

## JULY NEWSLETTER 2022

### Message from Dr Bruton Newsletter Summer 2022

As this academic year draws to a close, we look ahead to a number of changes that will take place in school. As you will be aware I am retiring after 13 years as Head Teacher and Mrs Tindall will be taking on the role in September.

We say farewell to a number of colleagues who have served the school faithfully, fully committed to ensuring that our students have been supported in achieving of their very best.

Miss Ayres

Mrs Daniels

Mr Heath

Miss Postles

Miss Scallan

Mrs Shehata

Whether retiring or moving on to new opportunities we wish them all the very best for the future.

During the summer holiday there will be a lot of work done to both improve our environment and to create additional teaching and work spaces; new network cabling is also planned in advance of a major enhancement of our IT facilities which will be happening over the coming six months or so. We are also hoping to appoint contractors for our new building which should make progress during the coming year; it has been a long while in coming but will be a great facility once it is in operation.

Unfortunately, the forecast of extremely hot weather means that our House Challenge Day has had to be postponed to next term. Details of the arrangements will be published after the summer break.

I wish you all a very relaxing and refreshing summer break and look forward to hearing of the success of individuals and the school in the coming year.



DR ALISON BRUTON  
Head Teacher



### Uniform

Many of you will be starting to prepare for September and may be needing to purchase some new school uniform items. We have changed our uniform supplier to [Clive Mark Schoolwear](#). They have stores across the West Midlands but will have the most QMHS stock at their Saddlers Centre Branch in Walsall. On the whole, our students are fantastic in adhering to our uniform requirements and always look very smart and wear their 'bottle green' with pride. Please make sure that you check our uniform requirements which can be found on the [school website](#) before making any expensive purchases. May we draw your attention in particular to the shoes section as we have started to see students with footwear that has not met these requirements, in a bid to be 'fashionable'.

## PE Outdoor & Adventurous Trips 2022

### Woodlands Adventure & Whitemoor Lakes

Every year, as part of our Physical Education programme, the department organises a visit to an outward bound centre. In the summer term of 2022, we arranged to visit Woodlands Adventure with all of our Year 8 and 9 students and then Whitemoor Lakes Action Centres UK (ACUK) centre with our Year 7's. Whitemoor Lakes has been a trip which we have enjoyed visiting since 2014 and unfortunately had not been able to attend during the pandemic. At both centres, the activities that our students have an opportunity to participate in include canoeing, kayaking, tomahawk throwing, archery, zip wire, high ropes, nightline, challenge course and outdoor games. The residential is one of the highlights of the year for our Year 7 intake, bringing together 150 students and providing an opportunity for the year group to celebrate their first year at secondary school. It was wonderful to see the resilience and determination from our students to overcome challenges. It was a particularly poignant trip this year as for most it was the first time that they have ever stayed away from home. We are most proud of the life skills that our students developed during their stay.



Mrs Turner  
Trip Leader & Head of PE



Please read some of the reviews of the trip from our current Year 7 intake:

"Whitemoor Lakes helped me to overcome my fear of heights and encouraged me to try new things. I was able to work with people I would not normally speak to and learnt a lot about them as many activities required teamwork and good communication, which I was able to develop." - Mahnoor (7BR)

"When I went to Whitemoor Lakes it was really fun and exciting. I made lots of new friends. The staff at the centre were really kind. I was able to experience new activities and surroundings that I didn't experience in my residential from primary school. There were lots of breaks and fun activities at night.. I found the activities hard at times and thought of backing out on activities like the high ropes, the abseiling and rock climbing as I am afraid of heights. I didn't though as I had a lot of support and cheering from the group. The staff also makes you feel comfortable with the activities. The lodges are nice and clean. In the lodges there is also a lounge to chill in and a mini kitchen area where the teacher poured some water to make a cup of tea for us. The teachers were also supportive if you didn't want to do an activity but also tried to get you to have a go at everything. I personally loved the zipwire and kayaking where I didn't fall in. It was so fun!" - Leah (7S)

"Our Whitemoor Lakes trip was the first time I was going somewhere without my family, so it was a bit scary at first but the teachers took care of us very well. The activities were amazingly fun and a brilliant form of exercise. We also had free time in between the activities that we could spend with friends and chill. I brought a disposable camera for memories too. My favourite activity was canoeing and I didn't fall in, bonus! It was a fantastic, new experience and I had a whole lot of fun!" - Diya (7A)



## Chemistry

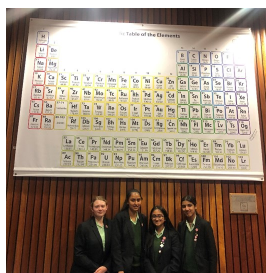
In June we got invited to the Salters' Chemistry Discovery Day at Nottingham University. We first had a short welcome speech and introduction in the small Lecture theatre in the Chemistry Building followed by 3 PhD students who presented their routes and pathways which stemmed from chemistry. Then we had the first Lab session of the day in which we had to make aspirin, which is usually an A-level practical in our school. We were given a fume hood per pair with all the things we needed already there. It was quite a lengthy process so in the first session, we just prepped using salicylic acid, acetic anhydride and phosphoric acid to make a solution.

After lunch was lab session 2 and we completed making aspirin and purified it. After we had made dry crystals, we had to test if it was pure or not. Finally, we had an hour-long careers panel where we learnt about different jobs and more experienced paths and journeys of others.



### Things we have learnt:

- a chemistry degree can be used to do a lot other than something in the chemistry field due to the characteristics it proves of a person, such as resilience because chemists are used to failing during their research processes.
- they mentioned that their funding for these discoveries aren't a lot so they have a concept of failing fast so that less money is wasted, because if longer time is used = there is more money going into it.
- the climate change issue was mentioned quite a lot by many of the researchers researching that topic in different areas. A man called James Stevenson gave a statement about lots of little things that need to be done that lead up to a big thing, in terms of tackling climate change and that provided a whole new perspective to many of us who were relying on one tree growing movement or one discovery or mechanism to solve the issue.



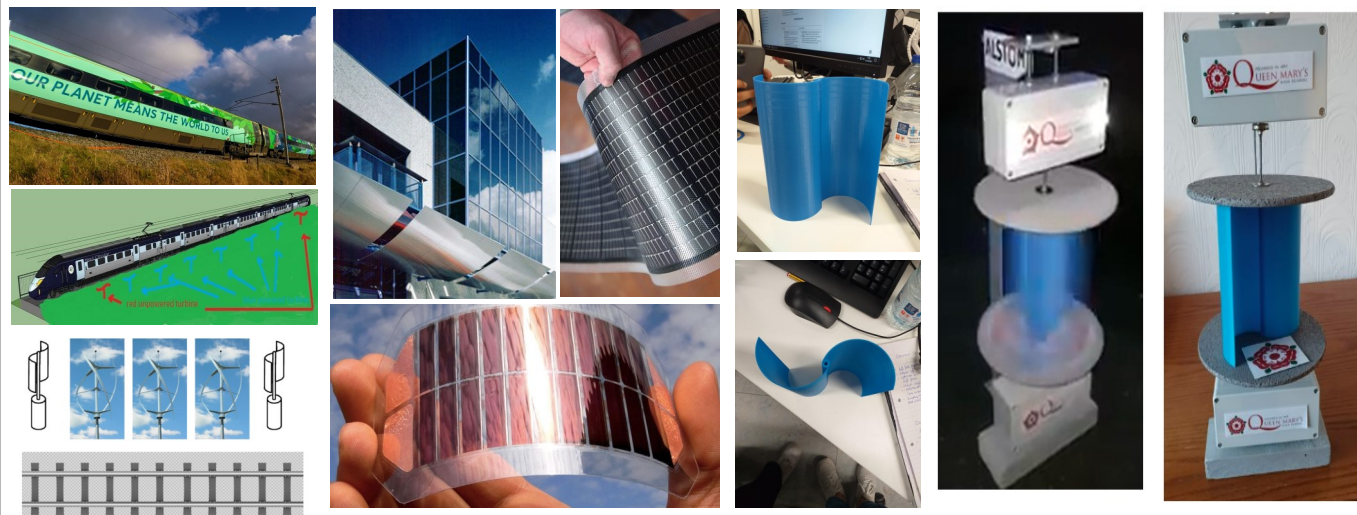
Furthermore something that we thought is very relevant to this school and the stage the people in this stage of their life are at in this school is that all of the panellists had multiple jobs in their lives which revolve around the same field or others and that switching roles or companies and growing by gaining experience can ultimately lead you to "your calling", and most people are scared that they don't know what to be or what career path to take but this message of moving around and trying new things even after University can help to make the process easier. You just have to start somewhere, he said.

Overall, we all enjoyed the day a lot, finding it exciting, interesting and most of all very informative for us to move forward with. Aleaseya, Arishma, Jasnit and Lori in Year 10

## Engineering Education Scheme (EES) Success

The Engineering Education Scheme Group celebrated their double success in Coventry on Monday 27th June 2022.

Six Year 12 students: Devanshi Gupta, Meghan Brawn, Harbinn Mann, Katie Heath, Hennah Naveed and Priya Kular (pictured right) completed their Industrial Cadet qualification at Gold Level. Their project 'Leaving Station CO2', supported by the ALSTOM company, received the nomination for the Most Innovative Project and won the People's Vote Award. The Team took part in the celebration event organised by Engineering Development Trust supported by The Prince of Wales. Please see a selection of the group's images below:



### **Year 7 Careers Breakfast**

On Tuesday 5th July 2022 we invited 16 delegates from a range of industries to talk to year 7 pupils about the roles and responsibilities in their organisation.

They talked about the hard and soft skills required to succeed in their line of work and shared their highlights and challenges. Our guests commented on the excellent behaviour of the students who had some really brilliant questions. One such question was asked about whether the industry (solicitors) was male dominated. In this case our guests could respond that this was not the case in their workplace and that men were outnumbered.

Thank you to our guests, but especially a big thank you to year 7 who were outstanding in the way they engaged with the activity. There will be a follow up activity to this event early next year for our students.



### **Careers Education Information and Guidance (CEIAG)**

For more information on 'Careers Education Information and Guidance', please visit the following website: <http://bit.ly/qmhsceiag>

In addition, please follow our QMHS Careers Twitter account: @QMHSCareers

### **Year 9 Enterprise Day**

After two years of disrupted learning we are finally able to return to something representing 'normal'. Our first careers event in two years was an enterprise day for Year 9, which took place on Monday 20th June 2022.

Students were tasked with coming up with an idea to promote a cause, making use of an empty shop space in Walsall town centre. They had to consider how they would raise money to promote the cause and how they intend to make use of the shop space. Their presentations had to be fully researched and costed. They prepared a presentation, without the use of computers and as a team presented to the rest of their form group. Each presentation was judged by a QMHS teacher and a guest who was invited from industry.

Well done to everyone who took part in the presentations. Students developed soft skills such as communication, self-motivation, leadership, responsibility, teamwork, problem solving, decisiveness, ability to work under pressure, flexibility, conflict resolution, people skills, project management, creativity, time management and public speaking.

The winning teams from each tutor group were:

9A - Body for the people

9B - Judication

9E - Help for homes

9S - Safe Sanctuary

9SH - Safe space (Pam & Co)

The winning group from each tutor group then went on present in front of all our guests, Dr Bruton and the other winning teams. This was broadcast to all the other teams using Google Meet who judged the presentations for themselves. All of the judges commented on how well prepared the final presentations were. Students spoke confidently and passionately about topics close to their hearts. After the presentations had finished, judges discussed their results in private before Dr Bruton announced the results. With judges split on who the winning team was, the group with the majority was:



**9A - Body for the people**

Well done Tajah, Hannah, Mia, Jaime and Ellis. Five out of the seven judges awarded you first place with the other two judges scoring you highly for your project to raise awareness of body image. I hope you enjoy your chocolates.

### **LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) Lessons**

This academic year we started to offer LAMDA lessons, provided by an external company. Over the course of the year we have had 19 pupils access the lessons and all of our Year 12 and 13 students have accessed a public speaking workshop. Students have really enjoyed the opportunity to take part in lessons in school and were able to sign up for an exam in April 2022. All pupils took up the opportunity with some outstanding results, with many receiving the highest mark possible of Distinction and others receiving Merit. We are really impressed with the work they have created and as a result, have expanded the opportunity for next year. Spaces were taken up quickly and we have 30 pupils accessing lessons from September with all Year 12 and 13 pupils being given the opportunity to take part in Public Speaking sessions as part of their enrichment programme.

A very big thank you to our LAMDA teacher Ms Mills and all of the students involved.

Miss L Houlder