



# NEWS

Quintin Kynaston School

No. 17

17<sup>th</sup> January 2003

## Message from Headteacher

After last week's disruption to lessons due to a power failure, school returned to normal this week. Congratulations to all students for coping with these unusual circumstances in a mature and sensible way. Thanks to all staff for their help in preparing students for early dismissal and coping admirably with the cold!!

The 'School Launch' has unfortunately had to be postponed until the summer term. I have made this decision in light of the ongoing building works. The school refurbishment programme is due to be completed just after Easter. The summer term would be an ideal time for the launch to take place. With all building work completed, we would be in a better position to welcome the many parents/students and members of the extended QK community to celebrate our new Technology School Status.

*Jo Shuter*

## National Teaching Awards

The National Teaching Awards are once again taking nominations for outstanding teachers and teaching assistants.

Schools can win awards of £2000 plus £1000 of ICT kit as regional winners and up to £13,000 cash grant and £10,000 of ICT kit as a national winner.

Staff and students who wish to nominate a teacher should fill in the attached nomination form, and pass to the school office. I am certain that you will be spoilt for choice in your nomination, but please would every student try to complete a form.

## Staff Vacancy

There is a vacancy for an Attendance Assistant who will work with the Attendance Officer, monitoring First Day Absences.

Essential requirements for this post are:

- first class knowledge of the English language
- excellent telephone manner
- ability to deal with people in a calm and positive manner.

Any parent who is interested should contact the School Office for further details. The post is for approximately 2-3 hours per day, 5 days per week term-time only.

## Punctuality

Could I remind students and parents the importance of ensuring your son/daughter arrives on time for registration, which is at 8.50am. It is creating a habit that is preparing them properly for working life. Whichever career path they choose all employers expect their employees to arrive on time.

## Absence Notes

Parents are reminded that if their child is absent

for any reason, a phone call should be made to the school office, on extension 173. On your child's return please send a letter of explanation or write a note in their Student Diary.

If an absence is not authorised (explained) we are legally obliged to contact you to seek authorisation. This will be done by telephone or letter. An absence not authorised by a note is therefore unauthorised and is counted as TRUANCY. Truancy will lead to school detention.

All absences are recorded as truancy until authorised by home, school or the Education Welfare Officer. If you are concerned about your child's attendance contact their tutor on 020 7722 8141.

## Governing body

There are four parent governor vacancies.

Any parents who wish to be a member of the governing body should contact the school office for further information. We would like to encourage as many parents as possible to come forward to be part of the governing body. It is an exciting time for QK at the moment having gained Specialist Technology School status.

### QK News

If you missed an issue of the *QK News* you may wish to catch up on important information by downloading a copy from

[www.qkschool.org.uk](http://www.qkschool.org.uk)

## Government listens to Quintin

### Kynaston

GOOD NEWS FOR YEAR 7?

The Science curriculum is to be revamped. That is the result of the review by the parliamentary Select Committee for Science and Technology who took evidence from a wide range of individuals and bodies last year. This included a visit to QK by the Committee who listened to the familiar litany of complaints from students and teachers about the overcrowded Science syllabus and its irrelevance for too many.

Some critics of the proposals fear that the issue is being politicised whilst others fear a 'dumbing down'. Supporters promise no lack of rigour. Students will be taught to reflect on scientific ideas and respect for evidence and its limitations. They will engage with issues in the news such as the MMR vaccine, cloning, test-tube babies, genetically modified food, the earth and the universe and be equipped with the necessary understanding to become informed citizens.

Changes will not happen before 2005 or 2006 to allow time for their proper introduction. So, good news for Year 7?

*Lez Weintrobe  
Public Relations Officer*

## Dates to remember

**Progression Day for Year 11 – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**

**Progress Review Day – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**

*All parents and carers are reminded of the importance of attending Progress Review Day with your son or daughter. School will be closed for normal lessons. You are required to attend at your allocated appointment time with your child.*

*The Teaching Staff at QK are very much looking forward to meeting with you all.*

**Staff Training Day – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

*School closed to students.*

**Half Term – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February (inclusive)**

### 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 SCHOOL UNIFORM.

REMEMBER

**No trainers of any colour**

**No jogging bottoms**

**No jewellery**

**No hats should be worn in school**

UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS

Mondays 1.00-1.30 pm and 3.30-4.00 pm

Wednesdays 3.30-4.00 pm