



Newsletter



Volume 1

October 2025

Strong start: Year 7 Netball squad secures their first win!

On Monday 13th October, some of our Year 7 students took part in a Netball squad, competing in their first league match (away) at Harefield School, captained by Chloe.

After a nervous start, the girls began to feel more relaxed and their communication increased, becoming more effective as the match went on. Their technical ability was outstanding, with very few fouls committed, and some excellent movement and passing.

At half time the score was a tense 6-6, with some magnificent shots from both teams. But the second half saw Queensmead pull away and grow in confidence, and the girls really started to fight for the ball in both attack and defence. The match ended in an incredible 11-9 win to Queensmead, with Maryam being named as player of the match by Harefield.



The Year 7 Netball squad:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------|
| ★ Chloe B (Captain) | |
| ★ Esther B | ★ Maryam A |
| ★ Saffron D | ★ Hannah N |
| ★ Maya M | ★ Ella A |
| ★ Liya L | ★ Nya A |



Mrs Carter, Teacher of PE

Exploring Black history: from ancient Mali to modern Britain



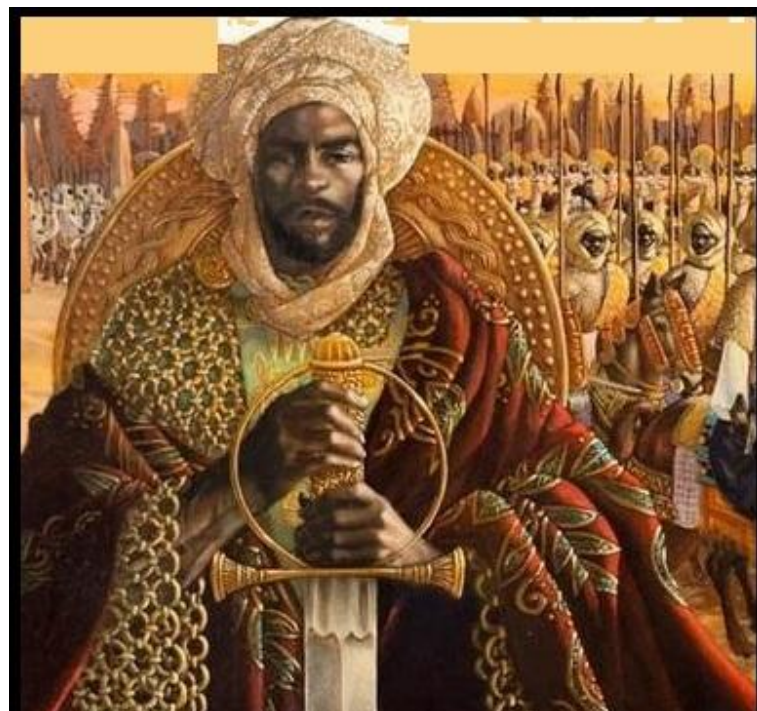
October is Black History Month, and, here at Queensmead, our students have been studying a range of historical topics, designed to explore and celebrate the contributions of Black people to British society.

Students in Year 7 have been looking at the history of migration to Britain, starting all the way back in 4000 BC and finishing by looking at migration throughout the 20th century. As part of this, they have been learning about the contributions of the Windrush Generation to Britain, along with the challenges they faced after arriving here.

In Year 8, students have been studying the Medieval West African kingdom of Mali, focusing on specifically the reign of Mansa Musa. They have learned about the origins of the kingdom as told in the Epic of Sundiata Keita, the key events of Mansa Musa's reign (including his famous Haj to Mecca) and the impact he had on the wider Medieval world.

All students have also participated in an assembly about the importance of celebrating Black History throughout the year, not just in October, including a discussion of the impact of Black people on Britain from the Romans through to today.

Mr Firth, *Head of History, Classics and Law*



Mansa Musa, the ruler of the Mali Empire, from worldhistory.org

Blackhistorymonth.org.uk is the official website for the UK's Black History Month. Follow the link to find out more.



Helping our students develop skills and knowledge beyond the curriculum

At Queensmead, we are proud of the breadth of enrichment opportunities we offer. To enhance their formal curriculum, students can access a range of different activities, enabling them to develop the knowledge, skills and attributes necessary to keep healthy and safe, whilst preparing them for life and work as citizens of the world. Such activities shape our students into kind, independent and resilient young people, whilst also reinforcing their academic success with greater cultural capital and experiences, including extracurricular clubs, educational visits, competitions, listening to guest speakers, attending concerts and drama productions and engaging with the super curriculum.

We have developed five key strands, to help identify the threads of the wider curriculum, making connections between the learning inside and outside the classroom:



Sport
and
fitness



Drama,
Music
and Art



STEM

(Science,
Technology, Maths
and Computing)

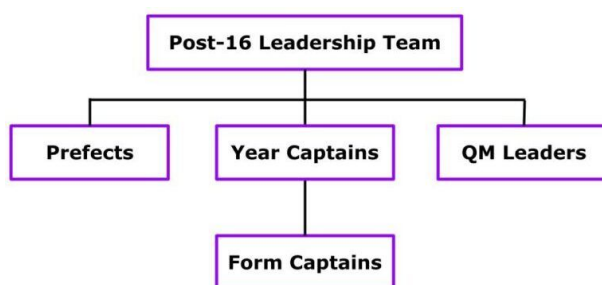


The humanities,
Business and
Economics, and
the Super
Curriculum



Charity work; student leadership;
outreach; and modern Languages.

In addition to the curriculum, at Queensmead School we have always had an abundance of young people who proudly represent the school in so many ways - helping at events, taking visitors on tours and assisting with charity fundraising, to name but a few. This year we are going to add more of a structure to this, by introducing a student leadership programme.



Each year group will have two Year Captains and each form group will have a Form Captain. The role of these leaders will be to represent the student voice, listening to and then voicing the ideas of our student body.

- Students in Years 7 to 9 will have the opportunity to become Queensmead Leaders, by contributing significantly to any of the five wider curriculum areas.
- Students in Years 10 and 11 will have the opportunity to become Prefects, following an application process and short interview, with responsibilities around school.
- Post 16 students will have the opportunity to join the Student Leadership Group (SLG), with overall oversight, chairing school council meetings and representing the student voice to senior leadership to affect change.

All student leaders will receive bespoke professional development to equip them for their role, such as public speaking, chairing a meeting and what leadership means - key soft skills for life beyond school.

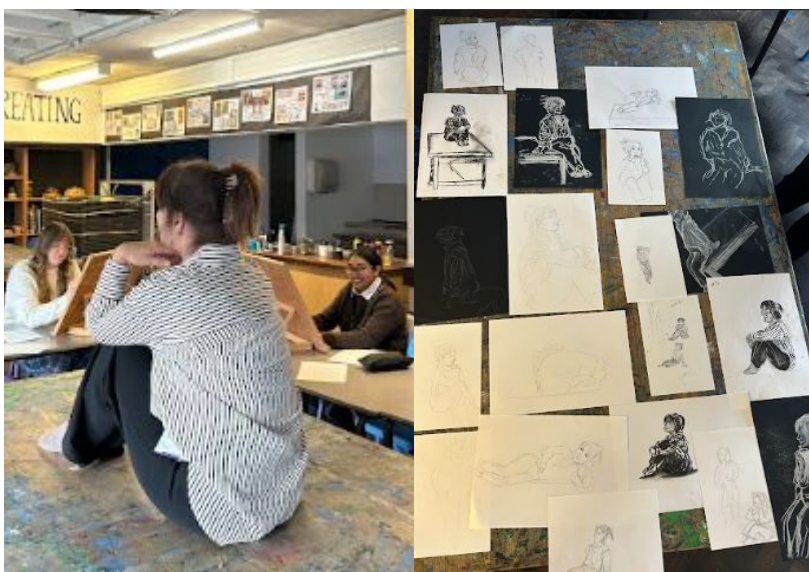
Life in lines: students sharpen skills in live drawing session

Last week, Miss Blease organised a fantastic art workshop for Post 16 Art students, where we had the chance to sketch drawings with a live model (our art technician, Mrs Bates).

The session was a new experience, sparking inspiration as we stepped beyond our usual curriculum and found new ways to enrich our A-level coursework. The basis of the workshop was timed drawings, sketching in bursts of 1 to 10 minutes with pencil and charcoal. The challenge of capturing accurate proportions in such a short time was both tough but exhilarating. Even with a full 10 minutes, the pressure was demanding but taught us valuable lessons about managing our time during our 15-hour art exams.

We are so grateful to Miss Blease and Mrs Bates for making this incredible workshop happen. We look forward to more creative opportunities like this!

Agne S, Year 13 student



Game On! What's on at Board Games club?

At Queensmead, we offer a diverse range of Extracurricular activities for students to attend - the full timetable is available through our website:

queensmeadschool.org.uk/students/school-clubs/

One of the most popular clubs is the board games club that runs every Wednesday after school. Students are able to play a wide variety of board games that are supplied by the school, including carrom board (pictured above, which is very popular with those who attend). Students can also bring their own games if they like. Queensmead also runs a Warhammer club, every Tuesday after school. Students are able to practice making, painting and then playing with the models.



Mr Firth, Head of History, Classics and Law

Step into Careers at Queensmead



Have you ever wondered what a green job looks like?

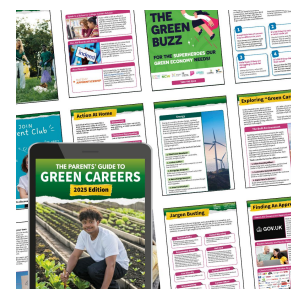
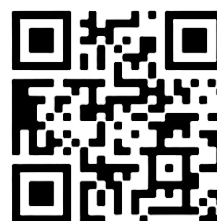
This is your opportunity to find out! Green Careers Week 2025 will take place from November 3rd to November 8th, 2025, a week designed to help young people, teachers, and parents explore careers in sustainability, green technology, and the environment. This is your opportunity to be part of the solution to climate change, biodiversity loss, the plastic waste crisis and other environmental challenges.

In response to the global need for action, our government has set a target of reaching net zero emissions by 2050, and to turn around the decline in our natural environment. This can only be achieved with a trained workforce with relevant skills. New green roles will be created, and existing jobs will need to be done in a greener way to ensure that all businesses are

operating sustainably. Every single individual will need to develop green skills.

To find out more, and to explore green career opportunities to get a head start in a booming sector, you can visit 'Green Careers Hub', a website dedicated to Green careers, offering resources and information about the possibilities.

There really is a green job for everyone. Follow the link in the QR to explore...



You can also get a free parent guide, to help your teen explore meaningful, future-focused careers. This quick parent guide covers routes after GCSEs and sixth form, with examples of green jobs across sectors and tips for work experience. Download here:

www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/nationalcareersweek

Miss Howells, *Careers adviser*



Miss Howells is available to advise Queensmead students from Monday - Thursday, offering impartial careers information, advice and guidance. Students requiring an 1:1 meeting can book via this short [Google form](#)

Queensmead adventurers conquer the DofE challenge!

September and October saw our Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze and Silver qualifying expeditions take place. The expeditions had unfortunately been postponed from earlier in the year due to unforeseen circumstances and therefore we were hoping for better than average weather for the season. Thankfully, we largely got our wish with only one downpour during the Bronze expedition and dry skies throughout the Silver.

Over two days and one night the Bronze DofE participants tackled the hills and trails around Dorking and Guildford, practicing their map reading, orienteering, campcraft and cooking (no food poisoning was reported though some food was burnt!). While the weather was cold and there was some rain, the leaders from our external provider (Crag and Compass) built a lovely campfire for the students to help them keep warm and dry off. I am happy to report all students



passed the expedition and will now need to ensure they have done their skill, physical and volunteering sections in order to achieve the award.

The Silver expedition, with students now in Year 11, took place in the same area over 3 days and 2 nights and was equally successful with all students passing. The Silver expedition involved matching team outfits, facepaint and many memories which I am sure the participants will cherish. Duke of Edinburgh is an incredibly important and worthwhile award which gives students an experiences they may not otherwise have, bringing people closer together. It also aligns with our school values of kindness, resilience, respect and independence and I feel both of our two cohorts embodied those values this year. Well done to them all.

Mr Clarke, *Head of Languages*



Finding a thread of inspiration at the 'Knit and Stitch' show

Textiles students from Years 9 to 11 recently enjoyed an inspiring trip to the Knit and Stitch Show at Alexandra Palace, London. The event was a feast for the senses, packed with creativity and colour at every turn. Students explored a vibrant array of stalls showcasing elaborate embroidery, eye-catching knitwear, and colourful yarns. From handmade trinkets to unique accessories, there was something to capture everyone's imagination.



Each student participated in a creative workshop, encouraging experimentation with new techniques, offering valuable insights into professional textile practices. One student remarked, "The show was full of vibrant displays, and an overall lovely atmosphere. I particularly liked one display as it was quite breathtaking and a really cool piece." Another student shared their enthusiasm for one striking exhibit: "I really like the patterns and designs of the black, red and white dress as it reminds me of the Queen of Hearts."



The trip not only gave students the chance to develop their appreciation of textile art, but inspired them to push the boundaries of their own creative work. Surrounded by professional makers and passionate craftspeople, they returned full of ideas and renewed enthusiasm for their subject. It was a truly memorable experience, and a fantastic opportunity to see the vibrant world of textiles in action.

Ms Keyes, *Teacher of Textiles*



Queensmead and Deanesfield Students Plant Trees to Tackle Climate Change

On Monday 7th October, Queensmead students rolled up their sleeves after school to take meaningful climate action by planting trees on our school grounds. They were joined by enthusiastic pupils from Deanesfield Primary School, making it a wonderful collaboration between two local schools united by a shared goal: helping our planet.

The event saw students work together to plant a variety of saplings that will grow to provide cleaner air, support local wildlife, and create a greener, more sustainable environment for years to come. Every tree planted represents a small but powerful step in the fight against climate change.

Queensmead students showed great teamwork and determination, guiding their younger Deanesfield partners through each stage of the planting process. Smiles and laughter filled the afternoon as students learned about how trees absorb carbon dioxide and why protecting green spaces is vital for the future.

This project forms part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability and environmental education. By getting involved in hands-on projects like this, students gain a real sense of responsibility for their local environment and see the impact of collective action.

As the trees continue to grow, they will stand as a lasting reminder of what can be achieved when schools and communities come together to take positive steps for the planet.

Mrs Hussein, *Teacher of Science and Outreach Coordinator*



Promoting respect and understanding: 'Talk Consent' assemblies

This half-term, all students took part in whole-school assemblies delivered by Talk Consent, an organisation dedicated to helping young people understand healthy relationships and the importance of consent.



The sessions encouraged students to think carefully about what consent really means — that it must always be clearly given, informed, and respected. Through interactive discussions and relatable examples, students explored how communication, empathy, and mutual respect play a vital role in building positive relationships, both inside and outside school.

A key focus of the assemblies was helping students recognise that consent is not just about saying “yes” or “no,” but about understanding boundaries, respect, and personal responsibility. Students also learned where to find support if they ever feel uncomfortable, unsure, or need someone to talk to — whether within school or through trusted organisations outside of it.

The assemblies were well-received by students across all year groups, sparking meaningful conversations about respect, equality, and kindness. Many students said they found the sessions both engaging and thought-provoking, with one commenting, “It really helped me understand why consent and respect are so important in everyday life.” These assemblies form part of the school’s wider commitment to

promoting a safe, respectful environment where everyone feels valued and supported.

We would like to thank Talk Consent for delivering such important and insightful sessions, and for helping our students develop the knowledge and confidence to make responsible, respectful choices in all areas of their lives.

Miss Roberts, *Teacher of Maths and PD coordinator*



Magic in the making: what is coming up at Queensmead?

After the success of the school performance of 'School of Rock' last year, we are delighted to announce the show for this year - we will be presenting Disney's 'Aladdin'! A great number of students wowed the Performing Arts department with their auditions; the cast is now assembled and rehearsals are underway, with the soaring vocals of 'Arabian Nights' (the opening number) a sign of great things to come.



We are also preparing for the annual Winter concert, which will take place on 17th December. We look forward to seeing you there!

Mr Taylor, *Head of Performing Arts*

QM LEGO club: building big ideas!

Lego club continues to be very popular with many year 7s this term. They have enjoyed creating imaginative constructions of their ideal homes and their favourite modes of transport.

Mrs Morrissey, *Teacher of Maths*



Giving back: school charity efforts kick off with food drive

This term, the charity committee has started to plan a range of events for this academic year, starting with our annual foodbank collection. After the success of last year's whole school food drive, we are again working with the Hillingdon Foodbank to support our local communities. Last year, in October, students donated a range of food items to support the Foodbank, as they were in desperate need of supplies. This year, we are hoping to provide a generous donation, starting off the drive with an assembly for Years 7-11, teaching students about the work the FoodBank does and how their donations would help. Each Key Stage 3 form has their own collection box and the forms work hard to fill the box. Thanks to the generosity of all the students, staff and parents we are again on our way to giving the Foodbank another significant donation.



This is in addition to the substantial amounts raised by the Post 16 charity events. Last year, the students nominated the British Red Cross Gaza Appeal to be the beneficiary of their fundraising, raising an impressive £2000. This year, they have chosen War Child UK as their charity. We look forward to seeing what events they organise in support of this important cause.

Mrs Brennand, *Teacher of History and Charities Coordinator*

Feeling the pressure? How to choose the right option subject.

Making choices about GCSE options in Year 9 can be an exciting, yet overwhelming decision for students - but, rest assured, these mixed feelings are very normal. Alongside the practical element of picking subjects that match their interests, it's important to recognise and manage the feelings of anxiety and stress that often come with it. To help you support them with this, we wanted to suggest a few tips about how to approach this process of choosing options, as this process is beginning very soon for our students.

For many students, the pressure to make the “right” choice evokes feelings of worry and doubt. Some may feel the fear of making choices that impact their future, while others feel unsure about what subjects truly interest them. These feelings can sometimes affect sleep, stress and overall well-being. Helping them to manage these feelings can therefore have a positive impact on both personal and academic life, by helping to make calm, thoughtful decisions.

Potential strategies:

- **Talk:** encourage your child to share their thought process about subjects - with friends, family members and teachers. Sometimes, reaching out to someone about worries can lighten the load, helping them to unpick the valuable information.
- **Research:** encourage them to discuss possibilities with their teachers, and research the subjects. Ask them questions - what does the subject involve? Do the

topics interest them? This process can help rule out subjects not to do, making it easier to find the ones they do want to pursue

- **Time:** don't feel pressured to rush the process. It's okay for them to seek guidance and reflect before finalising their choices.
- **Self-care:** support them to incorporate healthy routines into their day such as regular exercise, balanced eating and good sleep to help them feel energised and have the psychological space to think carefully.

Remember, plenty of students find choosing GCSEs tricky. Teachers are there to advise during the process and our Careers Advisor, Miss Howells, is available to answer questions about it all.

The choices they are making now matter, however, they are not set in stone. If they feel unhappy or uncertain even after making their choices, there are options to support you and them, and they can reach out to anyone at school.

Miss Zaman, *Teacher of Social Science and Mental Health*
Lead



Curious minds and wild discoveries at ZSL London Zoo

There was plenty of excitement on the platform as Year 7 set off by train for their visit to the world-famous London Zoo. For many students, it was their first time travelling with the school by public transport, and the journey itself buzzed with anticipation as the conversation turned to what animals they might see first.

Once inside the zoo, students immersed themselves in discovering how different animals have adapted to survive in their environments. From the camouflaged chameleons in the Reptile House to the agile squirrel monkeys in the Rainforest Walkthrough, each exhibit gave them a fascinating insight into the creativity of nature. In the Penguin Beach enclosure, they observed how streamlined bodies and flipper-shaped wings help penguins glide effortlessly through the water, while in the desert section, they learned how meerkats use teamwork and their sharp eyesight to keep watch for predators.

Teachers were impressed by the thoughtful questions students asked about habitats, adaptation, and conservation. The visit provided not only a link to their science topic on ecosystems but also an inspiring reminder of the importance of protecting wildlife around the world.

The day ended with wide smiles and curious minds — and perhaps a few students deciding they might want to be zoologists one day.

What did our students think?

“My favourite part was seeing the penguins - they were so interesting to watch, especially watching them dive in the water. It was adorable! And my other favourite part was the India section, as it reminded me of Sri Lanka. I would love to go again and look at more information related to the animals' adaptation. The part when we saw the capybaras was so interesting as well. I would rate it 10/10!”

Thusha C

What I especially liked about the zoo were the capybaras and the penguins. Penguins are my favourite animal and it is such an honour to see them, as they are from the South Pole. I also liked the Capybaras because they are so cute. We also got to touch the goats and they were really fluffy and really cute.

Sara AS

