



Newsletter



Volume 6

July 2025

Nurturing future innovators and leaders in Year 12

The DVS Awards, run by the DVS Foundation, support schools in recognising and rewarding Year 12 students for their success over the academic year. However, rather than focusing purely on academic achievement, the DVS Awards incorporate a wider range of skills and attributes, such as progress, effort, and resilience, for example. Aimed at Year 12 students, the Awards recognise and celebrate those important life skills in young people, particularly as they transition into adulthood.

Nine students from each school across the borough were selected to attend the DVS Foundation Awards, for qualities such as their ambition, leadership, or innovative thinking, demonstrated throughout Year 12. The evening featured inspiring speeches and an opportunity to network with professionals from a range of industries, including law, accountancy and medicine. One of our Award recipients, Anjali S, commented that, "It was an incredibly motivating and memorable experience" which "inspired [her] to keep striving

towards [her] future goals". Abdulaziz A, a further award recipient, remarked, "I had a great experience with the DVS Foundation. I had the opportunity to network with other high-achieving students and enjoyed excellent hospitality and food. The event was well-organised and the talks on important moral values were fantastic. Overall, a golden experience - truly a 10/10. Congratulations to all our winners!

Mr Briggs, Head of Post 16



Making a difference: our Year 12 students enrich the community

As part of our outreach programme, where Queensmead students volunteer to help out in the wider community, some of our Year 12 students attended the Queens Walk Resource Centre. They have been completing projects, working with adults with disabilities.

One of our students, Agne, reflects on her experience:

“I have had a lovely time volunteering for the Queens Walk Resource Centre Art club so far. With one of my Year 12 peers who shares my interest in art and psychology, I was delighted to hear that we could help out in the art community at Queens Walk Resource Centre.



It is such a welcoming and educational place for adults with a range of disabilities and support needs, and they offer a variety of activities and facilities to assist personal growth. So far, we have helped with an art project for ‘VE Day 80’, aiding the service users by cutting out shapes and painting poppies. Last week, we supported a storytelling session with interactive elements like music and flowers.

I hope to continue volunteering with the Queens Walk Resource Centre as it continues to develop important soft

skills, and is building my skills of working with different materials in a therapeutic art environment.”

Chanel, another of our Year 12s supporting at the Resources Centre, reflected on her time spent at the centre:

“Volunteering for the centre has certainly been an eye opener, and my experience thus far has been greatly rewarding. In each weekly session, we assist in delivering activities involving different forms of art therapy; on occasion, the activities build up to a larger task, such as the commemorative project VE day. Of course, there are many other opportunities where individuals are free to explore and express their imagination through different forms of art - activities such as sensory storytelling, for example, to help participants relax. Last week, we had the opportunity to learn about how these sessions of storytelling play out, and how they benefit keen listeners. It's amazing to see how creative expression can lead to someone openly expressing their personality, and find passion for something”.

We are so proud of our students for their continued support and compassion.



Mrs Hussein, *Teacher of Science and
Outreach Coordinator*



From tools to tech: DT students build, create, and innovate

As the academic year draws to a close, we wanted to share with you some of the outstanding accomplishments achieved by our students on their Design Technology and Home Economics' journey...

Year 7: **Exploring Materials and Workshop Tools**

Students gained hands-on experience in design thinking, technical drawing, woodworking, and product evaluation whilst distinguishing between the design context (the problem) and the design brief (the solution). They explored several approaches, such as biomimicry and user-centred design, and learned to develop and communicate ideas.

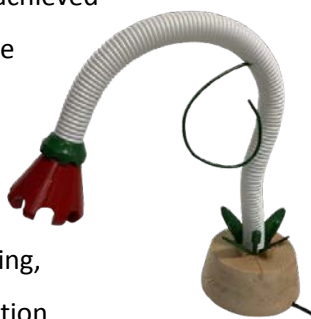
Year 8: **Nature and Biomimicry Exploration**

Our students explored how nature inspires human design and engineering solutions, learning how to write detailed specifications using ACCESS FM. They also practised rendering materials to show tone and texture, gaining experience in modelling ideas, cutting and shaping timbers and metals, in addition to achieving quality edge finishes using specialist tools. Combining theory and practice, it is a comprehensive learning experience.

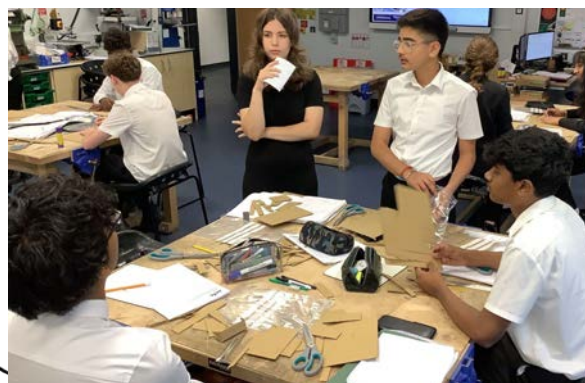
Year 9: **DT, Engineering and Graphics introduction**

Our Year 9 students explored options for GCSE:

- In DT, they were tasked with designing and manufacturing a multi-purpose clock inspired by a 20th-century design.



- In Engineering, students focused on material processes and origins while mastering practical skills such as cutting and shaping metals.
- In Graphic Communication, students explored the components of graphic design through three mini-projects in illustration and packaging design.



Year 10: **GCSE Progress Update**

DT students have dived into coursework preparation. A brief for low-voltage lighting required a thorough assessment of the client's needs, initiating a process of modelling to communicate initial designs and to listen to client feedback. After these conversations, our designers began to experiment with materials and processes, manufacturing prototypes, and producing high-quality portfolios.

Similarly, our engineers have worked with a range of resistant materials to produce pencil holders, with a high degree of dimensional tolerance and quality, producing isometric drawings (to British Standards), learning to assess risk when using hand tools and machines.

Finally, our graphic designers have learned about effective advertising techniques, creating high-quality print-based outcomes with industry-standard Adobe software. Inspired by research of design movements and designers, along with the psychology of advertising, they have refined their own skills for maximum efficacy.

Meanwhile, in Home Economics...

Year 7: **Delicious Creations**

Our budding chefs rolled up their sleeves to cook up a storm!

- They have made chewy, golden, flapjacks, a great introduction to measuring, mixing, and using the oven safely.
- Scones – light, fluffy, and absolutely delicious! Using the rubbing-in method, students learned how to handle dough gently for the perfect rise.
- Pizza Pinwheels – A savoury twist! These cheesy, tomato-filled snacks helped students practise rolling, shaping, and baking while learning about flavour combinations.
- Pineapple Upside-Down cake – a retro classic, testing caramelisation and sponge-baking techniques with impressive (and tasty) results!

Year 7 in the Textiles Room...

Engaging with our "Monster Madness" project, our students designed and created their own keyrings and bag chains, using colourful felt, thread, and buttons to bring their quirky monster characters to life. Both functional and fun, the project develops basic hand stitching techniques, whilst learning about the safe use of sharp tools..

Year 8: **Advanced Culinary Skills**

Building on their culinary skills from last year, Year 8s explored a variety of international dishes, deepening their understanding of nutrition and food safety:

- Thai Curry – a fragrant and colourful dish that introduced students to spices, coconut milk, and different cooking methods.



- Spanish Chicken – a bold, flavourful recipe requiring meat browning, combining ingredients, and using the oven effectively.
- Pizza (from scratch!) – students created their own dough and sauce, mastering the skills of kneading, proving, and baking.
- Swiss Roll – a delicate dessert, challenging students to work with precision.

 In Textiles, Year 8 took on the 'Communication Project', designing and making a personalised cushion cover, developing design skills to communicate emotion, whilst improving their use of the sewing machine with decorative stitching techniques. They also used applique and embellishment skills to enhance their final product.

Mr Jivan, *Head of DT*



Science comes alive for students at London Zoo

Students from Queensmead School recently embarked on an inspiring Science trip to London Zoo, immersing themselves in the world of biodiversity and conservation.

This educational visit brought classroom learning to life, offering students the chance to observe over 750 species of animals, from tiny insects and reptiles, to majestic lions and gorillas - all within the heart of London.

The hands-on learning experience and expert-led sessions ensured that students not only gained knowledge, but also developed a sense of wonder and stewardship for the natural world.

By exploring biodiversity at London Zoo, Queensmead School students returned with a renewed appreciation for wildlife and a clearer vision of how science and conservation can shape a more sustainable future for all.

Mrs Hussein, *Teacher of Science and Outreach Coordinator*



Empowering voices: 'Talk the Talk' workshop prepares Year 12 for life

On Thursday 3rd July, we welcomed 'Talk The Talk' to run their 'Talk About the Future' workshop for our Year 12 students. It was an extremely successful day, with overwhelmingly positive feedback received from students, staff and the visiting workshop providers.

Subsidised by the Jack Petchey Foundation, the session guides students to identify their unique skills set, developing strategies to communicate this to others, using oracy strategies, something that will prove invaluable as year 12 embark upon their journey as young adults and taking part in interviews for universities,



apprenticeship providers or employers. Our Year 12s felt encouraged, following the session - as Katrin commented: "it boosted my confidence and allowed me to be able to speak for myself clearly" - and others commented maturely on the specific guidance they received. Sanju, in year 12, felt motivated by the tailored and individual feedback given - "it really helped me figure out where I could improve for any potential interviews in the future", and Tasneem also commented on the practical application of the new skills, as they could "practise the skills we got taught with other students", in order to feel more comfortable. A very useful and informative session overall.

Mr Briggs, Head of Post 16



From LEGO to legacy: creating sustainable solutions at the Natural History Museum

A group of our Year 9 students recently went to an inspiring workshop at the Natural History Museum - 'LEGO® Build the Change: Save Our Planet! Workshop'.

During the workshop, students were presented with a series of sustainability challenges inspired by current research and case studies from Museum scientists. Working in small teams, they selected issues such as habitat loss, water pollution, or green energy, and used LEGO bricks to design imaginative solutions. The process encouraged critical thinking, collaboration, and creative expression, empowering students to become active problem-solvers for the planet.

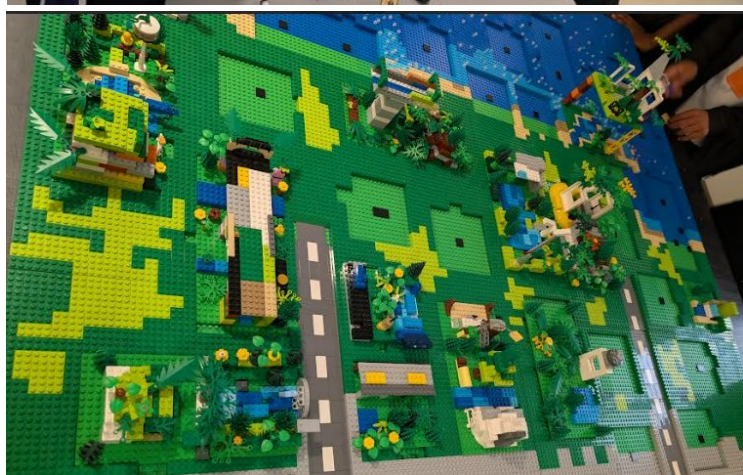
After building their models, each group presented their ideas to their peers, explaining the environmental problems they tackled and the innovative features of their designs. This presentation phase not only built confidence and communication skills but also fostered a sense of shared purpose and community. Students reflected on what they learned and discussed how their skills could help shape a more sustainable world.

Students were also able to explore the museum. They experienced what an earthquake felt like and took classroom learning in to the real world by looking at Darwin's discoveries.



One of the students who was lucky enough to attend, Nikshata, reflected on the experience: "This was one of the most memorable trips I have ever been on. In the museum, we looked at artefacts in different sections, like the dinosaurs and the evolution of living things. We even went on the elevator with the globe. The Lego workshop was also fun - I was working with different people, creating inventions that would protect animals from the modern world using Lego."

Mrs Hussein, *Teacher of Science and Outreach Coordinator*



Kneading together: a bread-making project connects across the ages

We are bringing schools together through baking!

Queensmead School has recently launched a heartwarming outreach initiative, partnering with local primary students to explore the art and science of bread-making.

A hands-on project, we hope to foster community connections, promote practical life skills, and ignite curiosity about food origins and healthy eating. Local primary schools visited Queensmead, where our teachers and student leaders worked side-by-side with younger pupils to create fresh bread from scratch.

The sessions began with an introduction to different types of bread and discussions about where ingredients, like flour, come from. Together, students measured, mixed, and kneaded dough, learning about the chemical reactions that help bread rise and the importance of hygiene and teamwork in the kitchen, while having a thoroughly lovely time!

Mrs Hussein, *Teacher of Science and Outreach Coordinator*



Behind the scenes at BMW: exploring innovation and industry in Oxford



To recognise the efforts of KS4 and KS5 over the academic year, 14 students got to go on a trip to BMWi factory in Oxford, where they witnessed modern manufacturing systems and took a look behind the scenes with BMW Mini experts. The cars made by the BMW Group inspire unique design and creativity, providing an exciting experience in live

production. This experience, outside of the classroom, provided an opportunity to contextualise their learning.

Mr Jivan, *Head of DT*



Young inventor: Zayd's life-saving innovation

Over the years, several of our students have participated in the 'The Maker Challenge', at Imperial College London, and this year, our participant was quite extraordinary!

'The Maker Challenge' itself is a free design and make programme for 14-18 year olds. In a vibrant and state-of-the-art workshop, students learn 3D printing, laser cutting, electronics, coding, woodworking and business skills. Using advanced tools and equipment, they bring their inventions to life and compete to win prizes.

This year, a Queensmead student, Zayd in Year 11 won 2nd place for his innovation - for an exceptional and life-saving device, to combat cot-death.

Zayd demonstrated exceptional creativity, innovation, and dedication through his participation in the competition. His device showcases his ability to apply technical skills to address a critical real-world issue.

Throughout the 11-week programme, Zayd has shown outstanding commitment to learning and applying various making skills, including 3D printing, laser cutting, and electronics. His project, which monitors blood oxygen levels and alerts parents in the event of an emergency, demonstrates not only a deep understanding of the technical aspects and practical applications of his invention, but also a profoundly mature and compassionate young student.

Zayd's second-place finish in the competition is a testament to his hard work and the quality of his invention. His continued dedication to perfecting his project, including the upcoming tasks of wiring circuits and coding in C++, further underscores his passion for innovation and drive to impact society positively. By participating in this challenge, Zayd has developed valuable technical skills and honed his entrepreneurial and business acumen, preparing him for future success in the STEM field.

His contribution to the challenge also qualified him to receive a Jack Petchey Achievement Award, courtesy of the Jack Petchey Foundation. His project, designed to save lives and bring peace of mind to parents, exemplifies the spirit of innovation and community service that epitomises the Jack Petchey ethos. With the grant available through the award, he kindly donated the money to the DT department and we were able to buy a planer-thicknesser and a Dremel drill press for student to use in their projects.

Congratulations to Zayd!

If you are interested in applying to The Maker Challenge, click [here](#) or contact Mr Jivan for further details.

Mr Jivan, *Head of DT*



Hearts and soles: students step up to support good causes

The Charity Committee has been busy this past term, organising a range of fundraisers for the different year groups.

We are extremely proud of our Year 7 and Year 8 students, who all took part in a Sponsored Walk during the penultimate week of school. With the support of the PE department, students worked extremely hard to raise £550 for Muscular Dystrophy UK. Each student aimed to walk 5km and walked around the field as many times as possible during their PE lesson. Staff marked off the students as they walked past to keep count of each lap, with most students completing 3-5 laps. A huge congratulations to the students who managed 8 laps!

The Post 16 students also continued their philanthropy with two events taking place in the final week of the term. First, Post 16 had a bake sale on Wednesday in support of Charity Right, a charity chosen by one of our students who is taking part in the "Walk for Gaza". Second, the charity committee organised a rounders competition between staff and Post 16 students, in aid of the Post 16 chosen charity, the British Red Cross.

This year was our first year having a dedicated Post 16 charity, with students voting in September for the charity they wanted to support. Across the year, Post 16 students have taken part in a range of fundraising events raising a total of around £1,500 for the British Red Cross Gaza Appeal.

Thank you to all the staff, students, and teachers who have supported the charity fundraisers this year. Our KS3 students have raised over £1,300 for a range of charities as well as spreading awareness for a variety of causes. We

look forward to the Autumn Term when we will hold our annual food drive for Hillingdon Food bank.



Miss Hornal, *Teacher of History and
Charities Coordinator*



From the classroom to the dance floor: Year 11 end their year with elegance

On Friday 20th June, we had our Year 11 Leavers' Prom, to celebrate all the fantastic efforts and achievements of our amazing students. From their arrival in Cadillacs and Porsche's, to their continued grace on the dance floor at the end of the very warm day, our Year 11s demonstrated how far they have come since they first arrived at Queensmead as 11 year olds. And, having been their Head of Year since they joined in Year 7, it was both a delight and a privilege to celebrate the journey they have been on.

The dance floor was packed throughout the night as they came together to toast all their hard work and dedicated preparation for their GCSEs. Their elegant dresses and stylish suits added a touch of glamour and celebrity to the evening's celebrations.

A special thanks to Mrs Briggs and Miss Moran who helped organise such a fun and fitting end to Year 11. We wish our Year 11 the very best success for the future.

Mr Guthrie, *Teacher of English and Head of Year 11*



Spotlight on success: KS3 Awards celebrate the dedication and talent of our students

The 2024-25 Key Stage 3 Awards Evening took place on 10th July. We had 99 awards winners in total, with 84 students winning awards for subjects and a further 15 awards being given for outstanding performance and achievement across a range of areas.

Congratulations to all of our award winners: you deserve your successes!

As ever, our award winners are hugely indebted to parents, family and friends for helping them to achieve so much this year. A particular thanks to our Post 16 Leadership Team, who ran the evening from start to finish.

It was a special evening for everyone involved, particularly after the Key Stage 4 & 5 evening had to be cancelled at the last minute due to the flooding. However, we are really excited to announce that our local MP, Danny Beales, will be coming to present our KS4 & 5 awards on Thursday 2nd October. We hope to see many of you there!

Mr Muttukumaru
Assistant Headteacher



From squeaky 'pops!' to colour changes: young minds explore chemical reactions

Last week, Queensmead School buzzed with excitement as local primary school pupils from Deanesfield and Bourne Primary arrived, for a hands-on chemical reactions workshop. The event, designed to spark curiosity and foster a love of science, enabled our enthusiastic Year 12 students to take the lead, guiding the young visitors through a series of captivating experiments.

From the moment the primary school children stepped into the hall, they were greeted with a vibrant atmosphere. Each station was led by a team of Year 12 Chemistry students, ready to demonstrate and explain a variety of chemical reactions. Here is a range of comments from our young visitors, reflecting on the event:

- Bobii – "I enjoyed doing the experiments and it has given me ideas of how to look after the planet!"
- Rani: "I really enjoyed the science workshop because we got to take part in lots of experiments. My favourite one was where we heard hydrogen make a squeaky pop sound!"



- Alayna: "The workshop was really enjoyable because we got to take part in lots of experiments rather than just watching them. I enjoyed watching the litmus paper change colour!"
- Benji: "I learnt about the properties of copper and how it can change colour over time. The workshop was really fun."

Mrs Hussein, *Teacher of Science and Outreach coordinator*



Proud moments: winning the prestigious 'Jack Petchey' Awards

At Queensmead, we are delighted to be part of the Jack Petchey Achievement Award Scheme. Run by the Jack Petchey foundation, it is a programme that recognises and celebrates the outstanding efforts, achievements, and positive contributions of young people in our school community.

The scheme enables us to reward students who go above and beyond - whether through academic excellence, personal growth, leadership, or through community service. Each winner receives a certificate, badge, and a financial grant to spend on something that will benefit their peers or school. This not only empowers our students but also fosters a strong sense of responsibility and pride.

This year, we have been able to award nine students from across KS3 and KS4, and a further three from Post 16. It is a privilege to be able to find out about the incredible contributions our young people are making all the time - sometimes relatively unnoticed and they deserve the recognition and prestige of these awards. Running the Jack Petchey Award Scheme gives us a very meaningful way to spotlight the incredible young people who make our school a better place every day. We look forward to continuing to celebrate the inspiring achievements of our students through this prestigious programme.

Miss Scott, Assistant Headteacher

Jack Petchey Achievement Awards 2024-2025:

- ★ Sahill F
- ★ Vincent Y
- ★ Samuel Z
- ★ Nimrut N
- ★ Asad P
- ★ Jiya P
- ★ Tymarli M
- ★ Louis A
- ★ Masooma S
- ★ Layla F
- ★ Charlotte T
- ★ Zayd J



Year 10 students shine in the Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' Workshop

A group of Year 10 students recently had the privilege of participating in the exciting 'Speak Out Challenge', organised by the Jack Petchey Foundation.

Our students thoroughly enjoyed engaging in activities that focused on improving speech delivery and building oracy confidence. The day was not only fun, with students gaining valuable tools to boost their confidence and communication abilities for the future, but also educational, as our year 10 students were about to embark upon the non-exam assessed spoken assessment for their English Language GCSE.

During the Speak Out workshop, we primarily focused on two things: our confidence in public speaking, and how to convey our ideas in an effective and engaging way. We gave short speeches to small groups and eventually the whole group to help us manage our nerves and practice our delivery when speaking. As someone who previously had little knowledge of the art of public speaking, I found learning about what makes a great speaker particularly interesting. I thoroughly enjoyed the day as it allowed me to step out of my comfort zone in a supportive environment, and I found it was invaluable preparation for my GCSE Spoken Language exam at the end of year 10. I'm very glad I got the opportunity to participate.

Eleni B, Year 10 student

Jack Petchey's
"SPEAK OUT"
Challenge!

Off to the zoo! Year 12 Biologists investigate

Last Wednesday, on July 9th, Year 12 Biology students visited London Zoo, to learn more about conservation and biodiversity. We were offered insights into various animal and plant biology, as well as first-hand accounts of the roles zoos play in scientific research and in broader education of the public about wildlife and its threats.



We started in the Mongoose and Otters section, observing how they interact, noting key adaptations which help them thrive in aquatic habitats, such as webbed feet and waterproof fur. Then, we visited the Rainforest Life exhibit, observing a variety of tropical animal species: red titi monkeys, bats, and - surprisingly - a small mouse on the forest floor! The highlight was definitely the baby sloth, clinging to its mother's back. It was interesting to learn how animals have adapted to even the most inhospitable environments; a zookeeper told us, they "find comfort in the uncomfortable".

We also learned about a conservation tech experiment called 'Plant Power'; by harnessing the energy from waste deposited by plants, they can power small electrical devices as the waste breaks down. One of the zoo's plants - 'Pete the Fern' - is even able to take selfies using this technology. A truly memorable and enjoyable experience reinforce awareness about protecting the natural world.

Prisha P, Year 12 student

Talent unleashed: hitting all the right notes in the summer production of 'School of Rock'

Following on from their incredible performance of 'Matilda' last summer, our students had a lot to live up to - and they did not disappoint, with an energy-fuelled performance of 'School of Rock'. With performers from across the school - and a few familiar faces from last year's 'Matilda' - the students impressed their audience with their sheer enthusiasm and determination, singing, acting and playing a range of musical instruments. It was a pleasure to watch! And a huge thank you to the Performing Arts department for all of their effort in putting on the show, with support from a wide range of staff.

We look forward to next year's show!

Miss Scott, Assistant Headteacher

