



WORLD-BEATERS: QE returned as world champions from the VEX IQ Challenge international finals in the US. Turn to p3.

From the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

The Summer Term, and indeed the whole academic year, has been marked by a large number of visits to Queen Elizabeth's School from speakers who are forging illustrious careers in their chosen fields. For example, I was pleased to welcome Major Charles Russell as guest speaker on Founder's Day and in the last week of term we were joined by Daniel Isenberg, who addressed prize-winners and their parents at our Junior Awards Ceremony.

We devote a great deal of time, effort and thought to enhancing pupils' future prospects as they consider firstly their university choices and, ultimately, their careers. I urge boys to make full use of the opportunities afforded by visits from our alumni and others; pupils should approach such occasions with an open mind, ready to ask intelligent questions. It is important that boys and their parents are not over-hasty in planning career pathways. After all, there are an estimated 80,000 working hours in an average career, so one's own wellbeing and

happiness may depend on making the right decisions. 80,000 Hours is also the name of an organisation providing career advice for talented young people who want to have a social impact. It recently published long-term research identifying key elements that go into making a 'dream job' – one that is both enjoyable and meaningful. Interestingly, neither high pay nor low stress is among them. Instead, the researchers highlighted three factors which resonate very strongly with all that we are working to achieve at this School.



One is that the work involved must be sufficiently engaging to hold one's attention. This typically means that tasks should be varied and have a clear beginning and end, that the person working has freedom to decide how he will carry out the work, and that he should receive feedback on it. All of this dovetails with the specific ways we deliver teaching and learning at QE.

Pupils receive effective feedback and guidance through a bespoke approach that includes the setting and monitoring of personalised targets, our Personal Development Time programme, peer mentoring and subject clinics. And with our emphasis on the development of free-thinking scholarship, we ensure that Elizabethans can thrive in engaging workplace environments, having developed the effective habits of independent learning, resilience and academic curiosity that will make them a prized asset for employers.

Another essential for true career satisfaction is that a job should be a good match for one's ability. When considering possible careers, boys should develop aspirations which are realistically ambitious. At QE, much of what we do to support boys in planning their futures focuses on helping them become aware of their own strengths. Parents and boys receive lots of detailed assessment information from teachers: it is important to use that sound empirical data to plan individually. We provide extensive opportunities for boys to test their nascent career plans, whether that is:

“testing nascent career plans”

through our work experience programme; through contact with old boys in our fast-growing alumni network; through events such as this month's Year 9 Careers Circus, or through extra-curricular activities such as the new Coding Club, the Bar Mock Trial competition and the Combined Cadet Force. Our success at the VEX IQ World Robotics Championships is a

terrific example: while pupils got involved for the fun and intellectual challenge, there is clear scope for it to lead to career opportunities later in life. A word of caution is necessary here: boys at QE should not feel under enormous pressure to decide on a particular career in a particular field. They should instead remain adaptable and flexible, acquiring skills and practising continuous learning so that they can grasp new and evolving opportunities.

Finally, the researchers identified growing evidence that helping others is a key ingredient for fulfilment at work. Both Charlie Russell and Daniel Isenberg are prime exemplars of those who derive satisfaction from work that helps others. Now a rising young barrister, Daniel (OE 1999–2006) gained a Double First at Cambridge and was a Fast Stream Graduate with the Ministry of Defence before gaining an LLM from Harvard Law School. He has served with the Supreme Courts of both the UK and Israel, while in his spare time pursuing a love of rugby – he is an RFU-certified referee – and working as a volunteer

for the Samaritans. On Founder's Day, Charlie (OE 1997–2004) spoke about his own successful career as a British Army officer, which was punctuated by an attack in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, in 2010, that caused him very serious injuries. In his speech, Charlie not only explored the centrality of service to the military profession, but highlighted the role of the concept at QE. As the *From the Archives* article in this *Elizabethan* shows, traditions of service have long been associated with the School. Moreover, they remain at the heart of what we do today, enshrined in our commitment to “developing boys' awareness that they achieve genuine fulfilment and greater benefit by seeking to make a contribution to society rather than pursuing only personal gain”.

“traditions of service”

In equipping boys for their futures, we constantly seek to refine and improve our facilities. The Summer Term began with the launch of a new public website, which takes advantage of modern web design to communicate all that QE has to offer. The refurbishment of our Main Building takes place over the summer holidays, funded by a Department for Education grant and support from the Friends of Queen Elizabeth's to the tune of £0.5m.

I trust all our families will have an enjoyable summer and wish those boys awaiting public examination results in August the best of luck: I look forward to celebrating with you on results days.

Neil Enright, Headmaster

QE become UK's first-ever robotics world champions

In only its second year in the competition, QE won a world title in the VEX IQ Challenge international robotics finals in Louisville, Kentucky.

The QE junior pupils took the Excellence Award – the highest in the world's largest robotics competition – seeing off previous winners from the US and China.

Writing to the School to congratulate the winning finalists, Education Secretary Damian Hinds said: “I am delighted that the pupils were the first UK team to win...I am pleased that such a talented group were representing the UK in this global competition and have been recognised as our most promising future robotics minds.”

- A stair-climbing robot designed by AS-level Technology students was praised by judges at the Celebration and Assessment Day of the Engineering Excellence Scheme. Working with mentors from construction company Morgan Lovell, the team tackled the problem of lifting large sheets of materials up staircases on building sites – one of the industry's commonest sources of injury.

Glory, awe and wonder

Boys experienced the awe-inspiring power of nature, the man-made glories of Ancient Rome and the wonders of Italian cuisine during a Geography trip.

Highlights of the four-day trip to Italy included a walk up Mount Vesuvius – mainland Europe's only active volcano – and a day taking in Rome's Forum and the Colosseum.



Banging! National winners

A QE Year 12 team beat off the challenge of more than 600 other schools to win the national MathsBombe competition.

Captain Kishan Patel and teammates Bashmy Basheer, Nico Puthu and Niam Vaishnav dropped just one point across all eight rounds of the University of Manchester's online contest.

QE boys have excelled in other recent national competitions, with strong performances in the Junior Maths Challenge, the Intermediate Mathematical Olympiad and the Team Maths Challenge, where a QE team reached the national finals, coming 11th out of 88 teams.

Expressing ourselves: QE pupils explore ideas and showcase their skills in Art

QE pupils from across all year groups have served up a visual feast this year, producing artworks ranging from photography and drawing to sculpture and collage.

Shown on these pages is art from boys across the year groups, including the work of Art prize-winners at both Junior and Senior Awards. For their final-year projects, the A-level Art students were tasked with finding a subject that meant a great deal to them personally.

They were encouraged to take a broad approach at the beginning, using

note-making, research, photography, drawing and making items to assist their investigation. As the projects progressed, the ideas became more refined.

The boys were required to show evidence of deeper thinking and to be ambitious in their artworks, which they had to support with a written statement articulating their ideas.



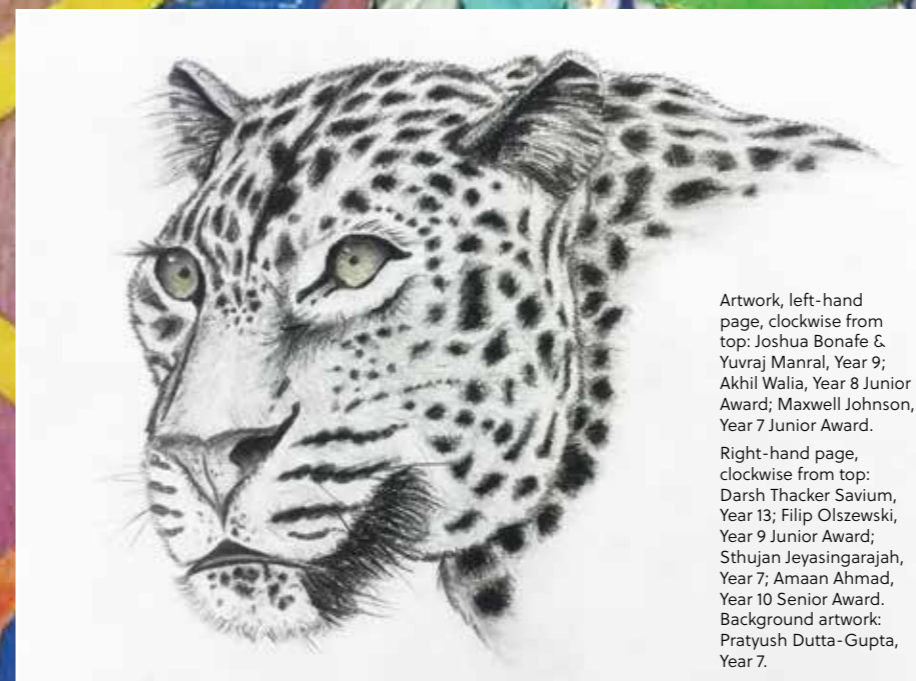
Ambitious artwork picked for Royal Academy exhibition

Sixth-former Darsh Thacker's artwork using unconventional materials was one of only 43 winners out of more than 2,000 entries to be chosen for the Royal Academy A-level Summer Exhibition Online 2018.

Like his fellow QE Year 13 Fine Art A-level students, Darsh had been encouraged to draw inspiration

from his intended career path. Darsh plans to study Dentistry, and his project, entitled Savium, explored the division between the personal and clinical spheres.

The artwork, measuring 2.56 x 2m, employed contrasting materials, from plaster-of-Paris casts to string, nails and even chewing gum.



Artwork, left-hand page, clockwise from top: Joshua Bonafe & Yuvraj Manral, Year 9; Akhil Wallia, Year 8 Junior Award; Maxwell Johnson, Year 7 Junior Award.

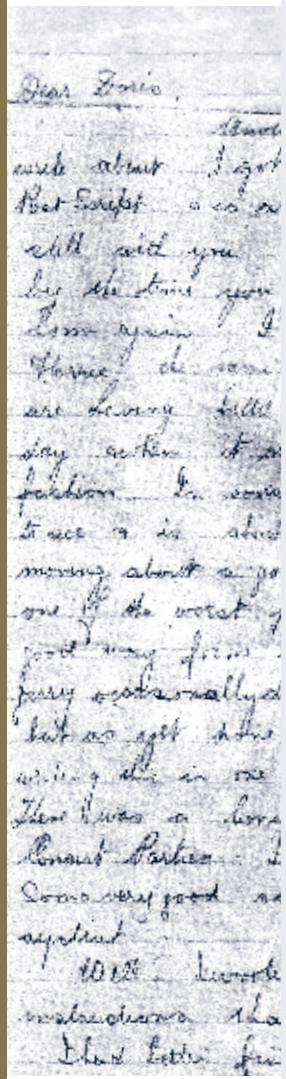
Right-hand page, clockwise from top: Darsh Thacker Savium, Year 13; Filip Olszewski, Year 9 Junior Award; Sthujan Jeyasingarajah, Year 7; Amaan Ahmad, Year 10 Senior Award. Background artwork: Pratyush Dutta-Gupta, Year 7.



Stephen Buckeridge

Head of Art

“ In Art we focus on ‘fine art’, which means expressing ourselves and our responses to the world around us for personal fulfilment. The skills and creativity developed can be applied to a wide range of other aspects of art and design and taken up in higher education or as a career, such as Architecture, Graphic Design, Product Design or Fashion and Textiles. We use processes such as drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, collage, digital art and mixed-media. The work we do varies from traditional observational drawing to work that is very experimental and contemporary. ”



From the archives: Jack's last letter from the front

Pupils have been learning the sad story of the 1916 School Captain, who died only a few weeks before the end of the First World War.

Private John 'Jack' Albert Field, of Bosworth Road, New Barnet, was just 19 when he was killed by a shell on 29th September 1918. He was serving with the 9th Company, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). In 1916, he had headed the QE cricket First XI averages and passed the London Matriculation school-leaving examination.

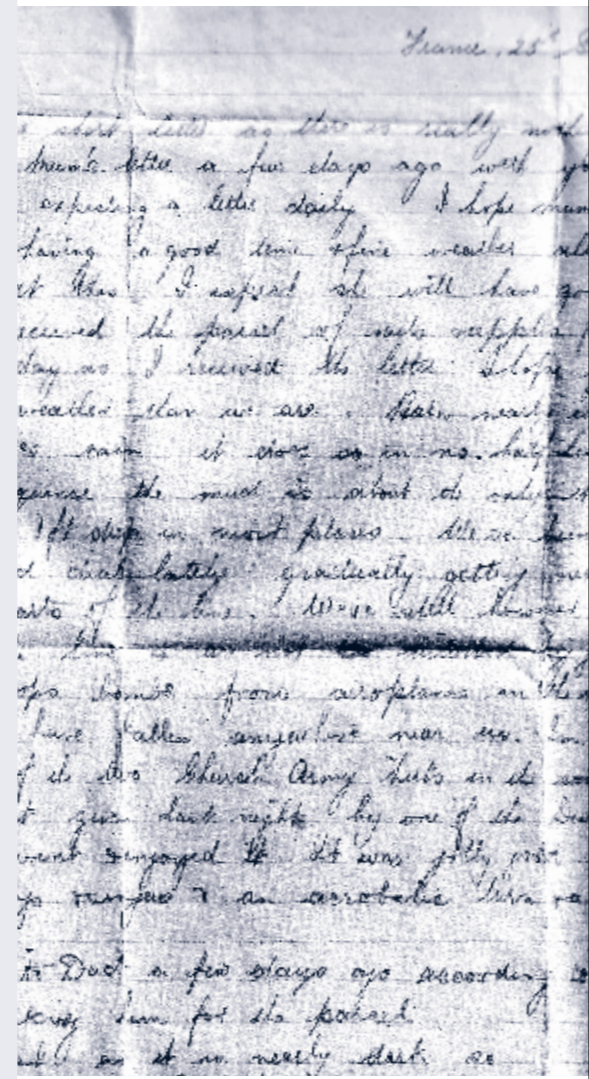
Jack's name is listed on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium, which was among sites visited by Year 9 historians recently. Sited in the area of the Battle of Passchendaele, it lists 35,000 men with no known grave.

His great-niece, Mary Smith, came in to speak to boys in Year 7 during History lessons, bringing with her letters, including one Jack sent to his sister, Doris; and another

written by Jack's father to Doris's husband, Bert, asking him to tell her of Jack's death.

Jack's letter, dated four days before he died, says his unit was "gradually getting nearer one of the worst places of the line" - "the only thing to see and about 1ft deep in places" - and perils from above: "Jerry [the Germans] occasionally drops bombs from aeroplanes in the vicinity but as yet none have fallen anywhere near us." Portentously, Jack's own letter concludes: "I had better finish as it is nearly dark."

His father's letter, on 14th October 1918, says: "We have just received the sad news that poor Jack has been killed. The officer wrote that he was killed instantaneous [sic] and was buried with two other comrades killed by the same shell." Written with the emotional restraint characteristic of the era, the letter then ends simply: "It is a very great blow to us."



That was then...

QE under long-serving Headmaster Ernest Jenkins (1930-1961) was so strict that a prefect punished a boy for buying an ice-cream without wearing his School cap...on a Sunday afternoon. Alumni Ken Cooper (OE 1942-1950), David Farrer (1954-1961) and John Todd (1958-1964) shared anecdotes with Year 7 pupils working on a project about the history of the School. Then, as now, QE enjoyed academic and sporting success, yet much was different: lessons ran six days a week, the roll totalled only 400-450 and masters' (teachers') routine use of corporal punishment was little questioned.



QE and the royal wedding

Senior Vice-Captain Binu Perera spent the royal wedding day inside Windsor Castle. Nominated by QE, he was among 1,200 members of the public invited by the royal couple. A reading of a specially commissioned poem by George 'the Poet' Mpanga (OE 2002-2009) introduced global TV coverage.



Cost of war

A trip to World War I battlefields and cemeteries reinforced History lessons for 44 Year 9 boys in the centenary year of the 1918 Armistice.

History teacher Simon Walker said: "The trip was important both emotionally and analytically, helping students understand how trench warfare worked and giving them an opportunity to reflect on the cost of war."



Best of British young biologists

QE has added to its glittering reputation in the British Biology Olympiad, with two sixth-formers reaching the final round, open only to the top 16 young biologists in the country.

Year 13 pupils Showgo Kimura and Michael Takla were selected from Round 2 for the four-day finals, a series of practical examinations held at Warwick University. They were among five QE boys who had qualified for Round 2, with the others being fellow sixth-formers Ilan Elango, Milan Hirji and Simon Rey. The five's qualification placed them in the top 2 per cent of the 7,818 entrants nationwide.

Last year, QE was crowned the best-performing school in the country in the

prestigious Olympiad competition, and although it will not be known until later this year if it has repeated this feat, the School is certainly in a strong position, says Biology teacher Mev Armon: it has amassed a total of 14 gold, 16 silver and 15 bronze medals.

Congratulating Showgo and Michael, Mr Armon said: "They have worked for almost two years, developing additional skills outside of the specification at lunch times. I am very proud of them and of all the boys who were awarded medals."

QE poems published after success in international Classics competition

Two boys drew on the lessons of ancient history to write poems that have been published in a new book.

Jonathan Ho, of Year 12, and Matt Salomone, of Year 11, took inspiration from the Trojan War for the multi-disciplinary art competition organised by the University of Leicester.

The book, entitled *Artefact to Art*, was launched at the Annual Conference of the Classics Association in Leicester. Both boys were singled out for a special mention by Dr Naoise Mac Sweeney, Associate Professor in Ancient History. They were inspired by an ancient amphora showing Ajax and Achilles, heroes of the war, playing a board game.

Positive verdict

QE achieved a top-10 finish in the national finals of the Bar Mock Trial competition - with one Year 12 boy achieving a perfect score for his appearance in the guise of a defence barrister.

The team of senior boys had reached the national final of the prestigious legal competition in Cardiff after competing successfully in three qualifying rounds. They were placed ninth on the day.

English teacher Lucy Riseborough praised the team, adding: "A special mention has to go to Mipham Samten for his 10-out-of-10 score in his role as part of the defence team."



Clean sweep in Chemistry Olympiad

All 11 of the Year 13 boys chosen to enter this year's UK Chemistry Olympiad were awarded either a gold, silver or bronze certificate. Nationally, of the 6,500-plus pupils who participated, only the top 8% received gold, with 25% achieving silver and 31% bronze - and nearly 40% received no award at all. By contrast, QE's boys gained four golds, six silvers and one bronze between them.

Chemistry teacher Elizabeth Kuo said "By any reckoning, our sixth-formers did very well in what is a deliberately challenging national competition."



County cup victory for Year 7 cricketers

QE's younger cricketers have enjoyed a memorable summer. Having won all but one of their games, the U12s emerged victorious over Newland House School in the Middlesex County Cup final. Rhys Davies-Horne, Assistant Head of PE & Games and in charge of Year 7, said: "This deserved win topped off a great season, with stand-out performances by Prayag Gandhi, Aaryan Patel and Bilal Hassan." The U13 team also reached their county final, losing to a strong Merchant Taylors' side.

Biggest-ever turnout

QE's work with younger local children goes from strength to strength, with a record 14 primary schools tackling the English and Mathematics challenges at this year's Primary Challenge Day. A similar Primary Forensic Science Day saw visiting girls and boys from across the borough working enthusiastically to solve a 'whodunnit' fictional murder case.

Medal-winner

Year 8 boy Yusuf Karim won gold, silver and bronze medals at the Karate European Cup meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia. He took gold in Team Kumite, Silver in Individual Kata and Bronze in Team Kata.

Yusuf also won recognition closer to home when the Mayor of Barnet, Cllr Brian Salinger, presented him with a GLL Athlete Award.



NATIONAL FINALISTS: Recent personal bests have helped Year 10's Nicholas Shaw and Jeff Hagan qualify for the English Schools' Athletic Association finals. Nick ran the 100m in 11.14s at the Middlesex Championships, while Jeff, pictured, reached over 13.21m in the triple jump.



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