



NEWS

Quintin Kynaston School

No. 17

27th January 2006

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers

A huge thank you to those who attended the Year 11 Parents Evening on Tuesday. This was a very useful evening with teachers talking to parents about their children's mock exam results and which exams they were entered for. If you have not yet been into school to discuss these issues it is vital that you do so before half-term. Please contact Ms Sheel at school or email her. We also had Gifted and Talented Information Evenings on Wednesday and Thursday.

As you can appreciate, these events take a considerable amount of time and effort to organise. A huge amount of information is produced to keep parents up-to-date on all aspects of their son's and daughter's academic and pastoral progress at QK. It is of vital importance that parents and carers attend them to support the teaching staff in their efforts to ensure that our students get the most out of the excellent learning opportunities offered at QK. It is also a time to discuss any concerns or issues they may have. It is of great benefit to parents, staff and students when there is open dialogue between them. Students feel more supported and confident in their studies if they know everyone is united in ensuring they get what is needed for them to succeed. There are two more Parents Evenings coming up (see opposite). Please ensure you attend.

Students in Year 9 have been interviewed over the past week by a member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss their progress in lessons, their revision for their Key Stage 3 Tests and their ideas about future GCSE courses. This has been a very interesting process. It is great to hear how many students are already attending the revision clubs for English, Maths and Science at school and are really focused on doing their best in their exams. Students raised some very interesting points, and it was hugely helpful for the management of the school to hear their thoughts and ideas on various aspects of their academic progress.

The link between attendance and progress was also discussed. Many students who did not seem to be making very good progress often had attendance below 90%. Missing school means missing work that will not be repeated.

Can we also remind parents that it is really important to let your child's Director of Learning know if there are issues outside school that may be affecting your child's learning.

The next year group to be interviewed will be Year 11 students to help ensure that they are on track to achieve top GCSE grades.

Finally, apologies for the much shorter QK News published last week which was due to problems with the computer network. It has made us realise how reliable our network normally is. Well done to the IT team.

Jo Shuter

Parents Evenings

At the Years 12/13 Evening (4.30–7.00 pm) on Tuesday 7th February, parents and students will receive the results from the mock exams, entry information for summer exams and information about Target Grades.

The Year 7 Evening is on Tuesday 21st February from 4.30 until 7.00 pm. This is the first chance for Year 7 parents to speak to all the different teachers who teach their children. Please return your reply slip before the half-term holiday.

Coursework Deadlines

English: All work for must be completed by Wednesday 1st February. All Year 11 English lessons after this date will be spent revising each section of the exam carefully and working on exam technique.

Science: The final deadline for coursework is Friday 24th February. A reminder that 2 pieces are needed for Double Award and 1 piece for Single Award. Coursework counts for 20% of your final GCSE grade.

Inset Day

School will be closed to students on Friday 10th February.

Year 9 Boys Football

The team played well last Monday but unfortunately were beaten 4-0 by Southfields in the Quarter Final of the West London Cup.

Talent Show Auditions

Last week we had over 100 people audition for the Talent Show on three wonderful evenings. Well done to all who took part—your courage and attitude was fantastic. Due to the time we have in a show, we have had to narrow it down to a final list. Well done to those of you who got through. Names are on the Expressive Arts Board.

Emma Stevens

Poetry Trip

Year 11 students will be spending Friday 3rd February listening to a variety of poets reading their work and talking about it as well as advice from a Chief Examiner about how to get top grades! Please return the reply slip on Monday if you have not already done so.

Business & Enterprise News

A group of year 10 students have used their entrepreneurial skills to negotiate with "Innocent Smoothies" for free samples of healthy drinks and snacks to be made available to students. If the take-up for these snacks is good, we may introduce them for students to purchase.

"Your Turn" Programme

Year 9 students are taking part with the aim of

- developing young leaders in their communities
- understanding of how their community works
- appreciating their city, its diversity and strengths
- providing an opportunity to understand decision-making processes

A student in the programme reports:

10th January

I went to **Hampstead Police Station** with my friends Andrea 9T, Premtim 9S, Paulo 9T and Verity 9U.

We went by taxi, it took 10 minutes. When we arrived, we knocked at the front entrance and no one answered so Paulo suggested we go round the back. It was the back entrance where the police cars go.

We met a kind officer called PC Aiden who took us upstairs where we waited for the other schools.

Esther (the lady in charge) introduced herself and took us through the ground rules and what was expected of us. Firstly, we had an activity called "breaking the ice" which was where you had to go and find a partner and make friends and say things about yourself. It was a bit embarrassing at first.

We had a break and then a tour of the police station where we got to sit in a cell and also see a court room. There was an anti-social behaviour activity where we learnt about consequences when you behave in an anti-social way.

Next it was lunch, we all sat together and listened to music, after that we had a teenage curfew debate about what time kids should be in. We worked on our own to create a presentation, we had a short break and then made our presentation to the others. We had to feedback and evaluate how our day went and then we could go home!

11th January

I went to the **Science Museum** with my friends (same as before), we went by taxi and had to meet at South Kensington station. We were so early that we got there before everyone (even the teachers). When everyone got there we first went to an exhibition and we went up to the games room for 45 minutes then we left for St. Mary's Hospital.

We got the train from South Kensington to Paddington, went for lunch (which was pizza) then made our way to **St. Mary's Hospital**. We went in a room on the second floor where we played some really good games and activities. We sat with our new friends on a big table and we finished the rest of our activities.

18th January

We went to the **BBC** today to make a film about what we want changed for the future. We had to go out onto the main streets to ask and film people. My group had to ask what they thought about teenagers/youths wearing hoodies. We got quite a lot of feedback. We then had to edit bits etc and add music and stuff to it. We had to watch everyone else's videos and we then had to evaluate the day and then we got to go home!

Overall, I enjoyed it and made lots of new friends and if my friends ever asked me about it or got chosen...I would tell them to go for it because it's a really good experience and it teaches you about being a leader. I enjoyed all activities and stuff over all 3 days especially the BBC as it was really good. From all this, I learnt a lot of techniques and would love to go again.

Saffron 9K