



Quinton Hall School

Newsletter

Friday 7th May 2010

No. 20

Dear Parents,

A reminder that next Wednesday evening at 7.00pm in the Susan Milner Hall, we welcome Simon Leigh, who will be giving a talk on substance abuse and the current climate and culture relating to drug use and young people. Parents are welcome and I would particularly encourage all the boys in Preps 7 & 8 to attend along with their parents. Drug use is a fact of life and it is fatal for us as teachers and parents to think that it could not affect our own children and pupils. Simon comes very well recommended so I look forward to seeing as many of you next Wednesday evening as possible.

You may remember that I informed you of changes to school staffing in a previous letter. I can now tell you that Fr Neil has been offered the post of class teacher at Eaton Square School in London; a co-ed, three form entry, prep school. We congratulate him on his success and wish him well in his new post.

Please remember that in addition to the newsletter, the Trinity Term Calendar is also posted on the school website and can be downloaded. I am sure you will agree that anything we can do to cut down on the amount of paper we use has got to be a good thing.

Next week, I will be sending letters of invitation out to the parent community for our annual Speech Day and Prize-giving, taking place on Tuesday 6th July, at 2.00pm in the Church of The Holy Trinity, next door to the school. Please make a note of this in your diaries and further information will follow.

Open Day takes place this Saturday 8th May. Even if you are an existing parent, it would be good to meet you if you are able to drop by. We look forward to welcoming back Daniel Lewis, Shrai Popat, Daniel Abu, Nicholas Koo and Dhiren De Silva, ex-QHS pupils who have very kindly accepted invitations to come into school and be available to speak to visitors about their time at QHS and their current schools. We look forward to meeting them again.

Finally, a reminder that Fr Neil will be celebrating Sung Mass in the School Chapel at 6.00pm this coming Sunday evening. All are welcome and there are light refreshments in the dining room afterwards.

EFB

FQHS News

We regret to inform you that the Children's scavenger hunt has now been cancelled for the 8th May and will be re-scheduled again at a later date".

Regards
FQHS

Prep 5's trip to The National Gallery

On Monday 26 April, Prep 5 went to The National Gallery to look at the depiction of animals in paintings, from the collection. After lunch we met our teacher, Jane Elliot, who showed us some paintings that had fantastic creatures in them. They included animals bathed in gentle sunlight by Aelbert Cuyp, a satyr with a playful leopard in the painting 'Minerva protects Pax from Mars' by Peter Paul Rubens. We glimpsed the beautiful white hart from 'The Wilton Diptych', the two-legged dragon in Paolo Uccello's 'Saint George and the Dragon' and the sparkling red lobster in Willem Kalf's 'Still Life with Drinking Horn'. We were all amazed by these beautiful works of art and the painting skills of the artists.

We had time to make our own drawings, from paintings in the galleries, before we returned to school after a great day exploring some of the treasures found in The National Gallery. You can visit the website to see these paintings www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings.

Thanks to Mrs Ramsay and Father Neil for helping on the trip. We all want to go again!

HCM



Instrumental Music Lessons

I have had a number of calls from peripatetic staff about music lessons. At Quanton Hall we have an excellent reputation for music and in the past three years boys have gained valuable music scholarships to Harrow, Bedford School and Merchant Taylors'. The boys do have to miss academic lessons in order to benefit from their music lessons and the peripatetic teachers do their best to rotate the lessons. It is NOT possible to have lessons outside of the timetable except for boys in Prep 8, or if the teacher is willing to make a special arrangement such as starting early in the morning.

The system outlined above is the same in all the Prep schools in the area. The exception being one nearby school that only has lessons during lunchtime and as a result produces very few musicians, has no orchestra, or band and is not represented at events such as Harrow, or Merchant Taylors' Music days.

Of course the alternative to music lessons in school is taking your children to a private lesson outside of school time and for some parents this is seen as being right for them. However, this does mean a special trip to the teacher's house and having to wait until the lesson ends.

I do hope that at Quanton Hall we can maintain our reputation for music and you will want to support us in doing that.

MAE

A long road ahead... U13A lost by 46 runs to The Hall

Bowling first we did quite well to restrict The Hall's openers who played some well executed shots "in the V", however from the 5th over they pushed on adding 20 runs in two overs. The QHS fielding was reasonable, but the bowling rarely beyond "friendly" and The Hall finished with 120-2 off their 20 overs.

When we batted things started slowly, but quite well, but pressure soon built up and only Vaibhav D batted with authority to score 30, eventually out off the final ball. No-one else really contributed and there were unfortunate boys who surrendered their wickets as soon as they came to the crease. If the road is not to be both long and hard our boys will have to apply themselves and realise that cricket is a thinking game and not just a playground slog.

MAE