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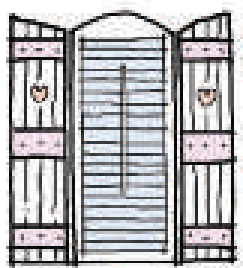
Issue 6 | Summer 2019



Les Quennevais School

Learning to be your best through excellence and enjoyment





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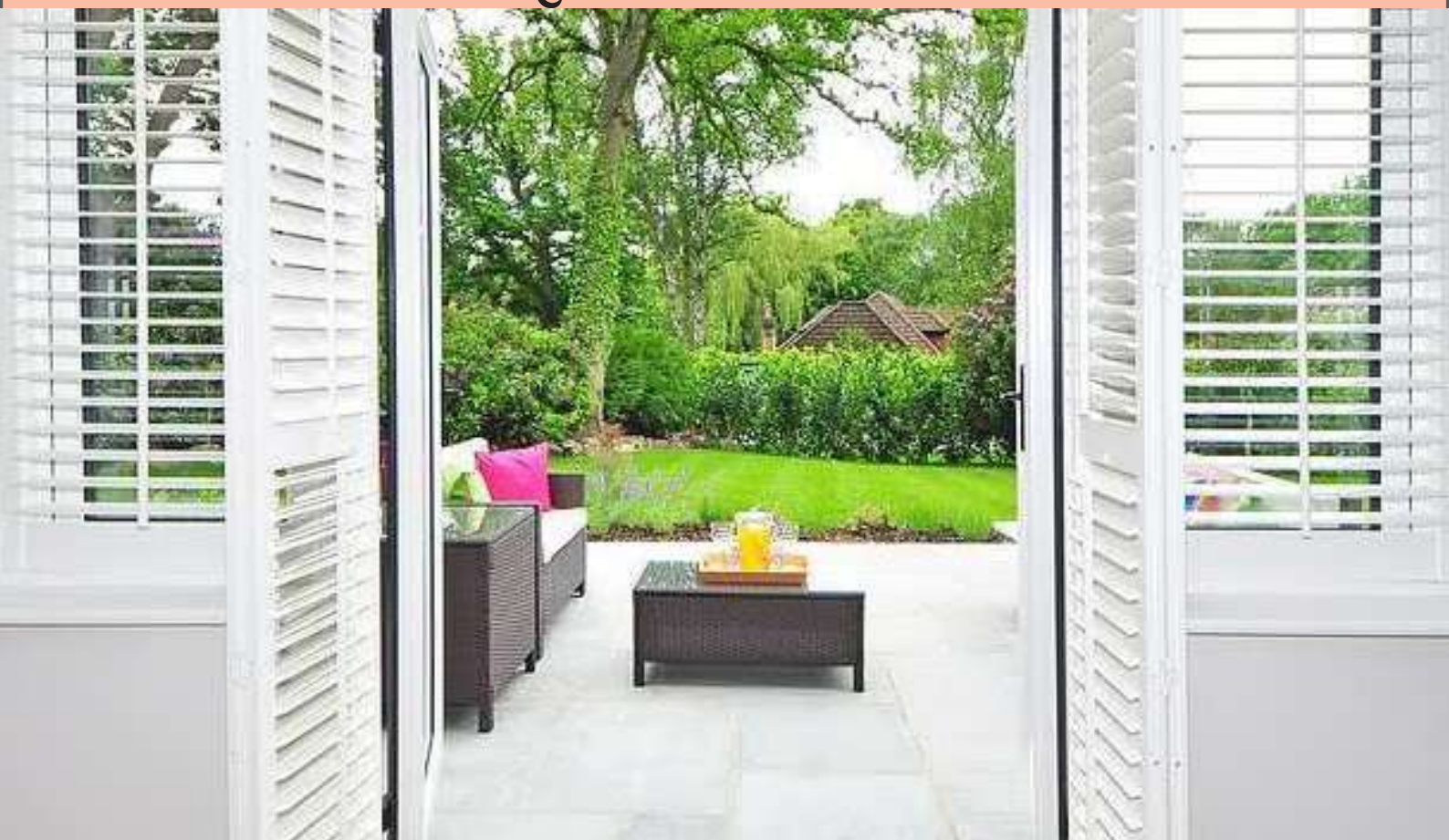
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Dear Reader

People work best when they are not afraid to experiment, take risks and try things out. Jeff Bezos of Amazon put it like this: “to invent – you have to experiment and if you know in advance that it’s going to work – it’s not an experiment”. Fear of failure stifles life, vitality, growth and development. It is creativity, energy, curiosity and ‘what ifs’ that lead to the most productive and progressive outcomes. It’s these principles that drive much of what we achieve at Les Quennevais School. This is a term dominated by formal GCSE exams for Year 11 and sees the culmination of 5 years of nurturing, inspiring, teaching and learning. This year has truly been like no other and has quite simply been the most rewarding year for me and I know our staff feel the same. Why? Quite simply because our Year 11 students demonstrated such ambition, resilience and total respect throughout the exam period. Their willingness to “come with us”, take risks, and try different approaches and soak up everything that was offered, created huge momentum, energy and an infectious ‘can do will do’ attitude.

Leadership is everything and our staff - their teachers, deployed such creativity, care and diligence to ensure they had every opportunity for success. The atmosphere in school was electric during exams, such was the positivity, confidence and determination demonstrated by all. I’m sure this will all be reflected in the exam results in August – they certainly deserve it. Other year groups – take note – they are a hard act to follow, but what a model to replicate.

We talk a lot at our school about “the spirit of Quennevais”. It’s a palpable feeling throughout our community – we guard it closely – it doesn’t happen everywhere and we never take it for granted. This is the term where we celebrate unashamedly our “spirit” and all we have achieved and tried to achieve – which is just as important. Our Whole School Awards day is a magnificent celebration, where we come together to support, acknowledge and cheer each other on as we take time out to reward the effort and progress our students have made in all areas of school life. The awards are many and well deserved, but this year there was the added excitement of presentation of the House Cup announcement. So close was the House Competition this year, that no one knew the outcome until the day itself. McKeon House had proudly led throughout the year, a wonderful example of ambition. This House demonstrated the power of change and collective endeavour. Watts House, victorious for so many years and consistently good in all areas of school life and Tranter House, doggedly determined, resilient and purposeful. Sports Day was a triumph for Tranter House – the first victory in many years – and the atmosphere on Sports Day had to be seen to be believed. Marching bands, banners, “Wattsa”, Icelandic clap in Tranter and McKeon beating their drum – the support was staggeringly good and the sporting talent even better. Their victory on Sports Day enabled Tranter House to win the House Cup, for the first time in 8 years, a very special moment for them. Congratulations to all our students and our Heads of Houses, and thank you for making the House Competition the most enjoyable and successful one ever!

As I mentioned, leadership is key to affecting and transforming change and it has been my privilege alongside Mr Harris and Head of Year 10, Mr Morris, to interview a succession of Student Leaders for leadership posts this year. You will be formally introduced as a reader in this issue, as a school we congratulated them and appointed them at our Whole School Awards Day. They are an impressive group of young people who will clearly leave their mark on our school this year and we will be a stronger and better community for it.

As I write we are in the midst of Activity Week, with students and staff immersed in some extraordinary experiences on and off-island. It is always a week that facilitates new friendships, new experiences and enables students to discover things about themselves that they never knew.

As we look ahead to the coming year, there are special things to look forward to – Year 11 GCSE results, Year 7 new starters, our school production – “Annie” and of course, this time next year we will move to our new building and the spirit of Quennevais will shine through it all!

Thank you for your ongoing support this year – we don’t take it for granted – it’s part of working together that makes our community so very special.

I wish you all a wonderful summer.

Mrs S Hague
Headteacher

Tranter win at the death



Keira and Abigail, Year 7 students

Another important date on the Les Quennevais School Calendar was held on Friday 14th June 2019 - Sports Day. This day often decides who the overall House winner is for the year and with McKeon in the lead tensions ran high.

The day started with fantastic conditions for the field events with a long standing school javelin record being absolutely obliterated. Tranter had the edge for the morning's events and went in to the afternoon's track events with a slender lead.

The three houses were led out by their Heads of House to sounds of trumpets and drums from McKeon, Viking war chants from Tranter and the 'Watts' - Watts' take on the Hakka. The sense of competition was fierce and palpable.

The races were run with great encouragement from the crowds. There was even, for the first time, a staff relay team! The challenges ranged from high jump to javelin, with all the students, and teachers, getting their faces painted in hopes of their house winning. If the students weren't taking part in a field event or main race, they still took part in the 600 metre race. Remarkably even though one of the Year 7 girls had a broken leg, she still wanted to support her house so she got in a wheelchair and participated in the 600 metres.

It was by far the most competitive sports day, but everyone was respectful and everyone got into the mood and atmosphere. However there can only be one overall winner and the results were as follows:

Overall results for each Year:

Year 7	McKeon
Year 8	Tranter
Year 9	Watts
Year 10	Tranter

Overall House winners:

1st Tranter - 829 pts.
2nd Watts - 825 pts.
3rd McKeon - 660 pts



The first staff and student relay race was a highlight of the day

Meaning this year Sports Day was won by the triumphant Tranter. But with margins so close, who knows what may happen in 2020!





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Teo & Abigail reflect on their first year at Les Quennevais

In the start of Year 7, I thought everything would be horrible. I had heard bad stories from students who had been through secondary school, but when I settled, I found that Les Quennevais was even better than I had heard. I made friends and settled in, the homework that I heard so much about became an everyday thing and I got into the routine. We invited parents and guardians to come into school and look at the beach projects completed as part of the transition process; my mum and grandparents came and had a look around. I was really proud that I got a few certificates.

After a while, I made my impressions on the teachers and I was chosen to take an IQ test to see if I could get into Mensa. To get in, you had to have an IQ of 148 or over, which is the top 2% in the world. After the test, almost half of the thirty people got the chance to enter Mensa, including me. I had an IQ in the top 1% of the world! I have certainly felt challenged in my learning and enjoy all of my lessons. I especially enjoyed Maths and English because they challenged me.

There are so many events to take part in at Les Quennevais. One thing I took part in was the House Music competition and I played 'William Tell.' I didn't win but the judges said that I engaged well with the audience, which is what I was aiming for when I practiced; playing without looking at the piano or music at all.

One of the biggest events was Comic Relief, everybody dressed up in wild outfits. I dressed as Bilbo Baggins from the Hobbit. On the day, my huge Hobbit feet got in the way of everything, but I found my way around it. We had an assembly and discovered how bad some children have to live and it was great to come together, have fun and also give something back.

All in all my year has flown by and I have really enjoyed Year 7 at Les Quennevais.

Looking back on this year I feel really proud. I started out quite a shy person in Year 6, and I can't lie, very nervous about entering a new school, after all, I barely knew anyone there. At the start, I was really worried about being late for lessons, or forgetting homework and getting a detention. However, once you find a way to juggle it, keeping on top of homework is quite easy. The lessons are amazing, the teachers are all amazing, and they all have a great sense of humour. The school was very welcoming and I can't wait until the new Year 6 come and they can get the wonderful welcome that I did.

Before coming to Les Quennevais, I never really felt encouraged to try different things, but now I can play about 7 songs on the steel drum, have received first aid training, will participate in Jersey sings 2019, and I also sang a solo song in a school competition. I can definitely say that coming to Les Quennevais has had a big impact on me, and I hope to try loads of new things in Year 8.

This year has been amazing, but my highlight is our steel band group as we have gone to lots of gigs including, the boat show, the Radisson Blu Hotel and many more. The House system is something I have also enjoyed getting involved in; it is very competitive (and so am I) and I love that there are so many ways to collect house points from sport, to baking and performing.

I won't say that I haven't faced lots of challenges, but I overcame most of them, and I'm really looking forward to this year's sports day.



Teo with members of the school Governing Body



Abigail competing in the high jump on Sports Day

Where are they now?

An interview with ex-Les Quennevais Head Boy Jack Maguire



I left Les Quennevais in 2009 and am now the acting Deputy News Editor and Crime Reporter at the Jersey Evening Post.

After leaving Les Quennevais I went to Hautlieu to study for my A-levels before attaining a First Class BA degree in International Journalism at Liverpool John Moores University. I spent a brief period working for the BBC in Manchester before joining the JEP in 2014. After 3 and a half years I left to work as a cattle farmer in New Zealand (really!) before coming back to take up the role as acting Deputy News Editor.

Which years were you at Les Quennevais?

2004 - 2009

What was your biggest challenge at school?

I was lucky in the sense that school was a good place for me, I loved it. I can't remember many major challenges other than getting a girlfriend – that was some task. I passed, in the end.

Greatest achievement at school?

I was Head Boy which was pretty cool and that was voted for by my peers which meant a lot at the time.

Song/band/album that defined your school years?

Okay, it's Backstreet Boys' I Want It That Way but such an answer requires an explanation. It was the theme song for a load of lads in our year group and poorly sung renditions of it were often heard in the back lanes of St Brelade – led by one former LQ pupil who is now curing diseases in laboratories in the UK.

Which aspect of life at Les Quennevais helped you become the person you are today?

Two things, I suppose. The Les Quennevais motto - 'learning to be your best – through excellence and enjoyment' has always stuck with me. For me, it's important to remember that you might not always be the best naturally but you should strive to achieve the highest standards you're capable of. Otherwise, what's the point? And also, Les Quennevais has always been a very inclusive school, its pupils represent all abilities and backgrounds and that is representative of life. Don't judge a person by how they treat the CEO or MD, judge them by how they are with the cub recruits.

Favourite memory of Les Quennevais?

There are plenty, friends from school and I still crack up sharing anecdotes now - some I probably shouldn't share. I still wind up my pal Jonny about the time he thought it was a good idea to get changed for a personal survival PE session at school so he could get in the pool at the Sports Centre first, get out first and get to lunch early. He changed into his trackies and jumper for swimming (you had to swim in clothes as part of the lesson) at Les Quennevais before walking to the Sports Centre and jumping straight in first. Smug, he emerged from the pool and got back to the changing room only to remember he was wearing the clothes he'd walk to the Sports Centre in and had nothing to change into. It was November and no-one gave him a towel. Idiot.

Favourite lesson or activity?

I loved school and learning because I'm a nerd but I'd say Religious Studies or English Language.

What path did you take to get to where you are now and inspired you along the way?

I was sitting in Religious Studies one day and Mrs Hague put a note at the bottom of one of my essays to say I should consider being a journalist. I listened. When I was doing my A-levels I got some work experience at the JEP and then got the job full-time after I left University. After some farming working in between I came back. Who knows what's next?

Favourite aspect of your job?

It's different every day. I've written anything from the serious to the silly. I've covered murders, been undercover, been on drug busts, locked in hotel rooms, travelled, been hated, loved, thanked and threatened. You meet people from all walks of life and, although it's a difficult social climate to be a journalist, you can make a difference to peoples' lives.

What advice would you give students looking at their career options?

Nothing is forever if you don't want it to be. Decisions you make now are important but they don't set the course for the rest of your life. If you don't know what you want to be now, it doesn't matter. Mr Parkes, LQ legend, once told me about all the careers he had had before he became a teacher. There's nothing wrong with change. The day a job becomes a chore or you get comfortable is the day it is time to move on.

But, whatever you choose to do, whether you know it's temporary or whether you think it's your job for life, give it your all.

"I was sitting in Religious Studies one day and Mrs Hague put a note at the bottom of one of my essays to say I should consider being a journalist. I listened."

Second Hand Book Sale and Reading Evening, September 2020

Mrs Brooks, Literacy Across the Curriculum Coordinator

This is very advance notice of an exciting event we will be launching when we move to our new school building in just over a year!

September 2020 will see the first Les Quennevais School Second Hand Book Sale and Reading evening, during which we hope to not only help a variety of books find a second lease of life with a new owner, but also offer various tips and strategies that will enable parents and guardians to support their young people in reading at home, particularly after transitioning from Y6 to Y7.

We would be extremely grateful if you would consider donating any good quality books suitable for young people to us, so that over the next year we might collect enough for the book sale to go ahead. The books can be of any genre, and can include fiction, non-fiction and literary classics. Any money made during this event will be put back into the Literacy life of the school, which will enable us to fund various Literacy based trips, author visits and workshops.

Books can be dropped with the Site Team at the student entrance of the school, or if your child currently attends the school, can be sent in with them and handed to Mrs Brooks, Literacy Across the Curriculum Coordinator.

Thank you in advance!

Student wins Youth Arts Award



Year 10 student Finn, has loved being involved with the Arts at Les Quennevais starring both on-stage as Coach in Footloose and the Undertaker in Oliver but also off-stage operating the giant man-eating flower in Little Shop of Horrors. This is where his true passion lies, he aspires to be a professional theatre technician working on touring productions.

This passion was recently fuelled by a Trident work experience placement at the Opera House which Finn says he absolutely loved and can't wait to work there when he turns 16. Finn is always helping the school Drama and Music departments set up for events such as House Music, Battle of the Bands and House Drama whilst also participating in them!



Finn accepting his award after the final performance of 'Back to the 80s'

His love of theatre led him to join Youth Arts Jersey in early 2017 and he has been there every week to help prepare for the next upcoming show whilst honing his craft working on numerous productions, the most recent being 'Back to the 80s'.

This hard work and unremitting commitment was recently recognised with Finn being awarded the "Outstanding Contribution to Youth Arts Jersey" award. Finn said "I was extremely honoured to receive this award. The Youth Arts and the Arts in general are a big part of my life so it means a lot to have my commitment recognised like this in front of my family and friends".

Finn is going into Year 11 as Deputy Head Boy and is unsurprisingly looking forward to being part of the next incredible Les Quennevais production.

Eve & Finn give their view on the new school after working on site

It is phenomenal to see the progress and success of the build for the new Les Quennevais School, from just joining secondary school and hearing the faint rumours of the new school to actual plans and sketches of the build to now almost completion is absolutely crazy.

The amount of support and passion the build has gained from students and staff is great to see, and to walk around the current school to see artwork and photography projects of the new school is another thing to be proud of and is just a polite reminder that the Les Quennevais school community is so much more than what people see from the outside.

Now it's one thing to see the big build but to actually be there and work on it is a whole other experience. I hope to see the new school at some point and be able to walk past things that I worked on such as electrics and heating. The design for the school is definitely different to other secondary schools around the island and is so much bigger than the original school and others. To have lessons in the new school will be amazing as some of the sizes of the classrooms are huge and will hopefully be able to manage the building so much easier.

Events like sports day I think will play out so differently with our brand new massive field that we now have on the right hand side of the building, now the roar of the Les Quennevais students will be so much more louder and bolder as they cheer for their houses.

My Trident placement has inspired and motivated me to hopefully continue working in construction or electrics in the future, I may even be working on new Les Quennevais School Projects!



Finn & Eve with Head of Year 10 Mr Morris

Before starting my Trident work experience with Rok Regal, my thoughts on construction were quite vague. Men in a hi-vis and hard hats putting up houses. I'd never really thought about or appreciated how much effort goes into building a structure, especially one like the new school building.

During my time on the building site, I realised there was much more than laying bricks or putting slabs of concrete in. I learnt that the layout and levels are incredibly important. It takes time and lots of it. The complex blueprints I was looking at were confusing but I learned how to read them and understand what they were showing.

My time on the building site gave me a great insight in to the world of construction and also a matter of appreciation for buildings such as my own school, knowing how much effort goes into building it. I wish everyone could have had the experience I had in learning all about what goes into buildings and how they are so brilliantly constructed.

I was unaware of the jobs I would be set and what the placement would hold for me. I didn't intend on being in a job where I was acting as a Civil Engineer so the whole experience really opened my mind about my career options.

I'm so delighted that they have offered to have me back this summer and next summer and a job offer once I finish school.

"We are extremely pleased to welcome Eve back in the summer to spend some more time on site. We thoroughly enjoyed her time with us and hope that she has gained a good insight into construction and would consider a career in this exciting industry."
- Bob Mathews, Director Rok Regal



Eve making sure the levels are correct!

FAREWELL TO THE CLASS OF 2019



After an emotionally charged Leavers' Ceremony, students donned their best outfits and arrived in style at the L'Horizon Hotel for their Leavers' Ball. As always, the students had a fantastic evening and were a real credit to themselves and the Les Quennevais community. We wish them the best of luck for whatever the future holds for this fantastic year group and that they all get the exam results we all know they so thoroughly deserve! #alwaysquennevais



Meet the new student leadership team



How do you feel to hold a position at Les Quennevais School?

Finn, Jordan & Aaron - "We are so grateful to be given this opportunity. The school has given so much to all of us, so to be in a position to give something back means everything in our final year of school."

Katie - "I am so honoured to be the new Head Girl. I hope I can repay the trust that staff have put in me."

Cole - "I am very grateful to be given the role of Head Boy. I feel excited about the challenges coming up over the next 12 months and how we can tackle these together as a team."

Brooke & Robyn - "This is an incredible responsibility. We hope we can represent the school to the best of our ability."

What was the interview process like?

Bella, Eve & India - "We were so nervous. The interview process was intense and really pushed some of us out of our comfort zones. The resilience we had to demonstrate as well as our vision for the future and what the school means to us was spoken about in some detail. From the very first interviews for prefects to the final process with Mrs Hague was intense, but really pushed us all to be the very best we can be."

Katie - "The interview process was nerve-wracking. The whole experience from initial prefect interviews to the final interview with Mr Morris, Mr Harris and Mrs Hague really made me think about how I could improve. Each stage definitely helped improve my confidence along the way."

Cole - "I felt both nervous and excited. I had prepared a speech for my vision and what the school meant to me – that was probably the easiest bit as there was so much to talk about regarding what Les Quennevais has to offer and what the school can do for its students. The questions in the interview kept me on my toes and really made me think about the core values Les Quennevais holds."

Finn, Jordan & Aaron - "It was a really interesting experience. We are all friends and all wanted to support each other, yet we all knew we were in competition for places. It definitely helped having information to prepare speeches – hopefully this experience will help us for further interviews in the future."

Why was it important to gain a position?

Finn, Jordan & Aaron - "We wanted to be in a position where we could represent the school, meet with outside guests and show what an outstanding community we have."

Maisey & India - "We wanted to give something back to the school. We had all looked up to previous student leaders and wanted to have the opportunity to be part of this team and try to make positive changes for the school."

Katie - "Les Quennevais has always provided the best opportunities for students. For me, the school is the foundations of which our lives are built, so I felt it was important to keep these legacies and to help continue to develop the school in any way I can."

Cole - "Les Quennevais has given me so much over the last four years. I want to give something back. To gain the position of Head Boy has made me feel so proud that I belong to this special community."



Head Girl - Katie, Head Boy - Cole

Deputy Head Girls - Bella, Brooke, Eve, India, Maisy and Robyn, Deputy Head Boys - Finn, Jordan and Aaron

What do you hope to achieve over the next year?

Student leadership team - "We all just want to be the best advocates for Les Quennevais. We realise that we will be the last Year 11 students to go through this school building. It is such an exciting time for the whole school and wider community. We want to help with the transition of the new school and ensure that all the students take the special feeling of the current building and fill the new build with nothing but positivity and hopes for the future."

What does Les Quennevais School mean to you?

Katie - "Les Quennevais School is a community that helps awaken passions, shape character and enhance and celebrate diversity. The school has empowered me to feel confident to approach challenges with a new found self-belief."

Cole - "Les Quennevais is more than just a school; it's a community where the foundations of which are built on passion, respect, resilience and ambition. The school is close to my heart and will always remain there."



Staff visit the new school with one year to go



Staff at Les Quennevais School marked one year until they take ownership of their new school with a tour of the new building on Monday. This was the first visit for many staff and they were very excited to see the state of the art facilities being built for them to work in from September 2020. The new school being constructed by Rok Regal, in partnership with Jersey Property Holdings and the full involvement of the school, will provide modern teaching and learning facilities for up to 850 students.

Deputy Headteacher, Paul Letch described how staff, 'were amazed at the space and features that will be provided within the new school. We are very proud of how our staff continue to deliver outstanding experiences and results from within the existing building, alongside meeting the demands of preparing for the new building. It is very exciting for us all to see how the new building is developing and for the team to start to consider how they will be able to work differently and with even greater impact on student learning once we move in.'

'Our friends at Rok Regal and the JPH design and construction teams have been so passionate about working with us to achieve our vision for an outstanding building that meets the needs of education in the 21st Century and that will be an important community facility for the west of the island. The facilities that will be provided will have the flexibility and attention to detail to ensure the school will be the envy of most across the UK.'

Business and Facilities Manager, Alex Richardson explained how the design includes many aspects that the local community would wish to use outside of the school day. 'We envisage a high demand to access the features of the new building, which will be suitable for community education, sport and business use. These facilities include;

- Main hall with stage and bespoke lighting and sound systems.
- Two drama studios with bleacher seating for smaller presentations and performances.
- A 175 seater 'Hypothesis Room' which acts as a lecture theatre and conference space.
- State of the art, design technology workshops and food technology spaces, including overhead cameras for demonstration purposes, a 'Fab Lab' and discovery spaces.
- A bistro style diner and eating area offering flexible hours.
- Large art, photography and textiles studios.
- Multiple tiered computer suites for enhanced vision of the teacher demonstrations.
- High speed wi-fi throughout.
- Breakout spaces for smaller group working.
- A sports centre containing 2 sports halls, dance and yoga studio and cardio gym zone.
- External hardcourt areas providing tennis courts, 3 netball courts (and one indoor court).
- A half pitch 4G area for hockey and five-a-side football.
- A large field for track and field and grass based sports.
- Outdoor social and work spaces, including sheltered courtyards, an amphitheatre and balconies.
- Generous parking availability.
- A unique science zone - featuring a 'Super Lab' and outdoor learning spaces for scientific research.

With just over a year to go until these facilities become available to the local community we would love to hear from anyone who wishes to discuss the opportunities of external hire and use from September 2020. This could be small groups such as; a society for presentations and club meetings, a band for rehearsal space, sports club or even a business who may wish to run a full conference across the whole site over a few days in the school holidays.' Our Business Manager, Alex Richardson can be contacted at school on 743171.

The tour took in all these amazing areas and the last word should be left to a staff member who was heard to say; 'I can't wait to get in and start working here. The new school offers so much to our students. We can see so many opportunities to build on the hard work we are already doing in the current building. I have a great affection for the existing school but it is about time the children and community of the west of the island had something like this because it is what they deserve.'

The tour became quite emotional for some who had tears in their eyes as they realised the potential it provides for the future of Les Quennevais School, its students and the local community.

Drone pictures courtesy of Rok Regal



Mr Arnett reflects on a busy first year as Head of Music

It has been a very busy academic year in the Music Department at Les Quennevais. Here are some of the highlights:

We started with the **Nearly Christmas Concert** back in December and this was closely followed by the all-encompassing production of **'Oliver!'** at the Jersey Opera House in January. I have spent many hours in the orchestra pit at the Opera House as a musician, but this was my first time there as MD, and I loved it! The orchestra that came together was a mix of pupils and local musicians who volunteered their support and considerable skills. The pupils rose to the occasion and gained invaluable experience working alongside such experienced and supportive musicians. I have just started looking at the music for our next production - **Annie**. Here we go again!



The incredible orchestra for 'Oliver!'



The school steel band

The Steel Bands have been part of the musical life of Les Quennevais and the Island for the past 20 years. We started two new bands this year, one in Year 7 and one in Year 8. They have worked very hard indeed, performing at various school events as well as across the Island. Gigs this year have included playing at The Royal Yacht as part of International Women's Day, the Barclays Jersey Boat Show, La Moye School's summer BBQ and a number of private functions. We look forward to starting next academic year performing at the Wilderness Ball, honouring Durrell's 60th Anniversary in September.

Our inaugural **Junior House Music** was launched this year. The aim of this new competition is to shine a spotlight on solo performers, many of whom are working diligently in their own time on their musical talents but are largely unknown to the school as a whole. I very much look forward to seeing this event grow in scale in future years.



Winners of the Junior House Music competition



The Les Quennevais Jersey Sings Choir

Les Quennevais School proudly took part in **Jersey Sings** this term. When we started I didn't quite realise the sheer quantity of music and words that the pupils had to learn off by heart (including a whole song in Jèrriais). We rehearsed lunchtimes and after school, and the Year 7 pupils involved put in a huge amount of effort in their own time to ensure that when the performance day came, they were confident, assured and a credit to the school.

The last big bang of the year was the **Battle of the Bands** competition. This was the culmination of work done as part of the Y8 and Y9 curriculum, as well as a lot of rehearsal and individual practice outside of lesson time for the open section of the competition. This event has always been a personal favourite of mine as it involves so many pupils across the school and really showcases the huge musical talent we have at Les Quennevais. Many thanks to all the staff and parents who supported the event.

There is no doubt that music education is important (just ask google!). I am very lucky to be working in a school where this is recognised, valued and supported. In curriculum time we strive to give pupils a variety of musical experiences and equip them to take their musical learning further if they choose to do so. Playing an instrument or singing is a discipline, and an incredibly valuable one that repays the effort put in over an entire lifetime. I have had many conversations with adults who regret having given up an instrument in their youth, or, never got the chance to start.



Instrumental/vocal tuition is available in school through the Jersey Music Service (<https://www.jms.je/>). There are also a huge range of free courses and resources available on the internet and there is no reason why anyone with access to an instrument cannot learn independently if they have the motivation - please just ask if you would like me to point you in the right direction.

Having spoken to numerous students I know that there are many guitars, keyboards etc. lurking out there, unused, in cupboards and under beds, just waiting to be played. If anyone would like to donate any unwanted instruments to the Music Department we would be delighted to put them to good use.

Learning to play a musical instrument, or to sing, is a long game. It takes commitment, resilience and sustained effort over time - excellent training in my opinion for adult life.

Introducing the new School Governor - Nigel Smith



Nigel Smith, the newly appointed School Governor, attended school in England with three younger sisters. He left school at 18 and joined the British Army.

After initial training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst he served in the Army for 32 years, travelling the world extensively before retiring as Lieutenant Colonel.

Now very happily settled in Jersey, Nigel is involved with trying to help the charity sector and military veterans. He enjoys supporting Jersey Reds, playing golf and sailing.

Where did you go to school?

Berkhamsted School, 1969 - 1982.

What was your biggest challenge at school?

Prioritising – be it what subjects to choose for ‘A’ Level, friendships or activities/hobbies.

Which aspect of school helped you become the person you are today?

Great teachers who encouraged, inspired and challenged, being given responsibility and being introduced to interests, activities and hobbies.

Why did you choose to go into the military?

I was inspired by my Grandfather and his experiences of the Second World War.

What is the most important thing you have learnt from your career in the military?

Attitude is everything. If you think you can, you probably will.

Why did you decide to become a Governor and what excites you about working with Les Quennevais?

I believe helping to inspire the next generation to be the best they can be is both an honour and a great privilege. I jumped at the chance when asked. Les Quennevais has a great vibe to it - the new build, its community feel and its current record for excellence and achievement makes it an especially exciting time to be a part of the school.

Hobbies and interests?

Most sport, outdoor pursuits and travelling.

What advice would you give students looking at their career options?

Follow your dreams and don't give up.

***“Attitude is everything.
If you think you can,
you probably will”***

Transition Days

Mrs P Goodchild, Head of Year 7



It was such a privilege to welcome the class of 2024 for their Transition Days, kindly sponsored by JT Global. Our new Year 7 students for September, to our school community. We had a full two day programme of lessons in English, Maths, Art, French, Geography and Design and Technology igniting the students' passion for learning.

All departments created such inspiring learning experiences, and each individual student took on each challenge with great enthusiasm. This year group showed great respect and ambition from the outset and they are set to be an exciting year group. We look forward to welcoming them back in September.



Student engineers keep winning

Mr D Ferguson, Head of Design & Technology



A team of Les Quennevais budding engineers took home the Gold in the cardboard boat race run by the Channel Island group of Professional Engineers. Our Year 8 students take part in the cardboard boat race at Havre de Pas bathing pool every year as it is a great day for all involved. The cardboard boat race is a fun and educational event to promote engineering amongst young students. The day involves students designing a boat made entirely from cardboard that they waterproof during construction to sail two students around the pool's island and back to the pier. Our group was more than a full minute faster than the few successful teams to make the journey without sinking.



This event continues the winning streak for the Les Quennevais Design Technology department as our students were also successful earlier this term in the Fluid Power Challenge run by the STEM UK Secondary Engineers. All students had worked in the STEM Club to create an advanced hydraulic powered mechanical arm. Judges were impressed that our students had based their design on Biomimicry and had also considered the environmental impact of the design and materials used. Our students presented themselves professionally and were an absolute pleasure and made the school proud as they were the only team to help clear up after all events.

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We would like to thank our corporate partners for their generous financial support. We are proud to have these companies associated as Corporate Partners of Les Quennevais School, working with us to make a difference and invest in our young people. If you'd like to become one of our partners, please get in touch with our Business Manager Mr Richardson.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 4th September - Staff Inset Day

Thursday 5th September - First day of term

Wednesday 11th September - Year 9 CATS Day

Thursday 12th September - Battle of Britain Inset Day

Friday 13th September - Transition Projects Day

Wednesday 18th September - Year 11 GCSE Information Evening

Tuesday 24th September - Year 8 HPV Vaccinations

Thursday 10th October - Open Evening

Thursday 17th - Tuesday 22nd October - Year 11 Geography Trip

Monday 28th September - Friday 1st November - Half Term

Monday 4th November - Festival of the Arts 'Transcend' Fashion Show at
Harbour Gallery

Monday 18th - Tuesday 19th November - Inter-House football & netball

Monday 25th November - Year 11 Mocks Week 1

Thursday 28th November - Year 9 Subject Evening

Friday 13th December - Rock 'n' Roll Bingo Evening

Wednesday 18th December - Pre-Christmas Concert



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