

December 2023



QUORN HALL
SCHOOL

Head's update



Dear Parents/Guardians and carers,

As I write this newsletter it's with a heart filled with gratitude and a touch of sadness. This will be the last Head's introduction written by me as in January I am taking up a new post within Newcome and will no longer be the Headteacher at Quorn Hall School. It has been an absolute honor and privilege to have been part of the Quorn Hall community over the past three years. I'm immensely proud of the strides we've taken together, from broadening our academic, vocational, and therapeutic curriculum to achieving the status of an exam registered Centre. Every milestone reflects our commitment and hard work. Reflecting on the challenges we've faced, especially navigating the complexities of lockdown and transitioning into a recovery curriculum, I'm awed by the resilience and strength displayed by our pupils, their families and staff. Their ability to confront adversity with unwavering determination has been inspiring. The milestones we've celebrated—our first-ever GCSEs, a residential trip with the Stables, and the continual development of our facilities—are a testament to the unwavering dedication of the staff. However, amidst all these achievements, what truly stands out is the remarkable character of our pupils. Their resilience, tenacity, humor, and their ability to face challenges head-on are qualities that I deeply admire. I extend my sincerest thanks to the entire Quorn Hall family — pupils, staff, parents, and carers—for your support, collaboration, and trust. As we approach the festive season, I'm aware that it can be a stressful time for many, irrespective of whether you celebrate the holidays or not. I urge everyone to prioritise self-care and rest during this period.

Though my journey with Newcome is taking a different path, I assure you that I'll remain in close contact with the staff. I eagerly anticipate celebrating the successes that I'm confident will continue to unfold under the capable guidance of this remarkable team.

Wishing you all a peaceful and rejuvenating holiday season, and to the pupils, my heartfelt wishes for a future filled with endless opportunities and success.

Post – 16

Another Busy term for Post 16! Our pupils have been very busy developing their work experience skills.

Peter Le Marchant Trust:

Every Thursday, two of our Post 16 pupils have been volunteering at the Peter Le Marchant trust. They have been helping to set up the boats and grounds for the Christmas boat trips which they hold yearly.



Pupils have been cleaning boats, putting up Christmas lights and decorations and most importantly, they have been helping to clean the environment by doing some litter picking. After all of their hard work,

get to enjoy a trip along the canal to further their canal and river knowledge.



Leicester Dog Grooming

Every Friday, one of our Post 16 pupils has been attending the Leicester Dog Grooming Company. Throughout the weeks she has been developing her dog grooming skills. She will eventually start her Dog Grooming qualification after Christmas.



Supporting the Homeless:

One of our Post 16 pupils has helped to volunteer to feed the homeless people by offering out food parcels to the homeless in Leicester City Centre. He was able to feed 20 homeless people.



Christmas Trip:

For our end of term Christmas trip this year, All Post 16 pupils are going to 'Break Escape' in Loughborough. It is a great way for us to develop our teamwork and our communication skills. We are hoping we can escape the room before the time runs out! Wish us Luck!

Art

We have had a very busy Autumn term in Art! Pupils have been creating beautiful work that has developed their knowledge and understanding of their creative abilities.



In KS2, we have been learning all about colour theory and basic art terminology, including - shape, form and colour. Pupils have been introduced to artist Paul Klee and how he uses

shape and colour within his work. Pupils have learnt about 'form' by creating a 3D paper hot air balloon. Pupils have been experimenting with mixing primary colours using paint. As our Autumn Term draws to a close, pupils have been also using air dry clay to create ornaments.

In KS3 Woodpeckers and Sea Biscuits have been developing their knowledge and understanding of the formal elements of art. This includes, advanced colour theory, form, texture, colour, line and pattern. Pupils have developed their experience using 3D art materials.

Pupils have developed their understanding of form and shading by creating 3D foil figures. We have experimented with organic shapes by creating wire structures. Pupils then had



the opportunity to trial or develop their experience using paper mache techniques.



The Robins group have been learning all about the range of marks that can be created using paint. Pupils have used shaving foam to create marble prints and a range of non-traditional material to express their creativity.



In KS4, pupils have been working towards their NCFE qualifications. Pupils have been developing their experience and development of using and understanding traditional and non-traditional materials to make art work. Pupils have been taking inspiration from artist Pablo Picasso to develop their understanding of how formal elements are used within his artwork. Pupils have created a number of artworks using a range of materials taking inspiration from Picasso.



Bee keeping

Although it is winter, it has not really been cold enough for the bees to start bedding down. Although it is definitely getting colder at night and the nights are starting sooner, the bees have still been out flying when and where there has been a little sunshine. As the sun hits the hives, the bees have been warming up and have been flying out looking for the last scraps of pollen and nectar when they have been foraging. At this time of year the bees will start slowing down and will go into 'diapause'. This is not hibernation as such, but if there are a few nice sunny days, the bees will come out of the hive to forage. They will then come back to the hive to deposit what they have found and join the huddle in the centre of the hive to keep warm.



The pupils have still been helping to check the hives and to place the Varroa mite strips in the hive in order to kill off the pest. It has been noticeable how light the hives have been on honey this year, mainly due to the wet summer months in June and

July. As a result, there has not been much honey production this year and what there is, it has been left for the bees to consume over the winter.

To help them over the winter months, the bees have also been supplied with a special bee 'fondant', icing with pollen with other sources of protein to help the bees stay healthy over

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the winter months that they will spend huddled up together in a tight rugby ball shape in the middle of the hive. The bees will also be given inverted sugar water to feed from.

Pupils helped in the hive. They replaced the varroa strips and placed the special bee 'fondant' on the crown board so that the bees had an accessible supply of sugar for them over the next few winter months.



Brain Blasters

On Thursday 30th November, we invited The Happy Puzzle Company to run their Brain Blasters workshops with all the pupils in Quorn Hall School. The main idea of these sessions is to develop your teamwork and communication skills whilst problem-solving. Once again after our successful Escape Rooms Problem Solving Day last November all the pupils threw themselves into the activities and it was fantastic to see how resilient and cooperative they all are.



With The Stables, Tom our presenter gave the pupils opportunity to try lots of different puzzles in their own time. Stacking blocks without a gap including being under a table worked well!

Team work following designs placing bricks was impressive.

SeaBiscuit particularly like fishing blindfolded!



Vickie seemed to enjoy solving these puzzles with Robins and Jackdaws got very creative with their tiling skills. Starlings also didn't want any puzzles getting the better of them, Whereas Kingfishers kept going round in loops.



Everyone had a great day and worked together fantastically. It was also impressive to see how good all our

pupils were working logically. Thanks to all the staff who came and enjoyed the sessions as well. I look forward to what we might try next year!



Big Battery Hunt

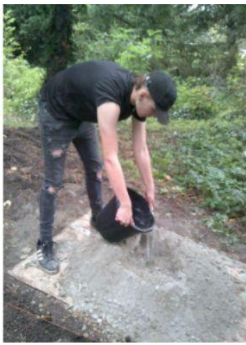
Quorn Hall school is joining the Duracell Big Battery Hunt. You can potentially win prizes for saving and recycling the most used batteries. You can save them in bags/boxes and bring them to school starting in the new year. Pupils would need to bring them to Lydia or their Tutor every morning for counting.



DURACELL

Forest School

As always, there has been much activity in Forest School over the past month. Pupils have been helping to lay down the concrete foundations for the construction of a pizza oven and attached barbeque which is starting to take shape.



Meanwhile, a number of pupils helped make log reindeers for the Christmas Charity Fair. Overall, over 25 log reindeers were produced and sold. Well done to everyone who took part in this activity.



Computing

Some pupils in KS4 completed their Entry Level 3 Digital Functional Skills exams at the start of this half term. All the pupils that took part showed remarkable resilience with the exam process and applied themselves well to the exam. Results are out on the 19th of December and we wish them all the best.

In KS2/3 the Black Beauty, Robins and Maximus classes have been exploring various programmable robots and exploring some coding basics.

Here's a breakdown of some of our robots.



Botley - A robot that is programmed via a remote control, with its own set of chain reaction accessories.

BigTrak - A programmable "truck" that uses headings to turn.



Vincibot - A robot that is programmed via a computer device and can hold a pen to create drawings from programs.

Sphero Bolt - Robot balls that are programmed via a computer device, these clever little gadgets have a lot of tech inside them and are a lot of fun to drive around as well as code.



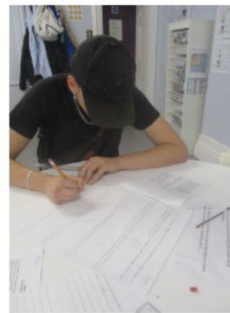
Physical Education

Pupils' as always have been busy in their P.E lessons over the last month. Pupils' in key stage two have continued to develop their fundamentals of movement skills to acquire success in learning new complex sporting skills. They have continued to develop in movement based games, and moved onto exploring new skills in basketball. At key stage three, pupils have continued to develop their knowledge around rules and regulations, tactical awareness, and skill acquisition. Pupils have engaged in net and racket sports such as badminton and table tennis. Whilst also exploring their invasion games scheme of work in basketball.

At key stage four Kingfishers are progressing through their unit one module exploring the skeletal and muscular system, linking their current understanding to learn the effects of sport and exercise on the body, and how this can contribute towards fitness and performance. Additionally, Kingfishers and Jackdaws are completing their Sports Leadership Level One qualification, developing the five key life skills, planning engaging coaching sessions, and delivering these sessions to their class. Starlings are moving quickly through their unit two module looking at the effects that a sedentary lifestyle has on the human body. We will start to utilise their learning to plan and deliver a personal fitness training programme to improve their client's overall fitness and lifestyle. Pupils' have continued to engage in extracurricular sporting activities in table tennis, football, and basketball with the Leicester Riders.

Starlings

The Starlings started the term with a trip to Nottingham Raceway, where we worked on our precision and teamwork exploring the go-karting track! The pupils were fantastic and engaged in healthy competition.



The pupils have completed Functional Skills exams in ICT and English, and dove straight back into studying and learning for their GCSEs too! We have been exploring poems and short stories ready to start coursework.



Starlings have been exploring different foods from all over the world, cyber safety, World War II and even started volunteering for their DofE award, along with developing our skills for excursions.

Maths

3D and 2D shapes are around us everywhere and now with recycling being so important we generally are very careful to flatten our packaging so that it can fit in the bins better! Early in this half term Kingfishers followed a unit of work about the properties of 2D and 3D shapes and their key properties. We investigated lots of interesting facts about equal and parallel sides, equal angles and the number of faces, edges and vertices there are in common 3D polyhedra.

One Thursday afternoon having completed most of the topic I encouraged the pupils to design, decorate and assemble their own cube or cuboid. There was a fascinating array of different types of patterns.



It also provided us all with a great opportunity to practice using scissors carefully and accurately.



The class all worked brilliantly and showed great fine motor skills both in the decorating, cutting out and sticking tabs down. Well done.

Charity

This term we held a christmas charity fair to raise money for the Dogs Trust, we raised £289!



Pupils also visited Lonsdale Mews care home to donate chocolates and biscuits.



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Food Technology

What a fantastic term we have had! I have been overwhelmed with the hard work the pupils have put in to create such fantastic dishes. We have cooked up vegetable samosas, stir fries, mince pies, gingerbread biscuits and more!



We have learnt about kitchen safety, team work, decision making and exploring other cultures. We have discussed portion control, healthy eating as well as learning new cooking skills.

Pupils recently took part in making Challah bread for Hanukkah that all staff and pupils enjoyed!



Dates for your diary

School opens for pupils Monday 8th
January 2024

HALF TERM: Monday 19th February –
Friday 23rd February 2024