



QUEEN MARGARET'S SCHOOL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROYAL SOIL IDEA EARNS TOP AWARD

QMS Students Overcome Travel Disruptions to Win Future Prize Competition

March 5, 2026 - Duncan, BC, Canada – Young students from Queen Margaret's School demonstrated resilience, innovation and community-minded thinking en route to capturing top honours at the [Future Design School's Future Prize](#) competition, held March 3 at York House School in Vancouver.

Grade 6 students, Madeleine Vroom and Evie Kilgour, along with Grade 7 student and Maxwell Gergely, were accompanied by Teacher, Kd Ramsay, to compete in the day-long design challenge. This event brings together students in Grades 6 to 8 to apply entrepreneurial thinking, innovation and technology to real-world community issues in an immersive and collaborative environment.

The team's journey began with an unexpected setback when their early morning ferry sailing was cancelled. With support from school leaders, they quickly arranged last-minute flights via floatplane to Vancouver, arriving two hours after the event began. During the delay, the students participated virtually to refine their presentation, demonstrating the School's core values of bravery and curiosity in the face of adversity.

Once at the competition, the QMS team remained focused and composed. Competing against ten teams from five other schools, they were ultimately named Future Prize champions.

Their winning proposal, "Royal Soil," outlined a plan to improve the sorting of organic waste and composting materials and combine them with horse manure to create a nutrient-rich compost blend. The product would be donated to local community gardens, supporting sustainability and food security initiatives. The students hope to continue developing the concept in partnership with the school's Senior Eco Club and community collaborators.

"What a terrific event this is, providing a space for the products of creative and critical thinking to be seen and celebrated," shares Head of School, Ander Monro. "The true value of the process lies away from the limelight when nobody is watching, but we are so proud that Madeleine, Maxwell, and Evie's work was showcased and honoured in this way. Congratulations to all the students who took part, thank you to York House for hosting, and to the Future Design School for inspiring the opportunity."

In addition to a trophy and individual medals, the team received a charitable donation in their name and a year-long design thinking curriculum resource for their classroom.

The achievement marks a proud moment for the young innovators and highlights the strength of experiential, values-based learning at Queen Margaret's School.

Queen Margaret's School

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About Queen Margaret's School

At Queen Margaret's School (QMS), our guiding values shape every aspect of learning and community life. Students are encouraged to discover their strengths and embrace new challenges through innovative academic programming, athletics, and co-curricular opportunities that foster curiosity and a passion for lifelong learning. Whether in the classroom, at Innisfree Farm, on the playing field, on stage, or in the equestrian ring, QMS prepares confident and compassionate leaders who are equipped to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Be curious. Be kind. Be brave. Be you.

For more details about Queen Margaret's School, please visit the school's website at qms.bc.ca.

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Photos courtesy of Kd Ramsay: Led by QMS Teacher, Kd Ramsay, Junior School students, Max Gergely, Evie Kilgour and Madeleine Vroom earned first place at the Future Prize Competition in Vancouver for their pitch on creating *Royal Soil*.

