, custard and chocolate! It was amazing fun.

By Lottie D



Think Tank:

On Tuesday 21st November, Q3 went to Think Tank to learn about fantastic science. I couldn't wait!

In the morning we went on the bus to Think Tank and had a quick snack before exploring the 'Science of the Past' exhibition.

After that, we had loads of fun in the Science Garden. Then we went to a Rocks and Minerals workshop.

After that we had some delicious lunch. In the afternoon we discovered some fantastic robots which were well made. We even saw an alien space centre which was fantastic!

After the trip we went back to school. I loved the trip.

By Joshua R

Stone Age Day in Q4

Q4 had a fantastic day, travelling back into the Stone Age! They came to school in excellent outfits and participated in different activities throughout the day.

They started the day cooking a Stone Age stew and a fruit and oat pudding. They then went hunting in the school grounds for natural materials to make weapons with and created their own jewellery. They especially loved covering the walls in cave paintings!

We finished the day working in groups to perform a Stone Age hunting dance.

Thank you to all of the parents for providing wonderful costumes.

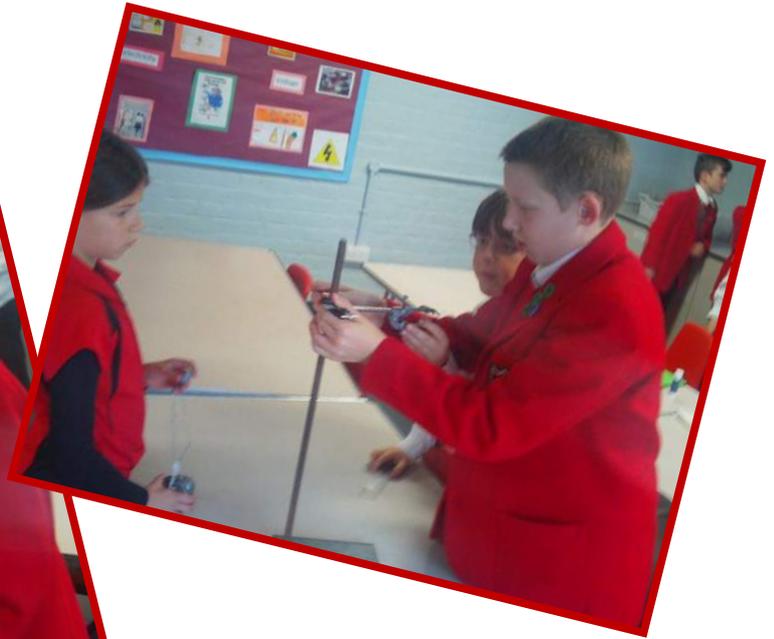
Miss Miller-Chalk



Q6 Get to Grips with Forces!

Year 6 have been making force meters in the Junior lab. They calibrated a spring by hanging some weights from it and measuring the length of the spring. Next they plotted a straight line graph which enabled them to work out the mass of a stone from Cromer beach!

Mr Whitby



Q6 Accounts of Harry Potter Trip

On Thursday the 19th of October Q6 got on the coach and headed off to Harry Potter World.

When we had been to the toilets we had a little quiz, teachers Vs students. The children won, with a lot of thanks to Katharine.

Finally, we got through the bag search and set off. We queued up past the cupboard where Harry 'slept'.

After that we watched a little clip with parts of all the Harry Potters in it.

Following this we entered the Great Hall. It had all the teachers in, and even 'food' on the tables!

The next room was full with the props and staging like the boys common room items.

Then we went through the Forbidden Forest, but for those children and staff scared of spiders, there were a lot of them!

After that we looked around the Hogwarts Express. This was amazing, and we then had the chance to go on the green screen train and had to act like Harry did when the devilish Dementors came on the train. It was very interesting.

At that point we went to have lunch. Drive and into Harry's house which he lived in with his aunt and uncle. We then explored the 'night bus', which was really brilliant.

Sadly we then had to head back.

Once we had finished lunch we walked to Privet on the coach. We stopped at the shop where there was so much fabulous stuff to remind us of the day and the wonderful world of Harry Potter.

It was amazing!!!

Frances Q6

On Thursday the 19th October the year 6's were all very excited to go to Harry Potter World.

At 9 o'clock we all got on the bus.

After a very long journey we had to queue up for a few minutes, and we had to be searched to make sure we didn't have anything illegal on us.

When we all finally got through the bag search we dropped our bags off on a trolley but took a snack to have just then.

Soon after we had finished our delicious snacks we were being told some interesting facts about Harry Potter and how they made the movies. When we were allowed, we watched a movie about everything in Harry Potter.

After that we went to the Great Hall and saw lots of costumes of the characters and because it was near Halloween there were lots of pumpkins hanging from the ceiling.

Soon after we went to through the Forbidden Forest and saw lots of spiders.

We were very hungry so we went and had lunch. While we were having lunch a man named John worked there so he answered our questions while we ate our lunch.

Once we had finished our food we kept on going round until we got to the Hogwarts Express. We had a look around and went on the green screen of when they were going to Hogwarts.

Next we had a look on the train and saw the actual carriages witch they used for the real set.

Soon after that we went down diagon ally and saw some posters.

We then saw lots of pictures in a ginormous art gallery full of loads of humongous paintings.

Soon after that we went to the gift shop and some of the prices were expensive, but some people still bought some things.

When we got back to Quinton it was time to go home.

I really enjoined going to Harry Potter World.

You should definitely go very soon.

Jack Q6

Q6 Harry Potter Persuasive Writing

In Q6 English lessons we did a unit of persuasive writing based on Harry Potter. Buckbeak is a Hippogriff from Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban who was sentenced to death because he attacked a student – Draco Malfoy. Q6 had to write a piece of persuasive writing for or against his death sentence. We were given 5 weeks to write it up and then we handed it to our teachers.

Once we were told who was in the final, we all went down to the courtyard to see who had won. Everyone who was in the final read their pieces to Mr Hoyle and Mrs Sparrow who made the final decision. In 3rd place was Finn S who won Harry Potter badges, 2nd place was Frances B who won a Buckbeak keyring and in first place was Myles R and he won a stuffed Buckbeak toy.

By Katharine Q6

HARRY POTTER – BUCKBECK

Buckbeak will not be destroyed because this beast is innocent. Why would this tame beast be in the wrong? Neither was Hagrid.

He did not mean for the beast to attack the student. He was meant to attack when provoked.

Why would a student stride up to a beast and provoke it?

What person would provoke a fantastic beast?

Draco Malfoy is the one that provoked the beast. Did he really mean to provoke it? Yes, he stomped towards it and made it angry. He did not copy Mr Potter, a young, respectful student. Some people would not even step forward an inch but Mr Malfoy disrespectful, dozy and daft to even move without Hagrid's permission. So he shall be the one to decide this innocent beast shall be spared!

Do you and the school want this creature destroyed? It could be in use for future years to come, educating students! So please spare this magical beast and save us from sadness. Spare him! Please! 99.99% of children want him alive. We are all so sad that you think he should be killed.

Thank you

From

Myles R Q6

(Student at Hogwarts)

Please for us

P.S: Why would you kill a magical beast if you have a three headed dog in your basement?

Would you kill this fantastic, fabulous, flabbergasted animal?

Do you care about animal cruelty!

Poetry by Heart Competition

Quinton House School held its first Poetry by Heart Competition with the aim to 'Stretch and Challenge' pupils to memorise a poem and recite it with understanding.

The list of poems that the pupils had to choose from were from a selection of First World War poems which had complexity of diction and syntax, metre and rhyme and with shifts of mood and tone to fully challenge our students.

We were pleased with all of the recitals. However, there were particularly strong performances from Hannah v d B and Misha A, who recited their poems accurately and with meaning.

Year 8 winner: Misha A

Year 9 winner: Hannah v d B

Year 10 winner: Anya D

Congratulations to our winners and well done to the commended performances from Raphael P-C, Megan E-L, Gracie B, Joseph D and Carlos D-L.

Our key stage winners have been filmed and put forward for the national competition, the finals of which are held at Cambridge University.

Let's wish our pupils the best of luck!

Mrs Moss

(With thanks also to Miss Pearson for judging the entries with me)

To view Misha and Hannah's recitals, visit the News Page of the school website at:

www.quintonhouseschool.co.uk/about-us/latest-news/

POETRY BY
HEART

Food Preparation & Nutrition

The Food Department has had a busy half term with lots of extra activities going on in addition to normal lessons!

On Monday 4th December, Year 11 completed their mock practical examination for the new GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition. They all planned and cooked 3 dishes for a 'family celebration' of their choice within a strict 3 hour time limit. The students worked frantically, producing high quality dishes which demonstrated a wide range of skills. They found the experience invaluable in helping them see where they need to improve for the real examination in February.

The Food department was also involved in the baking of sweet treats for the Senior Citizen's Christmas party which took place on Wednesday 7th December. Students in Years 6-10 all played their part in cooking, cleaning and decorating cakes, biscuits and scones. A special thank you to Mrs C-J for her help with the supervision and organisation with this too.

On Wednesday 13th December the teachers in the Food department also had the difficult challenge of judging the Christmas Cake competition. It was wonderful to see so many children take on the challenge and we had great fun discussing and comparing all the cakes that were brought into school. Thank you to those students who took the time to enter.

Finally, many classes of Food students have enjoyed making mince pies in their final lesson of the term to hand out to staff at QHS. It's a festive tradition that both students and staff enjoy!

Please remember that if you have any spare sweet/biscuit boxes left over after Christmas, the department would welcome them to use as spare containers. Many thanks in advance and have a wonderful Christmas.

Mrs Jeffery



Senior School High School Musical

We need you for our school production!

Can you sing, act and/or dance? If so we want you to be part of QHS's dazzling summer production of *'High School Musical'*.

A pop-culture phenomena, High School Musical topped the music charts and broke records within weeks of its 2006 Disney Channel premiere. Follow the antics of East High's most popular student and "the new girl" as they fall in love and audition for the school musical. Troy, Gabriella, Sharpay, Ryan, Chad, Taylor and the rest of the gang are all ready to come alive on stage in this fun-tastic, family-friendly show that only Disney and QHS can bring you! So what are you waiting for? Get'cha head in the game!

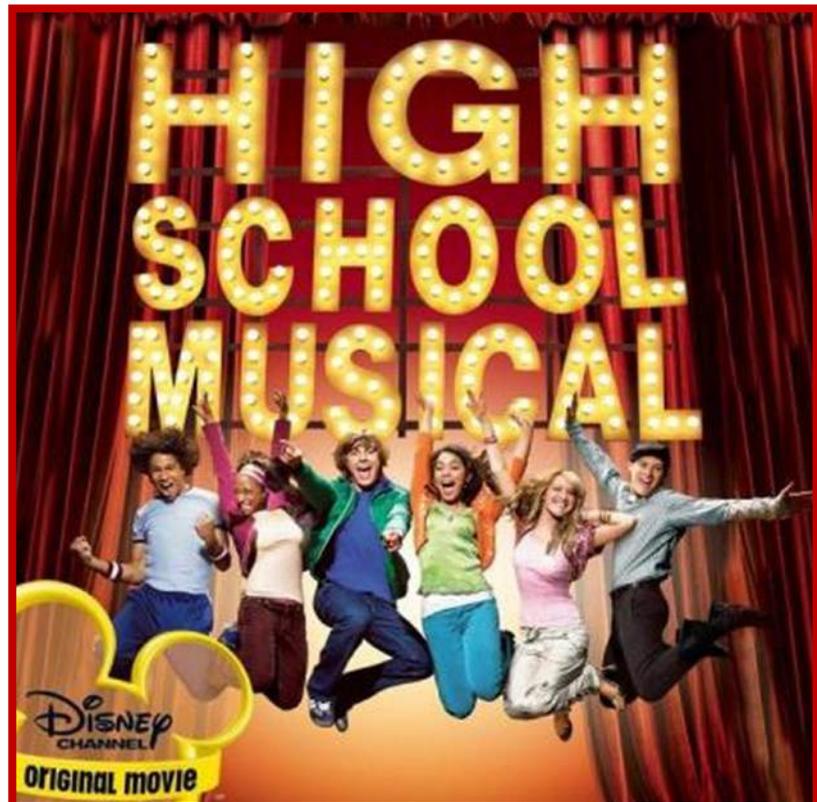
Join us on Monday 15th January for an exciting introductory workshop with auditions the following week. There are also some roles which do not require singing so there's plenty of opportunity if you want to take part but are not a confident singer. Don't worry if you're unsure or nervous or have never been in a school production (or any kind of production) before. Come along and get involved!

Introductory workshop: Monday 15th January at 4pm in the Drama Studio

Thanks

The HSM team

(Miss Henry-Moore, Miss Pearson, Mr White, Miss Power and Ms Stone.)



Careers Update

Friday 20th Oct 2017, Year 9 to 13 Careers Talk

Ashley Clarkson, a Senior Manager from Grant Thornton in Northampton, came into school to give a presentation on the various careers in the business/accounting sector, for school leavers and graduates.

Grant Thornton International Ltd is the world's seventh largest professional services network of independent accounting and consulting member firms which provide assurance, tax and advisory services to privately held businesses, public interest entities, and public sector entities. Grant Thornton operate as a global organisation in over 130 countries, with combined revenues from member firms of over US\$5 billion. There are over 2,500 member firm partners and total member firm personnel of over 42,000.

Ashley also outlined the key 'employability' skills that businesses look for in youngsters, and how our students can start building these skills in their education years. These include resilience, teamwork, time-keeping and working to deadlines and critical thinking/problem solving skills.



For more information on the opportunities available here are some useful web-based resources :

Trainee website homepage

<https://trainees.grant-thornton.co.uk/>

Spilling The Beans (the inside scoop from our current trainees)

<http://traineeblog.grant-thornton.co.uk/>

About Grant Thornton (read about our vision and Shared Enterprise)

<http://www.grantthornton.co.uk/en/about-us/>

email : **TraineeRecruitment@uk.gt.com**

Careers Update Continued

Thursday 9th November, Year 12 Employability and CV Workshop

The Year 12s took part in an employability & CV workshop with local employers, the University of Northampton and 3aaa (apprenticeship providers). Our guests held 1-2-1 sessions with students, giving advice on CVs and sharing insight on the skills employers look for.



Year 12 Careers Trip to The Skills Show at the NEC (17/11/17)

To help the Year 12 students make choices about future careers and/or Higher Education we visited the Skills Show at the Birmingham NEC. Designed to be a 'one stop shop' with careers advice, skills activities, local and national companies, training organisations and colleges. There were hundreds of great career ideas to explore, including jobs of the future, as well as loads of information and advice on all routes into jobs, from apprenticeships to university

The Skills Show is divided into five main areas, each providing a focus on particular industry sectors :

Health & Hospitality (fitness; cooking; floristry; hairdressing; public services; forensics).

Construction & Logistics (bricklaying; carpentry; landscaping; plumbing; environmental science; architecture).

Engineering & Technology (automotive; mechanics; robotics; manufacturing; aeronautical; rail; inventing).

Digital & Business (enterprise; accounting; network security; software; web; IT; law; telecommunications).

Creative & Design (games design; music; journalism; graphic design; film & TV; radio; fashion).

Continued on page 16...

Careers Update Continued

The show brought the work skills to life for students, giving them the chance to learn about education, training and careers in an engaging and inspiring way. From trying out skills and watching talented young people to hearing from industry insiders and careers experts. For more information on the show go to www.worldskillsuk.org/directions/our-events/the-skills-show

“I was not sure about university and today’s trip provided some other possible opportunities, such as Higher level and degree level apprenticeships.”

Ellie C



“I found the creative design section interesting as it helped me decide on particular careers that I may like to pursue and learn a lot more about them than I knew before.”

Bethany W



Careers Talk on Friday 8th Dec (Years 9 to 13)

For the second careers talk the visiting speaker was Paul Thompson, the Employers and Skills Manager from SEMLEP (South East Midlands Enterprise Partnership). Paul is responsible for working with partners to develop a range of initiatives that support skills enhancement for young people and adults, including apprenticeships, with the aim of producing a skilled and adaptable workforce, supporting existing employers and future growth in the area.

In an inspirational presentation, Paul spoke eloquently about the opportunities and training pathways open to students right here on their doorstep in Northants, and how they can gain employability skills whilst still in school, college or university. The key growth sectors providing exciting opportunities in the South East Midlands include: high performance technology, logistics, creative/culture, health/social care and construction. Paul also highlighted the importance for young people of leaving education with the relevant skills, knowledge, appropriate qualifications and attitudes needed by employers.

I would highly recommend having a look at the slideshow Paul used in his presentation, which can be found on the school VLE in the Extra Curricular section (look in the 'Careers and Higher Education' section). Alternatively visit <http://bit.ly/2AFNxwx>

Mr Chapman

Sixth Form 'Take the Lead'

On Thursday 30th November students in year 12 went into KS3 PSHE lessons in order to deliver a ten minute presentation on a part of their studies. The key aims were to promote confidence and to practise presentation skills. Students were able to work individually or in pairs. They were advised to consider how to engage their audience with choices such as PowerPoints, a quiz, handouts and/or activities. There was the opportunity to prepare in PSHE in advance, to practise with peers and to take advice on how to improve.

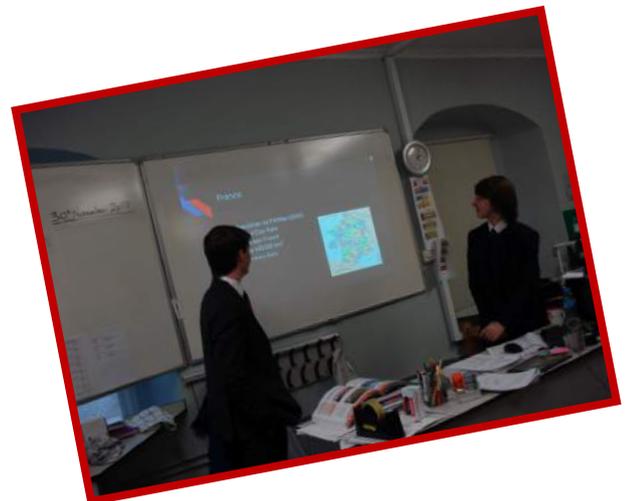
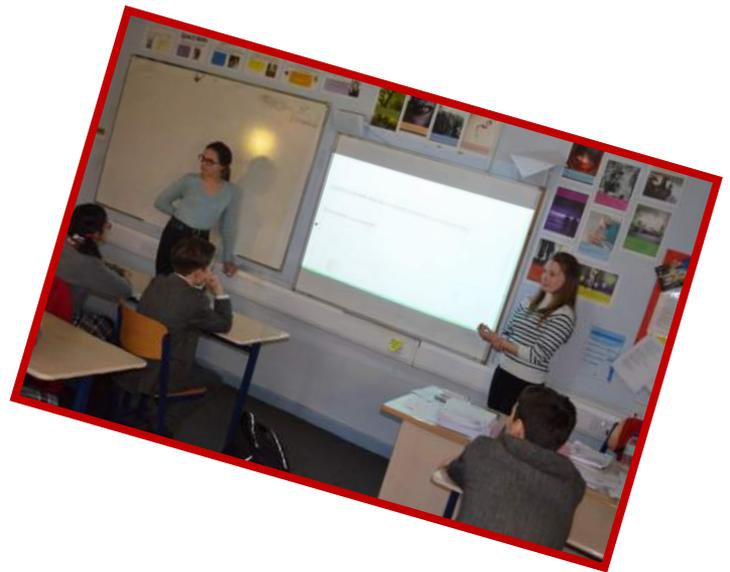
Presentations ranged hugely in variety and included topics such as the Holocaust, a genetically modified mouse/snake, the psychological difference between a sociopath & a psychopath and French culture.

Most of year 12 considered it to be a very useful experience, albeit one that was out of their comfort zone. They were generally really pleased with the response from the students in years 7-9, who took part whole-heartedly.

Well done year 12!

Ms Weir

Co-Head of Sixth Form



Barclays Life Skills Visit Q13

On Thursday December 7th, three courageous volunteers from Barclays Life Skills came to Quinton House to conduct mock first-job interviews with our year 13s, who were primed for a good grilling and a test of their skills in the spotlight.

Thomas S takes up the story: “This opportunity provided a constructive experience into what a real-life interview would be like, giving us practice in improving our communication and presentational skills while receiving useful feedback on the areas in which we needed to improve. It was especially beneficial since the interview was conducted by people with real-world experience and could give relevant and tailored advice.”

The volunteers were greatly impressed by the mature approach of the interviewees and complimented them on their excellent manners and communication skills. It was a very worthwhile session for all concerned.

Mr Knox



QHS is Awarded Champion Status with NCS

We are delighted to have been awarded 'champion school' status for the work done with NCS (National Citizen Service). This status is given to those institutions who have excelled in promoting the programme and who have gone above and beyond to support young people to benefit from participation in the programme.

In the Summer of 2017, 19 pupils from Quinton House participated in NCS, an initiative for 16 and 17 year olds which gives students the opportunity to take part in social action projects and build skills for work and life. NCS brings together young people from different backgrounds and helps them develop greater confidence, self-awareness and responsibility. It encourages personal and social development by working on skills like leadership, teamwork and communication. Participants develop a social action project to deal with a local issue they're passionate about, and spend 30 hours putting the project into action in their community. Local community projects this year's cohort contributed to include:

- Cleaning up Abington park
- Renovating Broaden horizons Garden
- Raising money and awareness for the Cynthia spencer hospice
- Fundraising events for the Hope centre
- Raising awareness and Money for the Alzheimer's society care homes across Northants
- Fundraising for Golden Steps Nursery

There will be opportunities for pupils to get involved once again in Summer 2018. Watch this space!



QHS Pupils Reach Final 6 in ISA Whitbread Prize

The ISA Whitbread Memorial Prize recognizes and celebrates outstanding involvement in, and service to, wider aspect of school and community life; in conjunction with achieving academic excellence in GCSE results.

The award was judged earlier this month and we are pleased to be able to tell you that Ella M and Holly W (Yr 11 last year) were both awarded Highly Commended status for the 2017 ISA Whitbread Prize.

They had a large number of very high achieving nominations this year, so the panel had a very difficult job to pick out the final winners.

Although they were not the overall winner, their achievements have been measured against pupils at schools of ISA Members across the country – probably around 5,000 pupils in total sitting GCSEs in 2017 – with 36 pupils being nominated by their schools for the award. So, they should be very proud to have reached the final six!

Congratulations must be given to Holly and Ella - this achievement will be something that they can use in future on their university applications and CVs.

This Term's Festive Events

Teatime Concert in the Ballroom



Nativities



Senior Citizens Concert



CD Recording



Special Quinton Christmas Concert



Winter Wonderland



School Uniform Shop

The uniform shop is open as normal until Thursday 14th December. It will then close over the Christmas period and reopen on Thursday 4th January between 10.00am – 1.00pm only. Normal term time opening hours resume on Tuesday 9th January.

During term time, the shop is open as follows:

Tuesday 3.30pm-6.00pm

Wednesday 8.00am-10.30am and 3.30pm-6.00pm

Thursday 8.00am-10.30am

Host Families Needed!

Can you host a student?

Gateway Education are looking to recruit new host families for their international students who attend the school.

If you have a spare room and are able to offer international students a warm, nurturing and welcoming home then Gateway would love to hear from you. Remuneration will be provided to meet the additional costs to the household.

If you would like to explore the rewarding and wonderful opportunity to help young people achieve a better education, please contact Emma Arthurs at Gateway on [01604 642082](tel:01604642082) or email emma@gateway-education.co.uk

Merry Christmas—See you in January!

