

July 2023



QUORN HALL
SCHOOL

Head's update

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- Student council meets the local MP
- Class updates

Dear Parents, Carers, and Pupils,

As the summer term comes to an end, I want to take a moment to share some of the exciting things that have happened at our school during the past few months. It has been a fantastic year filled with growth, achievements, and lots of fun!

I'm thrilled to tell you that we now have up to three beehives on our school grounds. Our busy bees have been working hard, and we are happy to report a plentiful harvest of honey. This project has not only taught our pupils about the importance of taking care of the environment but has also given them a chance to learn about beekeeping firsthand.

We recently had our Sports Day, and it was a day filled with athleticism and good sportsmanship. Our pupils showed off their skills and teamwork in various track and field events. It was a joy to see everyone participate, and I want to congratulate each and every one of them for their efforts.

Throughout the term, we have been fortunate to go on several school trips and educational visits. These experiences have allowed our pupils to learn outside the classroom, visiting historical places and exploring fascinating scientific wonders. A big thank you to our teachers and staff for organising these trips and making sure our pupils were safe and had a great time.

I am delighted to announce that our Year 12 pupils have achieved the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award. This is a fantastic accomplishment that shows their dedication and hard work. We are incredibly proud of them and the positive impact they have made through their voluntary work in the community.



Our pupils have also been busy sitting exams for various qualifications, including GCSE Art, English, and Maths. We are eagerly awaiting the results and believe that our pupils have done their best. I want to commend both the pupils and their teachers for their efforts and commitment to doing well academically. We wish them all the best in their onward studies and career paths, we shall miss the year 11 and year 12 pupils immensely.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our amazing staff, parents, and carers for their unwavering support throughout the academic year. Your involvement and encouragement have played a crucial role in the success and well-being of our pupils. Thank you for everything you do.

As we approach the summer break, I encourage all pupils, staff, and families to take some time to relax and enjoy the sunshine (if we get any!). It has been a busy year, and you all deserve a well-deserved rest. We look forward to seeing you refreshed and ready for new challenges in the upcoming academic year.

Wishing you a wonderful and restful summer

Art Therapy

Ex pupil to graduate

Ex-pupil Finley had his undergraduate degree show in June as he is due to graduate from a Photography degree at De Monfort University.

This is an amazing achievement and he was proud to invite some of the staff that supported him through his time at school. The art work showcased was inspired by his journey through education and his discovery about ASD.



He wrote about the pieces. He wrote about the challenges he faced to achieve and that he met this with excitement and enthusiasm. He described the green image, named 'Motivational Fumes' to demonstrate how "I guide my own light with my network of support, maintaining distance but ready to guide me". He described how the direction of the light in the photograph "points to my future and the colour represents positivity". Well done Finley.

Jackdaws

How quickly has this year gone by! The Jackdaws are settling well into our new tutor group and exploring the new timetable. We've loved making garlic bread and scones in our cooking sessions and some of us have taken full advantage of drum and guitar lessons to start a band. We have had a go at some sensory circuits and practiced our agility, dexterity, speed and strength - ready for Sports Day! We're looking forward to our end of year trip to Hollywood Bowl and all the adventures waiting for us this summer!

Kingfishers

This year has flown by! The Kingfishers have settled in really well into the new tutor group and everyone has worked so hard this term! We have been exploring the skeletal system in p.e and we have been making some fabulous food. In PSHE we have been working on building really positive relationships with the class and getting to know everybody. We are really looking forward to our trip at the end of the year to Hollywood Bowl.



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Food Tech

This term we have been baking some delicious breads, Paul Hollywood would be impressed with our skills!

Our star bakers have learnt a variety of techniques to create their loaves. They have also looked at different ways of proving and different types of fillings.

I hope some samples made the journey home so you can taste the delicious baked goodies!

Along with bread, we have also created cinnamon swirls and our own custard creams.

It has been a jam packed delicious term! I wish you all a lovely break and I look forward to getting back in the kitchen with you all next term!



Fruit Tastic

Our amazing kitchen staff have been preparing different fruity creations for our lower school pupils. Here are some of their recent designs!



Careers

This term sees the last term for our Year 11 pupils and they were busy right until their last day! Completing their maths and English exams, finishing their ASDAN qualification work and visiting their new provisions for taster days and 'meet the tutor' events. They've all given 100% this term and we wish them all the luck for their future adventures!

Any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Additional information that may be of interest;

SEN Transport information for Post 16
<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs-and-disability/transport/school-transport-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send>

Practical advice from Leicester College about making the transition from school to College
<https://leicestercollege.ac.uk/about/news-and-events/blog/make-the-transition-to-college-a-little-easier/>

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Bee Keeping

On Wednesday 14th June, Jamie noticed that a new swarm had gathered in one of the trees outside of reception. This swarm was not part of our current bee colonies, which only meant that they had come from elsewhere. Nevertheless this proved to be a great opportunity to capitalise on the situation and in no time, the swarm including the queen, was knocked from their perch on a tree branch and placed in a cardboard box for protection. This was then left overnight, so that any straying bees returning 'home' would catch the queen's pheromones and head back to their temporary shelter. Overall, approximately 20,000 bees were captured which were part of this new swarm. Luckily we had a spare apiary and the new bee colony was moved to a new setting with the two other existing apiaries. A box was left out for any remaining stragglers and they too were moved to their new hive over the next few days.



Honey Harvest

Quorn Hall School had its first honey harvest of the year thanks to the hardworking bees. The honey was taken from three full supers. The honey was extracted and then filtered from the original hive, enough to fill 5 jars. These were then shared out to staff and the kitchen for use at breakfast time for use for the students. It is delicious with a zesty lemony after taste.



Family First



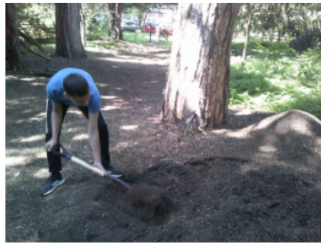
Take a look at Family Firsts online magazine. Full of healthy recipes, family days out, parent tips and more!!

https://issuu.com/sevenstarmedia/docs/ff_summer2023_digital160623

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Forest School

The pupils have been helping to level off the ground in preparation for the next academic year where it is hoped that they will build a pizza oven and barbecue in Forest School.



Pupils have also been making their own stool with help and was shown why three legs are better than four on uneven ground.



Staff CPD Achievements

Pupils! Did you know that you are not the only ones studying hard? Behind the scenes, our incredible school staff members are striving to become the best they can be for our young people by taking on professional development courses and qualifications. Learning doesn't end when you leave school! Here are just a few of this year's successes...

- Vickie Perkins - National Award for SENCo
- Lydia Wells and Chloe Whitham - Level 4 Certificate in Internal Quality Assurance
- Antonia Jackson - School Improvement Partner Qualification and appointed member of the Teacher Regulation Agency for the Department for Education
- Chloe Newman - Level 5 Diploma in Education and Training, SEN and maths specialism
- Charlotte Remnant - BA Hons - Childhood education, integrated working with families and children.
- Lois Huse - Foundation Degree - children and young people (SEND).
- Madeline Orvis - Level 5 Diploma in Education and Training, SEN and Art specialism


HealthySchools

Quorn Hall School have completed the full Think Family Programme, and are now eligible for the Healthy Schools Plus Award!

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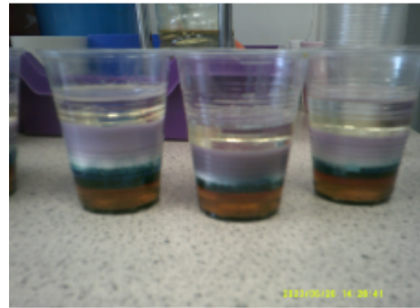
Science

When other schools are winding down for Summer, we are winding it up and trying to fit in as many activities as we can before we break up for our well earned holiday!

All of the classes have renewed their Bunsen Burner Licence by safely using them to cook popcorn! It also gave us an opportunity to check our understanding of laboratory safety rules again. Everyone enjoyed their pop-tastic treat!



Woodpeckers have been learning about density and as you can see, they have made some wonderful density rainbows out of household liquids and food colouring.



Flamingos have been working right up to the very end too and three students sat their Entry Level Science exams over the last few weeks, a first for the Science department! Not only that but they have finished their houseplant enterprise with close to £100 profit. Well done Flamingos!

Art

What a year it has been for the art department at Quorn Hall School! From a brand new room to guest artist workshops, our pupils have been busy developing their skills and creating beautiful works of art along the way.

In the Stables we have been trialling the endless possibilities of oil pastels!! Pupils have used oil pastels to create prints and learnt about how they react with watercolours to create a magical effect.

Pupils have also created their own scratchboards by layering oil pastels. Pupils evidenced great patience when completing this task! We have been making the most of the sunshine and moving our art classes outside. Pupils have used chalk to trace shadows and create games in the playground.



Robins and Woodpeckers have been learning all about oil pastel techniques as they trial *sgraffito*, *dry blending*, *layering* and *scumbling*. Pupils have particularly enjoyed using the *sgraffito* technique as they can etch in their designs. Olivia particularly enjoyed using a monoprinting method to create a Summer poster.



Ostriches have been experimenting with acrylic paint, watercolour and oil pastel to create skylines. We have been looking at how to create reflections in water using a range of mediums. Pictured is a piece of work by Lucy who used an impasto technique with acrylic paint to create texture in her sea.



Kingfishers have been learning all about one-point perspective and the effect this creates. Pupils have been working over the past few weeks on an aquarium painting. They have worked hard to map out their shapes using a ruler to create the illusion of a 3D image on a 2D surface. Pupils also learnt about oil pastel resist techniques when creating their sea creatures. Great work!

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Art



Starlings have continued with their Aboriginal Art project. They have been introduced to basic sewing techniques to create a range of shapes and texture into paper. Pupils have also learnt about weaving techniques to create dimension in their work. Pupils have reflected upon aboriginal artists to understand the themes and culture surrounding artwork created.



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Finally, we have been working with our librarian Ella to create artwork that can be displayed in the library.

Xander created a Uno Reverse Card using monoprinting techniques and acrylic paint. Xander worked hard to create this piece and incorporated maths to ensure everything was in proportion

The piece was hung by one of our lovely premises officers, Andy. Great work Xander.



I wish all of our pupils an enjoyable and restful summer. Cannot wait to begin creating again in the next academic year.

Humanities

2022/23 has been a busy one in Humanities, with pupils learning about a variety of different topics. From learning about the nature of criminal punishments within the UK hundreds of years ago and the topic of World War One, to the more recent topics of the war in Ukraine and climate change, pupils have gained a greater understanding of the various Humanities subjects of History, Geography and Religious Studies.

In addition to this, pupils have also been studying topics related to prejudice and discrimination and have been having a go at learning other languages, including French - *bien joué!* These topics have not only helped the pupils in their personal development but have also helped them to understand their place in the world.

Lots of good learning has taken place this year in Humanities and I am sure that this will continue into the next academic year, due to the hard work and dedication of the pupils!

Maths

Think back to when your maths teacher said this week we are going to start learning about something called algebra where we use letters to represent numbers and everyone groaned!

I would be a rich lady for the number of times I have been asked 'when will I ever use this in my life?'

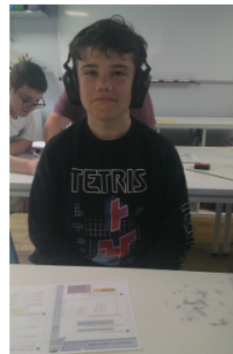
Well it was Kingfisher's turn this last week starting on June 26 which will be forever imparted in their memory for storytelling as an adult!

James and Edward used physical apparatus such as cubes and counters to help represent the quantities when forming expressions.



This is a great way to start learning in maths as part of the concrete, pictorial, abstract (CPA) mastery approach which is used in White Rose Maths.

Others in the class were learning about expanding brackets using picture tiles to help them understand why a number outside some brackets is multiplied to everything inside the brackets.



Tommy has picked up the main concepts of this method quickly and accurately and drawing out bar models has helped him and the others in the class to expand brackets containing positive, negative and square terms.

Well done Kingfishers this will mean that next term when we revisit algebra you will all have firm foundations in your knowledge from which to deepen your understanding.

Have a great summer break.

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Duke Of Edinburgh

Award Scheme

We are thrilled to announce the outstanding accomplishment of our Year 12 pupils who recently became the first group in the history of Quorn Hall School to successfully complete the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. This remarkable feat required the pupils to complete the four sections of the award: volunteering, physical activity, skill activity and arguably the trickiest section – the expedition – which the pupils have only completed in the last week. Over the course of the expedition, our pupils embarked on a challenging adventure – undertaking three long days of walking and camping for two nights. Carrying all of their own equipment, including tents, cooking utensils, food and clothing, the pupils demonstrated exceptional resourcefulness, problem-solving abilities, and adaptability across the expedition which showcased their dedication, resilience, and commitment to personal growth and self-sufficiency in the great outdoors.



However, it is not just our Year 12 pupils who have cause to celebrate, a number of our Year 11 pupils have also completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award this year.

Although finding their two-day, one night expedition challenging, the Year 11 pupils persevered through and completed the expedition with flying colours, which when added to the hard work they put into the volunteering, physical and skill sections of their award, resulted in DofE Bronze Award success!



We as a school, would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to each and every one of the 9 pupils, which is a Quorn Hall record, who achieved a DofE Award this year and wish them the best for the future. Their accomplishment is a testament to their hard work, determination, and ability to overcome challenges. We also express our appreciation to the dedicated staff members and volunteers who supported and guided our pupils throughout this journey. Pupils across the school have worked hard this year towards achieving the DofE Award, and there is no doubt that the success of our Year 11 and 12 pupils will be replicated in years to come.

Year 11 Leavers' Meal

As the academic year comes to a close, it's time to bid farewell to our incredible Year 11 pupils. The Year 11 leavers' meal was a heartfelt and joyous occasion, filled with delicious food and heartfelt goodbyes. It was an evening that truly captured the essence of this remarkable group of individuals, our first ever cohort to take GCSE exams.

The evening commenced with an array of lovely food in the delightful Quorn Grange Hotel where we had an exclusive room and beautiful gardens to use for movement breaks. Laughter, conversation, and shared memories filled the air as pupils, their form tutor Aysha, their teaching assistant Ruth and the senior leadership team savoured the culinary delights, reinforcing the bonds that have been forged throughout the year.

One of the highlights of the night was the symbolic gift presented to the Year 11 leavers: navigational compasses engraved with 'Quorn Hall 2023'. These compasses were chosen to represent their journey ahead, as they venture into the wider world and seek new horizons. The compasses serve as a reminder that no matter where their paths may lead, they will always be able to find their way back to their school community, symbolising the everlasting connection they will have to our school community.

Adding to the significance of the evening, we were honoured to have a special guest in attendance: our local Member of Parliament, Jane Hunt. Jane joined us to celebrate the achievements of our graduating students having met previously to hear their voices on qualifications and exams.

The bittersweet atmosphere of the evening was a reflection of the mixed emotions experienced by both pupils and staff. As we bid farewell to our Year 11 leavers, there is a sense of pride in witnessing their growth and accomplishments throughout their time at our school. We will miss their vibrant personalities, their resilience and their unwavering dedication to their studies.

While some of our Year 11 pupils will be staying on for another year, others will be venturing off to college, furthering their education and pursuing their dreams. The paths they choose may diverge, but the memories they have created together will always hold a special place in their hearts.

Woodpeckers

The Woodpeckers day out!

A great day was had by all! Using lots of life skills we have been working on in PSHE. We caught the bus into Loughborough, a well deserved runaround at Queens Park and topped off with a delicious McDonalds!

There was lots of smiles and laughter all round!!



Physical Education

Lower School

Penguins and Cygnets have been hard at work exploring new skills in their striking and fielding and net and wall schemes of work. They have explored sports such as rounders, cricket, and tennis. Both groups are continuing to develop their fundamentals of movement skills to build upon their current knowledge and skill set. Next academic year will see the Physical Education curriculum focus more on locomotive skills and fundamentals of movement skills that support the learning of new complex skills moving into key stage three. Hatchlings have also started their Physical Education journey embarking in movement skills and game play.

Upper School KS3

Upper school pupils have been hard at work exploring new skills in their striking and fielding, net and wall, and athletics schemes of work. They have utilised the time to practice athletics events in preparation for Sports Day which was a huge success. They have also explored new sports in tennis and cricket, whilst engaging in the ever popular rounders.

Upper School KS4

Upper School has seen the first cohort in Flamingos completing the Level 1 and 2 NCFE Health and Fitness qualification. We are immensely proud of the pupils in completing the course for the first time and achieving the success they have. Starings are moving into the second year of their NCFE qualification which will see them focus on the importance of sport for lifestyle, and the effect of lifestyle choices on fitness and wellbeing.

They will also start their preparation towards their unit one exam in November. Kingfishers have embarked on their first year of the NCFE course and have started to look at the skeletal system. Alongside this, they will also be completing the Level 1 qualification in Sports Leadership.



Extra curricular

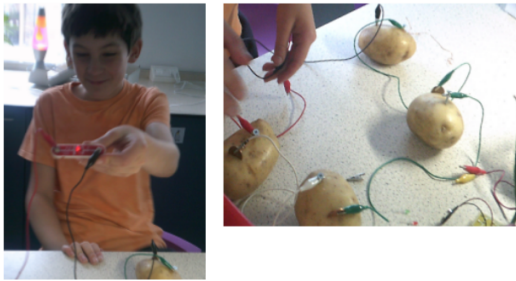
Extra-curricular sport continues to be a huge part of Quorn Hall School, and pupils continue to engage in the likes of basketball, table tennis, football and rounders during the summer term. The PE department is looking ahead to the autumn term where the school will take part in more basketball, football, and badminton fixtures than previous years, seeing a big increase in participation levels.

Sports Day 2023

Sports Day 2023 was an even bigger success than previous years and it is so pleasing to see more engagement from pupils than before, and pupils acting as role models for pupils who are new to the sports day concept. Pupils took part in various events including 30m sprint, 1 lap race, javelin, shot put, and standing long jump. We also had the famous tug of war which is always a favorite. The pupils once again challenged the staff, and once again the staff were thankfully victorious for another year. I look forward to sports day 2024 being even more of a success than this year.

The Stables

In science The Stables pupils have been looking at circuits and were surprised to find that a potato can be used as a power source. They looked at how to make a complete circuit using nails, pennies, wires, and potatoes and experimented in order to make a bulb light up.



Elliot found this particularly interesting and is showing great enthusiasm in his STEM learning. Keep up the great work!

The Stables welcomed two visits from Creative Learning Services who provide us with books, artefacts and various workshops across the school throughout the year. We decided to have a dinosaur workshop which fitted in with our theme work this term and a toy workshop to allow the pupils to interact and play as we have recently welcomed a number of new pupils.



The pupils loved playing in the rubber crumb being archeologists and fossil hunters and the T-Rex replica was a great hit with lots of discussions about teeth and eating things. We had a great morning talking and learning about dinosaurs, we never knew there were so many different types!



The old toys reminded us adults of our own childhood and the pupils were shocked to find many were made from wood and metal rather than plastic. They enjoyed seeing how things worked and had great fun with the jack-in-a-box.



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Student Council

Student Council meets Local MP.

We are delighted to share some exciting news with you all! On the 9th June our very own Quorn Hall School had the privilege of hosting a visit from our local Member of Parliament, Jane Hunt. The visit proved to be an enlightening experience for both the student council and Jane herself, as they engaged in thought-provoking discussions on a range of important topics.

During her visit, Jane Hunt spent valuable time with our student council, a group of passionate and articulate individuals representing the student body. Together, they tackled pressing environmental issues, particularly the challenges surrounding building on both brown and green sites. It was truly inspiring to witness our students express their concerns about the potential impact on our local ecosystem and biodiversity.

Another crucial topic of conversation was the agricultural and farming struggles faced by our community. Jane Hunt listened attentively as students shared stories of the hardships and uncertainties experienced by local farmers. The exchange was an invaluable opportunity to highlight the importance of supporting and sustaining our rural economy.

Furthermore, the impact of HS2 on the countryside was a key concern raised by Adam. Our students voiced their apprehensions about the potential disruption and ecological consequences of such a large-scale project.

In addition to these pressing issues, the topic of bullying emerged during the conversation. Students had the opportunity to discuss their experiences and concerns, while Jane Hunt provided insights into the initiatives and legislation in place to combat bullying at both local and national levels and reassured us that she would be finding out more about this topic and get back to us.

On a lighter note, the visit also provided an occasion for our students to explore Jane Hunt's journey into politics. They eagerly listened as she shared her own career aspirations and the path she took to become our local representative.

We are incredibly grateful to Jane Hunt for taking the time out of her busy schedule to engage with our student council and address their concerns. Her visit served as a reminder that our voices matter and that our elected representatives are here to support and advocate for us.

Let us all take inspiration from this visit and continue to be actively involved in our community, promoting positive change and striving for a better future. Together, we can make a difference.

QHS Student Council



Dates for your diary

GCSE Results Day: Thursday 24th
August 2023

Bank holiday: Monday 28th August 2023

INSET: Tuesday 29th until Thursday 31st
August 2023

School opens for pupils Friday 1st
September 2023