

October 2023



QUORN HALL  
SCHOOL

# Head's update

## WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- Guest visit
- Stables residential trip
- New playground

Dear Parents/Guardians and carers,

As we wrapped up a busy term, we extended a warm welcome to all new pupils who joined us - it is very overwhelming when joining a new school and I thank everyone for their support with this transition.

Our Key Stage Four pupils had been preparing for their exams in ICT and Science, and our career interviews provided valuable guidance for their future pathways.

More of our pupils had engaged in beekeeping, promoting a sense of responsibility and environmental awareness. In PE, we focused on healthy lifestyles to ensure our pupils stayed active and fit.

In Humanities, pupils delved into the study of war and its impact, offering a unique opportunity to discuss current world events.

Post-16 pupils had geared up for valuable work experience in various fields, including dog groomers, boat maintenance, and construction.



We also had a special visit from Lucy Barnes. Lucy is a highly inspirational care leaver who graduated from Surrey University and has built a successful career as a Barrister. She grew up in poverty and had an extremely difficult childhood. Lucy talked to our pupils about her journey and also organised moot courts, workshops and a Q and A for our pupils. Lucy was able to provide our pupils with a more positive view on the court system and law enforcement.

We encouraged everyone to take a well-deserved rest during the half-term break. We eagerly anticipate the return of all pupils on October 30th. Thank you for your continued support.

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## Science

We decided to repaint the science laboratory over the summer and we are currently creating a living wall full of plants. There will also be a sensory seeking area in the corner of the laboratory and a sensory avoidant area too with cushions, night light and reading books.



Both Albus and Minerva (giant african land snails that are also albino) had 60 babies recently. Here is Minerva with some of the babies on the day that they were discovered.



Most of the babies have been given away but some now have a new home in a terrarium in the science lab.

Kingfishers and Starlings are both sitting their first assessment in science on 13th October.

Kingfishers are sitting a Biology paper for their Entry Level Certificate in Science and Woodpeckers are sitting a Biology paper for their Entry Level Certificate in Further Science. Each class will sit 6 papers in total over the course of the academic year. Did you know that all pupils can now access their science lessons on google classrooms? This also includes revision material for our Key Stage 4 pupils too.

## Careers

It's been a busy start to the term for Careers Education lessons; KS3 pupils have started the year looking at personal development and we've been learning key skills such as communication and teamwork.

Some of our KS4 pupils have had their first careers interviews with our external Careers Advisor, Hannah. They have been very successful so far and it's been extremely interesting listening to the pupils' hopes and aspirations for the future.



We also received some exciting post this week...after a successful moderation process, seven pupils have received an ASDAN Entry 3 Award in Employability!! Congratulations - we're very proud of you all. Certificates will be on their way home shortly.



## Post 16

Post 16 have settled into their final year at Quorn Hall School very well! Pupils have been focusing on their work in preparation for their Math's and English exams.



We are enjoying trying our new work experience placements. One of our pupils is working very well at the dog groomers where they are learning to wash, groom and care for multiple breeds of dogs.

When we return from the half term break, we have some pupils who will be starting their work experience at a boating company.



Here they will focus on boat maintenance, preparing boats for trips and the upkeep of the environment around the boats.

We also have another pupil who is working towards achieving a qualification in construction and exercise.

As well as all of this, all pupils are working towards their ASDAN qualifications in Personal Development.

Next term, pupils will start to have a look at potential future colleges!

## Maths

This term we have undertaken the vast majority of the Maths screening across the whole school including The Stables.

Reading assessments that give a reading age are quite common but those that give a Maths age are administered less frequently. Quorn Hall School purchased the most appropriate set of Numeracy Tests known as the Sandwell Early Numeracy Test in both versions - SENT KS2-3 for pupils aged 8-16 and SENT-R for pupils aged 4-11 years to use across the school.

The assessment explores five strands of basic numeracy skills: identification, oral counting, value, object counting and language. You can also use it for all pupils but also those with Special Educational Needs, to identify targets for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and to provide information to support decision-making within the SEND Code of Practice.

These tests provide robust and reliable information that can be used to identify numeracy difficulties which might act as barriers to learning. It can also be used to inform targeted teaching strategies, monitor the impact of teaching interventions and ensure the effective use of additional funding.

In the main, the pupils have engaged in the 1:1 assessments with myself happily and kept their attention and concentration throughout the session. I have been delighted to see how capable the pupils are and how good many pupils mental maths is even under 'pressure'. A number of pupils have exceeded the top ceiling age which is designated with a + sign after the top age award which is testament to how hard our pupils are working in their maths lessons.

As always it has often been the fraction questions that have been least liked!

Well done everyone - I really enjoyed meeting everyone and in particular seeing the mathematicians coming up through the school who I am yet to teach.

# Bee Keeping

Unfortunately, due to the mild wet summer, the bees, nationally, have not been producing as much honey as they should. However, that said, two of the hives are very healthy but we had a major setback in our newest hive when Jamie and the pupils found that the whole hive had died out. This could have been due to a number of reasons including disease, low numbers, the queen not producing any eggs/larvae or she had died, or had left the hive, etc. Pupils enjoyed their first beekeeping experience and the time spent in the apiaries. They were taught about the life cycle of the bees and the three types of bees that are present in the apiary as well as the jobs each bee does.



Pupils were shown how to use the smoker to sedate the bees prior to removing the brood foundation containing the worker bees, nursery bees and queen.

They enjoyed their time spent looking at one of the bee colonies. Here, a pupil is shown with a brood, part of the hive dedicated by the queen to egg laying. Here, the larvae develop and turn into pupae before emerging as honey bees.



Pupils also inspected the various chambers checking on signs of bee health and diseases, including any signs of varroa mite infestation, the presence of Asian hornets and any other unruly visitors that may hinder the healthy development of the hive population.



## Art

Since returning from the summer break, we have jumped straight back into creativity at Quorn Hall School. We have welcomed new pupils and have begun to explore new techniques and ideas.

In KS2, we have been looking at all things mark making! Pupils have developed their understanding of patterns and creating marks using a range of materials. We have read the book 'The Dot' by Peter H.Reynolds and discovered how art isn't just about drawing ability and promotes pupils to engage in all creative processes and outlets. Pupils created their own dots using watercolour, collaging techniques and felt pens. Pupils have gained experience using charcoal to understand value when creating marks. Pupils will continue to develop their understanding of mark marking using a range of materials as the term progresses.



In KS3, we have been developing our understanding of the formal elements of art. This includes line, value, texture, shape, pattern and colour. Pupils have been developing their experience creating art surrounding the idea of 'lines'. We have looked at how movement is created in Van Gogh's 'The Starry Night' and recreated this movement by creating a scratch board out of oil pastel and paint. We have also had a go at creating lines using bilateral movement, inspired by artist Heather Hansen.

The pupils have also developed their understanding of texture as they have participated in a 'blind texture' challenge to experience the difference between 'actual' and 'visual' texture. The pupils were introduced to Jackson Pollock's 'splatter art' to investigate the texture created when acrylic paint is layered.



In KS4, pupils have begun working towards achieving either a Level 1 or 2 in Art and Design. The pupils have been developing their understanding of dry and wet material based on primary and secondary sources. Starlings and Jackdaws have been completing material assessments using a range of techniques to experiment with. Kingfishers have been creating sculptures inspired by organic shapes which they have then used to complete observational drawings and the creation of monoprints. The pupils will continue to develop their experience working with a range of traditional and non-traditional materials as the year progresses.



# Humanities

## Key Stage 3

Since coming back to school after the summer holidays, pupils in the Key Stage 3 classes of Robins and Woodpeckers have been learning about the Second World War and Britain's place within it. As part of this topic, pupils have learnt about how the war actually started, how and why children were evacuated and what it was like to shelter during the German bombing campaign - the Blitz. In order to feel more immersed within this historical event, pupils in Key Stage 3 have taken part in a number of activities, from creating their own evacuee labels to designing their own bomb shelters. Pupils from Key Stage 3 will continue their study of World War Two after the half-term break, with lessons on Winston Churchill and rationing to come.



## Key Stage 4

Since returning to school in September, Jackdaws and Kingfishers have been learning about the conflict between Israel and Palestine, which has unfortunately flared up again in recent weeks. As part of this topic, pupils have learnt about the history of the land of Palestine/Israel and have gained an understanding of some of the reasons as to why this conflict began and indeed still continues to this day.



On returning to school after the October half-term, pupils will continue their study of the conflict between Palestine and Israel and will gain a greater understanding of how this conflict is affecting the lives of ordinary civilians and how this conflict could come to a peaceful resolution.

Whilst Jackdaws and Kingfishers have been learning about the Israel and Palestine conflict, Starlings have been learning about the equally important topic of Germany from 1918 - 1939. As part of their study, pupils have been learning about what Germany was like at the end of World War One and how Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party were able to take advantage of the sorry state Germany was in, in order to gain power. On returning to school after the October half-term the Starlings will continue their study of Germany by looking at how the Nazis were able to keep control of Germany and other European countries using propaganda and fear.

# Physical Education

## Lower School (Sea biscuit, Spirit, Black beauty, Maximus)

Lower school have embarked on the brand new primary PE curriculum focusing on the fundamentals of movement and healthy lifestyles. To start with, we continue to build positive learning experiences off-site whilst developing the students confidence in learning in new environments. The groups have focused on invasion games and health and fitness. Moving into the second half-term, we will continue our invasion games scheme of work, and embark on the gymnastics scheme of work, focusing on linking.

## Upper School (Jackdaws, Woodpeckers, Robins)

Upper school have started the first half term with the ever popular football scheme of work, moving onto the orienteering scheme of work. They have developed their fundamental sport skills (hands objective), whilst developing their leadership skills and tactical awareness (head objective), and linking the importance of each activity to leading healthy active lifestyles (heart objective). We move onto basketball and badminton leading up to Christmas, where learning will take place at the local leisure centre. I am really pleased to see the enthusiasm for learning, and increase in participation across the school. Jackdaws have continued to engage in their Sports Leaders lessons, where by the end of the 2024 academic year, they will be successful in gaining the Level 1 in Sports Leadership qualification.

Key Stage 4 have continued to engage in the NCFE Level 1/2 Health and Fitness qualification. Starlings have moved onto unit two, and are preparing for their unit one exam in November. They will continue their learning afterwards leading up to their unit two synoptic assessment, which will start in February. Kingfishers are working through their unit one module, where they have recently learnt about synovial joints and made a visual representation of the knee joint (hinge joint) out of playdough! I am very pleased to see the progress Kingfishers are making, and how their enthusiasm for the subject and learning is growing lesson by lesson. They are also completing the Level 1/2 certificate in sports leadership where they learn five fundamental skills needed to lead a sports activity.

## Upper School KS4 (Starlings and Kingfishers)

Key Stage 4 have continued to engage in the NCFE Level 1/2 Health and Fitness qualification. Starlings have moved onto unit two, and are preparing for their unit one exam in November. They will continue their learning afterwards leading up to their unit two synoptic assessment, which will start in February. Kingfishers are working through their unit one module, where they have recently learnt about synovial joints and made a visual representation of the knee joint (hinge joint) out of playdough! I am very pleased to see the progress Kingfishers are making, and how their enthusiasm for the subject and learning is growing lesson by lesson. They are also completing the Level 1/2 certificate in sports leadership where they learn five fundamental skills needed to lead a sports activity.

## The Stables

In a move that promises to enrich the lives of young learners, The Stables unveiled a brand-new wooden play structure and an innovative outdoor sensory circuit when the children returned to school after the Summer break.

The development marked a significant enhancement to the school's outdoor facilities, providing pupils with endless opportunities for physical activity, imaginative play, and sensory exploration.

The wooden play structure crafted from sustainable and locally sourced wood, offers a safe and engaging environment for children to climb, swing, slide, and explore. Its design reflects the school's commitment to environmental sustainability and promoting outdoor play.

The Stable's Staff expressed immense pride and excitement at the addition, saying, "We believe that outdoor play is vital for children's physical and emotional development. This beautiful wooden play structure will not only provide endless fun but also encourage children to connect with nature and each other."

Complementing the wooden play structure is an outdoor sensory circuit designed to engage children's senses and promote physical activity, while also encouraging creativity and sensory exploration. Our new sensory circuit is a fantastic addition to our outdoor offerings. It not only encourages physical fitness but also stimulates sensory development, helping children improve their balance, coordination, and spatial awareness while having fun.

The school plans to incorporate the new wooden play structure and sensory circuit into its curriculum, allowing teachers to integrate outdoor learning opportunities.

The introduction of the play structure and sensory activities in The Stables reaffirms its commitment to providing a holistic education that nurtures both the minds and bodies of its students.

The wooden play structure and outdoor sensory circuit stand as a testament to the school's dedication to fostering creativity, physical fitness, and a love for the great outdoors among its young learners.

With these new additions, we are poised to inspire generations of pupils to embrace the joys of learning, playing, and growing together in a vibrant and enriching environment.





# The Stables Residential Trip

We are thrilled to share the incredible success of our recent Key Stage 2 residential trip to Mount Cook in Derbyshire. This adventure marked a significant milestone for our young pupils, as it was their first time away from home. Over the course of the two-night stay, our pupils participated in a wide range of activities that fostered personal growth, teamwork, and unforgettable memories.

Here are some highlights from the trip:

**Resilience:** Our pupils exhibited remarkable resilience as they faced new challenges and experiences outside the comfort of their homes. Many of them overcame initial apprehensions and emerged with increased confidence.

**Team Building:** The trip provided a perfect environment for team building. Pupils had the opportunity to work together, solve problems, and rely on each other to achieve common goals. These experiences will undoubtedly benefit them academically and socially.

**Support for One Another:** The spirit of camaraderie was evident throughout the trip. Pupils supported each other emotionally and physically, reinforcing the sense of community within our school.

**Exciting Activities:** The itinerary included an array of exciting activities, such as high ropes courses, a treasure hunt, a campfire gathering, panning for gold, and tag archery. These activities not only brought joy and excitement but also taught valuable life skills. We would like to express our gratitude to the dedicated staff who accompanied our pupils and ensured their safety and well-being throughout the trip.

Your commitment and care were instrumental in making this experience so positive for our young learners.

We also want to extend our appreciation to the parents for entrusting us with their children and allowing them to embark on this adventure. Your support and cooperation were invaluable in making this trip a resounding success.

We believe that this residential trip to Mount Cook has enriched our Key Stage 2 pupils' lives in many ways. It has provided them with lasting memories, newfound skills, and friendships that will endure throughout their time at our school.

We look forward to future opportunities to offer such enriching experiences to our pupils and to continue fostering their personal and academic growth.



October 2023

# Computing

It's been a busy first half term for Computing!

Most of KS4 have been busy preparing for their first exam, the Entry Level 3 Digital Functional Skills which will now be the second week back after the half term break. There is a link below to an example of the online exam that they will be completing. [https://stncfeassessments.blob.core.windows.net/samples/DFSQ/EL3\\_DFSQ\\_SAM/launch\\_html\\_delivery.html](https://stncfeassessments.blob.core.windows.net/samples/DFSQ/EL3_DFSQ_SAM/launch_html_delivery.html)

In the Stables, Black Beauty have been exploring some key words and using a variety of programs and peripherals to learn about them. We have had a go at drawing, making music, coding and played some fun games.

Here are some online sites that you can access at home based around our learning this half term.

Coding - Hour of Code - Make your own Flappy Bird game

<https://studio.code.org/flappy/1>

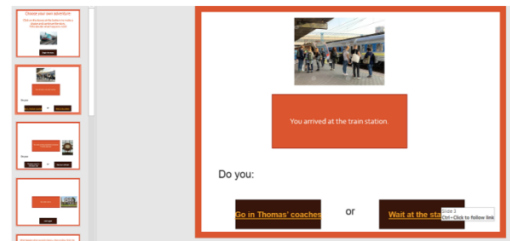
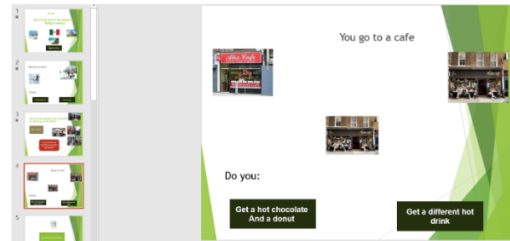
Drawing - Sketchpad

<https://sketch.io/sketchpad/>

Making Music - Incredibox

<https://www.incredibox.com/>

Meanwhile in KS3 the Woodpeckers created some amazing branching PPT stories using hyperlinked objects to create Choose Your Own Adventure stories. They practiced a lot of transferable editing and formatting skills and focused on making their PPTs look bright and engaging while still being neat and presentable.



## Extra-Curricular

Extra-curricular activities are a major importance at Quorn, and pupils have engaged in various activities such as football, basketball with Leicester Riders, and table tennis. The school has fixtures planned for October and November in basketball, badminton, and football leading up to the Christmas break.

## The Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award Scheme

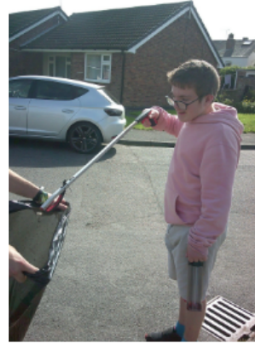
**What is the Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award Scheme?**

Established in 1956 by the late Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme is an internationally recognised award programme for young people between the ages of 13 and 24.



Taking place in 144 countries around the world in some format or another and enrolled upon by half a million young people in the UK alone every year, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award provides young people with the opportunity to develop skills such as teamwork, leadership and communication skills, which will help them stand out from the crowd in the future, when applying to jobs and higher education providers.

**What's been going on with DofE this term at Quorn Hall School?**



It's been a busy time in DofE sessions this half-term. Since coming back after the summer, pupils have been working towards the four different sections of the DofE Award - volunteering, physical, skills and expedition. As part of this some pupils have been helping improve the local community of Quorn and its environment, by carrying out litter picking sessions.

Not only have pupils been helping to improve the environment during these sessions but they have also gained a greater understanding of different types of litter, how it is damaging to the environment and how we as a society can limit the impact of litter.

### Dates for your diary

HALF TERM: Monday 16th October –  
Friday 27th October 2023

School closes for the Christmas  
holidays: Friday 22nd December 2023

School opens for pupils Monday 8th  
January 2024