

JULY NEWSLETTER 2021

Message from Dr Bruton

Newsletter Summer 2021

Having had to deal with the challenges afforded by further periods of lockdown, remote learning and self-isolation I am sure that our families will be looking forward to a period of stability and normal routine in the year ahead. However, as we know things can change rapidly, not least in terms of requirements regarding mass testing and mitigations to manage the spread of the virus.

I wanted to thank the whole of our school community for their resilience this year and for the ways in which we have been able to pull together in the face of what initially seemed to be insurmountable difficulties. Our staff have embraced remote teaching and our monitoring shows that our students engaged really well and have made excellent progress, even in terms of skill development which is naturally a challenge when operating away from the classroom. Having benefitted from the provision of additional laptops both via the government and also the generosity of parents, students were not inhibited in their learning through a lack of access to a suitable device.

As I write we are enjoying our House Day, a new venture designed to draw the whole school together and to reinvigorate our House spirit. Thankfully the weather will enable us to cap the day off with our sports afternoon at the fields on Sutton Road.

I do wish everyone a happy and safe summer break, sadly with opportunities to travel much reduced. The dates for the new term are on our website www.qmhs.org.uk, years 8-10 and 13 return on Tuesday 7th September.

Please do keep an eye out for correspondence regarding the plans for mass testing prior to the start of term.

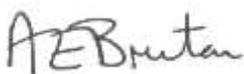
Staff News

At the end of this term we say farewell to some well-respected and valued colleagues. Mr Steed will be retiring; Mr Hussain is leaving to take up a new teaching position in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; Ms Roberts who is the Form Tutor for 7A and who runs our reprographics department will be leaving to take up a new and very different role and Mrs Wood, who has taught RS and History, will be taking a well-earned rest having supported the school over a number of years.

I would like to express my gratitude to all of these colleagues who have devoted their time and energy to ensuring that our students are supported in achieving of their very best in all aspects of school life.

News of babies

Back on 11th February Miss Bailey gave birth to Poppy Hope and on 5th July Mrs Watson gave birth to Harrison George. Amazingly, Mrs Watson was in school on 2nd July and taught a full 6 period day! Our congratulations to these colleagues and their families.

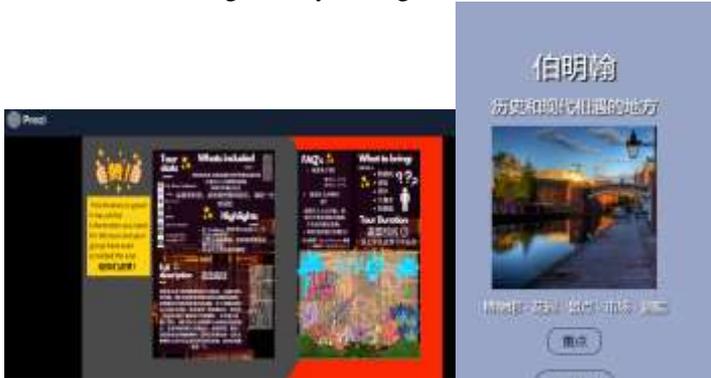


DR ALISON BRUTON

Head Teacher

MANDARIN EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME

Y10 MEP class has attended four days of Tourism Project organised by IOE of UCL and British Council for MEP Y10 students. We have used our Chinese language skills, created an advertising campaign to sell Birmingham and surrounding areas to the Chinese tourism market. We have researched Birmingham, learned fun Chinese slang for our advertising slogans, heard top tips from industry professionals specialising in tourism and marketing in China, learned real-life marketing, design, and social media skills, and we have created campaigns including eye-catching posters, fun-packed itineraries, exciting advert videos, and even a website to advertise Birmingham for tourism. The girls' brilliant work was highly commended by the MEP team at UCL, and their hard work and exemplary team efforts are recognised by the organisers.



Our Y9 MEP has attended seven days of Virtual China study tour exclusively designed by British Council and Centre for Language Education and Cooperation for Y9 MEP students at school. This online programme provided opportunities for students to experience real China under the current travel restrictions and ask questions on live tours about famous cultural and tourist locations with experienced local guides. In spite of the fact that we can be there in person, we have online met pandas and their handlers, sports people preparing for the Winter Olympics and young people working in renewable energy and climate action. We have virtually visited four locations across China, practised Mandarin live online with Chinese students and met new friends, which was the part our students enjoyed the most.



MEP is supported by Department for Education



CROSS-CURRICULAR ARTS DAY

On Thursday 1st July 2021, Years 7- 10 were taken off timetable to take part in our first annual Cross-Curricular Arts Day. Each year group was assigned an arts subject which was then matched with another department across the school.

Year 7 worked with Music and Physics to create their own instruments and songs.
 Year 8 worked with Drama and History to understand children through the ages and develop a performance.
 Year 9 worked with Design & Technology and English to develop a textile piece which will be displayed in school.
 Year 10 worked with Art and Maths to create pieces of work through maths.

Our aim in holding this day was to raise the profile of arts within the school and give students the chance to build on skills they may have lost during COVID-19, including teamwork, resilience and problem solving.

The students were impeccably behaved with all students watching either Peter Pan (Year 7 and 8) or The Woodsman (Year 9 and 10) in the morning followed by activities. As you walked around school you got a real sense of excitement and it was lovely to see students working independently to develop their skills. As a result each group in year 7 recorded their own pieces of music inspired by Peter Pan, Year 8 created a performance based on a period of history, Year 9 all contributed to the piece of textile and year 10 created a larger than life tin man puppet.

When speaking to the students after the day they all commented on how it was nice to work with different people and how they felt it had helped their mental health. We look forward to next year's cross-curricular day and what we may be able to create.



Human Rights Article:

Nubia Shayaam-Smith, Maeve Relihan, Khushi Dhutty

This academic year, amidst the ongoing disruptions brought upon by the pandemic, we three, together with a group of Year 13s and the support of Mrs Daniels, launched a Human Rights Group with the simple aim of giving students across all year groups the knowledge and experience to equip themselves with the ability to develop as human rights ambassadors and activists for the school and wider community. This began in the interest of widening the human rights footprint of QMHS, and encouraging our students to use their voices to implement proactive and beneficial change both internally and outside in the wider world too!

This all began with a small group of sixth formers, us included, receiving training from Amnesty International, an international human rights organisation, through Mrs Daniels. Training included being given the official UN Declaration of Human Rights, receiving an extensive range of classroom resources to support us in delivering sessions, learning about Amnesty and how they work as an organisation, and ultimately how we can tailor our training for each year group. After receiving training sessions during the first autumn term, we were prepared to launch the human rights groups, and thus we kickstarted this on return to school in March after lockdown, training students from across all year groups.

Our sessions involved introducing groups to the UN Declaration of Human Rights, discussing human rights movements (such as Black Lives Matter), discussing the role of activists throughout history (such as Winnie Mandela), and directing them to more resources whereby we, collectively, can keep the momentum of activism and education moving outside of the classroom. Resources included a collection of recommended books, non-fiction and fiction, that not only educate about layers of human rights abuses and movements throughout history (such non-fiction books include *Natives*, *Black and British*, *Prisoners of Geography*), but also give students a more broadened perspective of different cultures and life experiences through rich stories (these fiction books include *The Joy Luck Club* and *Homegoing*). All of the groups engaged in debates and discussions, and together we created a space where they feel comfortable to discuss different human rights abuses and human rights movements in an inclusive manner.

In June, we were extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to speak to Joanna from Amnesty International themselves to speak with the human rights group and answer our questions regarding not only human rights but also how we, as a school, can alleviate these abuses. One outstanding question was of the current circumstances in Palestine, and Joanna effectively summarised this for us, thereby helping us to create an informative assembly regarding Palestine and Israel to show to the school body in the last few weeks, marking the official start of the Human Rights Group's presence within school. Joanna also answered all of our questions regarding how we can extend our activism, telling us how we as a future Human Rights Group can actively play a role and encourage students to fight for human rights, as well as what practical solutions we can offer to the student body to make a footprint in the field of human rights in the long term.

For the upcoming academic year, as a group we have developed an agenda whereby we can extend our human rights footprint and encourage students from all years to channel their passion for human rights through this. This includes the creation of a QMHS Human Rights Twitter account as well as a monthly newsletter that would coincide with a Human Rights board; by doing this, we raise awareness of current human rights issues, our work within the school and the local community to raise the new human rights group's profile within school. In future year group sessions, we aim to nurture proactivity by supplementing our sessions with Google Classroom, signposting petitions, and MOOCs so our groups can get involved in activism even outside of the classroom.

Ultimately, the ambition of our group for the upcoming academic year is to encourage more and more students across the years to get actively involved with raising the QMHS human rights profile and to fight human rights abuses in the wider world and community.