



# Newsletter



Volume 4

April 2024

## A striking experience: Year 7 go bowling...

On Thursday 21st March, a number of Year 7 students were rewarded for all of our hard work with an exciting trip to the local bowling alley. We all had a lot of fun; even the coach ride there was great, as we were able to spend time with all of our friends. We were so excited for the fun ahead!

When we arrived at Tenpin Bowling, we were so elated; we got to hang out with our friends and bowl! In groups of six, we began, trying our hardest

to win. The game certainly takes a lot of resilience but we were all so determined to succeed that it became very competitive, very quickly. Some of us were trying so hard that we even got multiple strikes!

After we finished bowling, to refuel ourselves after using all our energy, we were able to buy food and drinks. We had slushies, fries and pizza - they were so delicious.

We had such a great time and I would definitely recommend this trip for Year 7s in the future. Thank you to Miss Flanagan and Mr Rajabali for organising this trip!

*Anaiya S, Year 7 student*



## A thrilling journey into the Earth's past

The Natural History Museum is - without a doubt - one of London's most popular attractions to visit. And there is so much to learn about! A group of Year 9s and I had the opportunity to spend a day exploring and discovering our world's incredible history. Despite the fact that I had been there many times, the Natural History Museum visit was a much anticipated trip. It is a museum like no other!

As we entered the museum, we saw the famous - and huge! - blue whale skeleton hanging from the ceiling and there were other cool skeletons of dinosaurs and animals to the left and right sides of us.



After exploring the main hall for a bit, we went to the natural disasters section, learning different facts about the earth such as why earthquakes and volcanoes happen; how many different types of volcanoes and



earthquakes there are; and which were the most catastrophic events in the recorded history of Earth. We even experienced the earthquake simulator machine which was super-scary but amazing! In my opinion, the most interesting part was when we saw the ash models of the bodies of a man and a dog from the Pompeii eruption of Mount Vesuvius around 79 AD.

Everyone really enjoyed the gift shop as well, since there were nice keychains, books and all sorts of semi-precious stones that you could buy there.

Overall, the trip to the Natural History Museum was fun and educational and everyone, including me, thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



## Exploring our future: what are our options?

On Wednesday 21st February, we hosted our annual 'Careers Fair'. We were honoured to play host to a wide range of exhibitors, ranging from colleges and universities, to local employers, training providers and apprenticeship providers.

As part of our commitment to providing all students with careers education, we are really proud that we are able to facilitate this opportunity for every student in every year group to visit the fair. It was an invaluable opportunity for our students to have direct encounters with providers of further education and employment.

It prompted many conversations between the providers and our students about their prospective



#NCW2024

National Careers Week 2024  
Join The Celebration

future pathways and all the exciting opportunities that are available to them.

This was the perfect build up to National Careers Week which ran from the 4th March to the 10th March. During this week, we held numerous webinars for our students about a wide range of different careers including the NHS; careers in construction and transport; 'Green' Careers, and careers in the finance industry.

We are looking forward to many more careers related events and opportunities as we move into the summer term!

*Ms Curley, Deputy Head Teacher*



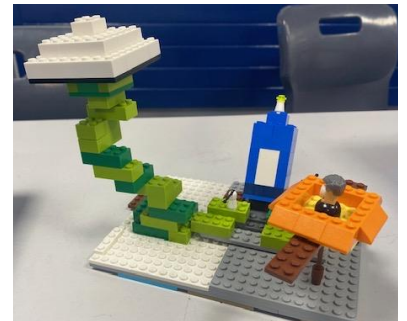
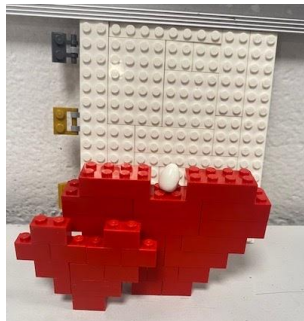
## Celebrations galore, with Lego!

Our Lego Club members took to celebrating all the saints this half term - from sharing the love with St. Valentine's, to sharing the luck with St. Patrick's Day. As our inventors are getting stronger and more confident as the weeks go on, the outcomes for this half term were pretty amazing!

Mrs Morrissey, *Teacher of Maths*

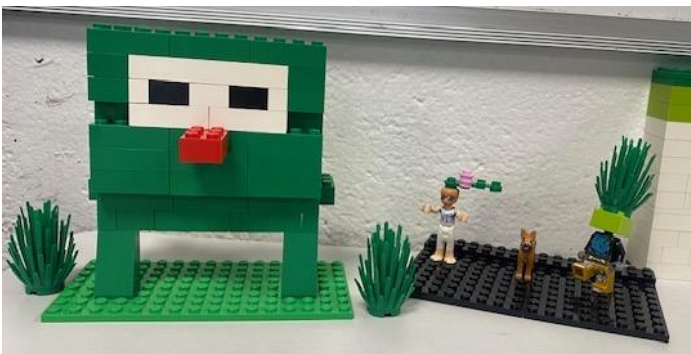
### Week 1

This week, Lego Club was hit by Cupid's arrow, spreading love all around the room! Hearts and kindness showered their inventions.



### Week 2

The next celebration for this half term involved recognition of St. David's Day, in Wales. Our inventors created some super builds to honour the saint for everything he did for Wales. It was a week of colourful flags and landscapes to commemorate such a significant event!



### Week 3

The last saint that the Lego creators were inspired by was St. Patrick, who brings everything green, along with luck and prosperity, to Ireland.

Our wonderful inventors commemorated by creating a small parade of celebrations with the famously mythical figure of Irish traditions - the leprechaun searching for his pot of gold!

## Acts of kindness: supporting our communities

At Queensmead, we understand the vital importance of being charitable in order to support those who are struggling, not just in our local area, but across the globe. Our charity committee has been hard at work, helping us as a school community, to play our part.



On the 4th February, it was World Cancer day; the Charity Committee focused upon raising awareness, particularly around prostate and breast cancer. The committee created slides which were shared during form time, informing students of the statistics but also, importantly, the symptoms of these cancers. Then, on Friday 9th February, students came into school wearing either a pink or blue item to show their support for the cause, while also making a donation to Cancer Research UK.



This half term, we have supported Comic Relief, celebrating Red Nose Day! In the lead up to the day itself, students learnt about the charity and its young activists from across the globe, who are helping to change the world for the better. Each form across the school completed a quiz, testing their Red Nose Day knowledge, with 9G and 9A coming out on top.

Then, Friday 15th March marked the main celebrations and students came to school in bright jumpers to stand out, just like the young activists who raise awareness of the cause. At break and lunch, the Charity Committee held a Bake Sale and Red Nose Day Tombola, with students winning a variety of Red prizes.

In total, we raised a huge £454.60 for Comic Relief - enough money to feed 90 children at a community hub during the school holidays. Thank you for all the support and donations. Next term, to celebrate World Earth Day, the committee will be raising money for the World Wildlife Fund.

Miss Hornal, *Teacher of History and Leader of the Charity Committee*

## World Book Day: celebrating our love of reading

At the beginning of March, the annual 'World Book Day' celebrations were held. As always, the focus was upon reading for pleasure and, during assemblies leading up to the big day, students were reminded of not just the importance of reading, but also the pleasure to be gained from it.

During the week of the big day, a range of events took place for our students: a book 'Treasure Hunt' and 'Find the Golden Ticket' events were extremely popular, with students scouring the school, searching for the prizes and books to be won! A well-attended 'Book quiz' was run, as well as a 'Spelling Bee'; a design a book token competition enabled our creative students to craft some beautiful pieces, and there was a short story competition. More than 60 Year 7 students enjoyed a (book tie-in) 'movie night' - they watched Roald Dahl's 'Matilda', whilst munching on popcorn and enjoying a hot chocolate!



The events concluded with many members of staff donning amazing costumes to share their love of literature and reading, most notably an impressive Snow White and seven dwarfs from the Art and DT departments!

As always, at the heart of all of this is a desire to promote a love of reading amongst our students, building alongside this an awareness of its significance, not just as an educational tool, but as a way to navigate life, as it expands our horizons and helps develop personal growth and understanding.

Miss Middleton, *Teacher of English and Literacy  
Coordinator*



## Delving into history, to break the code...

In February, a group of Year 12 students attended Bletchley Park for the National Cipher Challenge held by Southampton University. And what a thrill it was!

As part of the trip, we got to explore Bletchley Museum; stepping into history, we were immersed in the incredible achievements of the codebreakers during World War II, and the very atmosphere was charged with the sense of monumental discoveries that took place within those walls.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of the event were the talks from esteemed mathematicians, Professor Graham A. Niblo and Professor Marcus du Sautoy. Their insights into the world of mathematics, coupled with Marcus's engaging discussion on maths in games, left us inspired and eager to delve deeper into the subject.

Adding to the charm of the occasion was the presence of Harry Baker, the poet laureate for the competition, who effortlessly blended poetry with mathematics, creating a truly unique and captivating experience. Overall, it was a day filled with learning, camaraderie, and a profound appreciation for the intersection of mathematics and history and computer science.

We'd like to thank Mr. Thorne for his help, without which we wouldn't have attended Bletchley Park.

Rudra S, Year 12 student

In addition to Rudra's account of the day, Mr Thorne wanted to express his appreciation of his students and the day out also:

*"What Rudra and his team have so humbly left out of their write up is that they were invited to Bletchley Park for this amazing day out because of their incredible hard work and achievements in cracking every code thrown at them over a 10 week period.*

*The team finished in joint 6th place nationally - an unprecedented achievement for a team of Queensmead code breakers! They tackled sophisticated substitution ciphers, tricky transposition ciphers, vexing Vigenère Ciphers and the fiendish four square cipher. They wrote computer code to crack all the ciphers along with hours of analysis to find breakthroughs into what type of ciphers were at play for each message. Their achievements are exceptional and so a huge well done to all the team!"*

Mr Thorne, Head of Mathematics



THE  
CODEBREAKERS OF  
BLETCHLEY PARK

## P16 students battle it out: who stole the quiz crown?

The Student Leadership Group works diligently to provide experiences for Post 16 students that we hope are enjoyable for all who attend. This year, the annual Quiz Night was held on Thursday 29th February.

Students and teachers collaborated in the hope of reaching victory and making history. There were seven rounds: Geography, Logos, History, Sports, Movies, Science and 'Random', with the latter two proving to be the toughest ones. Hosted by Quizmaster extraordinaire, Mr Luck, the night was an entertaining event, hopefully creating long-lasting memories for all. Some teams had coordinated outfits with the likes of Men In Black, Alvin and the Chipmunks, Scooby Doo and Super Mario characters.



The night was planned by the Student Leadership Group, who wrote all the questions and marked the questions as quickly as possible, with help from the Values Team. Without this combined effort, the night would not have gone as smoothly as it did.

Congratulations to 'The Once and Future Champions' who have won Quiz Night 2 years in a row!

*Keira Mensah, Student Leadership Group*



## Testing stamina at altitude: the world of sports science

Our Year 12 BTEC Sport and A Level Physical Education cohort have recently embarked on a journey delving into the intricate world of sports science to engage in an array of activities at Bedfordshire University, all designed to expand their understanding of physical performance.

The day commenced with a tour of the campus, offering students a glimpse into the life of higher education. Following this, they were treated to a talk on "Careers in Sport" by Dr. Martyn Morris, shedding light on the myriad opportunities awaiting aspiring sports enthusiasts.

As the morning progressed, the students took part in two university-level fitness tests, guided by those professionals who work at the forefront of sports science research. Dr. Jeff Aldous captivated us with his session on 'Exercise and/or Cognitive Function

in Altitude'. Consequently, the students participated in a 5km cycle inside an altitude chamber, testing their strength in adverse conditions.

Following this, the Astrand Test provided a hands-on experience into the methodologies employed in assessing cardiovascular fitness, leaving students with a newfound appreciation for the intricacies of physical assessment.

As the day drew to a close, our Year 12 students departed with minds enriched, perspectives broadened, and aspirations kindled. This immersive experience not only deepened their understanding of sports science but also illuminated the pathways toward fulfilling careers in this dynamic and evolving field.

Mr Fernandes , *Teacher of PE*



## Bringing the magical world of Harry Potter to life

To celebrate both Royal Shakespeare Week and World Book Day, Deanesfield Primary School organised a variety of different reading experiences for their students. And, for one morning last week, our Year 12 Literature students were privileged to take part in their celebrations.

On Thursday 21st March, the Year 12s performed a dramatic reading of various scenes from the famous Harry Potter books. We were impressed with the amount of effort the group put in to ensure their success, creating their own props and spending time rehearsing to practice their performance, demonstrating their team skills as well as their determination.



On arrival, we were welcomed into Deanesfield's Hobbit House, where the performance was to take place. Despite their nerves, they put on a superb

and engaging performance for three different classes of Year 5 students - they were a credit to Queensmead and we are very proud of their hard work.

Mrs Bamrah, *Teacher of English*

We also received a letter of thanks from the Deputy Head teacher at Deanesfield, with feedback from the Year 5 audience. They were clearly inspired by the evident passion for reading and literature:

*'Wow, we simply loved the reading of Harry Potter from the Queensmead sixth Form students. They transported us to Hogwarts and the enchanted forest. It was an experience I will never forget.'* (Thea)

*'I thought the Queensmead students were great fun and it was interesting that older students also love to read the classic favourites like us. I liked the way they adapted the readings and made them their own. They really inspired me to be creative with my own writing too.'* (Burhan)

*'One of my favourite parts of the experience was being able to ask the students questions because they had great tips about writing and the importance of having confidence in your own ideas and being creative. They listened carefully and respectfully to us, which meant a lot.'* (Ishan)

## The wonderful world of Pi

'Pi day' - otherwise known as 14th March due to the way the date represents the numerical constant 3.14 - was a day for celebration at Queensmead. Many students joined the Maths department at lunchtime, to compete against each other for the honour of being able to recite Pi to the most decimal places.

As soon as the bell rang for lunch, it became clear that many of our students were willing to rise to the challenge of the day. Some brought along friends for moral support, and they were invited to take part in Pi-themed puzzles, while waiting their turn. It quickly became evident that many students had been practising hard for this event!

After a tense 30 minutes, the competition was stopped. The winning student was in year 10, managing to correctly recite Pi to 423 decimal places - a phenomenal achievement, far surpassing last year's result of an impressive 214 places!



It was a pleasure collating all the results and I must congratulate all students that participated.

Each participant will receive a certificate and positive points on Satchel:One. Prizes have been awarded to those who were able to recite to at least 50 decimal places.

### The top 5 results were:

| Name        | No. of decimal places |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| Lakshanth S | 423                   |
| Janish F R  | 420                   |
| Aditya K    | 320                   |
| Noah L      | 259                   |
| Lois C      | 82                    |

We look forward to next year's Pi day - let's see who can break the current record of 423 decimal places!

Mrs Morrissey, *Teacher of Mathematics and Numeracy Coordinator*

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