

14th October 2011

Dear Parents,

Headmaster's Newsletter October 2011

The first half of term has flown by but we can reflect with pride on an enormous amount of hard work and considerable achievement in many areas of school life. Please find enclosed your son / daughters' interim report. Parents of Year 11 pupils will already have received a copy of our new 6th Form prospectus and an invitation to our 6th Form Open Evening on Thursday 3rd November. I look forward to seeing you all there. We had a very successful Open Morning on Saturday 8th October with over 40 families visiting Senior School. Many thanks to all parents who recommended Queen's to other families and to those who helped on the day. All our pupils were superb ambassadors for the school whether involved in academic departments, activities, as tour guides, car parking or meeting and greeting – their efforts were greatly appreciated. Many of our visitors commented on how impressed they were with the pupils, saying they looked smart, spoke with great pride about Queen's and came over as confident but not arrogant. The school site looked immaculate particularly with the Quartz sculptures adorning the front lawn and the art exhibition. Quartz was a huge success this year, attracting a large number of visitors. Thank you to all of you who supported the various events which were very well received. I know a lot of the pupils thoroughly enjoyed Steve Hewlett the ventriloquist on the final Thursday of the festival and Ranulph Fiennes on the Monday afternoon. Many thanks once again to Keith Wheatley and John Marston who put together the programme which provided something for everyone, including the superb pianist Alexandra Dariescu, Adrian Edmondson and the Bad Shepherds, the Ian McMillan orchestra and Harare Hamlet.

Academic

Congratulations to Maaz Akhter and Ryan Page who has achieved 3 6th Form distinctions and Ella Vacani and Alice Mitchell who have gained 5 green commendations. All have received book tokens from me. Congratulations also to the following pupils who have been commended for their interim reports:

Channon:

Jamie Wilson and Marco Yung,

School:

Lewis Whitelam, Sunny Kwok, Jay Dyer, Toby Page, Jack Teideman, Oscar Webb

Hutton:

Frankie Stride, Megan Whitehead, Alice Benham, Clara Sebastia, Libby Catchpole, Bertha Cheung, Gemma Xing, Hannah Larkin, Rosanna Lee, Orissa Kaur, Victoria Challes, Lucy Sewell, Vivian Chan and Dorothy Lo.

Fielding:

Tom Rucklidge, Owen Mason, Alex Jobson, Matthew Brown, Louie Haffenden, Charles Ling, Joshus Coglan and Shayaan Akhtar.

Sibly:

Timothy Webb, Ben Spear, Thomas Carpenter, Myles Hoar-Hewitt, Joshua Jolliff, Masanori Kimura, Gregory Mayled, Tristan Coore, Edward Haste, Freddie Cole, Patrick Free, Ben Stevenson, Alfie Threlfall, Oliver Barrett, Nawfal Akhter, Charlie White, George Daniells, Barnaby Harrison, Tom Holyday, Edward De Havilland and James Dancey.

Ashurst:

Jessica Brown, Helena Clarke, Jessica McAlpine, Anna Stilwell, Alex Seow, Emily Tetley, Hayah Faridi, Millie Sanders, Georgina Longbottom, Fenella Slingsby-Smith, Grace Walburn, Frances David, Isabella Williams, Alice Mitchell, Holly Brown, Chloe Bagge, Alice Tetley, Sarah Taraq,

Tessa Harris, Stephanie Roberts, Annabel Chapman, Kate Dunkley and Lucy Longbottom.

Laker:

Madeleine Baugh, Mollie Bennett, Madeleine De Haviland, Eleanor Fox, Alexandria Fowler, Olivia Li, Abligail Lower, Zara Bullock, Poppy Hopcroft-Jones, Alys Robson-Edmunds, Rohini Sarker, Abbey Blake, Eleanor Woodhouse, Lily Evans, Olivia Jones, Maddie Beaumont, Rebecca Handford, Isabel Gooding, Poppy Midgley, Tess Turner, Joanna Wallace-Beecham, Emily Jolliff, Frances Conroy, Ellie Thomas, Tirion Smith, Amelia Sturt, Laura Fry, Connie Cater and Charlotte Bowering.

Model United Nations

Last weekend our Model United Nations teams attended the event at Cheadle Hume School in Manchester. They enjoyed inspiring debate and discussion on a wide range of topics from the right to democracy in the middle east, human trafficking to child marriage and the rise of terrorism. We sent 2 delegations – one representing Uganda, made up of Year 11s who were new to Model United Nations and captained by Ella Vacani, and our senior team representing Iran captained by Ben Judge. The quality of delegates was excellent. Ella Vacani received the best young delegate in the political committee with her resolution condemning the USA's treatment of Cuba. Many congratulations to Ella. Congratulations also to Marc Bartkowiak and Jack Johnson who were commended on the quality of their debating and Henry Maxwell-Lyte and Michael McLeod who were both highly commended in the disarmament committee and human rights council respectively. Ben Judge in the middle east committee was recognised by his chair as a future Boris Johnson and was awarded the title of outstanding delegate. Well done Ben. Overall the Queen's senior team representing Iran was awarded 2nd place beating 57 other teams – many congratulations to Ben Judge, Ella Vacani, Henry Maxwell-Lyte, Michael McLeod, Jack Johnson, Kate Marston, Maisey Shepherd, Harriet Parratt, Ed Clear, Hannah McLeod, Kate Johnson, Elvin Delaney and thanks to Mr O'Donnell and Miss Laycock for taking the teams. I had great pleasure in presenting both teams with their certificates and trophy in assembly.

World Aims

Our World Aims team attended the recent World Aims conference along with the other Methodist Schools. They had an excellent time, talking through ideas and debating

issues concerning environmental change, sustainability, including the millennium goals. They then presented their ideas to the school in assembly this morning. Thank you and congratulations to Vanessa Inniss-Palmer, Tom Howe, Ben Judge, Maisey Shepherd, Hannah Clarke, Abi Sanders-Dutton, Penny Banks, Ella Vacani and Alice Mitchell.

Chapel

My thanks to the Chaplain for the recent Harvest Festival Service which involved a flower arranging competition. Jo Fender in particular is to be congratulated on painting a picture Rolf Harris style in front of the whole school during the service and the choir as always were superb.

Music

Many thanks to the choir who led the Viennese Mass at Selworthy Church on Sunday 3rd October. The music was very challenging but they performed magnificently. My particular thanks to the soloists Tom Howe, Weng Soon Tee, Izzy Evans and Georgie Mitchell along with Becky Kirkham on the organ and Mr Quick.

The House Music Festival was also another great success. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the competition and congratulations to the winning houses School and Ashurst, but it really was on this occasion the taking part that mattered. Thank you to Mr Quick and the musicians for organising the rehearsals. The quality of singing is getting higher every year as is the communal singing in assembly as a consequence.

We had a thoroughly enjoyable Open Mic night at the Queen's Conference Centre. It was good to see some parents supporting the event – perhaps one day some will want to take the mic themselves?

Thank you to the following pupils who entertained us- Ali Floyd, Jack Geldard, Lauren and Katie Theobald, Tess Harris, Josh Coglan, Izzy, Lily and Caitlin Evans and Dom Alcock.

Many thanks and congratulations to our musicians who performed at St John's church on Thursday 13th October – it really was a high quality concert and much appreciated by everyone present. My congratulations to the Chamber orchestra – Izzy Evans, Alex Seou, Kate Johnson, Naomi Chidgey, Ben Rigg, Chris Hedges, Josh Coglan, Natalie Too and Mr Hedges and the soloists – Chris Hedges, Carwyn Hong-Eveleigh, Alex Seow, Molly Symes, Rebecca Kirkland, Izzy Evans, Georgie Mitchell, Karen Chau, Lauren Theobald, Kate Johnson, Caitlin Evans and the Barber Shop

Plus group concluded the concert with a Lion King medley. Izzy Evans, Kate Johnson, Zoe Sanders, Tokini Kent, Georgie Mitchell, Tom Howe, Michael McLeod, Peter Evans and Lorna Anderson accompanied by Mr Wager. My thanks to our Director of Music Miles Quick, Head of Strings – David Hedges and Head of Wind – Andrew Garton.

Boarders

The first boarders outing of the term was a paintballing trip to Crealy which was greatly enjoyed by all.

Sport

The results are all posted on the website, but many congratulations to the 1st XV who have fought courageously in the first few weeks of term and earned a thoroughly deserved 19-0 victory against Clayesmore last Saturday. The U15 and U16 have also enjoyed some excellent victories and congratulations to the U13 who have got through to half term unbeaten.

The U14 and U15 Hockey teams also remain unbeaten and my congratulations also to our U16s captained by Bonnie Free who despite having several players missing because of the overseas trips did very well in the Coutny Tournament. The U15s rose to the occasion superbly with Imogen Allen and Livvy Hoskins being the players of the tournament. We won 3, drew 2 and lost only 1 game and therefore came runners up in the county and go on to represent the county in the next round after half term – well done girls.

The U18s also performed well in the County Tournament drawing 2 and only losing 1 game by the odd goal. Their defence was superb with Ruby Kite and Emily Ruffell-Hazell starring.

Swimming – in the South West section of the Schools Relays we were competing against 53 other teams. Congratulations to the Junior Boys who were 8th in the Medley relay and 9th in the Freestyle relay and the Senior girls who came 10th in both their relays.

Equestrian – our riders have continued to enjoy success. At the Heazles (?) show Jessica Tidy was placed in each of her events, including a 1st place and Zara Bullock came 1st, 2nd and 3rd in her classes.

Cross Country – in the first round of the National Cup 3 of our 4 age groups qualified in 1st place at the Regional Final. Congratulations to the Junior Girls, Junior Boys and Intermediate Girls. Particular congratulations to Ben Jones who won the Junior boys and Holly Brown who won the Intermediate Girls. The Junior Boys and

Intermediate Girls had all 6 runners in the first 7 places.

The Taunton Junior Aquathlon

This was held at Queen's last Sunday. Our team finished 2nd overall with a number of individual successes. Congratulations to Rebecca Wilde and Jessica Brown who won their races by significant margins, Ben Jones was 2nd and Dan Wilde 3rd in their races. Thank you to Mrs Lewis who organised the event.

DoE

The first Bronze local walk was successful with everyone developing their navigational skills. The Silver groups had an overnight practice expedition on Dartmoor, 31 Year 11s enjoyed setting up camp and watching shooting stars on a clear night and all completed the expedition successfully in hot sunshine.

Outdoor Pursuits

Our climbers had a thoroughly enjoyable day climbing on the cliffs at Portland.

Trips

There are a number of trips away over half term – the American exchange group are at Viewpoint School in Los Angeles for 10 days, the artists have gone to New York and there is also a Year 10 Spanish trip to Andalucia.

Drama Club

A new drama club will be starting up after half term for Years 7, 8 and 9. This will be run by Mrs Wylie and will run on Saturday mornings from 9.30 – 11.00 in the Drama Studio – everyone is welcome.

Please find enclosed with this newsletter a copy of the latest Queen's News and a flyer from Mr Quick inviting you to join the Queen's College Choral Society.

The weather looks set fair for at least the first part of half term and I wish you all a very enjoyable break and a well deserved rest.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

Headmaster