

QHS Newsletter

Spring Half Term 2018



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It is quite amazing to reach the weekend and to look back and to see just how much can be crammed into one school week. Last Monday I sat in wonderment and delight listening and watching our Year 5 and 6 children performing as members of an 8,000 strong choir to a packed audience in the O2 Arena in London. On Tuesday our Year 7 students set off to listen to a professional orchestra and to discover the history of music at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham. The Music theme continued with another Teatime Concert and our thespians are all hard at work having been cast in their various roles for the School Production, 'High School Musical'. In National Storytelling Week our children and staff visited younger children's classrooms to regale them with their favourite tales. Our Junior School parents were all welcomed into the school to learn more of our teaching and learning methods in Mathematics for the three days at the end of the week. On Friday, it was again to London, this time to visit the Houses of Parliament and Cabinet War Rooms with our A Level politicians and Senior School Debating Club. Throughout the week our impressive programme of sporting activities continued, the highlight of the week being the performance of our Year 11 Netball Team in the Midlands Regional Tournament of the National Championships.

Throughout the successes of any week in a school there is always challenge, difficulty and failure. There has been a focus this term on developing the principles of a growth mindset with our students.

- Our children are taught that to 'FAIL' is the 'First Attempt in Learning'.
- The message at the school is that 'It is okay not to know, but it is not okay not to try'.
- Our lessons are now based on the principles of 3B4Me. When children experience difficulty, they should first use their Brain to think again and try another way; they should then use their Books to see if they can find the solution to the problem; next they can ask a Buddy who could help with the task; and finally they turn to the Boss, the teacher at school or the parent at home.
- Following marked work, our children are now expected to dish the 'DIRT' with 'Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time' to ensure that they take note of the guidance and challenges set by the teacher.
- When the language is negative and children don't think they can do it, we are introducing the power of the word 'yet' at the end of that statement.

The language in the classrooms is changing at Quinton House School as we look to make our children independent learners that rise to the challenge and adopt a 'can do' approach.

Mr Tim Hoyle—Headmaster



Q5 & Q6 at Young Voices on 29th January

Update from Nursery

The topic in Nursery this half term is 'Space' and we got off to a flying start with the children picking up the names of the planets and space-related vocabulary. In music we made rocket shakers which were a huge success. Outside the children put on their space suits to investigate rocks from the planets. Children then got creative making alien slime and doing junk modelling on a giant scale, building their own spaceships.

Nursery children also enjoyed 'Stay & Learn' with parents this half term, as well as visits from older pupils as part of National Storytelling week.

Miss Parker



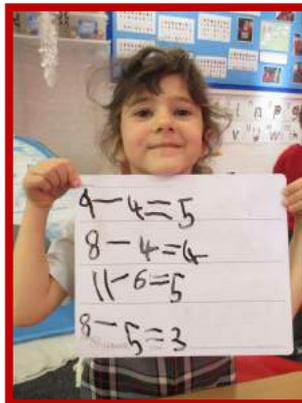
Update from Reception

Reception started the term by learning about Winter and we discussed the signs of Winter during a walk around the school grounds. Children talked about the trees losing their leaves, the weather getting colder and animals hibernating. In literacy we wrote about what we had seen during the walk. We enjoyed a wide range of activities including winter artwork, learning about melting using ice and playing in the igloo role play area which was home to Penguin. However, one morning we found a trail of snowy footprints across the classroom, which led outside. We then noticed a letter in the igloo, which explained that Penguin had gone off to Penguin School and he asked us to write to him. Children were very keen to write letters to him and to make maps to show his journey.

We then moved onto the topic People Who Help Us and we have had some excellent visits from a Doctor, Hairdresser, Police lady and the Fire Brigade. We thought of a range of questions to ask our visitors including "Which side of the fire engine is the hose?" and "Why do you wear a uniform?" We were able to get all our questions answered. Children also completed different science experiments to learn about finger prints and how to put fires out by removing oxygen.

In Maths we have been learning how to complete take away number sentences and have been practising naming and describing the properties of 2D and 3D shapes.

Miss Billington



Peer-Led Learning in Q1 & Q2

This term, Q2 taught the children from Q1 how to use a question mark through a variety of activities. This included; forming a question mark from model magic, decorating hand hats with the 5 W's, creating sentences with the correct punctuation and playing the Guess Who game with post-it notes on their foreheads. The children really enjoyed taking on a role as either the teacher or the pupil.

In a follow up activity, Q1 pupils wrote their own sentences demonstrating all that they had learnt. The older children then peer marked this work and were pleasantly surprised with the results of their teaching and how well the younger children applied their new knowledge.

The children are looking forward to the next time they can get together across age groups.

Mrs Kelly & Miss Howard

P.S. Any safari-themed items we can use to decorate the classroom next term would be gratefully received!



Roundup from Q4

Q4 have had a very busy half term. In Science their topic has been 'States of Matter' which has meant that we have been carrying out lots of investigations. The children have picked up the new vocabulary well and we will continue with this topic until the Easter holidays.

Q4 also had the opportunity to teach a lesson to Q3 on how to write a recount. They worked together to decide what the features of a recount are and Q3 then peer assessed Q4's work based on what Q4 had taught them. They had a great time working together and all children came away with new ideas.

Q4 also had an excellent time visiting the Gurdwara. They learnt all about the religion and what different signs and symbols represent. They had the opportunity to see the Guru Granth Sahib and even got to experience a meal in the Langar Hall. The children asked sensible questions to deepen their understanding of Sikhism and all showed such respect towards the belief.

It is Q4's Class Assembly on Thursday 8th March which will then be followed by Showing of Work where the children will have the opportunity to show you all the work they have done so far this year.

Miss Miller-Chalk



Q5 Conduct Absorbency Experiments

Q5H carried out absorbency experiments to test which fabric could absorb the most water. They then wrote up their experiments including drawing block graphs to illustrate their results.

Mrs Herbert



Q6 Religious Education

Mrs Rihal dropped into Q6's Religious Education lesson to talk to pupils about arranged marriages.



Maths-Focused 'Stay & Learn'

A huge thanks to all parents and grandparents who made our series of maths-focused 'Stay and Learn' sessions so successful.

Nursery—Q2



Q3 & Q4



Q5 & Q6



National Storytelling Week

This half term the whole school got involved in National Storytelling Week which saw pupils from across the school coming together to read and share their love of books together.

National
Storytelling
Week 



Misha 'Highly Commended' in National Competition

This half term we were delighted to report that Q8s Misha achieved a 'Highly Commended' in the national Poetry by Heart competition. Well done Misha! You can see her recital of 'Train' at <http://bit.ly/2Bimhn5>.

POETRY BY
HEART

Trips to the Saints Study Skills Centre

This half term Q3 and Q4 pupils have been fortunate enough to visit the Northampton Saints Rugby Club Study Skills Centre to take part in a maths workshop with their advanced skills teacher, followed by a tour of the stadium before returning to school.



Focus on Q7 & Q8 Food Technology

Students have had a busy start to the term in Food with both year groups straight into cooking! Year 7 have been focusing on healthy eating with regards to the 3 main meals of the day and made a delicious batch of fruit pancakes which could be served for breakfast. Students were able to learn the skill of using the hob safely and much fun was had by all with whisking their batter to pouring and flipping their pancakes. Next they baked a batch of savoury muffins which could form part of a lunch or picnic. Students were able to adapt the recipe to their own preference. The finished results were excellent!

Year 8 students are focusing on pastry this term and have already used filo pastry to make samosas. The skill of shaping the samosas came more quickly to some students than others but once they worked out the system, a batch of fantastic snacks was prepared by all! For the next practical, students made their own shortcrust pastry and turned this into a fruit pie. A busy practical but a key skill taught. We are looking forward to next term where we develop this skill further to attempt puff pastry.

Mrs Jeffery

Head of Food



Q9 Creative Writing

Q9 have been exploring nineteenth century literature. Here is Ella S's account of an eye-witness to the events that led to Oliver Twist asking for more...

Miss Pearson

John was a small, scrawny child with ears like a monkey and thin whitish lips. His eyes were the colour of pebbles; soft and grey, currently bloodshot as if he'd been crying. A black felt cap covered a mop of dusty blonde hair, he was bare foot, toes curled underneath him, black with dirt. Sooty hands clenched into obstinate little fists. A defiant expression plastered on his face, although if you looked closely you could see that his lips quivered slightly.

John had only been at the workhouse for half a day and a night. He was caught pick-pocketing near Trafalgar Square, the policeman had beaten him with a truncheon, but he'd only ended up with a couple of purplish bruises up his legs. They decided he was too young for prison so they sent him here.

When he first arrived they had allocated him a small, low bed, with a small, low nightstand. On the nightstand was a bible and a change of clothes. The faded bed covers were speckled with brown stains and were slightly damp.

He shared the dorm with twelve other boys, the oldest of which was a tall, dark haired boy called Toby, he said it was short for Tobias, but John wasn't sure that he believed him, he'd never met anyone called that before. The other children, to name a few, were called Tommy, Peter, Billy, George, Noah, Charlie and Oliver.

John liked Oliver, he wasn't too loud, in fact he was small and quiet, not quite as small as little Tommy who was only five, with blue eyes as big as tea saucers and milky white skin. That evening after the boys had been sent to bed and the gas lamps had been blown out, John heard Oliver singing to himself, the others must have heard him too but they didn't seem to mind.

The next morning, if you could call it that, the boys were woken by a shrill bell that rang out through the workhouse. It was still dark outside though it was Summer. John had hardly slept as every time he moved the wooden frame of the bed would creak loudly and wake him up.

Downstairs in the dining room, the boys sat at long wooden tables, there must have been a hundred of them. The room was dank and cold, at one end was a large copper from which an unpleasant smell was emanating. In front of him was a small metal porringer barely big enough for him to fit his fist in to.

Each boy went up in turn and a spoon of thick wet gruel would be deposited in their bowl by a considerably sizeable man by the name of Mr Bumble. When the boys had scraped their bowls clean and were left with only their reflection in the bottom, they all looked to Toby who had a mischievous expression on his face. A whisper was passed along the table and Tommy drew out a set of straws of various sizes. Whoever drew the shortest straw was to go to the front of the hall and ask the master for more gruel. The room fell silent as the straws were drawn one by one, when it was John's turn he held his breath grasping the middle straw, it was about five inches long. He looked around and his eyes fell on Oliver who had gone very pale.

There were more whispers as Oliver stood up and started walking slowly towards the copper.....

By Ella S

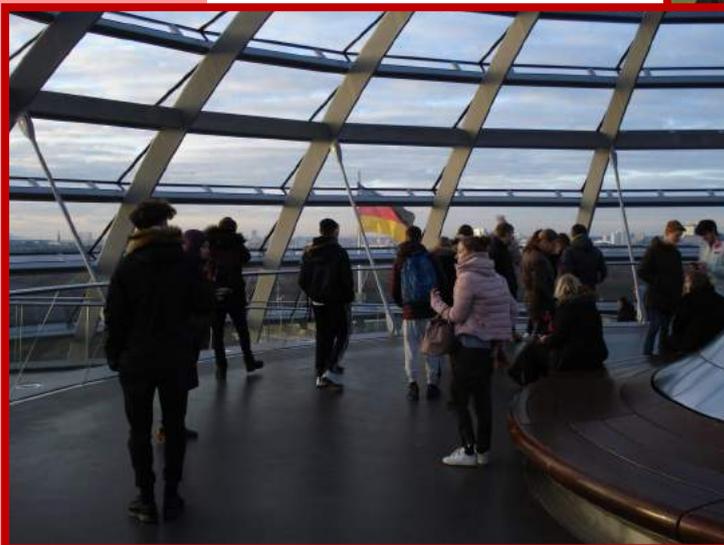
Berlin Trip

Between 15th - 18th December Senior School pupils left on their trip to Berlin. Pupils visited the Topography of Terror (Nazi Germany), Traenenpalast (Cold War), took in a walking tour of Berlin, visited the Sachsenhausen Concentration camp, Wannsee Conference House (Final Solution Nazi Germany), the Olympic Stadium, Reichstag, the Jewish Museum and several Christmas markets.

Mr Macmillan

“The trip was packed with things to do, most of them being about the history of Berlin with the Nazi regime and then the Cold War, with the separation and reconstitution of Germany, both of which are very interesting. The city itself was unique with elaborate architecture that was quite individual compared to other European cities. There were also many opportunities to shop at Christmas markets or the famous KDW if you wanted to buy some Christmas presents or some souvenirs. Furthermore, the trip allowed more freedom than other trips, which gave you a sense of independence. In conclusion the trip was very educational and a culturally enriching experience.”

Edward B Q12



U16 Netball News

The under 16 girls once again did the school proud as they represented the area in the regional round of the national netball tournament.

They played the tournament up in Nottingham. The weather was terrible. It rained and the wind felt like it came directly from the arctic circle. The girls worked hard and produced excellent performances.

Unfortunately on this occasion it was not to be our day. We missed out on national selection but managed to win our final game to secure the 9th best netball team in the East Midlands.

The girls make a fantastic team and are a pleasure to coach.

Girls representing were:

Jess H
Millie W
Jess L
Emily W
Polly W
Lizzie T
Cleo M
Lucy M
Ella J

Miss Power



Q10 Enterprise Challenge

We are the Year 10 Enterprise group and we recently organised and ran the tuck shop at the House Pizza & Disco evening. After a very successful evening (with our chocolate supplies running out in the first hour !) our sales came to a grand total of nearly £260, and we managed to sell out of all our stock. The feedback from our customers (the students) was brilliant, so clearly our market research into the types of food and drink they wanted paid off. 20% of the profit we made went to the school's charity of choice, which is even better news.

Mr Chapman



Careers Summary

1. Thurs 11th Jan 2018 - Year 12 presentation re 'Higher Education Study skills', from the University of Northampton

The slides used by our visiting speaker can be found at: <http://vle.quintonhouseschool.co.uk/resource.aspx?id=6149>

For the Harvard Reference quick guide (for extended writing tasks and dissertations) visit: <https://mypad.northampton.ac.uk/skillshub/files/2018/01/HarvardRefQuickGuide-update-2016-with-updated-logo-181d18d.pdf>

2. Fri 12th Jan 2018 - Year 11 and 12 presentation re National Citizen Service programme

This programme offers 16 and 17 year olds the opportunity to get involved in a personal and social development programme, lasting initially for 3 weeks in the summer holidays followed by 30 hours given to a Social Action Project, designed by the students as part of the programme. The programme breaks down into 5 phases followed by a graduation ceremony on completion of their Social Action Project and offers a great opportunity to build employability skills, improve confidence, meet new friends and contribute to their local communities For more info go to: www.ncsyes.co.uk

3. Thurs 18th Jan - Year 12 and 13 presentation on an 'Introduction to University Life' from Olivia Phillips, University of Northampton

The talk covered topics such as: Benefits of University • Finances • Different Qualifications and length of study • Different Universities • Research • UCAS
The presentation is available at <http://vle.quintonhouseschool.co.uk/resource.aspx?id=6145>.



4. Friday 26th Jan 2018 - Year 8 'Careers in law' talk from John Cato, Cato Solicitors

For the first of Year 8's careers talks this year we were delighted to welcome John Cato. John has been working as a solicitor for 30 years and is qualified as a Solicitor-Advocate allowing him to represent clients in court when appropriate. Cato Solicitors is a niche law practice with a formidable reputation in the areas of dispute resolution and construction law, with a national and international client base.

John is instructed by other firms of commercial solicitors to deal with their complex litigation requirements, specialising in commercial property law. He is also an entrepreneur, starting his own successful business *Cato Solicitors*.

5. Friday 2nd Feb 2018 - Year 9 to 13 careers talk

Our guest volunteer speaker (and parent) Mr Gary Halliday came in to deliver a very informative, educational and interactive talk on careers in the TV and film industry. Gary started out as a professional actor, appearing in programme such as Eastenders and Coronation Street, before starting his own film school over 10 years ago. www.ukfilmschool.org.uk. What really amazed the students was the sheer number of jobs connected with the film industry (with actors only making up a tiny number) including writers, producers, lawyers, accountants, designers, carpenters, camera crew, electricians, special effects teams. As Gary pointed out to the audience, all you have to do is sit through the closing credits of most productions to see the hundreds of different occupations involved in creating a movie or TV show.

Here are some other relevant websites on careers in media/entertainment, which you can also find on the VLE (in the extra-curricular section)

www.mandy.com (website for budding actors , theatre, TV , and film professionals, voice-overs, dancers, singers and musicians.

www.productionbase.co.uk (networking website for TV, film and commercial production professionals)

www.ccskills.org.uk/careers (about careers in the creative industries, e.g. art, music, theatre, design)

Music Roundup

Wicked

On Wednesday 24th January 85 pupils from Q8 and Q9 were taken to London's West End to watch 'Wicked'. Despite the rain outside the theatre, when we got in we were wowed by the staging and the enormous dragon that greets you as it hangs over the stage. The production was amazing and showed so well how music can be used to enhance plays and films and create whole stories. We had great comments from the pupils about how close we were to the stage and how much they could see of the piece. The music and story came as a surprise to some and they were enthralled by this retelling of the famous Wizard of Oz story.

A Student's View

"It was brilliant and the singing was amazing. It was really good to be able to see everything so clearly and I really enjoyed it. Can't wait for next year!"



Young Voices

On Monday 29th January we were able to take Q5 and Q6 plus some choir members to Young Voices in London. The concert is a mass choir made up of pupils and their teachers and this year on our date there were 7,700 singers in the choir. We all had an amazing time singing and dancing in front of the 15,000 strong audience and watching the amazing talents of the soloists including the 'YouTube' sensation Alfie Beard. We had the best seats in the house to watch the stage and had a fantastic time joining in with all the music. The students had an amazing time and despite the late return of the bus to school they were all singing and excited right up to collection back at school. This is such a valuable experience for the pupils and being at the O2 made it even more special this time. Well done to all who took part you were a delight to take and a credit throughout for your behaviour.



Music Roundup Continued...

City of Birmingham Orchestra (CBSO)

On Tuesday 30th January Q7 were treated to a trip to Symphony Hall in Birmingham to watch a special concert about the Orchestra. We heard about how it had changed and were introduced to a number of instruments as well as some of the lesser known pieces of music from the different music periods. The whole concert was specifically aimed at KS3 pupils and in total over 7000 students went to see it over the 4 concerts. We were very lucky to get seats and the students came back with a lot of extra knowledge for them to use in their latest music topic. As always they were polite and respectful on their trip out and listened with interest to all of the pieces.

Miss Stone



Music Clubs

- Monday – Lunchtime – Rock Choir,
After School - High School Musical Rehearsals
- Tuesday – Before School - Music Theory,
Lunchtime - African Drumming and Q1-2 Recorders
- Wednesday – Lunchtime - Little Quinton Singers,
After School - Orchestra,
- Thursday – Lunchtime - Quinton Quintet and Junior Training Band
After School - Quinton Singers,
- Friday – Lunchtime – Music Theory

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

Music Lessons

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

Q10 & Q11 Sixth Form Destination Evening

We were delighted to see so many parents and year 10 and 11 students at our Sixth Form Destination Evening last month. Eleven local schools and colleges attended the informal evening and brought information on Sixth Form education opportunities.



Q12 Work Experience: we need you!

Year 12 students at Quinton House School will be doing a work experience week from **Monday 18th June until Friday 22nd June 2018**. This is a valuable activity that helps students to gain knowledge of the working world. It helps them gain some experience in a career sector, as well as boosting their CV for university applications and job interviews, and it can also be an opportunity for them to see whether the sector they choose is worth pursuing. In this way work experience can potentially shape their future.

As the students are over 16 years of age they are required to find their own placement. (This is different to the rules in place for Year 10 who use Horizons). We are therefore asking if you, or somebody you know, would be willing to offer such a placement to one of our students. If so, we would greatly appreciate it if you or they could contact us so that we may be able to help to organise it.

Please email either of us at rupert.knox@quintonhouseschool.co.uk or helen.weir@quintonhouseschool.co.uk

We thank you in advance for any assistance you may be able to provide.

Mr R Knox and Ms H Weir

Co-Heads of Sixth Form



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Super Camps will be running Multi-Activity, RAW Outdoor Adventure and A Passion For LEGO® courses for children at **Quinton House School** during the school holidays.

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