



NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2021

New Build Update

Where are we now?

The main structure is completed. All of the timber frame and prefabricated parts delivered by Innovare have been fitted to the structure.

Mr Patterson and Mr De Angelis visited the site to confirm final decisions and placements of electrical sockets in each of the workshops. Members of the DT department were also invited on site to see the building from inside.

Window frames have now been fitted on both floors. The roof covering is now completed and the team have started on the mechanical and electrical first fix.

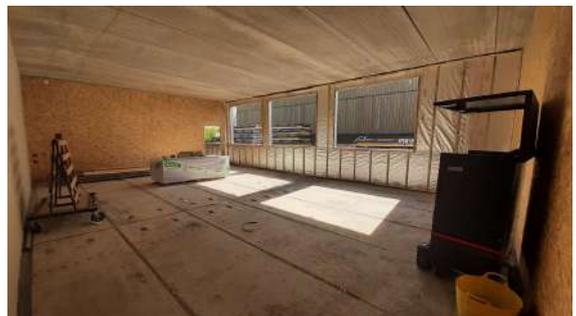
Bricklayers are now also on site and building their way up to the first floor.

Time capsule:

Mr Patterson has prepared a range of items to go into the time capsule which will be buried under the new build.

Items so far include:

- Queensmead Blazer & Tie
- Range of newspapers
- STEM competition with work from students to reflect the latest innovations brought on by covid.
- Laminated photos of the original building
- Laminated architectural drawings of the original building
- USB Memory stick
 - Prospectus
 - Photos of the DT building
 - Video of the building in the build phase
 - Queensmead Values Poster
 - Top 30 singles chart list
 - Top 30 album chart list



Welcome Back - Return to practicals in Design Technology and Engineering

As the country moves forward on the Roadmap out of Lockdown and with restrictions cautiously easing, we have safely started up workshop lessons in Design Technology and Engineering this half term. It has been over a year since students in Key Stage 3 and 4 have been in the workshop setting using tools and machines to bring their ideas to life. To give you a flavour of what the outcomes will look like, here are some examples of past projects.

Key Stage 3

Year 8 DT - Wooden Box: An introduction to working with different timber-based materials to produce a lap jointed storage box for small items.



Year 9 DT - Clock inspired by 20th Century design movements: Using softwoods and polymers to manufacture a working desktop clock. The project will introduce you to cutting different types of wood joints and CAD/CAM to manufacture a high quality, functional and aesthetically pleasing product.



Year 9 Engineering - Aluminium Key Fob: using a range of engineering tools and processes, you will be able to manufacture a keyfob. The practical will introduce you to working with metals and is excellent preparation for KS4 Engineering.



KS4 DT and Engineering - Students will be working on their final projects, contributing significantly to their final GCSE grade in the summer of 2022. These projects will combine practical work supported by a design folder that documents their problem-solving journey.



Food Practical Lessons

I am pleased to be able to share with you the fact that all year groups are now able to have food practical lessons from the first week of this half term. The technicians have been working hard to get the rooms prepared and ready for KS3 students to return. Each year group will drop off and collect their ingredients separately so as to minimise the mixing between bubbles and there is an extensive programme of cleaning in place to ensure that all students are kept safe.

To help your child make a smooth transition to practical work it would help if they had a named container to bring their food home in and if they had some practice in simple food preparation tasks at home over the half term to get them used to handling equipment. It would also be really helpful if they practiced washing up as they will need to do this each lesson after they have cooked.

Our year 11 students were able to complete some practical assessments which contributed towards their GCSE grades earlier in the year and considering how little time they had in the kitchen, I think you will agree that they produced some fantastic results!!



STEM COMPETITION

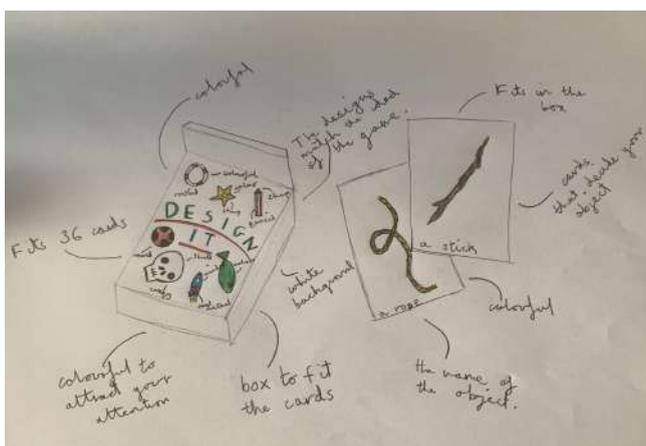
During remote learning, Design and Technology students in Year 9 had the chance to enter the Design Ventura competition. Students around the country were challenged to design a new product for the Design Museum Shop with the winning product manufactured and sold at the shop in Kensington. The STEM competition offered young people a chance to develop design thinking, creative and business skills.

The task encouraged students to focus on a product which would cost no more than £5 to produce, be sustainable and would appeal to a student, design enthusiast or a family. There was a broad range of entries presented by our students; from table leg stabilisers to board games to soap and toothbrush holders! All students who entered the challenge will receive a certificate for their efforts.

Congratulations to Aisha Kahawe (9h) who has been chosen out of all the entries to represent Queensmead School. Aisha's idea was a financial planner designed to encourage teenagers to take ownership of managing their own money. Aisha has decided that any profits made from her sale would be donated to 'Girls Out Loud', a charity which 'empowers girls to channel their potential and make better life choices'.

We are looking forward to hearing back from the Design Museum to find out which designers have been shortlisted as the 'Top 10' designs. From here, students will need to pitch their idea to the Design Museum in a bid to win a contract to work with a design agency to finalise their designs before their idea hits the shop. Good luck Aisha!

Mrs Schwarz



YEAR 12 PRODUCT DESIGN & ENGINEERING STEM

On Tuesday 25th February, our Year 12 Product Design and Engineering students attended an hour long career workshop led by Uptree. Uptree is a professional network for young people to find, match and connect with employers for insight events, work experience, internships and jobs. The organisation work with global companies such as Coca Cola, Google and Deloitte.

The session encouraged the students to think about the vast opportunities in their subject beyond Post-16; from becoming an Aerospace Engineer to a Games Designer. The STAR interview technique was explained and the pupils had a chance to interview one another before the spotlight was on them and a couple were interviewed in front of the class! The students were encouraged to discuss any experience or highlights that they may have had within school to make them stand out from the crowd.

All the students had the chance to sign up to Uptree which would give them access to webinars, career fairs and a chance to apply for apprenticeships. The students were extremely engaged and it gave them a lot of food for thought!

Mrs Schwarz - DT/Engineering Teacher/ STEM Coordinator



STEM Competition

Queensmead STEM Ambassadors designed a competition that challenged KS3 students to design a product that encouraged sustainable practice i.e. reusable coffee cups or were made from sustainable sources i.e. recycled plastic/pineapple leather.

We had nearly 100 entries and spent two weeks going through the submissions. The STEM Ambassadors finally decided on the winning submissions based on their creativity and clear reference to sustainability. The group then chose the prizes and awarded them to the following students:

1st Place - Ylka designed a self watering plant pot made from sustainable material and won a Tinker Crate (Spin Art Machine)

2nd Place - To designed a skateboard which was solar powered and made from biodegradable plastic and won a STEM Technology Activity Book

Joint 3rd Place - Vithuran designed some portable solar panels to attach to a backpack. Vishali and Risana designed a stationary set that would be made from plastic collected in the oceans. All three students won some chocolates!



A special mention to Dominik in Year 7 who spent 5 hours at home producing a model steam engine. He used cardboard, parts of model cars and hot glue to create the functioning model. Dominik was rewarded with some chocolate!

Garden Project

Queensmead, school, its staff and students are hoping to transform the large green space at the front of the school (in front of the bike storage) into our very own growing garden. The plan is to create a student friendly garden which promotes the Queensmead values through the growing of fruit and vegetables on new planter beds. Sixteen in total will create a small patch for year 7 forms to use next year in a bid to be the best garden. We plan to further develop the area in stages, increasing the purpose of the garden to offer extra curricular opportunities for those interested and offer a space which can lend nicely to curriculum lessons. The benefits of the garden not only lend itself to the mental and physical well being of the students but offer a chance for the local community to pitch in. Like any good allotment, teamwork is required which has been the starting point of the garden. We have asked the community to pitch in and donate any tools, seeds and any useful garden materials. If any parents are interested in donating any garden equipment or seeds then please get in contact with afieldhouse@qmschool.org.uk

Over time we hope volunteers from staff and students can form ideas to create eco-friendly ways of increasing the size and improving the look of the garden. This can stem from recycling waste or using creative ideas to repurpose objects. With any large task like this it will take hard work and perseverance. We will be looking for students to get their hands dirty (not a figure of speech) to help kickstart the plan and enable the Queensmead Garden to grow into a full part of the school.

