



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

QMS STUDENTS EARN WESTMONT SCHOLARSHIPS

Trailblazers Designing Solutions to Real-Life Problems

December 5, 2023 – Duncan, BC, Canada – The next generation is busy ideating and working to develop solutions to real-world issues centred around sustainability, health and our environment. The Westmont Prize is an annual design competition, in its third year, that recognizes their efforts. To win the prize requires teamwork, leadership, innovative thinking and strong time management and this year, two QMS teams earned first and second place at the awards ceremony hosted at the University of Victoria.

Open to students in Grades 7–12 from schools across North America, teams of four are challenged with choosing a current social issue, this year based on the theme of sustainability. Westmont teams attend a design workshop in November to further design a solution for their selected problem, then create a seven-minute pitch video. Each video is analysed by a panel of judges who then rank the top three teams based on their ability to showcase their quality of teamwork, process, ideation and to highlight obstacles they overcame together.

“It was with great excitement that we were awarded the top two prizes,” explains Math Teacher, Mark Swannell. “Our students’ ability to fulfill the requirements of the competition is a testament to their resilience and commitment.”

Second place was awarded to Grade 11 students, Kipling Szasz, Rui Wang, Maggie Preston and Clara Van Muiswinkel, for their presentation on *Post Operation Gauze Removal*. Their work to develop a sustainable, affordable, colour changing gauze to decrease the incidents of retained surgical foreign objects (RSFOs) in surgery, earned them a \$5,000 scholarship to a university/school of their choice.

First place was awarded to the Grade 12 team of Kieran Denny, Maia Cassie, Nyomi Godard and Sophia Le for their video on creating a [Sustainable Fashion](#) app to encourage clothing swaps and mitigate the impact of fast fashion processes on our environment. This team earned a \$10,000 scholarship to a university/school of their choice.

“All the elements that we are looking for in a very modern approach to education are featured here and we are so proud of these students and their teacher!” adds Head of School, David Robertson.

About Queen Margaret's School

QMS is a university-preparatory, all gender day and boarding school located in Duncan, BC. Our purpose is to prepare young trailblazers, as no two journeys are the same. With an educational emphasis on experiential learning, innovative thinking, environmental stewardship and sustainability, we live by the value statement: *Be curious. Be kind. Be brave. Be you.*

###

For more information or to arrange a QMS interview please contact:

Hayley Picard
Director of Communications & Marketing
250.746.4185 ext. 107 | 250.710.5485

Photo (L-R: Sophia Le, Kieran Denny, Maia Cassie, Nyomi Godard, Kipling Szasz, Clara Van Muiswinkel, Rui Wang and Maggie Preston): Two innovative design STEM teams from Queen Margaret's School won a total of \$15,000 in post-secondary scholarships at the recent Westmont Prize 2023 Awards Ceremony at the University of Victoria.

