



NEWS

Quintin Kynaston School

No.27

4th April 2003

Message from Headteacher

All parents should have received a letter from me *via* their child regarding Funding for Westminster Schools.

As stated in the letter I have to inform you that this year the Education Budget that determines how much Westminster schools are allocated has been cut, in real terms by around 9%. This means secondary schools are facing shortfalls in their budget of between £200,000 and £750,000. Many schools will have to consider the possibility of reducing staff, both teaching and support staff. This would mean increased class sizes, which would have a huge impact on the delivery of the National Curriculum. Staff training would also be significantly reduced.

I can state, categorically, that currently I have no intention of implementing any of these changes. As you are aware, everyone involved with QK—parents, teaching and support staff, the Governing Body and above the students—have all worked hard to raise standards at our school. All this wonderful progress may be put at serious risk by these disastrous cuts to schools funding.

If, as I believe you will, you feel that this assault on Westminster education is unacceptable, I ask you to make your feelings clear to your local Councillor and to your MP (whose address is The House of Commons, London. SW1 0AA).

Only one more week to go before the end of term. It has been another successful and rewarding term for everyone. Whilst I wish everyone a restful and peaceful break, may I also remind you that after we return to school many students will only have a couple of weeks before the start of their public examinations. Year 9 will be sitting their Key Stage 3 SATs the 16th May, Year 11 students will be sitting their GCSEs and Years 12 & 13 their AS & A2 exams. Please use the two-week Easter holiday to rest, relax and mentally prepare yourselves for these important exams.

I wish everyone a restful and peaceful break and look forward to seeing you all back and ready for action on Monday 28th April.

Jo Shuter

Arrangements for last day of Spring Term

The last day of the Spring Term will be **Thursday 10th April** when students will be dismissed at **12.50 pm**. Afternoon Registration will take place at the earlier time of 12.30 pm. At 12.50 pm students will be free to leave or, alternatively for those children who wish to stay for lunch at the school, there will be food available in the lower servery.

Late Start for first day of Summer Term

Students should arrive by **10.30 am** for Registration in their Tutor rooms on the first day of term **Monday 28th April**. Lessons resume as normal from Period 3 at 11.10 am following morning break.

The Young Black People Association Seminar for Year 10 Students

The Young Black People Association (YBPA), is holding a seminar and debate at the House of Commons during the Easter Holidays on 'Stop the Killing, Start the Healing Part II'.

The following students have been invited along with G Pantelli (Director of Learning) and J Shuter (Heateacher): A Alireza (10Q), P Finesse and K Francesca (10U), C Jade and G Lee (10S) and K Zeinab and P Kossar (10K).

This is unique occasion provides young citizens the chance to discuss various issues regarding youth crime and wider criminal justice issues.

MUSIC ROTA WEEK 6

Punctuality

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

Religious Celebrations This Week

Ch'ing Ming/Festival of Pure Brightness

(Chinese) 5th April

The first occasion of the year when family graves are visited. After cleaning and sweeping them, offerings are made to spirits and many picnic by the grave to 'join' their ancestors in the feast. Families make a special effort to be together and to return to the family graveyard.

Passion Sunday (Christian) 6th April

On the Fifth Sunday in Lent Christians begin to concentrate their thoughts on the Passion or suffering of Jesus.

Hanamatsuri (Buddist) 8th April

This flower festival marks the Japanese celebration of the Buddha Shakyamuni's birthday. The flowers accentuate the tradition that the Buddha was born in a garden, so floral shrines are made and an image of the infant Buddha is set in it and bathed.

QK Hip-Hop Group Win the Music Performance of the Year

Nariman Akrami, Aleem Ellington, Paul Woodfall from QK Year 11 and Jason Branigan from North Westminster School are *The Imperial Soljaz* who won 'The Music Performance of the Year' on Friday 28th March at The New Life Awards Ceremony. Three other groups were nominated for the award but *Imperial Solijaz* came on top. The judges were such people as the MP for Paddington, Heads of Music for The Young People Foundation in Westminster and Paddington and the heads of music companies in west London.

The *Imperial Soljaz* won this award due to their hard work throughout 2002–2003. They worked in their music studios continually to produce new original songs every week. The group has an original flavour to their songs due to the mixture of different music styles from the different cultures of the members of the group. The main music flavours that are mixed to make songs are Iranian (from the group's music producer Nariman) and the British Urban (from the three lyricists of the group).

The *Imperial Soljaz* are going to be nominated for up and coming awards so let's just hope that they will be the winners again as they keep the name QK on top in West London.

by Nariman Akrimi

Drama Department

Year 11 GCSE Deadlines

1 week until Performance Exam

4 Weeks until Written Exam (40%!!!)

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday Lunchtimes available for rehearsals. Please book times for after school rehearsals.

Revision Classes

Year 11 may attend extra GCSE Drama revision classes for their exam after school on Mondays between 3.30 and 4.30 pm.

Invitations to Performances

GCSE Year 11 Drama students will be performing their exam improvisation from 3.30 pm to 5.00 pm Monday 7th and Wednesday 9th April. Students will only be able to attend if they have pre-purchased a ticket.

AS Theatre Studies students perform *Road* by Jim Cartwright on Thursday 8th May at 7 pm. It is an amazingly funny and moving play and will be something you may never have experienced before. It is open to staff, students and parents. Due to the nature of the play it will only be available for Key Stage 4 students upwards to attend. Tickets cost £2 and are available from the Drama Office.

On Friday 9th May at 4 pm our A2 Theatre Studies are performing two shortened versions of the plays *Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and *An Inspector Calls*. These performances are available for all to see and cost £2. Tickets are available from the Drama Office.

Casting for a new British Film

This week the casting Agent from such films as *Harry Potter* and *The Fully Monty* came in to school. She was looking for two 11/12 year old boys to play lead roles in her new film. At the open audition on Tuesday lunchtime, 50 students turned up: an impressive amount! Students got into groups and devised a performance which they then presented. Afterwards they could ask questions and were photographed to help her remember names and faces. We will not hear for a few weeks who, if anyone, gets through but I have high hopes. The Agent was extremely impressed by our students and their capabilities...and rightly so! Well done all those Year 7s who auditioned ...you have talent!!

Emma Stevens