



THE QUEENIE GAZETTE

THE AUTUMN EDITION

BOO!

WELCOME, ONE AND ALL, TO QUEEN MARGARET'S FIRST EVER EDITION OF THE QUEENIE GAZETTE!

This is such a thrilling experience for all the students who worked so hard on this, to show their work and their dedication to this new challenge!

SO, HOW WILL IT WORK?

Well, we have chosen to make seasonal gazettes so that we can be there for all the major events, helping you with themed (and iconic) recipes, a look into the many ways this holiday is celebrated across the world and helpful decorating tips to spice up your holiday season! As this is our Autumn Edition, our focus will, naturally, be on the spooky, and mystifying, Halloween!

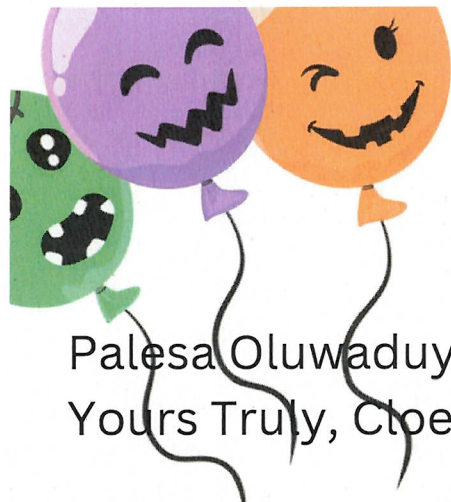
The distribution of these gazettes is currently being discussed, so look out for our Winter edition for more information!

WHAT HAS OUR CREATIVE

WRITING CLUB BEEN UP TO?

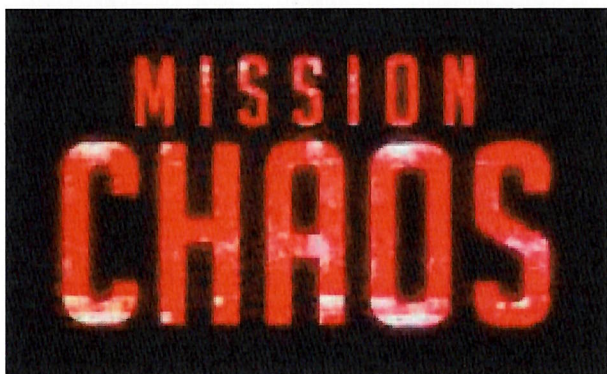
Besides creating and managing this gazette, we have also been taking part in competitions, one of which was entered into before the summer by Ellenor Stevens(S3),





Palesa Oluwaduyile(S3) and,
Yours Truly, Cloe Massyn(S5).

Excitingly, all three of us have won a place in the Mission Chaos: Treasured Tales book! This event was organized by Young Writers, a fantastic organization allowing young people to be creative and gain confidence in their work. We have also just received another two competitions ready to be entered, so if you are a fan of writing poetry or of Edgar Allen Poe style writing, and would like to enter, please see me (Cloe Massyn), about receiving an entrance form to take part in these amazing opportunities!



Mission Chaos Logo

To celebrate our win in this competition, here are the three short stories selected to be published!

ELLENOR STEVENS (S3)

THE FIGHT

Where are they? They should be here by now! Don't tell me they've been captured. We must go, it's not safe here. Earlier that day. Breaking news! An air born virus is spreading, killing everyone over the age of 14, to amplify the ongoing crisis Vampires have suddenly appeared and are kidnaping children. Here should be fine to rest for a bit. "June I'm hungry!" "Hi, hungry I'm June, sorry but we left in such a hurry we didn't bring much food, here you can have one cracker, save the rest for later." "Okay, thank you June!" "You're welcome"



PALESA OLUWADUYILE (S3)

STORY UNAVAILABLE AT THIS

TIME
CLUE' MASSYN (S5)

MIRROR

He stared at me. Frantic eyes searching, searching for something egregiously. Dizzy hands gripped at the basin, heavy breath turning erratic; lungs stinging with scarce oxygen. His shoulders stiffened with unbridled fury, face falling forward. The clench loosened, and a crack sounded. Shard's splintering, liquid vermilion trickling down his fractured face, yet he was unmoved in his quivering wrath. Gaping mouth inefficacious in its pursuit. I could not speak, could not feel the shards, nor the throbbing hand in which they were set. He watched me, unrelenting, apoplectic, and I shakingly stared toward the fragmented monster that reflected back at me.

HALLOWEEN AND ITS GLOBAL VARIATIONS

Halloween, celebrated on October 31st, is a festival rich in history, originating from ancient Celtic traditions in Europe. Known for its spooky imagery, costumes, trick-or-treating, and jack-o'-lanterns, Halloween has evolved over centuries. While it is most widely celebrated in the United States, different countries around the world have adopted or adapted it, creating unique versions that reflect their local cultures, histories, and beliefs. Let's explore how Halloween and its variations are celebrated across the globe.



Classic carved pumpkins



1. UNITED STATES: THE HEART OF HALLOWEEN TRADITION

In the United States, Halloween is a **major holiday** marked by fun and fright. The evening of October 31st is synonymous with **trick-or-treating**, where children dress in costumes and go door-to-door collecting candy.

Boo!

Haunted houses, horror movie marathons, and elaborate costume parties are popular, not just for kids but for adults as well. Pumpkins are carved into jack-o'-lanterns and homes are decorated with skeletons, cobwebs, and other eerie ornaments. Halloween here **blends ancient Celtic customs with modern commercialism**, making it both festive and spooky.

2. IRELAND: THE BIRTHPLACE OF HALLOWEEN

Ireland is considered the birthplace of Halloween, tracing back to the ancient Celtic festival of **Samhain**. Celebrated over 2,000 years ago, Samhain marked the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter, a time when it was believed that the veil between the living and the dead was at its thinnest. Today, Ireland celebrates Halloween in much the same way as the United States, with costumes, bonfires, and trick-or-treating. However, traditional games like **snap-apple** (where children try to bite an apple hanging from a string) and **barmbrack**, a fruitcake with symbolic items inside, are uniquely Irish.



Barmbrack



3. MEXICO: DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS (DAY OF THE DEAD)

Though often associated with Halloween due to its timing, **Día de los Muertos** in Mexico is a distinct and deeply rooted tradition. Celebrated from October 31st to November 2nd, this festival is a joyous remembrance of deceased loved ones.



Ofrenda

Families build elaborate **ofrendas** (altars) in their homes, decorating them with marigolds, candles, photos, and offerings of food and drink for the departed. Sugar skulls, skeleton figures, and vibrant colors dominate the celebrations, and unlike Halloween's eerie tone, Día de los Muertos is a time of celebration, honoring the continuation of life even in death.

4. SPAIN: DÍA DE TODOS LOS SANTOS (ALL SAINTS' DAY)

In Spain, the focus around Halloween is on **Día de Todos los Santos** or **All Saints' Day**, celebrated on November 1st.

This is a deeply **religious occasion** where families visit cemeteries to clean and decorate the graves of their loved ones with flowers, candles, and prayers. The night before, on October 31st, some regions, like Galicia, incorporate more Halloween-like customs such as Samaín, a festival with roots in the Celtic past. In recent years, American-style Halloween customs like costumes and parties have become more common, particularly in urban areas.



Samaín
Festival





5. JAPAN: KAWASAKI HALLOWEEN PARADE

Though Halloween is not traditionally celebrated in Japan, in recent years it has become increasingly popular, especially in urban centers like Tokyo. One of the largest Halloween events in the country is the **Kawasaki Halloween Parade**, held annually in the city of Kawasaki, near Tokyo. This parade draws thousands of participants dressed in elaborate, creative costumes, some drawing inspiration from anime, manga, and Western horror films. Rather than trick-or-treating, Halloween in Japan focuses on costume parties, club events, and elaborate displays of spooky decorations in shopping malls and public spaces.

6. UNITED KINGDOM: GUY

FAWKES NIGHT

In the United Kingdom, Halloween is celebrated in a fashion similar to that of the United States, with costumes, trick-or-treating, and parties. However, there is also another celebration called **Guy Fawkes Night** or **Bonfire Night**, which takes place on November 5th, just a few days after Halloween. This tradition commemorates the failed Gunpowder Plot of 1605, when Guy Fawkes attempted to blow up the Houses of Parliament. On Bonfire Night, fireworks are set off, bonfires are lit, and effigies of Guy Fawkes are burned. While not directly related to Halloween, its proximity on the calendar often leads to a blending of the two events, with a focus on fire, light, and community celebration.



7. CHINA: HUNGRY GHOST

FESTIVAL

In China and other parts of East Asia, a festival with similarities to Halloween is the Hungry Ghost Festival, celebrated in late summer or early autumn. This festival, rooted in Taoist and Buddhist traditions, is held during the seventh month of the lunar calendar and honors the spirits of ancestors and wandering ghosts.



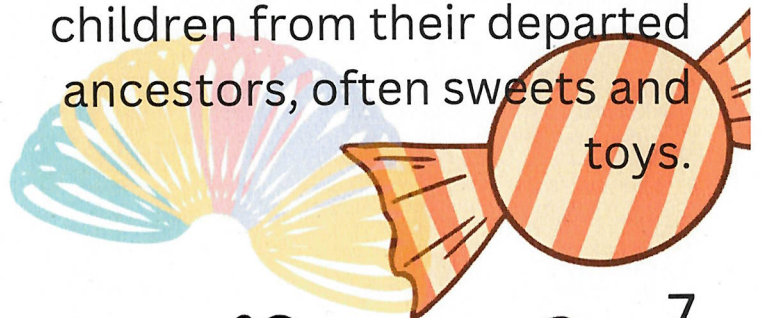
It is believed that during this time, the gates of the underworld open, allowing spirits to roam the earth. Families burn incense, offer food, and burn paper money as gifts for the dead, ensuring they are cared for in the afterlife.

While not linked to Halloween, the festival shares themes of honoring the dead and placating spirits.



8. ITALY: TUTTI I SANTI AND TUTTI I MORTI

In Italy, Halloween has become more popular in recent years, especially among younger generations, who enjoy costume parties and spooky decorations. However, the traditional Italian holidays of Tutti i Santi (All Saints' Day) on November 1st and Tutti i Morti (All Souls' Day) on November 2nd remain more important in the cultural calendar. These days are devoted to visiting cemeteries, attending church services, and paying respects to deceased relatives. In some regions, such as Sicily, there is a custom of giving gifts to children from their departed ancestors, often sweets and toys.



9. GERMANY: REFORMATION DAY AND HALLOWEEN

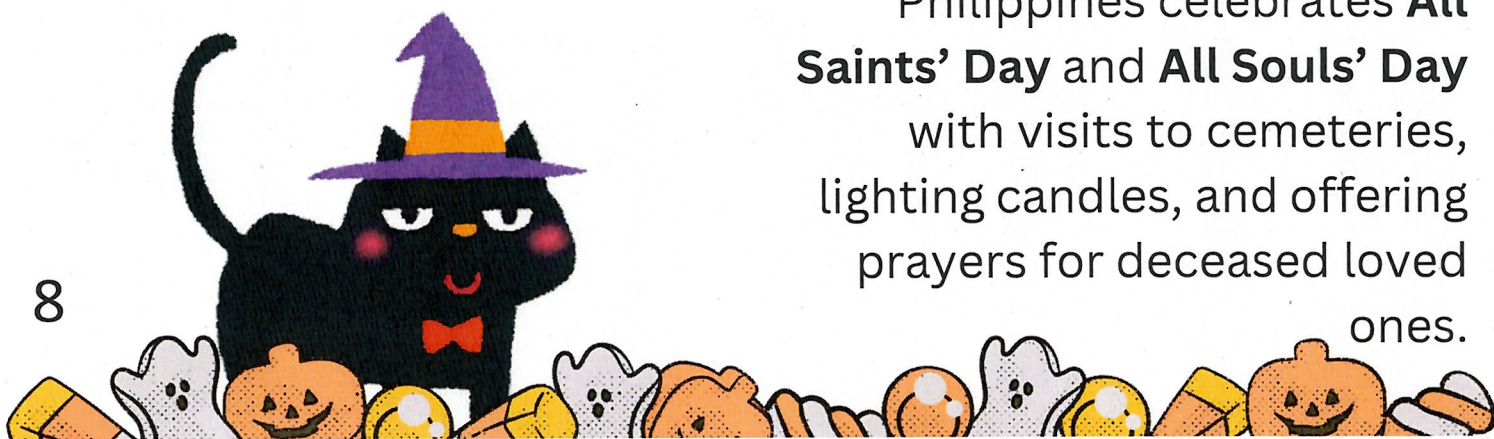
In Germany, October 31st is not only Halloween but also **Reformation Day**, commemorating Martin Luther's nailing of the 95 Theses to the church door in 1517, which sparked the Protestant Reformation. In Protestant areas, this day is marked with religious services and celebrations of Luther's legacy. However, in recent years, Halloween has gained popularity, particularly among younger generations, who enjoy dressing up, attending parties, and carving pumpkins. Trick-or-treating, while not as widespread as in the U.S., is becoming more common in some urban areas.

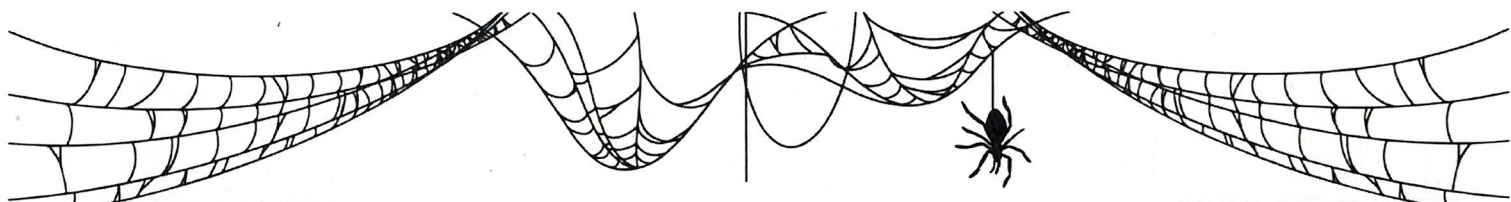
10. PHILIPPINES: PANGANGALULUWA



Group ready to sing

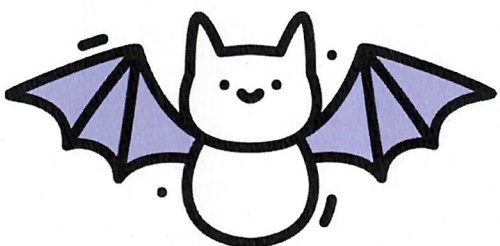
In the Philippines, a Halloween-like tradition called **Pangangaluluwa** is observed in some rural areas. On the eve of All Saints' Day (November 1st), children go door-to-door singing songs in exchange for prayers and alms for the souls in purgatory. Though this custom has faded over time, it is being revived as part of efforts to preserve local traditions. Additionally, like many Catholic countries, the Philippines celebrates **All Saints' Day** and **All Souls' Day** with visits to cemeteries, lighting candles, and offering prayers for deceased loved ones.





CONCLUSION

Halloween, though deeply rooted in ancient Celtic traditions, has become a global celebration that takes on many forms. While countries like the United States, Ireland, and the UK celebrate it with costumes, parties, and eerie festivities, others, like Mexico, the Philippines, and China, focus on honoring the dead and maintaining spiritual connections with ancestors. These variations of Halloween reflect the unique histories and cultural values of each country, showcasing how a festival can be adapted to fit different worldviews while maintaining its core themes of death, remembrance, and celebration.



QMA UPDATES

What's been happening around QMA? We don't always know what's happening, maybe you were late one morning, or you missed a day and suddenly half your year is on a museum trip. But we're here to keep both the students, and their parents, posted about all we do here at Queen Margaret!

DYW EVENT

On Friday 6th September QMA was excited to launch our 7th DYW Project. These are designed to develop essential employability skills in key employment areas. We are delighted to have received funding from DYW Ayrshire to start these projects. The latest project is Nature Nurturers, which will let students explore various horticultural skills and achieve the SQA SCQF Level 4 Rural Skills qualification.



Over time, students will hope to sell products to staff and families, allowing the project to become more sustainable. So, lookout for some fresh veg in the upcoming years!



Picture of ribbon cutting to mark the beginning of new horticulture course

Though it might not be a competition, QMA have the largest number of DYW courses in South Ayrshire! Other than horticulture, there are six other DYW courses here at Queenie:

- Quality Bean Barista
- Queenalicious Smoothies
- Pedal and Metal Bike Maintenance
- Garden Cafe
- PE Sports Academy
- Palm Tree Nail Bar

Now, around 200 students will be taking part in these courses, educating young students on vital skills needed for the workforce. We will always be tracking potential courses to introduce to the school, so look out for updates here at the Queenie Gazette!

We respect your right

**to
ARTICLE 28**

**Children have the right to an
education**



PROM GOSSIP

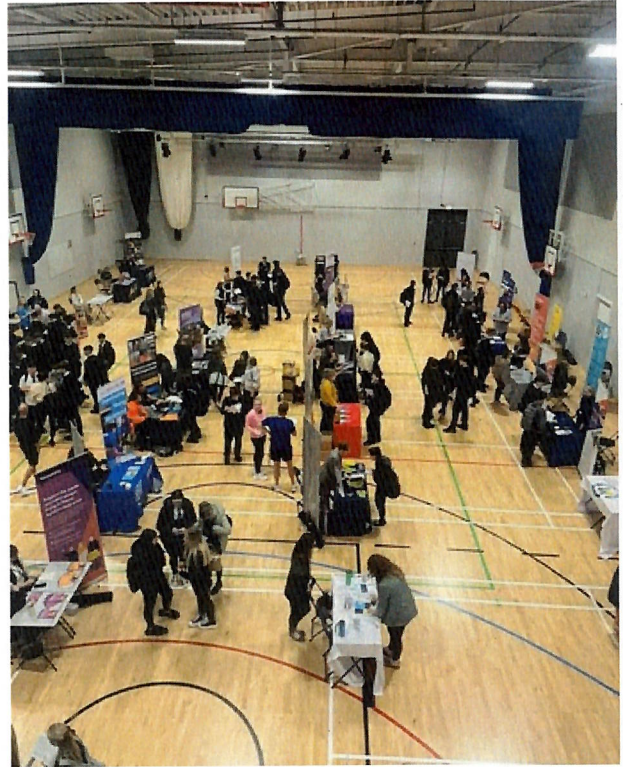
Not much is confirmed about this year's prom as it is still early in the year, but in the future, we are sure to see some fundraising and reusing of the pricey prom outfits soon enough! I am sure this year's prom will be great, especially considering the involvement of the pupils, and just how beautiful prom was last year. I hope all the S6's are excited for this monumental event!

HALLOWED JOKES

What car did the ghost drive to the party in? A BOOGatti!

THE CAREERS FAIR

Just last week, our school was visited by a whole host of organizations for the annual Careers Fair here at Queen Margaret!



Picture of the Careers Fair in full swing.

Almost 30 diverse groups were present, ranging from quite a few universities (such as Strathclyde, whose representatives were very chatty), to the NHS (whose many representatives were, unsurprisingly, also very chatty).



This event offered a great insight into different pathways young people can take after they leave school, yet did not neglect suggestions of what students can be doing while still in school. One of the best examples of this is VASA (Voluntary Action South Ayrshire).

VASA is an organization that was at this event. Their goal is to empower young people to volunteer in school and in their community. The VASA representative, Sarah, talks about how she was a “very anxious young person” and that “volunteering gave me confidence”, at which point she had gained an audience of around five eager teens, a true testament to her volunteering courage. Not only does this give young people confidence, but by actively advertising and supporting young people to volunteer, they make the future of these teens that much brighter.

VASA also runs the Saltire Awards. The Saltire Award is given to those who volunteer for certain lengths of time. By using milestones that are far more encouraging, it ensures that this honor is less stressful and less demanding to achieve. This is especially good for those still in school who also have their studies to focus on.



Saltire Award

Stages

This award is available to young people who are 11-25 years old. If you are currently a volunteer or would like to take part in this award, just look up saltire awards and you should be able to sign up online and start tracking your hours!

All attending parties on pg



THE SKI TRIP

The Ski Trip is an annual event for seniors (S4-6), and is a fantastic opportunity to learn the sport of skiing, something few of us have much practice in. This exciting trip is in the beautiful country of Italy, in the Aosta Valley. These lucky 40 pupils will be staying in Pila, a very well rated ski resort.



Pila, ski resort in Italy

This trip is a fantastic opportunity to learn a new skill or maybe even develop a pre-existing one! The students will depart in the last week of January, a welcome sanctuary from the dreadful prelims for seniors, I'm sure!

We respect your right

ARTICLE 31

Children have the right to
leisure and rest

TRICKS AND TREATS FOR THE PERFECT HALLOWEEN

Here are some festive tricks for devious decorations, and a rambunctious recipe to complete your sublimely spooky Halloween!

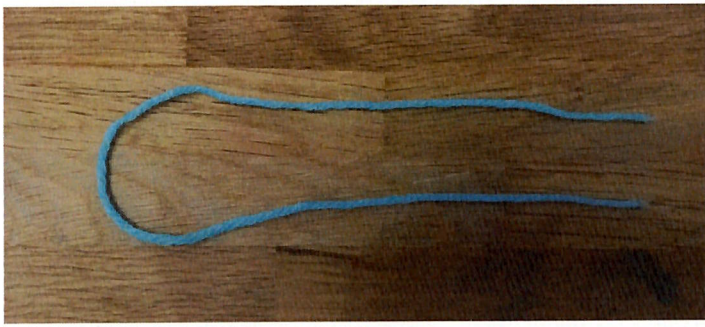
PUMPKIN DECORATION

What you'll need:

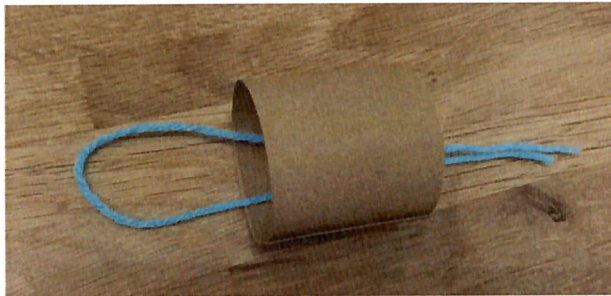
- Cardboard tube
- Green Card
- Glue
- Orange wool
- Ruler
- Scissors

1. Measure 5 cm (about 1.97 in) of the cardboard tube then cut it
2. Measure 30cm (about 11.81 in) of orange wool then cut it
3. Fold the piece of yarn in half

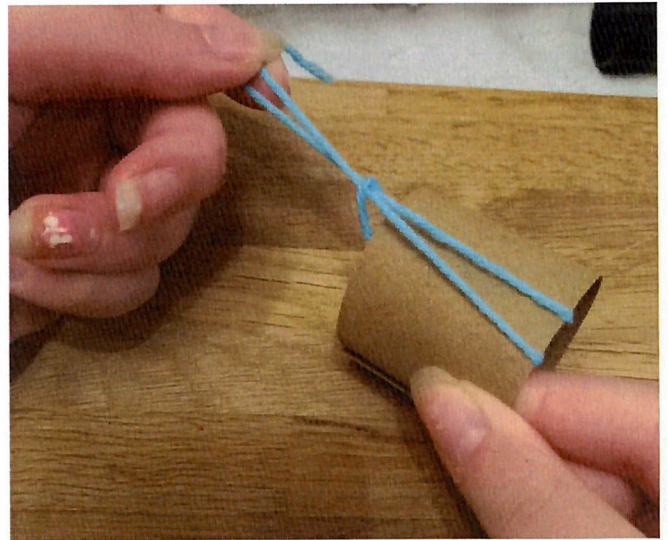
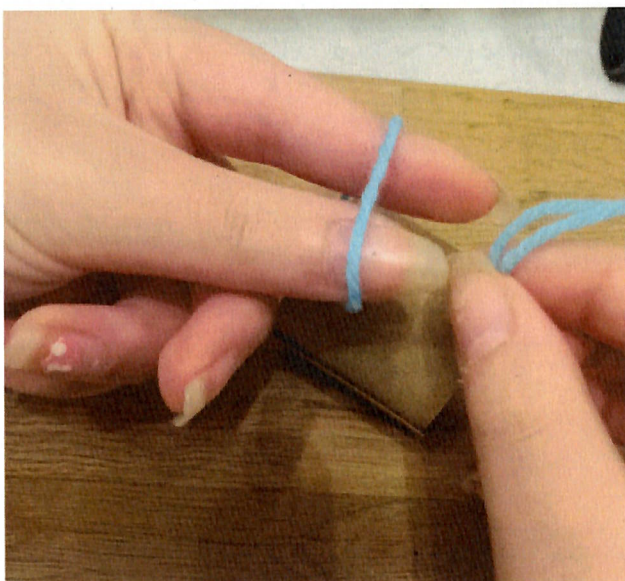




4. Place the folded yarn through the cardboard cylinder



5. Then pull the two loose ends of the yarn through the looped end of the yarn and pull tight



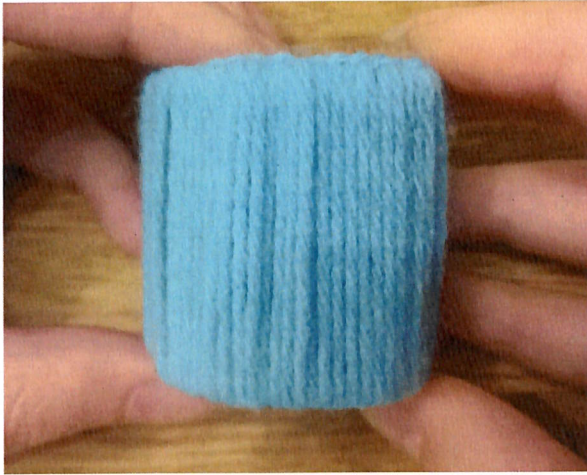
6. Repeat steps 2-5 as many times as needed to fully cover all the cardboard tube so no cardboard is visible



7. Once it's covered, gather all the ends of the yarn and tie them together using another piece of leftover yarn



8. Once you have done this, push the tied-up bits of yarn inside the cardboard cylinder.



9. Then cut out a leaf or stalk shape out of the green card and position the bit of green card atop your pumpkin



10. Now you have a little pumpkin decoration! I only had blue yarn readily available, so we'll just say my pumpkin is a crown prince pumpkin!

WITCHES HAT HAIR BAND

What you'll need:

- Black, orange and gold card
 - Glue
 - Scissors
 - Black plastic hair band
 - ruler
1. First roll the black card into a cone shape and then cut off the extra paper to make it level
 2. Then cut out a circle that fits under the cone and glue the two together
 3. Measure a 5 cm width rectangle that goes all the way around the cone and cut it.



4. Then glue the rectangle to the cone

5. Cut a 5cm square out of the gold card and then cut a 3cm square out of it

6. Glue the gold square in the middle of the orange rectangle

7. Then glue the cone onto the black plastic hair band

8. Now be warned, this is only for the most wicked witches and warlocks! Now have fun trick or treating!

SWEET PUMPKIN PIE

Ingredients for filling (for a medium sized Pyrex):

- ½ kg filo pastry
- 1 kg of boiled and mashed pumpkin (avoid orange pumpkins, look for crown prince pumpkin for best results)
- 200g ground walnuts
- 150g oil
- 180g honey

- 100g (about 3.53 oz) sugar
- 100g (about 3.53 oz) breadcrumbs
- 2 tbsp cinnamon

Ingredients for syrup:

- 180g honey
- 100g sugar
- 220g water

Method: for

1. Peel and clean the pumpkin (remove seeds). Grate it coarsely. Boil it until soft then strain it overnight in a cheesecloth.

2. Put half the oil in a pot and heat it up. Place the strained pumpkin in the pot and cook for 5-10 minutes, gently stirring so it does not stick to the pot

3. Take it off the heat and add the honey, breadcrumbs, walnuts and the cinnamon, mixing until well combined.

4. Grease the dish with oil and lay 8-9 sheets of filo pastry, brushing each sheet with oil before laying the next sheet.



5. Put the pumpkin mixture into the pastry lined dish and fold the filo pastry in over the mixture. Lay the rest of the filo pastry sheets on top, oiling in between each sheet and making sure to oil the last sheet too. Cut off any excess filo pastry hanging off the sides of the dish, score the top of the pie with a knife and cook for about 45 minutes at 180 degrees Celsius.

6. Take the pie out of the oven and allow to cool completely

Method: for syrup

7. Boil the honey, sugar and water for 5 minutes. Pour the scolding hot syrup evenly over the top of the pie.

8. Let it cool before you eat and enjoy!



HALLOWED JOKES

What happened when the guy couldn't pay for his exorcism?
He gets repossessed!

FAREWELL, READERS!

Us students at QMA have been so proud to present our first ever Autumn Edition! Now, to mark the end of the beginning of this exciting new journey, we want to thank all the creative writing club members who worked hard to make this first edition all that it is!



We would also like to thank the teachers in the English dept for allowing us to run this club, and another thank you to Ms. Browne for letting us share this gazette with you all today. The reason for this gazette, the inspiration behind it, is to allow students to be both creative and involved in their school, which we can only hope will be achieved through this. Throughout the school year we'd like you to read these seasonal gazettes and realise the commitment of us students, and how much effort we have put into this gazette to create something that we all love!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Participants in the Careers Fair.

- Active schools
- Ashleigh (Scotland) Ltd
- Bernardo's
- British Army
- Collins Aerospace
- COPFS
- Edinburgh Napier

- GE Caledonian
- Glasgow City College
- Jackson Boyd
- JP Morgan
- Keir Construction
- Lowmac Alloys
- M&M Production
- Nails by Cheryl
- NHS & Arran
- Queen Margaret University
- Robertson Construction
- SAAS
- SRA
- Storm Aviation
- Thriving Communities
- TSB
- University of Strathclyde
- UWS
- VASA
- Voiceability
- PRA

Thank you to all those who took part in the careers fair!

Thank you to Elenor Stevens for her 100-word story (The Fight) and her fantastic tips for a perfect Halloween (Pumpkin Decoration and Witches Hat Hair Band)!



Thank you to Scarlet McLaughlin Percy for her insights into the happenings of prom!

Thank you to Cloe Massyn for her pumpkin pie recipe and her hard work as editor to make this gazette possible!

Thank you to Karyss McKenzie for photos taken during the DYW event!

Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen. We are so excited to start this new journey with you all, and we hope to see you again for Christmas!

Thank you to Ms. Parry for letting us use her classroom and allowing us the opportunity to make this gazette happen!

Thank you to Mr. McGeough for his details about the DYW event!



First edition of The Queenie Gazette
– The Autumn Edition
Autumn of 2024