



Newsletter



Volume 2

December 2025

Outstanding versatility *and* resilience: Year 11 Netballers place 2nd

The Year 11 Netball team travelled to St Helen's School to compete in the Year 11 Versatility Netball Tournament, led by Captain Anna. This tournament presents a unique challenge: players are required to play in randomly assigned positions, often outside of their usual roles. Despite this, the girls approached the competition with confidence, adaptability, and determination.

The team performed exceptionally well in the pool stages, winning their group to progress to the semi-finals. Their results included a convincing 5–0 win against Ruislip High School, a hard-fought 1–1 draw against Bishop Ramsey, a strong victory over St Helen's B team, a 4–0 win against Haydon A team, and a competitive 2–2 draw against Vyners. Throughout the tournament, the team remained calm under pressure, giving 100% effort in every assigned position, and demonstrating outstanding versatility and resilience.

Following the impressive group stage, the girls faced Bishopshalt in the semi-final. Demonstrating excellent teamwork, composure, and commitment, they secured a confident 2–0 victory to reach the final. The final itself was a closely contested match, with a strong performance, but our team lost 5–3. However, they achieved second place overall in the tournament, which was a fantastic achievement given the circumstances and challenge of the competition. They deserve to be congratulated for their strong league campaign, securing wins against Vyners A team (9–5), Vyners B team (8–0), and Swakeleys School (19–4) - it has been a season of continued success!

Miss Harrison, *Teacher of PE*



Year 9 explore engineering, aviation and defence careers, at RAF Brize Norton

On 25th November, a group of excited Year 9 students travelled to RAF Brize Norton for a unique career experience day. The visit offered students the rare opportunity to step inside the UK's largest RAF base and explore a wide range of career pathways linked to engineering, logistics, technology, aviation and defence.

Students were able to board an aircraft, observe specialist vehicles and speak directly with serving RAF personnel about their roles. For many, this was their first ever visit to a military base, and they described the day as "one of the most exciting experiences" they have had in school. Even those with no prior interest in the RAF said the trip helped them understand how many different jobs exist within the organisation. Some students were particularly inspired by careers in logistics, learning how vital it is to keep equipment, supplies and transport moving across the world. Others were fascinated by the military dog-handling teams, gaining an insight into how animals are trained and cared for while supporting security operations.

Overall, the trip broadened students' horizons, sparked new career ambitions and gave them a memorable insight into life in the RAF. The group would highly recommend the experience to next year's cohort.

Mr Jivan, *Head of DT*



From biomimicry to 3D creativity: DT students shine!

Our DT students have made a fantastic start to the year, developing creative and technical skills, whilst building confidence across a wide range of exciting projects.

- ❖ Year 7 began their DT journey by exploring different materials and learning how to use key workshop tools safely and effectively. This hands-on introduction has helped them establish a strong foundation for future design challenges.
- ❖ Year 8 took inspiration from the natural world through their biomimicry project. Drawing on examples from nature, they experimented with metals, timbers and CAD/CAM (computer-aided) technologies to create innovative, environmentally-inspired designs.
- ❖ Year 9 experienced taster lessons in both Product Design and Graphics, giving them valuable insight into each subject before making their option choices later in the year.
- ❖ Year 10 have made impressive progress towards their GCSE studies. They have been working with smart materials, laser cutters and 3D printers while developing design ideas through both digital software and traditional sketching techniques.

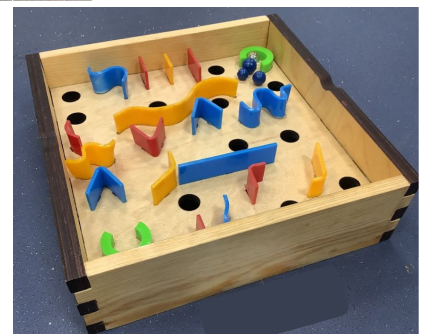


- ❖ Our Year 11 students, studying Engineering, Product Design and Graphics, have all started their coursework and are producing some fantastic early outcomes. We look forward to showcasing their finished work in the summer edition. In the meantime, the images above and below showcase some examples of work from last summer's exam classes at GCSE and A level.

A brilliant term of creativity, problem-solving and practical learning across all year groups!



Mr Jivan, *Head of DT*



Where puzzles meet potential: students excel in Senior UK Maths Challenge

Well done to our Year 12 and Year 13 mathematicians for participating in the most recent Senior UKMT (UK Maths Trust) Maths Challenge event.

Congratulations to all the students that achieved an award this year!

Miss Karadia, *Second-in-charge of Maths*



UK Maths Trust

Year 13 succeed at the prestigious Physics Olympiad

Congratulations to our Year 13 Physicists who took part in the challenging British Physics Olympiad in October. Comprising of twenty-five difficult questions ranging across the A Level syllabus, taking part in the Olympiad is a huge undertaking. In particular, Abirujan and Seth qualified for the next round, placing in the top twenty percent of candidates - not just in the UK, but internationally! An incredible achievement - well done!

Mr Cullen, *Teacher of Maths and Physics*

Year 12 winners		
Bronze		Silver
Kristina K, Vahin Y, Diyan V, Aland R, Robert B, Sana Y, Jake H, Matas R, Josh V, Jadursan J, Neal D, Bradley Y, Muhamathu M, Yojiro I, Jasmine S, Zayd J, Sruthy S, Salman A, Jonathan P, Oliver K and Alifa Miah		Oliver N, Harry B, Huzaifa M, Arjona L, Thivisan S, Isabella E, Tarun J and Shajesh J
Year 13 winners		
Bronze	Silver	Gold
Ayavan T, Ahmad Y, Nehal M, Henry W, Pranati A, Aaron K, Angaran S, Shamshad M, Prasathini S and Bria V	Awa G, Anjali K, Abdullah C, Akshai U, Sathujan S, Sarangan M, Aidan H, Behishta N, Louie G, Abenesh K, Isaac L, Mohammad W and Kaspian B	Mohammad J, Abirujan P, Denis-Andrei N and Seth R (these students will be taking part in the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo follow up round)



BPhO
British Physics Olympiad

sponsored by

 **RESEARCH**

A day of art, ideas and inspiration at the Saatchi Gallery, in Central London

On 7th November 2025, Year 11, 12 and 13 Art students set off on an inspiring school trip to the Saatchi Gallery in London, a day designed to spark creativity and deepen their understanding of contemporary art.

From the moment they arrived, students were immersed in a dynamic world of bold ideas, experimental techniques and thought-provoking installations. They moved through the gallery's diverse exhibitions, taking photographs and engaging with the interactive installations. Many found inspiration that they have applied to their GCSE and A-level coursework.

After the gallery visit, we walked to Hyde Park, where the natural surroundings provided a calm but equally rich artistic environment. Students did live drawings capturing the contrast between London's bustling cultural scene and the



tranquillity of green spaces, with the variety of sculptures and visitors offering endless inspiration.

By the end of the day, students had not only developed their observation skills but had also gained a deeper appreciation for contemporary art, energising them to introduce fresh ideas into their own creative work.

Ms Blease, *Teacher of Art*



Students shine at the 'Maker Challenge' with award-winning innovations

Four of our talented students — Jake, Casey, Denis and Misha — proudly represented Queensmead School in this year's Imperial University Maker Challenge, where young designers from across London are invited to tackle real problems in society through innovation, engineering and creativity.

Throughout the programme, students worked with university mentors to develop technical skills in coding, electronics, prototyping and design thinking. Among the standout projects were those created by Denis and Casey, who achieved remarkable success, placing 2nd and 3rd out of more than 40 competitors.

Denis designed an inventive skateboard 'light-up' tutorial tool, aimed at helping new skaters learn tricks with confidence. His prototype used a grid of light-dependent resistors and RGB LED strips to detect foot placement, giving instant visual feedback and guiding users step-by-step through moves such as the Ollie. Denis also learnt C++ coding, enabling him to programme the system and develop a fully-functioning proof of concept. His aim is to build confidence, while celebrating skate culture, to help create inclusive communities.

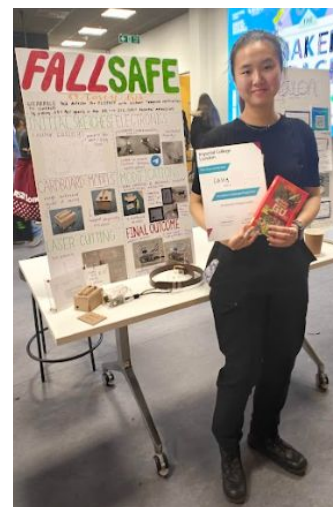
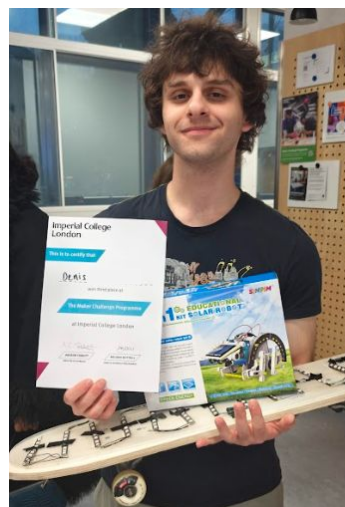
Casey created an innovative 'fall-detection' device to support elderly people living independently. Using a Raspberry Pi Pico W and motion sensors, her product automatically sends a telegram alert to a chosen contact when a fall is detected. She designed, laser-cut and assembled the casing, soldered the components, and coded the device independently — an impressive achievement that highlights her engineering capabilities.

We are incredibly proud of all four students for their creativity, teamwork and passion for solving real-world problems. Their success reflects the exciting futures ahead of our young designers, reflecting the strength of STEM at Queensmead.

If you are interested in applying for the Spring Maker Challenge, applications are open now. Follow the link on the Student Intranet, or speak to Mr Jivan.

Mr Jivan, Head of DT

Imperial College London



The wonders of the deep: London's Sea Life Aquarium

On Wednesday 3rd December, Year 8 students went on a rewards trip to the London Sea Life Aquarium, where we saw a variety of unique and exotic sea animals. My personal favourite was the seahorses: you could see how they eat, and watch how they move slowly and elegantly in the water. Seeing the sharks was exciting as well - I didn't know there were so many different types!

Whilst walking through the aquarium, I watched a giant sea turtle as it swam past me. If there was one section I would revisit it would be the jellyfish tanks because I learnt a lot about the different types of species. My favourite species of jellyfish was the moon jellyfish: it was great the way it would glow as it leisurely moved in the water. There was also a rock pool area where you could interact with some of the



crustaceans, while someone explained facts about the animals, which was really fun and enjoyable to learn about. And the penguins - they definitely caught all of our attention! They were so cute waddling around and sliding across the ice in their little habitat.



Overall, it was a great experience and it was super fun because I was able to spend an afternoon out in Central London with my friends! I would definitely recommend visiting the Sea Life Aquarium as we saw and learnt a lot of new information! A huge thank you to Mr Ennis, Miss Logeswaran and Mrs Bamrah for taking us.



Shreya P, Year 8 student

Queensmead hosts careers events for our students

We have had a busy couple of months hosting careers events at Queensmead for our students to attend.

A STEM Medical Careers evening

This evening focused on careers in scientific and medical fields, showcasing an array of different careers that potential students could pursue. We were fortunate to be joined by professionals working within the fields: from pharmacy, optometry, allied health professionals, mental health, psychology, army nursing, and education, to a neurologist. All representatives spoke to students and parents about their current career and relevant programmes of study, before answering questions. The evening provided great insight, offering motivation to explore the vast array of opportunities on offer for the students in attendance.

FCA careers talk

Loretta, from the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), delivered a session to students from across Years 10 to 13 about careers and apprenticeships in the work of finance and business. Students were quizzed about who the FCA are and how they work, but also the variety of careers and further education opportunities.



RAF Talk

Andy, an ex-Queensmead student, spoke to students about his career pathway, and the opportunities and education available within the Royal Air Force. Students were able to find out about the variety of careers in the RAF and training pathways.



Eric, from the Community Trust at Queens Park Rangers, spoke to students from across Years 10 to 13 about work experience opportunities at QPR and possible careers in football.



Miss Howells, *Careers adviser*



Looking ahead to 2026, here are some upcoming career events:

- A cybersecurity insight talk
- An army careers talk
- A media careers insight
- A post-18 destinations evening, for parents

Our undefeated Year 9 Netball team continues to impress

In November, our Year 9 Netball team played their first away league match at Vyners School, captained by Melissa. The girls made an excellent start, showing strong teamwork and clear communication throughout the match. Their hard work in training was evident as they dominated the first half, leading 12–1.



The team remained focused and determined, continuing their strong performance into the second half. Their outstanding attack strategies, coupled with their disciplined defence saw the girls secure an impressive 23–2 victory.

The team were extremely proud of their performance, with Alyssa being awarded ‘Player of the Match’ by Vyners School for her exceptional defence and numerous interceptions.

The Year 9 Netball squad:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| - Melissa G (Captain) | - Preet B |
| - Ella G-W | - Abhinaya V |
| - Maya C | - Alyssa S-K |
| - Sienna C-R | - Kaeya A R |

The girls’ next fixture was another away match at St Helen’s School. This proved to be a much tougher contest, with the

team demonstrating great resilience and perseverance. At halftime, the girls were in the lead by 6–3, but St Helen’s pushed back in the second half. The match finished as a hard-fought 7–7 draw. Overall, the girls performed superbly against a strong, high-performing school and should be very proud of their efforts.

A strong start for Year 8 Netballers

In November, the Year 8 Netball team travelled to Ruislip High School for their first away league fixture, led by Captain Devina. After a confident start, they worked well together, communicating effectively across the court. Their commitment to training was clear as they controlled the game early on, finishing the first half with an impressive 8–0 lead. The girls maintained this intensity in the second half, showing excellent composure in both attack and defence. Strong shooting and well-timed defensive pressure helped the team extend their lead to secure a well-deserved 12–3 win. The squad were delighted with their performance and the progress they have made as a team.

Devina and Kamila were both awarded ‘Player of the Match’ - recognised for accurate and consistent shooting, and outstanding defending in the shooting circle, respectively. Alongside Captain Devina and Kamila, the squad comprised of: Daisy B, Nevaeh R, Sarah S, Saayami R, Charlotte C, Haimi M and Taayami R. Very well done, Year 8!

Miss Harrison, *Teacher of PE*

A trip down memory lane, at the Museum of Brands, London

We had a fantastic day visiting the Museum of Brands, located close to Notting Hill, in Central London.



Our students thoroughly enjoyed walking through the time tunnel, where displays of branded products from across the decades lined the walls. Seeing them on display reminded them of products they had grown up with, stirring memories of products from when they were little. They were also able to take part in creating design ideas for packaging, in response to a graphic design brief set by the museum, creating imaginative and impressive ideas. Well done to our graphic designers!

Mrs Convery, Teacher of Graphics and DT



‘Super Curriculum’: pushing students to excel and exceed

We are very proud of the breadth of opportunities we offer our students in the classroom. To build upon this, we have developed a “Super Curriculum”, to go beyond the classroom by providing additional academic challenges for students. Designed to support every student, this curriculum will enable students to explore their passions, by pursuing areas of interest whilst developing their knowledge and expertise in specific areas. Each subject has provided recommendations for podcasts, videos and books, to help students to further their knowledge and understanding. The “Super Curriculum” is not homework and, as a result, will not be checked by class teachers. However, we would encourage all students to engage with it, and discuss their findings with their teachers, to share in their successes.

Moreover, this independent study has excellent potential for those preparing for their next steps: for those in Years 10 and 11, the “Super Curriculum” offers knowledge beyond GCSE courses - an excellent opportunity to prepare for Post-16 study; for students in Years 12 and 13, the “Super Curriculum” offers experiences that could be referenced when applying for Post-18 courses or programmes. Our “Super Curriculum” can be found on the student intranet.

Mr Morgan-Smith, Deputy Headteacher

Developing key 'soft' skills through student leadership

The Post 16 Student Leadership Group (SLG) is an exciting opportunity at Queensmead School. It offers students the chance to develop essential leadership, organisational and communication skills while playing an active role in shaping school life.

The SLG works closely with staff and students across the school, acting as an important link which will help to strengthen communication and promote a positive and supportive school community.



To ensure that we reflect the interests and needs of students, the SLG works collaboratively with the Student Council, meeting regularly to discuss ideas and suggestions shared by students from each year group, ensuring that every student's voice is heard. In addition, smaller SLG teams are specifically tasked with consulting Student Council representatives from each of the five year groups. This allows us to quickly gather, refine, and introduce ideas to the main SLG and then to Senior

Leadership (staff), creating a streamlined and highly efficient process for responding to student needs.

Throughout the academic year, SLG members are working together to plan and organise a wide range of events and activities, including school trips, after-school clubs and competitions. Through research, we have found that healthy competition is particularly beneficial for younger students, as it helps to build confidence and support positive mental health. This research inspired us to organise a variety of competitive opportunities, such as sports, cooking and writing competitions, which are scheduled throughout the academic year. These events aim to create an enjoyable and inclusive environment for students across all year groups, while also raising money for charities whenever possible.

Being part of the SLG allows its members to build confidence, develop teamwork skills and form strong friendships with other Post-16 students, but - most importantly - to shape school life at Queensmead, giving students the opportunity to make a meaningful difference.

Awa G-A, Year 13 student and member of the SLG

Stepping up: students become young leaders

Following an application and an interview with a member of the Senior Leadership Team, we are thrilled to announce that we have recruited 30 school prefects in Years 10 and 11. Our new team of prefects are:

Khadeeja H	Alyssa M	Arygaran S
Eleni B	Shakeel H	Emma K
Charlotte T	Shalomi S	Melody D'O M
Christina S	Barnaby H	Safiyyah S
Jessie E	Viren P	Duru T
Rebecca O-A	Neda A	Mustaqima M
Muhanned A	Tanisha P	Safiyyah A
Hana H	Mehar S	Emilia W
Jessica B	Alexandra S	Ernest S
Shacen B	Priya P	Shivam P
Louis A	Yug P	

The prefects will be playing a significant leadership role this year, including representing the school at events, delivering assemblies, supporting younger years, and being role models for the Queensmead Values. In addition, they will be working on projects within our student community, including promoting positive student mental health and well-being and charity work.



We are also proud to announce the first wave of **Queensmead Leaders** across our five ‘Wider Curriculum’ areas:

- ❖ Our leaders for **QM Culture and Community** have made significant contributions through outreach and/or charity work: *Nikeesha E, Iman S, Nirvaan N A, Yusra M, Srinika S.*
- ❖ Our **QM Active leaders** are students who have engaged with our extracurricular Sports clubs, taking part in fixtures, competitions and whole-school events: *Viren P, Salma C P, Sophia S, Aishah M, Thea-Marie K, Alex D S, Aryan P, Arya C, Cade H, Joel B, Nina E, Similoluwa A, Earlyon A, Eyoel K, Chase K, Niamh A.*
- ❖ Our **QM STEM leaders** have engaged with extracurricular STEM subjects through competitions or at school events: *Nikeesha E, Tariq Y, Aryan M, Hamed Z N, Sachin R, Nirvaan N A, Fairuz C, Aashni G*
- ❖ Our **QM Creative Leaders** are keen participants in school shows, either through Music, Art or Drama. They are: *Srinika S, Lois C, Lilly A, Alex D S, Nicholas E-H, Izma S, Angel N, Pahal G, Ruby M, Masiha S, Andreea A, Vibensha T, Vruti S, Shiv V, Emily D S, Arushi K.*

Each prefect and QM Leader has been awarded a badge, certificate and letter home.

Mr Morgan-Smith, Deputy Headteacher

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Step into the future of careers at QM

As we get ready to head into a new year, have you ever thought about the jobs of the future?

There are lots of jobs around today that didn't exist ten or twenty years ago. With technology advancing rapidly, the world of work is going to look very different in the future. For example, you could become a **Renewable Energy Scientist**. Some scientists estimate that we could be shifting to using wind and solar power by 2050. Be part of that change! Or a **Virtual Reality Developer**. In the future, instead of going into an office or joining a video call, we might put on a pair of virtual reality goggles to enter the metaverse: a virtual universe populated by 3D avatars of people. Or an **Artificial Intelligence Ethicist**, to address the myriad of ethical concerns raised by the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Or perhaps, an **Augmented Reality Artist** - an artist, but using computer code to generate art, like game designers.

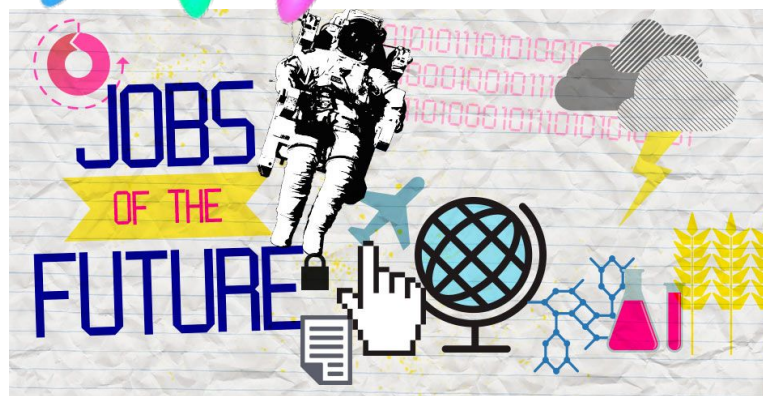
For more information, scan this QR code:

Or search for livecareer.co.uk for the fastest growing jobs.



To find out more about the pathways for future jobs, scan this QR code:

Or search nationalcareers.service.gov.uk



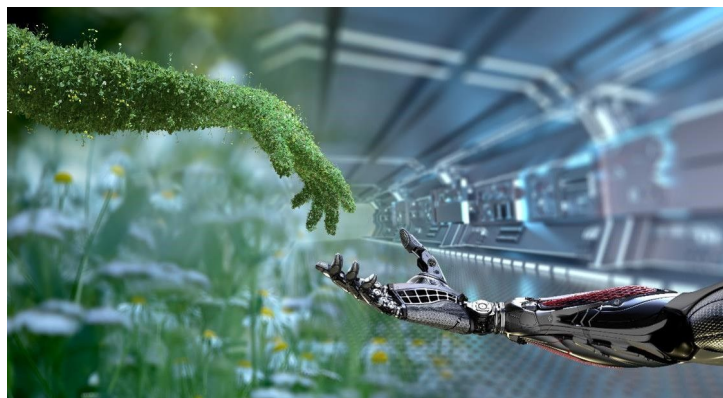
What will work look like for you in the future?

Everyone has characteristics that make them unique.

Different people have different combinations of interests, aptitudes, and skills. Your child could use a job explorer website to help identify career interests and aptitudes. It is not a fully detailed assessment — while it may show stronger interests in some areas than in others, it can give some guidance as you may find you can relate to more than one area. On the basis of your answers, the job explorer will recommend some of the '100 Jobs of the Future' that may be a fit for you. Use this QR code to access the job explorer.



Miss Howells, *Careers adviser*

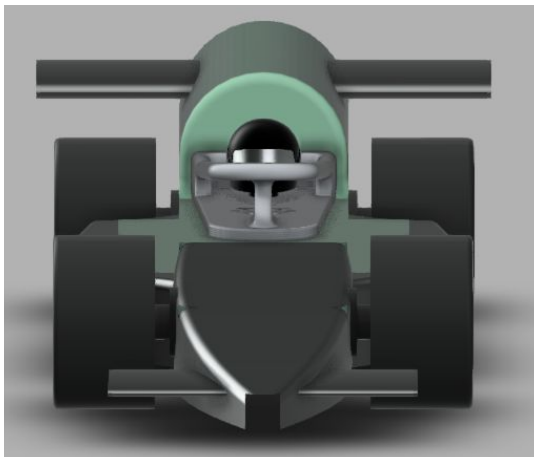


Students can book an appointment with Miss Howells from Monday-Thursday, for impartial career information, advice and guidance. Book via this short [Google form](#)

STEM club nurtures future F1 engineers!

STEM club is currently taking part in a national competition called STEM racing, a team-based competition in which students develop a miniature F1-inspired car, alongside a verbal presentation, and a five page design and engineering portfolio. We currently have three teams entered into the regional competition, which will be held in February. Read on for an account of the progress so far, from **Team 'Short Circuiters'...**

In STEM Club, we learn a wide range of skills that help us both in school and in real-world situations. The competition has involved designing and building a miniature F1-inspired car. We used CAD (computer-aided design), mathematical modelling, and augmented reality (AR) tools to test and improve the aerodynamics of our designs.



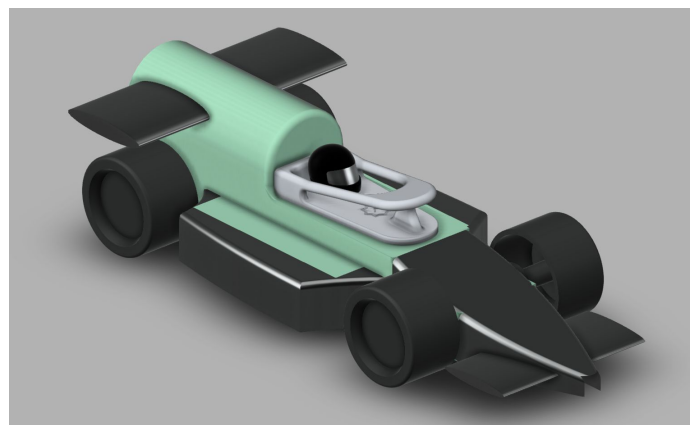
Each team member has a different role, as everyone's contribution is important to the success of our final design. To create our car, we used Autodesk Fusion, which allowed us to custom-build each component with precision. Before that, we had experimented with SolidWorks, another 3D design

software. Using features such as Smart Dimensions, we ensured every part was modelled to exact measurements, and the Extrude function helped turn 2D sketches into detailed 3D models. These steps allowed us to produce a streamlined, reliable, and high-performance design.

We started by sketching the no-go zones and the front section of the car, then moved on to designing the wings and nose cone. For aerodynamics, we chose straight front wings to help airflow move efficiently around the sides, and curved rear wings to add speed and stability. Through multiple iterations, we refined these features to achieve an optimal balance between speed and control.

As the project deadline approached, things became challenging, but through teamwork, determination, and guidance from our teachers, we managed to complete our design successfully. In STEM Club, we don't just build cars; we build the skills and confidence to face future challenges in science, engineering, and beyond.

Aaryan P, Shaylan S and Diyan J (Team 'Short Circuiters'), Year 7 students



Science taster day, at London Met. Uni

The Year 13 Chemistry students recently took part in a Science Taster Day at London Metropolitan University (Holloway Road campus). The visit offered students a wonderful opportunity to experience university life and see how chemistry is studied beyond the classroom.

Dr. Dan Sykes, Head of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences, spoke to the group about studying chemistry and related science courses on offer at London Metropolitan University. He also discussed potential career and employability pathways available to graduates in fields such as pharmaceuticals, research, and environmental science. Students also learnt about some of the current research of the existing university lecturers. Students were then able to visit the 'SuperLab', a 280 workstation collaborative workspace, where they carried out an A-level practical, synthesising aspirin. Using professional equipment and techniques, under the guidance of university lecturers and Dr. Dan Sykes, they gained hands-on experience of advanced laboratory work with equipment that is not available in a school laboratory.

It was an inspiring experience that strengthened students' enthusiasm for chemistry and revealed exciting opportunities awaiting them in higher education.

Miss Davis, *Teacher of Science*



Maths Week: keep on puzzling!

November saw the return of the popular annual 'Maths Week England' event, a week of mathematical activities, stretching even the smartest minds! There was an online escape room "Numberella" - a fun, interactive website puzzle, split into 4 missions, with a jungle theme. It was incredible to see 33 students attempting to complete the challenge - 30 students successfully cracked the code! But if an escape room wasn't your thing, there was an opportunity to take part in a mathematical trail. Following a sheet of clues, students had to go around the school looking for the answers. A further challenge required them to use the first letter of each answer to form a 13 letter word. 24 students completed the trail and 17 students were able to successfully identify the word. All students who participated in either challenge were awarded a positive behaviour point and received a certificate, with prizes for the winners!

Mrs Morrissey, *Teacher of Maths*

Queensmead's Winter Concert 2025

The Performing Arts department has been delighted with the progress and success made by all the students. Their preparation and dedication to rehearsals finally paid off in the final performance of the Winter Concert to Deanesfield Primary School on Tuesday 16th December and for the wider school community on Wednesday 17th December.

Students across all Key Stages performed excellently, using a wide range of instruments and emulating an array of musical stylings. It was amazing to see some really promising performances from the new Year 7 cohort - we hope they continue to flourish in the concerts to come in the future.

Mr Taylor, *Head of Performing Art*



Students unite to support good causes

From September, the number of students joining our Charity Committee has grown, with all year groups being represented. To plan the year's events, we began by reflecting on the reasons why students joined the committee - why charity was important to them. For many, it was about helping others, as well as acknowledging how it was developing new skills. One Year 7 said that being a member of the Charity Committee helped them to be a "respectful person and be proud of myself".

As December drew near, the committee focused on Christmas Jumper Day, for *Save the Children*. Students designed posters to advertise the event across school and, on the day, they collected donations at the gate. They also held a bake sale at breaktime, selling out the homemade cookies and brownies, almost instantly. A total of £671 was raised, so thank you to all students, staff and parents for their support. The final event before the holidays will be a Post 16 fundraiser for *War Child UK*, which is a charitable movie night.

Mrs Brennand, *Charities Coordinator*