



NEWS

Quintin Kynaston School

No.10 15th November 2002

Message from Headteacher

Reminder about uniform–

ALL students MUST be in uniform.

Years 8 to 11 must wear grey sweatshirts and blue polo shirts or blue schott jackets, blue polo shirts and blue trousers/skirt.

BLACK TRAINERS ARE NOT PART OF THE QK SCHOOL UNIFORM.

REMEMBER

- No trainers of any colour
- No jogging bottoms
- No jewellery
- No hats should be worn in school

Jo Shuter

Exam Notices

All students in Year 10 will be taking two of their GCSE Science module tests on Thursday 28th November 2002 at 9.00am.

Attendance is very important on this day, as these tests are actual exams that form part of students' final GCSE Science grades.

Year 10 will take further GCSE Science modules in March and June of this school year in order to complete the compulsory set of six modules.

Sports Hall Refurbishment

We are in the process of re-decorating the Sports Hall and changing rooms. This will be completed by next week.

If you miss an issue of *QK News*, you may wish to catch up on important information by downloading a copy from our website www.qkschool.org.uk

Basketball Success

Well done to our basketball teams Year 11, Year 8 and Year 9 all won their respective Westminster tournaments and now have a trophy and medals.

Dates to remember this term

18th November – School closed (a letter will follow shortly)

5th & 6th December – Staff training

20th December - Last day of term

SORRY – there is NO INSET Day on 29.11.02.

The school is OPEN AS NORMAL.

Industrial Action

It is likely that the school will be closed to students on Tuesday 26th November 2002. This is because of industrial action by the teacher's unions against the amount of London Weighting. It is very difficult to attract teachers to work in London schools and the amount paid to teachers to work in London is not enough to encourage them to work here. The Leadership of the school fully supports the teacher's actions – so if it goes ahead, the school will be closed on 26th November.

Attendance

A varied range of attendance last week (4th – 8th November). Well done to **Year 7** with the highest attendance yet again. The following tutor groups have the highest attendance in their year.

7K 7Q 8U 9Q 10K 11K

Sayers Croft Visit

7U and 7K spent three days at Sayers Croft Outdoor Education Centre. They spent time together, getting to know each other and their tutors. They had a fantastic time...in spite of the weather!

WELL DONE TO EVERYONE.

7Q & 7T – go on 25th November 2002.

7N, 7Y & 7S – go on 9th December 2002.

Sixth Form Trip to Stratford-Upon-Avon

On Saturday 19 October, the English Department ran a trip to Shakespeare's birthplace, Stratford-Upon-Avon, to see the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of The Tempest.

The establishing shot: a group of sixth formers outside QK, jittering with cold-induced excitement, their breath frothing around them in milky clouds.

I sit on the wall, dangling my legs, wondering how I can squeeze this moment into a word. *Champagne* maybe – a white, cool morning – filled with enthusiasm like rising bubbles. Or *snapdragon*, perhaps? Snap of cold, smoke of dragon breath.

From the coach, the landscape glints by like Spanish guitar music – strum upon strum of field and thicket. Thoughts are extended – loosened from London by dreams of strolls along the heath and adventures through the bracken. The world is a crayon scrawl of rough dry red, of chalky countryside and reincarnated childhood. Behind the idyllic surface I see sinister pockets of sheep, conversing in pastures and plotting the demise of humankind, their black eyes beady and knowing.

In Stratford-upon-Avon, the Londoners are noisy and boisterous and multicultural and loud, spilling from the seams of streets in folds of overflowing laughter. Kerstin, Jas and Segal and I listen to the muted wail of the saxophone, each note aching its way into the day. In a nearby café we huddle hot chocolates and over-sweetened coffees in our palms.

The church next – to Shakespeare's grave. For all the stony quiet, I can still hear the hum of old voices. History yawns open, allowing me to step directly into a space where the Now and Then converge. I smell the wood and the dusty waxed scent of prayers caught in the rafters – 1000 years of pleas and prayers and sorrows, infusing the church with a cool solemnity. We move towards the back, where the flock of tourists (beady-eyed, like sinister pockets of sheep) gather around Shakespeare's grave.

Out in the graveyard my fingers trace the indecipherable grooves along the headstones – names long returned to dust along with memories.

Finally it is time for the theatre. Leaning in school-primed expectation on the edge of my seat, I fall into a net of captivation as the RSC production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* begins. Harsh lights flash, steel drums beat – noise, energy, confusion – one big melded sea of physical movement and tempestuous action. The play begins with an exhausting, explosive storm scene and then relaxes into a rhythm of loud and quiet, where longer, spoken sequences are broken up by

intermittent surges of thumping power. In turn, this frenzy is quickly lulled by the slow strum of the harp, or the undercurrent of Caliban's sadness that rises up between jovial, drunken scenes. The use of ropes hung above the stage and the ethereal beauty of muscles working in acrobatic unison achieves the surrealist flavour that characterises this play. The overall spectacle makes up for some questionable acting.

Chocolate on the coach back – the day melting away in my mouth. The landscape no longer plays dizzying flamencos, but slow creeping jazz, sunk in the blue undertones of twilight. Before us, the orange street lamps of London trail ahead like stars hung out to dry on endless washing lines, dripping soft gold light onto the road. The yellow brick road, I think, and London looms like the emerald city.

by Renee Fisher 13K

Can you sing?

Calling all young vocalists: Warner Music UK are currently searching for Britain's best singers aged between 14-16.

If that's you, we would like you to attend one of our regional auditions. You will be invited to sing one chorus and one verse of a contemporary ballad. All vocal styles are welcome.

Please register your details at: www.icansing.com

We will contact you *via* email to let you know where and when your nearest audition will be.

Auditions will begin in early November and will be held outside of school hours.

For more info visit: www.icansing.com or email icansing@warnermusic.com