



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

SPECIAL EDITION
SEPTEMBER 2024

SPORTS REPORT

Cricket team shine in dominant campaign

ROWING CLUB

New name
Continued legacy

PERFORMING ARTS
SHOWCASE SELECTED
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The Bamber
Brownie

DUKE OF
EDINBURGH
AWARD
Greater
opportunities for
more students

University of Cambridge
English Literature

Secondary
School
of the Year
WINNER

The Standard
**EDUCATION
AWARDS 2024**
CELEBRATING SUCCESS

TOGETHER WE GO FAR

Celebrating excellence and achievement



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WELCOME



I hope this newsletter finds you well after what has been an outstanding start to the academic year.

It is with great pride we start this year having been awarded 'Secondary School of the Year' at the Excell

and Standard Education Awards; an accolade which is deserved of every student, parent and member of staff at our school.

After another year of improved examination results, I would like to extend a huge congratulations to Year 11 and 13 students for their remarkable academic performance. The grades speak for themselves, with many students surpassing their own expectations and achieving personal bests. Their success is a testament not only to their commitment, but also to the unwavering support from their teachers and families. 'Well done to each and every one of you'! Record numbers of students have enrolled to continue their studies in our Sixth Form and I am proud that so many students feel that Queen's Park is their school of choice. I am looking forward to getting to know all our new Year 7 and 12 students over this term and ensure they settle in to our QPHS family.

In addition to our academic achievements, staff over the summer took 44 students on a life-changing trip to Ghana. The experience was nothing short of transformative, offering our students the chance to engage with a vibrant culture, contribute to meaningful community projects, and develop a deeper understanding of global citizenship. I am incredibly proud of the way they represented our school and embraced every opportunity to learn and grow.

As we celebrate these successes, we remain committed to providing all our students with the opportunities to excel both academically and personally. I am looking forward to another year of an enriching educational journey together!

Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

I hope you enjoy reading this special edition school magazine, which gives a snapshot into life and learning at Queen's Park High School.

Mr Kearns
HEADTEACHER



EDUCATION AWARDS

Secondary School of the Year Winner!

We are so proud to announce that Queen's Park High School has been awarded Secondary School of the Year at the Standard Education Awards.

The Education Awards are a celebration of the hard work, dedication and achievements of schools throughout the county, the children who attend them and the staff who inspire them.

Following the success of last year's inaugural event, the best of Cheshire West's education community once again celebrated together in a ceremony held at the Hilton's Double Tree hotel in Chester on Friday 12th July for the Standard Education Awards. The awards were presented by ITV

journalist Lucy Meacock at this special live event to recognise and thank those exceptional schools, teachers, and teaching assistants who work tirelessly to give the children in our borough the best education possible.

We were delighted to hear Queen's Park High School had been successfully shortlisted as one of the three finalists for Secondary School of the Year award category, alongside Headteacher, Mr Kearns, for the Leader of the Year' award and Parent and former PTA member, Jacqui Halewood for Support Worker of the Year award based on her huge contribution to the running of the car park for the past 7 years and raising thousands of pounds for the PTA.



Secondary School of the Year WINNER Queen's Park High School



“ It is an absolute privilege to have the hard work and dedication of all of our staff recognised in this way; the culture of our school is something incredibly special and something I am very proud of. The school is in a fantastic place and continues to go from strength to strength . ”

Mr Kearns, Headteacher

It was an absolute privilege and pleasure for Mr Kearns and other members of the leadership team to lift the trophy on behalf of all of the students and staff at the school as our school was announced 'Secondary School of the Year 2024', beating off stiff competition from Helsby High School and Blacon High School.

“ As a parent, there's nothing quite like finding a school that feels like home – a place where your child's individuality is celebrated, where they're supported academically and emotionally, and where they can truly thrive! ”

One of the school nominations

Mr Kearns, who has been at the school for three years, said the atmosphere at the school is special and that it is the best school he has ever taught at. He went on to say,

Our school is more than just a place of learning; it's a community built on inclusivity, care, and academic excellence.

"From the moment you step through our doors, you'll feel the warmth and support that defines us. Our reputation for inclusivity means every child is valued and respected for who they are, while our dedicated pastoral care ensures they're supported every step of the way.

"But it's not just about what happens inside the classroom. We believe in nurturing the whole child, which is why we offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities to help students grow in confidence and resilience."

Jonathon Barnett, editor of the Chester and District Standard and the Ellesmere Port and Neston Standard, said: "The entries we received for the award categories highlighted the amazing lengths headteachers, teachers, support workers and pupils go to, to make a massive difference in schools and colleges in and around Chester and Ellesmere Port."

The school will be holding their annual Open Evening on **Wednesday 18th September from 6pm – 8pm** and welcomes Year 5 & 6 children and their families to come and visit to experience Queen's Park High School for themselves.



Year 13 'Class of 2024' - Celebrating success and their next steps!

Defining futures

2024 is an exciting year for us at Queen's Park High School as we celebrate our Year 13 examination results, with record numbers of students achieving A*-A and A*-B grades at A-Level. Students' attainment in facilitating subjects is excellent, with more students than ever achieving As and Bs in these courses - these are subjects which are most commonly preferred by universities to access degree courses. Students excelling this year are Kaitlin Pryce who achieved three A*s in English literature, chemistry and psychology who goes on to study English Literature at Cambridge University and Cari Gwenter who achieved three A*s in biology, RE/ethics and psychology and is furthering her aspirations to study law at Sheffield.

Callum Lewis who achieved one A* and three As in maths, further maths, physics and computer science is

going on to study computer science at Manchester University and Diana Gordon who achieved one A* and two As in English literature, history and media studies moves on to Aberdeen University to study history.

Other top performers include:

Evie Lee: achieving 3 As and will study graphic design and illustration at JMU.

Freya Cossons: achieving 2 As and a B and will study geography at Durham.

Grace Standen: achieving 2 As and a B going on to study philosophy/RE at Sheffield.

Brianna Probert: achieving a Distinction, A and C and will go to Cardiff to study law.

Reece Sharp achieving: A and 2 Bs and will study geology at Durham.

Hannah Jones: achieving an A, B and C and heading to study geography at Newcastle.

Mr Kearns (Headteacher) said,

"I am extremely proud of our wonderful Year 13 students achieving our best results to date. Our staff once again have gone above and beyond to support all students. The best part of being a headteacher is seeing happy, successful young people off to their next stage of education and life."

“

This cohort has achieved an amazing set of results. Their hard work and independence has been rewarded with exceptional outcomes and I wish them the best of luck for their future endeavours. ”

Mrs V Prydden
Head of Sixth Form

“ I am extremely proud of all the efforts and outcomes for my year group. They have shown resilience throughout the challenges over the past 5 years and the GCSE results reflect the hard work and tenacity from each and every student. I wish them well for the next stage of their educational journey and I know that they will continue to do us proud. ”

Miss C Davies, Head of Year 11



FLYING HIGH

Celebrating Achievement & Academic Excellence

We are celebrating another year of academic excellence as our Year 11 students receive fantastic GCSE results, with 21% of all grades achieved being 9-7 (A*-A)!

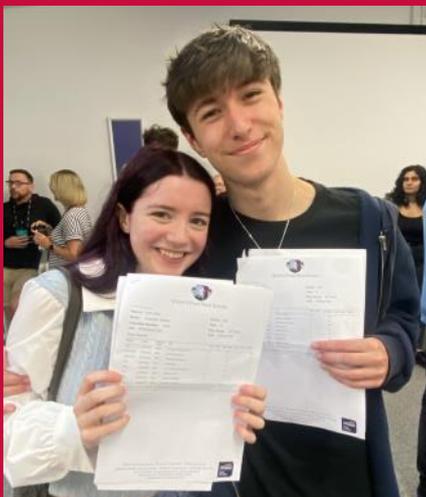
Results continue to buck the trend in post-pandemic education with higher than average attainment across the curriculum. More students are achieving grades 9-5 in English and maths and in at least two science subjects compared to national data. Also, outcomes in humanities subjects are the best in recent history with more students achieving grades 9-5 and 9-4 than ever.

We are extremely proud of **all** of our learners at Queen's Park, but must commend the following students who have demonstrated outstanding academic results across their GCSEs:

- Rhys Dunkerley – 7 grade 9s, 1 grade 8 and 1 grade 5
- Jasmine Davies – 4 grade 9s, 3 grade 8s, 1 grade 7 and 1 grade 6
- George Tranter – 4 grade 9s, 2 grade 8s, 1 grade 7, 1 grade 6 and 1 grade 5
- Daisy Hopkins – 3 grade 9s, 2 grade 8s, 2 grade 7s and 2 grade 6s
- Evie Middleton – 3 grade 9s, 2 grade 8s, 2 grade 7s, 1 grade 6 and 1 grade 5
- Alice Twigg - 3 grade 9s, 2 grade 8s, 3 grade 7s and 1 grade 6

A special mention also goes to our five sets of twins in Year 11, who between them got a combined total of forty-three 9-7 grades.

The successful GCSE outcomes are also reflected in uptake to the school's Sixth Form with record numbers of applications.





CHARITY MISSION TO GHANA

Experience of a lifetime!

In the middle of the summer holiday, 44 students and 5 staff had the experience of a lifetime volunteering to work in two schools in one of the most deprived countries in the world, Ghana.

The visit was epic in its ambition, with students tasked to build walls and teach lessons to hundreds of children in the town of Woen - 4 hours east of the capital, Accra.

Mr Yeoman, who led the expedition, said,

"The whole experience was truly life-changing for all involved. A huge part of the educational experience for our students at Queen's Park High School is about developing an understanding of charity and how to be a global citizen. The trip certainly empowered students to give something to the developing world and appreciate all we have here in The West."

Experiences like these provide some of the biggest opportunities to grow into kind, selfless and charitable people. This is certainly an experience that all students and staff will never forget for the rest of their lives.

Charlotte in Year 8, kept a diary of her visit and kindly shares her thoughts on her experience. Read on to find out more!

● MY TRIP TO GHANA

● At the end of an incredible 6 day trip to Ghana, I find myself sitting in the Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam, reflecting on my once-in-a-lifetime experience and how phenomenal the whole adventure was.

● I have had so many incredible experiences whilst I was there, but really loved teaching the children in the two schools we worked in. The classrooms were so bare, there were three children to a desk and classes were often full of 60 children! I also really enjoyed helping to build the library in Klombridge school; I felt like I was really making a difference and helping their community.

● One of the most heartwarming things that happened was on the last day, when it was time to say goodbye to the schools, the staff and children during a formal ceremony. After some amazing drumming and the traditional chicken dance the children rushed over to hold our hands and take pictures with us. This is a moment I'll never forget! I also loved all the gifts they gave us in the ceremony so I will always have something to treasure that moment with.

“ It’s given me a whole new perspective on my life and a much greater appreciation for everything I have. The trip has altered my perception of life and I have realised how I have taken things like running water and school facilities for granted. Meeting the children and all of the people I came into contact with made me realise that no matter where in the world you live, we’re all the same. We want the best for ourselves and our families. This is truly a trip that I, and all of the other 43 students on the trip, will be impacted by for the rest of our lives. ”

Sam, Year 9 student



After all of our hard work at the schools, we went on a Volta Adventure weekend! It was really exciting to feed the monkeys at the monkey sanctuary and to see them come up so close to you. I also really enjoyed staying at the Wil Water Heights Hotel and going to see the rainforest and waterfall the next day. We all just went into the pool at the bottom even though it was freezing and get a few photos whilst trying to not get too wet!

I've loved giving up my time to help a people who are so less fortunate than I am and it made me truly appreciate everything that I have. I've also made lots of new friends with other students from my school. Thank you Queen's Park High School, this was an incredible trip, which has changed my life.

Charlotte, Year 8 student





EARTH, MOON & SPACE

NASA Engineers of the future!

Year 8 STEM club had their attention directed upwards with some space themed activities focused on the challenges faced by NASA's Artemis programme. The programme aims to return astronauts to the moon in the next decade or so and establish a permanent base on Earth's natural satellite.

For each activity our young scientists had to put themselves in the shoes of NASA engineers and work on solutions to some of the challenges that will be faced. Activities started by considering how habitats might be pre-made, transported and erected on the moon.

Other activities included: the challenges of landing people and equipment safely on the moon, shielding sensitive equipment from the heat of the sun and considering the compromises made when developing satellites to support missions.

The groups finished by looking at one of the biggest issues facing space and Earth – energy storage. Students carried out a series of experiments to ascertain which combination of metals and electrolytes (fruit or veggies!) would make the best cells. These cells were then joined together to form batteries which could light up an LED.



“ It has been a fantastic year for STEM Club at QPHS and we can't wait to sign up more young scientists in September! ”

Mr Watkins, Teacher of Science



BRONZE AWARD

Independent Investigations

Our Year 9 and 10 students have had the exciting opportunity to design their own STEM investigations and submit these for the Bronze CREST award. This is a nationally recognised scheme where students lead the investigations and complete hands-on practical work.

One popular investigation has been developing different recipes for home-made bath bombs. Students have trialled different ingredients including citric acid and baking soda to find the fizziest bath bomb.

Another group of students are exploring different materials to grow cress seeds on. They have designed this investigation to ensure the seeds have the same conditions so it is a fair test and will count how many seeds grow and how tall they grow.

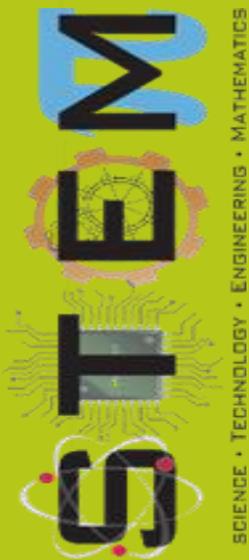
The final project has involved students designing a game controller. Students have sketched out different designs to create detailed drawings to show the dimensions of these. Students have then created a model of their design and used their market research to influence its design.

Students will be continuing with their projects in September so their results and findings are ready to submit for the award.





STEM CLUB



LET'S TALK CODE

Python programming & Microbits

This term, our Code Club saw a fantastic turnout from budding young programmers in Years 7 and 8! With a mix of familiar faces and some eager newcomers from STEM Club, the sessions were filled with creativity, problem-solving, and a whole lot of fun.

Our intrepid coders delved into the exciting world of Python programming, using the friendly Turtle graphics library to bring their ideas to life on the screen. From drawing colourful shapes to creating intricate patterns, they mastered the basics of commands and loops, building a strong foundation for future coding endeavours.

But the learning didn't stop there! We also explored the world of physical computing with the versatile Microbit. These pocket-sized programmable devices allowed students to get hands-on, coding games, simulations, and even wearable tech projects. Their imaginations ran wild as they brought their unique ideas to life, from interactive light shows to motion-controlled games.

On a weekly basis students proudly presented their creations to their peers and teachers. The energy and enthusiasm were contagious, and it was clear to see the immense pride they felt in

their accomplishments.

Code Club is about so much more than just learning code; it's about fostering creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration. This term has been a testament to the potential that lies within our young coders, and we can't wait to see what amazing things they create next!

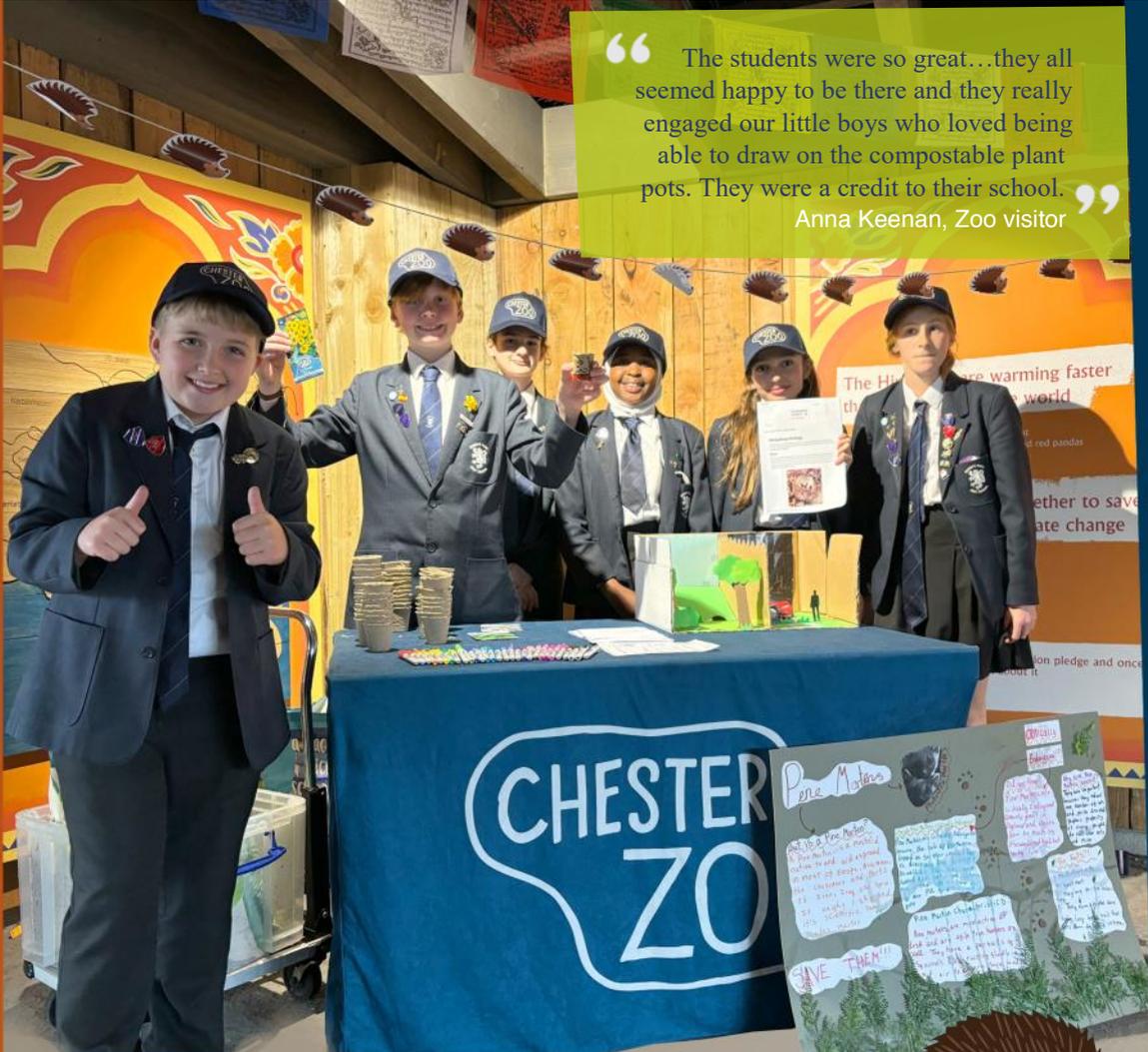
Code Club will be continuing next year, where we will start off by looking at Cybersecurity and where Year 8 girls will have the opportunity to take part in the Cyberfirst Girls Competition and all students will have the opportunity to take part in the Bebras competition.



CHESTER ZOO



“ The students were so great...they all seemed happy to be there and they really engaged our little boys who loved being able to draw on the compostable plant pots. They were a credit to their school. ”
 Anna Keenan, Zoo visitor



HOGS & LADDERS

Schools Zoo Takeover

In addition to STEM Club a crack team of young conservationists were busy running their own wildlife stand at Chester Zoo's Schools Takeover.

On Friday 12th July, Queen's Park were one of 11 schools in the region selected to take over the zoo for the day, running conservation education programmes, workshops and animal talks to the zoo's visitors.

They also shared all the environmental issues that matter to them as the next generation of conservationists!

Our students spoke to over 120 visitors about hedgehog conservation and gave children an opportunity to plant seeds to take home – all in biodegradable plant pots. In addition there was an opportunity to learn more by playing 'Hogs and Ladders', as well as learning interesting facts about Pine Marten conservation.

Parents and zoo staff alike complimented the students on their empathy and enthusiasm as they

interacted with young children, who came to learn more.

As science staff we could not be more proud of how the team handled this challenge.

This was a fantastic opportunity for young people to have a voice for nature and to champion key environmental messages to visitors, from the impact of climate change, unsustainable palm oil to why so many precious species are on the bridge of extinction.

“ STEM Club has been the best after school club I have taken part in and it's free! Our trip to Chester Zoo was incredible as we got to share all our knowledge and what we had learned in the classroom with the public. It is an experience I will never forget. ”
 Teddy, Year 7 Student

The Bamber Brownie

MATHS ENTREPRENEURS

Dragons' Den dream investment!

The GEM pathway in maths and English supports students to succeed in their studies while learning real life skills. This term Year 10 GEM maths students have been putting their maths skills to good use in several different practical projects. The most recent (and most exciting!) was the 'Brownie Project'.

Students had initially worked with trainee teachers from the University of Chester to research the ingredients needed for the brownies and the best and most cost effective place to buy the ingredients in order to make the most profit. This session also involved sampling the famous Bamber Brownie (much to the delight of the students!)

The next step was conducting market research to establish consumer demand i.e. what customers might want and how much they would be willing to pay. Students then planned the promotion and creation of the brownies and established their own companies. Seven companies were formed, each with their own name and tagline.

Students then had to make the brownies, and who better to lead the baking than headteacher, Mr Kearns! Sally Bamber, original creator of the deliciously moreish *Bamber Brownie*, shared her secret recipe, and after scaling the ingredients, each group managed to produce two mouth-watering trays of brownies.

We were invited to sell the brownies at the Chester Regatta on Saturday 8th June.

Students set up their stall at the regatta to sell their brownies which sold out in less than two hours and made over £80 in profit!

Back in the classroom they calculated the overall profit and evaluated their process.

The feedback from the students and staff involved has been really positive and Chester Regatta wants us back next year!

It is really important that our students learn to apply maths skills to real life, and now the GEM pathway curriculum is allowing exactly that to happen.

Look out for our next project!



University of
Chester



“ Such a fabulous enterprise project you've initiated. Well done! Thank you to all the students. We loved having them and their delicious products at the regatta. Please do it again next year. ”

Dr Adele Munday, Chester Regatta



FINANCE SAVVY

Learning from the best

Following the success of last year's Financial Literacy workshops, the maths department are delighted to be working again with Morgan Linfield from HSBC bank.

Morgan, who is also a former Queen's Park High School student has been sharing his knowledge with our students to deliver a programme of Financial Fluency sessions as part of the HSBC bank graduate scheme.

This year he has managed to provide at least one session to every year group, ensuring all students have had the opportunity to engage with a variety of activities to support their understanding of the banking system.

Year 7 students focused on currency conversion through the European Tour session, while Year 8 and 9 looked at safely using the internet when gaming and shopping. KS4 & 5 groups have been learning about banking, budgeting and credit.

“ We are really pleased with our partnership with HBSC bank and are thrilled to receive the Smart Money award for the second year running. We look forward to working with Morgan again next year. ”

Ms Blears-Chalmers, Curriculum Leader for Maths



FUN IN THE SUN

Fieldwork at Formby Beach

What better day to go to the beach than on a bright, dry sunny day in July. On Monday 15th July, 33 lucky Year 10 geographers set off to Formby Beach in Sefton to enjoy working outside the classroom to complete their GCSE fieldwork.

This trip forms part of their GCSE course, where students must undertake fieldwork, which they will then reflect on during their Paper 3 geographical skills exam.

The students completed two sets of data: vegetation coverage and dune transect. This data will allow the students to assess how sand dunes change shape, height and gradient as the distance from the shore increases.

Students worked in teams to survey a 150m transect, using ranging poles to take measurements every 10 metres. They then used clinometers to measure the angle of the dunes. For vegetation surveys, students used quadrats and plant ID charts to compare the percentage of vegetation at 10 sites across the dunes.

Mrs Clelland and Miss Sumner were very impressed with the teamwork and field work skills that the students showed.

Well done Year 10!





LAND USE IN LIVERPOOL

Urban Regeneration

GCSE geographers have been delving deeper into their human fieldwork unit, which forms part of their Paper 3 exam in Year 11. This unit allows them to step out of the classroom and bring their taught knowledge to the real world.

During the summer term, 39 Year 10 students travelled to Liverpool to extend their geographical understanding of urban regeneration.

They began with a visit to the Albert Dock to assess how the area had changed from the 1980s to present day. The group completed field sketches and land-use surveys of the area, examining the regeneration of urban environments.

After a walk around the dock, students made their way to Liverpool One, where they undertook a number of Environmental Quality Surveys. These would determine whether or not the regeneration has improved the surrounding area and environment within Liverpool One.

Students collected an amazing amount of quantitative data, which will allow for detailed analysis and evaluation for their human fieldwork.

Great work Year 10!





EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIPS

Linguists welcome visitors from Sens & Lörrach

This year students at Queen's Park welcomed visitors from across Europe as part of our ongoing work with the Chester International Links Association and Twin Town Programme.

In April, GCSE French students and members of French Pen Pal Club met with their peers from Sens France. It was a great opportunity for students to meet young French speakers and learn more about what it is like to be a teenager in France. Students were also keen to learn about and compare school life in France and England.

This visit was a fantastic opportunity for students to practise their spoken French and Miss Worthington was extremely proud to see how confident our students were in approaching our visitors and making the most of the opportunity to speak French with people their age. They quickly formed friendships thanks to their welcoming nature and team spirit.

As we have been in regular contact with one of the schools involved in the visit through Pen Pal club, our Year 7 students were beyond excited to finally meet and speak with the young people from the city that they had heard so much about.

In June we also welcomed students from the German city of Lörrach. A group of budding linguists from Year 9 and Year 10 seized the opportunity to learn about life in Germany and share their passions and interests with our visitors. All students involved quickly formed friendships as they competed in a range of language and culture themed tasks. They overcame any perceived language barriers to complete a treasure hunt around our school. Some of the German students looked daunted by this, but fortunately they were in safe hands! Students' competitive nature really shone through during a languages themed quiz, as they worked against the clock to complete four rounds that tested their knowledge

of languages and culture from around the world. The teachers from Lörrach were very grateful to our students for making them feel so welcome and looked after. Our students were also grateful for the opportunity to learn some German, with many showing off a few phrases at the end of each session!

Vielen Dank and merci beaucoup!
We look forward to welcoming more visitors from our Twin Towns next year.

“ Thank you so much for all your time and effort and for organising our visit to your school! The students had a great time! Thank you so much for making this visit to your school so special. It was really a highlight of our trip! Now I am already organizing next year's trip next June. ”
Birgit Müh, Visiting Teacher



“ I am very pleased to be studying Spanish as I am interested in working for Airbus in the future. ”
 Year 10 Student



VALUE OF LANGUAGES

Broaden your career prospects

Ahead of Year 10 work experience, we were delighted to welcome Nigel Jones and Arantxa Bericat from the Bank of America to discuss with students the value of language skills in the workplace.

During an engaging presentation, students were grateful to hear first hand experiences about how languages had helped our visitors in their personal and professional lives, enhancing their career prospects across industries including the Engineering and Finance sectors. Students learned that on a personal level being multilingual is beneficial for their own career development.

As leaders of tomorrow, Year 10 were also encouraged to consider how to effectively work with, and manage others with additional language skills. Our visitors shared some great advice on how to take up and learn a new language,

including Chinese and Japanese! All students left the session with a deeper understanding of the value of languages across industries and a greater appreciation for the role linguists can play in the world of work.

A number of students were keen to continue the conversation and reflect on how their own knowledge of an additional language (including Greek and Bulgarian) could be of value during their work experience placements.

“ Students seemed to really take on board the message that languages are highly valued in the world of work and that it is never too late to learn. It was great to see how the talk had inspired some of our students who are already bilingual and helped them to realise the breadth of skills they have to offer. ”
 Miss Worthington, CTL for MFL



BOOK AWARDS

Inspirational writers

The BLT (Book Loving Tuesday) Club have been feeding their hunger for reading again this year taking on 10 books in just 6 months for the Cheshire School Book Awards! They read, they cogitated and then cast their votes for what they considered should be the winning book. In May they gathered with over 100 other students, teachers, librarians and parents at Winsford Academy for the 2024 Cheshire Book Awards presentation event.

During the evening students were delighted to meet this year's fantastic array of shortlisted authors and hear about what inspired them to write their novels. This year nine of the nominated authors including: Adam Connors, Tia Fisher, Sarah Hagger-Holt, SF Said, Josh Silver and SJ Wills were able to attend the ceremony in person while Lily Bailey, Natasha Farrant and Christine Pillainayagam sent videos to share with the audience.

Students were also able to buy their favourite nominated books and have them signed by the authors before the winners were announced.

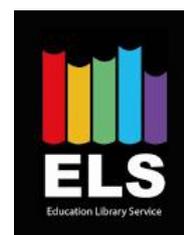
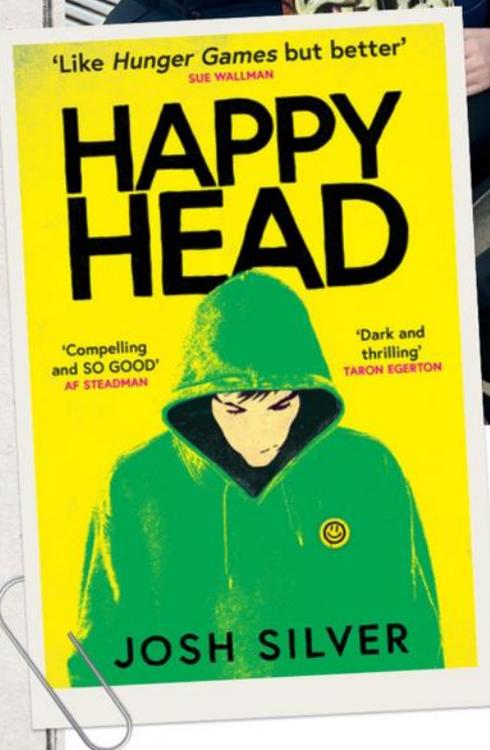
Younger age category

- Winner: SF Said *'Tyger'*
- Runner Up: Natasha Farrant *'The Rescue of Ravenwood'*

Older age category

- Winner: Josh Silver *'Happy Head'*
- Runner Up: Tia Fisher *'Crossing the Line'*

As a book club, our students voted in the older category and were delighted when Tia Fisher was declared runner up as they loved her gritty story about being a teenager. The overall winner was Josh Silver with *'Happy Head'* which has also been a very popular book here in school with students eagerly awaiting the sequel!



THANK YOU

A big shout out and huge thank you from our BLT (Book Loving Tuesday) Club, who were delighted to receive a grant from the PTA for new books and a generous donation of over 70 books from Waterstones in Chester!

AUTHOR TALK

Chester Schools Together

In May, our BLT students were invited to The King's School as they welcomed one of their library's most-borrowed authors, Kiran Millwood Hargrave.

Kiran is known for books filled with adventure, such as *The Girl of Ink and Stars*, *Julia and the Shark*, *A Secret of Birds and Bone*, and has won multiple awards including the Waterstones Children's Book of the Year, the British Book Award and the Blackwells Book of the Year.

Excited students gathered in the Vanbrugh Theatre, to hear Kiran talk about her latest book, *In the Shadow of the Wolf Queen*, a story about the brave Ysolda who embarks on an epic quest to save her sister who has vanished after a mysterious earthquake.

Students were enthralled as Kiran talked about how she tries to weave magic from the real world into her books, drawing inspiration from the magical landscape of Eyeri for her *Geomancer* trilogy.

After the talk, there was a fabulous buzz in the library as a crowd of students joined Kiran for a book signing, taking the opportunity to ask questions about her books at the same time.

“ I loved her advice to the children who asked about being a writer; she told them that the best thing they can do is read lots and then read some more! ”

Mrs Melhuish-Jones, Librarian



CHRISTIAN VIEWS

Confession, baptism & gay marriage

This term, Prof Paul Middleton from TRS Chester University came into school to deliver a workshop on Christian views around sexuality to Year 10 GCSE Religious Studies (RS) and Year 13 Ethics and Philosophy students. He explored the current debate within the Church of England surrounding the legitimacy of gay marriage.

In July Year 10 GCSE RS students went on an enrichment visit to St Werburgh's Catholic Church in Chester as part of their study of Christian practices, 'the sacraments of the Catholic Church'. Fr Paul spoke about what happens at baptism, and even did a demonstration on Ethan! Harvey asked questions about adult baptism and Fr Paul explained how a person could convert and be baptised.

He talked about a marriage ceremony and asked for student

volunteers to show how the vows are taken. Fr Paul then explained the reasons why the marriage was not legally or spiritually binding! He demonstrated the sacrament of confession with Jeffery as priest and Ethan as penitent. We could hear loud laughter when Ethan realised it was Jeffery at the other side of the wall. This generated some very interesting discussion around the seal of the confessional. The students were quite shocked that the priest has to keep whatever he is told confidential even if someone has confessed to murder!

Fr Paul answered many challenging questions about his vocation, his faith and what will happen to him when he retires.

Thank you for having us Fr Paul, and well-done Year 10 for being so involved and respectful.



National Theatre

CONNECTIONS

2024

AGE IS REVOLTING



Students' performance selected for London stage

A once in a lifetime opportunity presented itself in May when our National Connections production of *'Age Is Revolting'* was selected as an example of exceptional performance and the cast were invited to perform at The National Theatre on the Southbank in London as part of the Connections Festival in June.

The shortlisting committee came to watch the school's performance at The Crewe Lyceum and said that the performance was very poignant and the showstopping live performance of 'Sweet Child O' Mine' during the finalé was incredible.

Cast members Max (who played Mo) and Phoebe (who played the daughter) were invited to BBC Radio studios in Liverpool to talk about the show live on air. A couple of weeks later, our Deputy Stage Manager, Nancy and one of our cast members, Lucy, went to London for the day to help plot the show and check out the set design and costumes.

With 19 professional stage crew working on our production, it was clear to see that the investment from the National was huge; the plans for the show were immense and in the words of the lighting designer, *it was set to be 'one of the best shows of the festival technically'*. The following week, for three days with all expenses paid, 22 Year 9 and 10 students transferred the production down to London. Staying in accommodation on the Southbank they experienced the sights and sounds of the capital before spending a whole day in rehearsals, tech and then the evening performance at The Dorfman Theatre.

It was wonderful to see so many parents and families who had made the journey to the theatre in support. At the end of our performance, Abi Zakarian, the playwright, came to meet the cast with tears in her eyes as this was her first play to be performed at The National Theatre and she had been blown away by

what she had seen. It was lovely to hear that it was deemed to be one of the best shows of the festival and just how professional and committed our cast and crew were to the performance. Jenny, Kirsten and Finley were the NTConnections producers and wrote to the school to say,

"We wanted to say just how impressed we were with your students, with their hard-work, generosity and the joy they approached every part of their time at the NT. It felt like, as a company, you struck the perfect balance of taking the work seriously, whilst also ensuring everyone was just having a great time".

It's always great to be recognised for excellence, but to be recognised as such on a National platform and be one of only 10 companies out of nearly 300 to be selected to perform at The National is a huge accolade for the school and testament to its commitment to creating opportunities that will develop our students far beyond the offer of the curriculum.

“ I am so proud of each and every member of the cast and crew of the production. Their hard work, professionalism and dedication to the project has created this opportunity for them, something each and every one of them will remember as the (first) time they performed on stage at The National Theatre. ”

Mr Yeoman, Assistant Headteacher

“ Having the opportunity to work with professionals in the theatre was incredible. I learnt so much from the experience! ”

Nancy, Year 10 student & Deputy Stage Manager



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

ARTIST WORKSHOPS

Masterclass with Louisa Boyd

We are immensely lucky to have recently secured funding from our PTA to provide a number of artists' workshops to enhance our art and design courses.

On Wednesday 3rd July Year 10 GCSE art & design students had the exciting opportunity to work with local artist and printmaker, Louisa Boyd in a practical masterclass. Students had previously studied her printmaking techniques as part of their cartography project so this was a fantastic experience for students to explore Louisa's work first hand and to develop their understanding of the commercial art world.

Louisa began by sharing her inspirations and some of the many

different techniques and processes she uses. She brought along copper etching plates and a wide range of sculptures for the students to explore. All students then began creating a range of 3D sculptures from their own digital prints. Throughout the day they learned a wide range of skills to be able to produce such precise forms of the 5 Platonic solids: starting with the tetrahedron and progressing to a 20 sided icosahedron! The group worked with great focus, patience and perseverance for the whole day and created an outstanding piece of work to add to their GCSE portfolio.

Fantastic work Year 10!



“ It was great to learn from a professional artist's experience. I enjoyed creating the geometric sculptures and I am really pleased with the work I produced. ”
Nabila, Year 10 student



CREATIVE FUTURES

A week in the life of...

During Work Experience week, Year 12 student Camilla Hawes secured a placement with practising artist and former Queen's Park High School student, Anna Houghton.

After completing her A levels at Queen's Park, Anna went on to gain a First Class Honours, MRes & PhD whilst hosting a number of solo art exhibitions. She is now a highly successful visual artist, who, having just returned to the UK after being selected to exhibit in the prestigious Venice Biennial, very kindly offered to give Camilla a taste of life as a practising artist.

Camilla gives an account of her experience...



“I've always had a passion for art, and intended it to be the focus of my career; so I was interested in what it's like to work as an artist and how to make that idea a real possibility. Before the experience, my two main avenues were to start with a fine art degree, take a gap year and then either do a post-graduate degree in art conservation or do a tattoo apprenticeship.

Working with Anna, the week started with discussing a career as an artist, the path she had followed, and where art had been able to take her. For example, the recent Venice Biennale, which is one of the world's largest cultural visual art exhibitions. She introduced me to several other working artists, who explained their own methods of monetising their careers; discussing the prices of studio renting to create art, as well as people in art related careers, like curators and directors, who channel their creativity through the planning, social, and physical elements of displaying art, rather than solely the making side. We visited several galleries and exhibitions, some classic, and others more contemporary, which introduced me to a newer style of art I had never considered or been previously interested in. These helped to inspire the project Anna and I had decided to do: to put together an exhibition of my own previously made works.

I was shown the many elements and hours of planning that goes into the creation of an exhibition, from the posters and artworks themselves, to the layout and exhibition documents. Anna encouraged me to make a soundscape, a type of art she explores, to fill the space between the art. Starting with some basic piano notes, I used field recordings of birds and layered whispers to fit with the motifs of Macbeth.

I found the whole experience enlightening, and it introduced me to several avenues that I could take my passion for art and turn it into a feasible career, and the many positions in the art industry. I'm so grateful to Anna for offering such a relevant placement. ”

Celebrating Creativity

The art department has been buzzing with creativity over the summer as students have been completing the final pieces of their different projects.

Year 9's work is being celebrated on the 'WOW' walls to showcase the wonderful portraits they have drawn using charcoal, cloth and a rubber, inspired by the portrait artist Casey Baugh.

Year 10 have been developing their ideas from their story boards based on the environment with some beautiful architectural mixed-media drawings inspired by Ian Murphy. Students have demonstrated the skill in using materials and accuracy of observed architectural details that are evident in these works.

Meanwhile, in textiles technology, students have studied print and surface quality, exploring pattern and shape for T-shirt designs based on the designer Jason Scarpace and his patterned illustrations of fish.



3D DESIGN

Places & Spaces

For this year's GCSE 3D Design exam many students chose to focus on the starting point such as *Places and Spaces*, *portraits and fragments* and produced a fantastic range of final outcomes.



3D design offers students the opportunity to explore the dynamic world of three-dimensional creation. The skills acquired in 3D Design are highly transferrable and sought after in various industries. Students are well positioned to pursue further education and careers in fields where creativity and technical expertise are paramount.



QUEEN'S CUISINE

Hospitality & Catering

Year 11 students were faced with the ultimate challenge this term for their Level 1/2 award in Hospitality and Catering. The exam brief was to research, design and make a two course meal for an adult and toddler.

Students had to research the nutrition for each life stage along with cost and then map out a time plan so they could devise and cook two final dish ideas to present in 3 hours!

Students produced some amazing final outcomes and demonstrated a high level of skills through homemade pastry, sauces and desserts. Their presentation and organisational skills were top quality and we can see some aspiring Michelin star chefs in the making!

Well done Year 11.



Teen CHEF



FAMILY WELLNESS

Culinary & Wellbeing Masterclass

We were delighted to hear that Holly King, Parent Governor secured funding to run a cooking and wellbeing masterclass for students afterschool on a Tuesday.

'Teen Chef' is a culinary workshop delivered by Finding Harmony for secondary school students. The project aims to empower students to make informed decisions regarding their diet and understand how food impacts positively and negatively on their long-term health.

The workshops were fun and interactive and students really got stuck in, especially when a chef from *Wok n' Go* came in to work

with them for one of the sessions. They have been working as a team and all contributed enthusiastically. Whilst learning practical cooking skills they have also discussed the benefits of including or excluding certain types of food, why we crave certain food, investigated alternatives and learned how to prepare and cook healthy, tasty meals from scratch and on a budget.

Students then got the opportunity to take home the ingredients to replicate the meal they cooked in class for their families!

Bon appetite!



'MINT' FOOD

New school caterers

From the 1st August, ABM catering will be delivering a new restaurant service at Queen's Park High School.

This is an exciting opportunity for our school, which includes free porridge for all students before school each day and Costa coffee being served in our Sixth Form café ready for our new Sixth Form September intake!

They will offer a new vibrant restaurant and a range of freshly prepared, innovative, seasonally influenced menus at breakfast, morning break and lunch services. They believe in delivering a fresh, nutritious meal service that provides students with excellent choice, quality and value that meets their needs and exceeds expectations.

ABM aims to serve great, fresh food using the very best of seasonal ingredients to create amazing, innovative and exciting dishes.

They will also offer meal deals to provide a range of value for money offers, including freshly prepared hot meals, street food, Grab 'n' Go and a range of deli baguettes and sandwiches for £2.30.



MUSIC NEWS

'QPHS Unplugged'

Over the summer term the music department celebrated the launch of 'QPHS Unplugged'.

Featuring performances from 19 musicians, MU1 was packed with an eager audience and nervous, excited musicians!

From the QPHS band to vocal ensembles, solo instrumentalists and the premier performance of the school's latest band 'The Lazy Kangaroos' (watch this space)! Congratulations to everyone who made their fabulous debut music performance. We can't wait for the next one!



Music For Life

Music tuition is provided at QPHS by Music for Life. For further information, please visit: www.musicforlife.org.uk.



RADIO SILENCE

On tour for festival season

Our Year 10 band 'Radio Silence', continues its success as they hit the festival scene this summer.

From entertaining the crowds locally at the *Handbridge Festival* and *Christleton Rocks* to sharing the stage at *Alderfest* in Whitchurch.

Based on their incredible performance from 2023, the band were also invited back to perform for the students at the North Liverpool Academy on Friday 5th July.

Before performing an hour long set including Q&A from the students, the boys were treated to a green-room buffet lunch with drinks, after which the theatre technicians helped set up for their performance.

The students of the school loved the tracks with one student asking them, 'What's it like to be famous?', which based on the screams from their new fans, it was evident they are quickly becoming!

The band are currently writing and producing their first EP to be released this Autumn.



Fun time Tuesday

On the last Tuesday of the year students had a special lunchtime treat with an ice-cream van, garden games, live band and footballs galore out on the rear field.

Students and staff went alfresco with picnic mats to enjoy the fun outside and socialise, play games and have a fabulous time with one another.

Gold Star Assembly

Our final Gold Star Assembly culminated in over 100 students receiving their gold stars for being in the top 5 highest rewarded students in their year group during any given week in the last half term.

As always, students were presented with a certificate and their gold star badge to wear proudly on their school blazer lapel.

The draw for the £50 Amazon voucher also took place. Congratulations to Imogen in Year 9 who was the lucky winner!



Class of 2024



Year 11



END OF AN ERA

Leavers' Celebration Ball

The Year 11 and Year 13 prom nights are always a very special and memorable event for Queen's Park High School students. It brings together both staff and students to celebrate and reward the hard work, successes and achievements of their time at Queen's Park High School.

Year 13 kicked off the celebrations at the end of June with their Leavers' ball taking place at The Queen at Chester Hotel, whilst Year 11 enjoyed an evening of fun, games and celebrations at The Cheshire View. All students were dressed to impress and their outfits rivalled celebrities on the red carpet as they danced the night away together and toasted the end of this part of their educational journey after successfully completing their GCSE and A Level summer exams.

“ The GCSE years for many will be the hardest year they face, and I am so immensely proud of their dedication and hard work throughout the exam season. Although at times many have been exhausted and disheartened, they carried on with a strong belief that they would, in the end, succeed. I believe that every single one of them will. As a thank you from the staff, for putting their trust in us, to guide them through, the Class of 2024 celebrated with staff on their prom night at the Cheshire View. ”

Miss C Davies,
Head of Year 11



Year 13

CELEBRATION EVENING

Recognising hard work & achievement

At the end of a very exciting and productive year we were delighted to formally recognise the hard work and achievement of our students over the academic year at our Celebration Evening.

Accompanied by their families, 106 students were invited to receive an award at this very special annual event.

After receiving their drinks on arrival, guests watched the presentations from Curriculum Team Leaders, Heads of Year and senior leaders to students who had excelled in their studies and in their achievement in school; whether that be for achieving the highest amount of reward points in

their subject or being deemed 'Outstanding Learners'.

Our special 'Will Lawrence Award' for Perseverance was awarded to Jolly in Year 9 as a result of his year-long hard work and dedication to learning.

Our Heads of Year also awarded one student from their year group for being the most engaged and committed learner within their cohort.

This year's awards went to: Aphrodite (Year 7), Mia J (Year 8), Darwin (Year 9), Annabel (Year 10) and Roland (Year 12) - Amazing achievements!



Aditya presented with the Michael Ord Memorial Award for Maths

“ It was a lovely evening for us to celebrate the masses of students who continue to excel in their learning. ”

Mr Yeoman,
Assistant Headteacher

MEET OUR HEAD STUDENTS

Introducing our Student Leadership Team

As our Year 13 students embark on their A Level and BTEC examinations, the baton of student leadership was handed over last to our new student leaders for 2024-25.

After a rigorous selection process involving a presentation and interview, for SLT governor and Head of Sixth Form, 7 students were selected to represent student voice at QPHS and lead on our ambition to work in synergy with the voice of the student body.

Alice and Dan will be heading up the StLT, supported in a deputy role by Ned. Our 3 Heads of Houses Amelie P (Eaton) Keir (Grosvenor) and Amelie K (Westminster) will be delivering assemblies to their houses,

outlining their vision and ambition for the students they represent/school community.

In an additional role Ellie will be driving forwards our 'No Outsiders' agenda focusing on inclusion, equality and diversity at QPHS.

The whole team is incredibly excited about developing opportunities for students and the school and have already started planning their first steps as the Student Leadership Team for the forthcoming year.

We are very proud to introduce our new Student Leadership Team who were recruited at the start of June from a broad selection of Year 12 students following a rigorous interview process.





LET'S TALK LEADERSHIP

Development Workshop

Our new Student Leadership Team consists of:

- Head Students: Alice H, Dan H
- Deputy Head Student: Ned H
- Head of Eaton: Amelie P
- Head of Grosvenor: Keir G
- Head of Westminster: Amelie K
- No Outsiders Champion: Ellie J

During the Summer Term they took part in a fantastic Leadership development workshop led by our Trust Development Director and former Queen's Park High School Headteacher, Lyndsay Watterson.

Over the course of the morning, the team learnt about collaborative working, strategic planning and the leadership and character strengths of one another.

The new Student Leadership Team have already started to implement their strategic plans for 2024-25 and are looking forward to using student voice to support the school's journey to being exceptional in all it does.

“ This is not just an exhibition about university, but for all students who are thinking about their next steps after Year 13. Mrs Prydden, Head of Sixth Form ”

UCAS

NEXT STEPS

Defining Futures Exhibition

As part of our support for students in our Sixth Form, we are working closely with Year 12 students to look at their future options. This work was launched with a visit to the UCAS exhibition at Liverpool Conference Centre in June.

This was an exciting opportunity for all students to look at their options post A Level and start shaping their plans for the future. Students had the opportunity to speak to over 100 different universities as well as apprenticeship providers from across the UK. They were able to listen to talks about student life and how to make a personal statement stand out from the rest. These exhibitions play a vital part in helping applicants decide what and where to study in higher education.

“ We are proud of our opportunities for students in all year groups to explore opportunities beyond their current Key Stage as part of our commitment to supporting them with their 'next steps'. As a school we are continuously evaluated against 'The Gatsby Benchmarks' – a reflection of our school's ability to support students in finding out about careers and educational opportunities beyond the school. Yet again, we are a flagship school in CWAC with the highest adherence rates to the benchmarks and its events like the Year 12 visit to the UCAS exhibition in Liverpool that contribute to this achievement. ”

Mr Yeoman, Assistant Headteacher



DIGITAL EXPERIENCES

Work Experience is an annual programme offered to all Year 10 and 12 students during the summer term. It provides students with first hand experiences of the workplace in order to help their exploration of career opportunities and to expand their networks.

This year a group of Year 10 and 12 had a unique opportunity to take part in the *Digital Experiences of the Workplace* (DEW) programme, organised by The Cheshire and Warrington Pledge. Hosted by Bank of America, Lloyds Banking group and Wrexham University, students spent a week exploring the exciting world of digital technologies and their applications in various real-world settings.

At the Bank of America, students got a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the workings of a major financial institution. They toured the facilities, including fascinating areas like the GIS (Global Information Security)

department and Business Services and spoke with Cybersecurity degree apprentices. The apprentices not only explained the exciting world of cybersecurity but also shed light on the benefits of degree apprenticeships – a valuable alternative to traditional university degrees combining work experience with academic study.

During a thrilling Cybersecurity workshop, students took part in a simulated cyber attack, making critical decisions to protect the bank's systems. This interactive experience not only honed their problem-solving skills but also gave them a taste of the challenges and responsibilities faced by cybersecurity professionals.

At Lloyds Bank the focus was on employability skills and digital marketing. Students put their creative thinking caps on as they devised strategies to support a struggling business using technology.



**Cheshire College
South & West**

College Taster Day

Year 10 students embarked on an exciting trip to West Cheshire College in Ellesmere Port, where they got a first-hand experience of college life through a series of engaging taster sessions. This unique opportunity allowed the students to sample three different post-16 educational courses, ranging from bricklaying to hospitality and catering to hairdressing, offering them valuable insights into their potential future educational pathways.

Throughout the day, students were given the opportunity to explore the college campus and facilities, fully embracing and simulating a day in the life of a college student. The hands-on experiences and practical sessions not only educated but also inspired them. By the end of the day, students had not only learned about different career options but also gained confidence in making informed decisions about their post-16 education.

This visit to Cheshire College South and West is part of our students' entitlement to careers information and the development of their understanding of what other educational establishments offer. This is known as the 'Baker Clause' which stipulates that we have a duty to support students to make informed choices about further study offered from a range of other providers.



This activity fostered innovative thinking and teamwork, whilst highlighting the importance of technology in today's job market.

Working with Miltec Digital, students learned the power of Google in promoting businesses. They then applied this knowledge in group projects, devising strategies to leverage Google's tools for promoting Queen's Park High School itself. This practical experience allowed them to see the immediate impact of digital marketing strategies.

At Wrexham University, students had a double dose of digital experiences. One workshop utilised computer network simulation software, allowing students to build and understand the intricate workings of computer networks. The other workshop equipped them with the skills to create engaging marketing videos for the university.

On their final day, students returned to the Bank of America where they faced a nerve-wracking but rewarding experience – mock interviews with industry professionals! This provided invaluable practice in presenting

themselves confidently and effectively, a skill highly valued by employers.

Following the interviews, students showcased their week-long project – their marketing strategies for the NHS app. Representatives from the NHS and other business professionals provided feedback on their presentations, praising both their creativity and presentation skills.

The afternoon offered students the chance to unwind and have some fun, while still applying newfound skills. One activity involved teamwork and critical thinking as students competed to build the tallest, most stable structure possible using just spaghetti. The other activity involved a taste of coding, where students used Python programming to control LEDs in a traffic light sequence on a Raspberry Pi computer.

“ The DEW program proved to be a resounding success. Filled with exciting experiences, workshops, and challenges, it provided students with a comprehensive understanding of the digital landscape across various industries. Through hands-on activities and interactive sessions, they developed crucial digital skills like cybersecurity awareness, marketing strategy, and even basic coding. But more importantly, the programme fostered confidence, presentation skills, and teamwork – all essential attributes for success in the digital workplace of tomorrow. ”

Mr Griffiths,
Teacher of Computing



“ This experience has been rich and varied, it has consolidated the fact that I want to pursue a career in STEM related careers. I am looking forward to applying what I have learnt to my Computer Science A level course and hopefully secure a career in this field in the future. ”

Year 12 student



CAN THEY CRACK THE CODE?

Decoding Careers & Encryption in Tech Workshop

Year 10 computer scientists and mathematicians have recently participated in an exciting workshop that combined career exploration with the thrill of codebreaking!

The event organised by the school's computing department, began with a stimulating talk from *TechSheCan* - a non-profit initiative dedicated to promoting tech careers for women. The organisation's representatives offered valuable insights into the diverse and rewarding opportunities available in the tech industry, showcasing real-life examples of women who are leading the way in innovation.

The focus then shifted to a captivating workshop delivered in collaboration with the National Centre for Computing Education (NCCE), entitled '*Encrypting the Future: Unmasking the Secrets of Codes*'. The session delved into the fascinating world of encryption. Students embarked on a historical journey, exploring how encryption has been used for centuries to safeguard sensitive information, from ancient Egypt's hieroglyphics to the complex algorithms used today.

Mr Griffiths shed light on several commonly used encryption methods, including Caesar ciphers, where each letter is shifted a specific number of positions in the alphabet; and more sophisticated techniques like public-key cryptography. Armed with this knowledge, the students were then presented with a captivating scenario: *a suspected spy has been sending coded messages, and it is your mission to crack the code and uncover their identity!*

Divided into teams, students eagerly tackled a series of seven encryption challenges. Each challenge presented a coded message using a different encryption method. Working collaboratively, the students applied their newly acquired knowledge and problem-solving skills to decipher the messages. They meticulously analysed letter patterns, experimented with different decoding techniques, and employed their mathematical prowess to crack the codes.

The atmosphere in the workshop was electric, with focused determination and bursts of excited chatter as teams compared notes and made

breakthroughs. Through trial and error, and a healthy dose of perseverance, they successfully decrypted all seven messages. The culmination of their efforts revealed a hidden trail that ultimately led them to the identity of the spy, completing their mission and solidifying their newfound understanding of encryption concepts.

This workshop not only offered a glimpse into the exciting world of cryptography and its applications in the tech industry, but also served as a powerful reminder of the synergy between computer science and mathematics. The students emerged from the experience with a deeper appreciation for the importance of cybersecurity, a newfound respect for the complexity of encryption methods, and a sense of accomplishment from successfully cracking the codes. Undoubtedly, this workshop sparked a curiosity and a passion for tech among many of the participants, paving the way for future exploration in the field.



“ The Grosvenor Estate is huge and there are so many different jobs that you can do, amazing! ”

Year 9 student



ACCESS ALL AREAS

Experiences of the Workplace

Where can you go and see an Aston Martin car? A cave made out of shells? And taste fresh fruit and veg all in one day? The answer is at the Eaton Estate!

In July, 10 Year 9 students were selected to take part in an experiences of the workplace opportunity. They began with a visit to The Grosvenor Estate where they discovered more about the Estate and the career pathways they offer.

“ We had a fantastic day with Mrs Watts and Mr Taylor at The Eaton Estate, home to the Duke of Westminster and the Grosvenor family. When we arrived, Sammy and her team made us feel really welcome. We learned all about the Eaton Estate - over 12,000 acres with 150 fallow deer and learned about Abbeystead (Lancashire) and Reay Forest (Scotland). We had a tour and were blown away by all the facts we learned about the Estate and the Duke. *Did you know...* that The Estate manages over 500 residential and commercial properties? The tenant farmers produce 32 million litres of milk a year, enough for 430,000 people every day! We also heard about the many careers and opportunities they have, including what it is like to be a rural surveyor, arborist and ecologist and even a trainee accountant! We loved going into the garden with Harvey (the gardener) and learning about all of the plants. We even got to taste the home grown produce straight from the bushes and trees! Bruce spoke to us about event management and explained how he entered the profession. We got to see state carriages and even an Aston Martin car! After a delicious lunch we created presentations to outline our proposals of how we would increase visitors and potential customers to the Grosvenor Timber Works website. We all contributed and were pushed out of our comfort zones to present. Mrs Watts spoke to us about having high aspirations and how we can be anything we want to be as long as we work hard and take every opportunity. When we got back to school, we told Mr Gregory about the amazing day we'd had. ”

Year 9 student

The following day, students visited Bank of America where they got to see behind the scenes before learning about why the bank encourages employees to be involved in key topics such as diversity and the environment. Students found out about apprenticeship opportunities and better money habits. On the last day, students visited Grosvenor Hart Homes, a social enterprise on a mission to improve the life chances of vulnerable children, young people, and their families.



Risking It All

Behaviours & Consequences

As part of our whole school approach to 'Keeping Everyone Safe in Education', Queen's Park High School students have been learning about 'respect' which is one of our whole school core values.

Tutor time activities, PSHCE lessons and assemblies have focused on this core theme where students have explored respecting each other, respecting yourself, the environment and how to keep yourself safe.

Supported by funding from the Duke of Westminster, Year 9 students took part in a performance and discussion entitled, 'Risking it all' led by local Theatre in Education group, 2Engage.

The performance focused on risk taking behaviours and how choices we make can impact opportunities and have consequences for the rest of our lives.

The scenarios presented by the actors were based on real life stories and explored the impact these issues have on young people's mental and physical health, their education and their relationships with family and peers. It highlighted: social network and substance misuse, inappropriate relationships, risk-taking behaviour, peer pressure and the sometimes unseen process of grooming.

The performance was incredibly powerful and engaging and caused a lot of reflection by students as to how they can

make the best choices to keep themselves and their futures safe.

2Engage are a not for profit organisation who facilitate and deliver theatre-based projects in educational and community settings. This interactive workshop aims to support the welfare of young people across the region whilst highlighting key issues around safeguarding risk-taking behaviour in adolescence.

“ As a school we feel privileged and very grateful to have been selected as one of only a few to have this opportunity subsidised, so we could offer it for free to our students. ”

Mr Yeoman,
Assistant Headteacher



CONSENT

Keeping safe online

In June, local police officer, PC Cruickshanks came into school to deliver a presentation about 'Consent and the law' to Years 7-10 and Year 12.

Each assembly was tailored to the year group and PC Cruickshanks spoke specifically about how to keep safe online and in person with other people.

Students found the assembly very thought provoking and took away a lot of important tips and advice about how to conduct themselves and where to seek support should they need it when online and in a relationship.

PC Cruickshanks worked closely with the school to refine the assembly so that we knew it would reflect both our wider PSHCE curriculum and the needs of our students.



Absnt Mind



No More Pressure!

Five lads, serious vocals, hardcore song-writing talent, not to mention the ability and skills to jump on a keyboard, guitar or drums, this is *Absnt Mind* who are poised to fill the void left by 'One Direction' and the boyband our excited Year 7 and 8 students got to see perform in our school hall as a very special treat!

The name comes from the boys who feel that there is so much pressure to be a certain way in person and online and to follow a certain path, that they want to break this and say, 'No More Pressure'!

Having faced their own battles with mental health and body image - significant issues and challenges affecting today's teenagers, the boys spoke from first hand

experience about the issues they've personally had to contend with both growing up and as they have formed their own band.

The boys also performed a repertoire of original and contemporary global pop songs and a selection of cover songs to uplift spirits, entertain, and ultimately educate our students on these sensitive topics.

At the end of the hour long set they signed autographs which a lot of our students were extremely keen to have!

It was a great opportunity to celebrate professional performance work in school and to introduce young people to the realities of what hard work and dedication can bring to your life.



Being a positive bystander

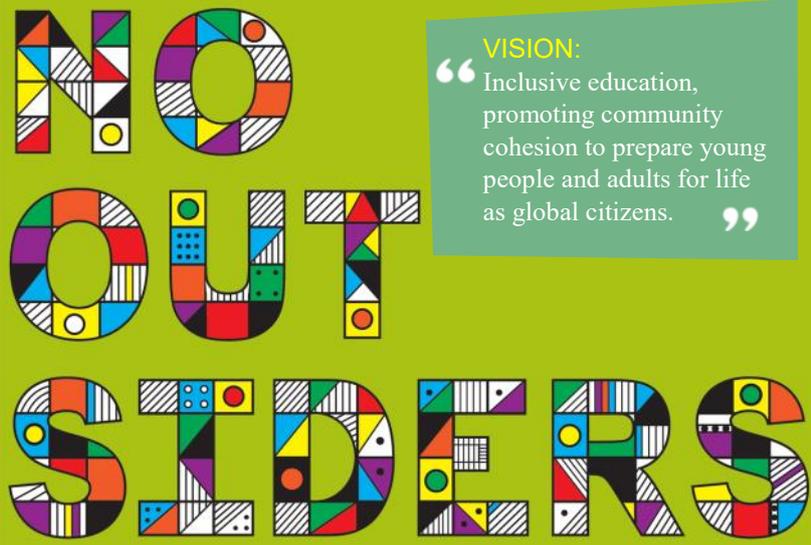
Working in partnership with CSASS (Chester Sexual Abuse Support Service), Kathryn Kirk and Mrs Watts delivered workshops to all Year 7 students this term.

The focus of the workshops was to develop a shared understanding around the 'Time to Challenge' and 'no one should stand by' agenda, specifically addressing healthy and unhealthy relationships including an understanding of how to be an active bystander. Kathryn Kirk (CSASS Outreach Manager) has been working with Mrs Watts over a number of years to enhance our approach to RSE curriculum delivery.

At Queen's Park High School, keeping everyone safe is a key priority across our school community.

As part of our ongoing development of our Key Stage 4 and 5 curriculum for September, the Social Studies team are working with Lime Culture, a national safeguarding / sexual violence organisation and Cheshire Police as part of the Safer Streets Partnership with Purple Leaf. The KS4 and KS5 PSHE curriculum has been designed to engage students in conversation around these issues.

A full overview of the curriculum for PSHE can be found on our website: www.qphs.co.uk > Students > Curriculum > PSHE



VISION:
“ Inclusive education, promoting community cohesion to prepare young people and adults for life as global citizens. ”

EVERYONE IS WELCOME IN OUR SCHOOL
No one is the same, but everyone is equal



A rainbow of colour for 'No Outsiders' Day

On 27th June, staff and students added a splash of colour to their outfits as we celebrated the diversity of our school population and recognised that everyone is welcome regardless of their race, gender, sexuality, neurodiversity or disability and what makes Queen's Park High School the caring, inclusive environment it is.

Ellie from our Sixth Form Leadership Team is our 'No Outsiders' rep in school and in a whole school assembly she highlighted the expectations of all students to follow our 'No Outsiders Respect' policy.

On the day, students (and staff) showed their support by wearing

a colourful item in addition to their normal school uniform and asked to donate £1 to help raise funds to enable the school to take part in the ADHD Foundations Umbrella Project next academic year.

At lunchtime the LGBTQ+ group held a cake bake sale and staff were placed in stocks for 'Sponge the Teacher' and got a thorough wet soaking as students queued to have the honour of drenching their favourite (least favourite) staff member!

We all enjoyed celebrating our inclusivity and would like to thank our QPHS family for all their support in making QPHS the school in Chester where all students feel like they belong.



EQUALITY

Diversity Role Models

Supporting diversity and challenging stereotypes is a key feature of our 'No Outsiders' initiative and we were delighted to welcome back 'Diversity Role Models' to work with our Year 12 students and talk to them about diversity, inclusion, equality and protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010.

A big thank you to Kate for delivering such an engaging and interactive workshop.

Sixth Form students have dedicated World and Personal Development sessions on their timetables as the school remains committed to teaching students across all age ranges about British Values and personal and health care education.



Diversity
Role Models

YEAR 5 POPSTARS

Performing Arts masterclass

We were delighted to welcome Year 5 children from Overleigh St Mary's to take part in a series of Performing Arts workshops over the summer term.

Taking inspiration from our smash hit school production *'Popstars – the 90s Musical'*, children took part in 3 separate workshops focusing on dance, drama and music.

This was an opportunity for the children to revisit some of the musical numbers they had watched when they visited back in February to see our annual school production.

Ash, Year 10 student and one of the choreographers of our show, led an exciting dance workshop which saw Year 5 learn choreography to the Backstreet Boy's famous hit, *'Everybody (Backstreet's Back)'*, which was the finale number in the show.

Over in music, students focused on the song *'Achy Breaky Heart'*, with support from members of our cast and band.

Mr Yeoman led a drama workshop focusing on characterisation, using a duologue between the characters 'Shannon' and 'Patrick' to bring their roles to life!

Just before we bid Year 5 a final farewell, they gathered in our main hall to present their performance work – proving themselves to be what the musical theatre industry call *'triple threats'* – performances proficient in the art of singing, dancing and acting!



TRANSITION DAYS

A taste of high school life

In June we welcomed our new recruits from Year 6 to experience a day at Queen's Park High School. The Transition Day included three taster lessons, a tour of the school, a Q&A session with Year 7 student ambassadors, a workshop linked to school travel and lunch in the main canteen! Year 6 children also got to meet their group tutor ready for September – a very important figure for the next five years of secondary school life!

Mrs Bearcroft (Transition Lead) was really excited about welcoming Year 6, "I always look forward to transition day, it is such an amazing opportunity to

bring the children together after meeting them in small groups in their primary settings. The start of the day tends to be a flurry of mixed emotions – excitement met with a few butterflies and nerves. However, by the end of the day it is so lovely to see the children with smiles on their faces, and a huge weight off their shoulders after experiencing their first taste of life at Queen's Park High School".

For the first time this year, we also hosted a pre-loved uniform 'pop up' shop, at the end of the day for our new families. This was really popular allowing families to get prepared and organised ready for September (whilst being super sustainable too!).



STORYHOUSE

Year 7 Ambassadors

The Year 6 Transition Project at Storyhouse brings together children from schools across Chester to learn from real life students what secondary school is actually like!

For the second year, we were thrilled that our Year 7 student ambassadors had been invited to present on centre stage. In preparation for the event Mrs MJ and Mrs Catton gathered with the students to discuss what they had been looking forward to and what their worries had been when they started high school.

On the day, our group met with Eccleston Primary, Kelsall Primary and Grosvenor Park Academy before heading to the Garrett Theatre to talk about the move to Secondary School.

Our students then presented their experiences to the year 6s including top tips for starting Secondary School, including to: *be on time; have a copy of the timetable in your pocket, name your water bottle and everything you take into school, join clubs, make new friends and above all have fun!!*

All students then came together in the main theatre to see performances by the year 6s about mobile phones.

Bespoke taster morning

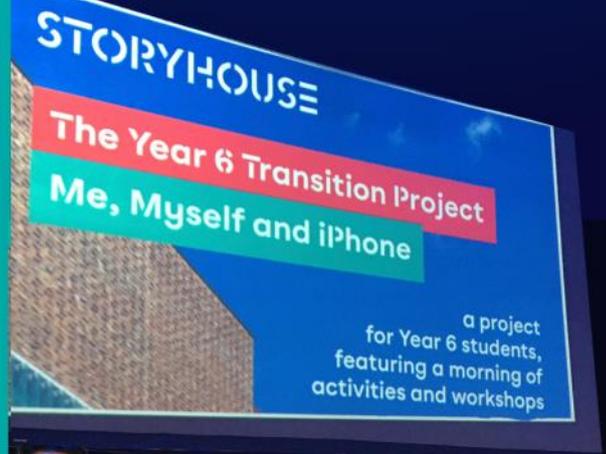
In July we welcomed Year 6 children from Lache Primary for a bespoke transition event as they had been away on their school residential at the time our other primary schools visited.

The children took part in an English workshop where they explored fairytale characters using Roald Dahl's 'Little Red Riding Hood' poem to form a new interpretation! The children also went on a tour of the building to familiarise themselves with their new surroundings and met two Year 7 ambassadors who told them all about their first year at Queen's Park High School, reflecting on how they felt this time a year ago!

The children also got to experience a workshop on school travel, contributing to an important discussion about the benefits of walking to school.

“ It was important to host this additional event for Lache Primary School, so the children did not miss out on any information from the Transition day. They all made a great first impression on everyone. ”

Mrs Bearcroft, Transition Lead



“ Our students were excellent ambassadors for Queen's Park and showed that starting a new school is the start of an exciting new adventure! ”

Mrs MJ, Independent Learning Support and Librarian

Year 7 RESIDENTIAL

“ On the residential I most enjoyed doing the paddleboarding, although I fell off! I enjoyed this because it was fun to experience something I had never done before! ”
Gabbi, Year 7 student

“ When I went on the residential my favourite activity was problem solving, this is because there were loads of challenges like ‘Spiders web’ where you have to get people through a web. It involves teamwork and communication. There was a challenge where you had to get your whole team from one wooden stand to the other and back using a rope which you had to swing yourself on ”
Year 7 student

“ A very proud time to have such a wonderful group of students, some amazing teachers, and to be the Head of Year 7. ”
Mr Girow, Head of Year 7

Team building adventures at Conway

The Year 7 residential to the Conway Centre in Anglesey was a fantastic way to finish a brilliant first year. Over half of the year group took part in 3 days of team building and problem-solving activities in the ever-varying weather of North Wales.

On the first day the groups were straight outside for problem-solving in the forest and water activities on the Menai Strait before football, rounders and wink-murder! The next day was packed with more water sports and problem solving, alongside raft-building, mountain biking, Via Ferrata, and bushcraft – albeit in the torrential rain and amongst the jellyfish!

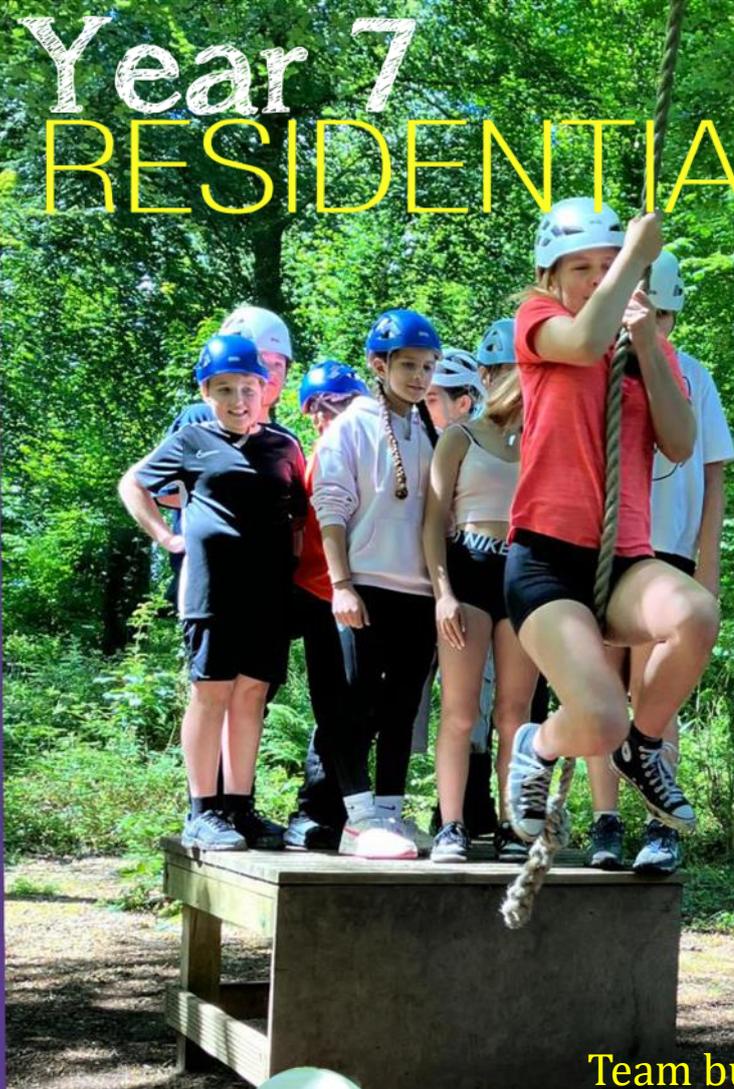
After a cold and exhausting day, you would expect a chilled and relaxed evening... not for QPHS! Mrs Clelland sprung into action and hosted a monumental Trash Fashion Show, where teams of students created garments for their models to be paraded down the runway. Mini competitions were held for all contestants to get their hands on the best ‘trash’ to make sure their models had the

fanciest clothes. Memorable a cappella karaoke performances were given by Alfie M and Aariz N.

Congratulations to the winner: Team Beth RP, for best garment, and Teams Jayden C and Teddy H, for best runway performance!

After 2 hours of Trash Fashion, that should have been it for the evening, but not for QPHS! They survived not 1, but 2 fire alarms! Very much unplanned and scary, Team QPHS leapt into action and were lightning fast at getting to the assembly point. There were many times throughout the trip that we got to see the leadership skills and teamwork of our students, but it stood out most during this time. Whilst students were tired and upset, their friends made sure that they were okay and looked out for each other.

The next day was another action packed morning of raft-building, indoor rock climbing and Via Ferrata, before lunch and the coach journey back home. What a wonderful trip!



BIKE RIGHT!

Making cycling viable, safer & better

At Queen's Park, many of our students opt to cycle into school each day, so cycling safety is of utmost importance to us. During the Summer Term, we have been working alongside BikeRight (the new Cycling Proficiency for the 21st century) to provide Year 7 students with the opportunity to complete their level 3 Bikeability programme.

The course is funded by the local authority and Department for Transport and aims to give the next generation the skills and confidence to ride their bikes on today's roads, teaching students to ride a bike to National Standards and introduce them to cycling as an everyday, fun, healthy activity and an alternative mode of transport.

During the course, students navigated the roads in and around Handbridge and learned how to identify important observations, choosing the most suitable riding position on the road, communicating intentions clearly to others and understanding priorities on the road.

Congratulations to all 26 students who successfully completed the course and thoroughly enjoyed their Bikeability experience to become safer, more proficient cyclists. We hope this will not only inspire students to cycle into school, but will give them the tools to cycle independently, confidently, safely and equip themselves appropriately for their journey.



BIKE RIGHT!
- Cycle for Life -



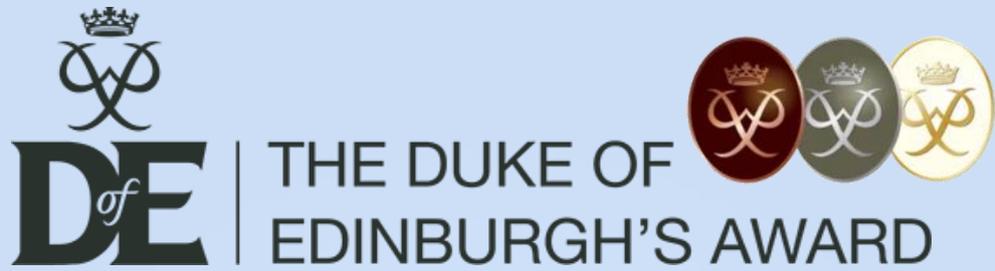
The Level 3 Extended Diploma course in Uniformed Protective Services offered by APST Education and Training for Sixth Form students at Queen's Park High School, is a comprehensive program designed to prepare students for careers in various uniformed services such as the police, fire service, armed forces, and also an opportunity to progress onto University. This course provides students with a thorough understanding of the roles and responsibilities within these services, as well as essential skills and knowledge needed for success in these professions.

This year, APST has expanded its offerings beyond the classroom to run the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards (DofE) for the school. Through these programmes, students have the opportunity to engage in adventurous activities, develop leadership skills, and contribute to their communities through volunteering initiatives.

The DofE programme aligns well with the ethos of the Uniformed Protective Services course, as it promotes personal development, resilience, and teamwork – qualities essential for success in any uniformed service career. By participating in DofE, students not only enhance their academic learning but also gain practical experience in outdoor exploration, navigation, and problem-solving, all of which are valuable skills in the field.

Under the guidance of APST instructors, students embark on challenging expeditions, undertake volunteering projects, and develop physical fitness – all while working towards achieving their Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards. Through these experiences, students not only grow as individuals but also foster a sense of camaraderie with their peers and develop a deeper appreciation for the natural world.

To find out more about APST Education & Training, please visit: <https://apsteducation.co.uk/>



A journey of growth & achievement

Queen's Park High School has long been a hub of excellence in both academics and extracurricular activities. Among the most prestigious programmes offered, is the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE), delivered by APST Education & Training.

This year, students from Year 9 to Year 12 have embarked on their respective Bronze, Silver, and Gold DofE journeys, each level presenting its own set of challenges and opportunities for personal growth.



“ The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award at Queen’s Park High School, delivered by APST, continues to be a cornerstone of personal development for our students. From Year 9’s Bronze to Year 12’s Gold, each level presents its own set of challenges that help students grow, learn, and thrive. The journey through DofE equips them with vital life skills, instils a sense of community, and prepares them for future success. As we celebrate the achievements of our students, we look forward to supporting and guiding future cohorts through the transformative experience that is the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award.”

Mr Sam Taylor, APST Director



Year 9: The Bronze Award

This introductory level is designed to inspire and empower young people to challenge themselves and develop essential life skills. The Bronze Award encompasses four key sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skills, and Expedition.

The Volunteering section has seen students engaging in a variety of community service activities, from assisting at local food banks to helping out in community gardens. This has not only taught them the value of giving back but also provided a sense of accomplishment and community spirit.

In the Physical section, students have pushed their boundaries, participating in sports and fitness activities that promote a healthy lifestyle. Whether it's football, swimming, or dance, each student has embraced the challenge of setting and achieving personal fitness goals.

The Skills section has allowed students to explore and develop new talents. From learning a musical instrument to mastering a new language, the Year 9 cohort has shown remarkable dedication and enthusiasm.

The Expedition section, often the highlight of the Bronze Award, involved planning and undertaking a 2 day, 1 night hike in North Wales. During this expedition, students navigated new terrain and learned essential skills, from map reading to managing themselves through the physical challenges of walking for 7 hours a day and covering a distance of 22 kilometres! A very demanding but rewarding experience which fostered a sense of achievement and resilience among our students.

Year 10: The Silver Award

Building on the foundations laid at the bronze level, the Silver Award is more demanding, requiring a greater commitment and higher level of achievement across the same 4 sections. This was also direct entry for some students who hadn't participated in the bronze award.

The Practice Expedition took place in the stunning Lake District, specifically around Ullswater where students covered a total distance of 15 miles in 13 hours! They were then ready to embark on their qualifying expedition in Mid Wales. They had to trek a total of 28.7 miles over just 3 days! They spent a total of 19 hours on their feet, navigating diverse

terrains and coping with the elements. Their hard work and perseverance paid off as they all successfully completed the expedition - well done!

Year 12: The Gold Award

This year marks a significant milestone for Queen's Park High School as we see our first student embark on the DofE Gold Award. Michael P, who is currently studying Uniformed Protective Services, has taken on this immense challenge and has participated in a residential section, which required spending 5 days and 4 nights away from home, engaging in activities with people he didn't previously know. This immersive experience is designed to foster teamwork, independence, and social skills. Michael fully embraced the opportunity, working collaboratively and adapting to new environments and individuals. His commitment and active participation in the residential programme were crucial in fulfilling this requirement for the prestigious award.

Michael's journey into the Gold Award not only sets a precedent for future students but also reflects the expanding horizons and aspirations within the school community.



Year 7 & 8 Athletics Team



Year 9 & 10 Athletics Team

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Rounders triumphs, achievements & new dynamic

Year 7 Triumphs

The Year 7 Rounders Team has had an exceptional season, participating in two thrilling tournaments. The team demonstrated outstanding skills and teamwork, securing numerous victories. Jana MC was a standout performer, consistently scoring rounder after rounder with her incredible hits. On the field, Nevaeh SH and Hattie provided excellent fielding at the 2nd and 4th bases, ensuring the team's strong performance while Emily C and Carmen J showcased exceptional fielding skills, preventing our opponents scoring lots of rounders.

This season marks an exciting beginning to the success of this year's group in rounders - well done Year 7!

Year 8 Achievements

The Year 8 team has also had a successful season, competing in a couple of tournaments this term. Indiana delivered some impressive hits, while Evie S' long throws were a key factor in their fielding strategy. Lucy T made some fantastic

catches, contributing significantly to the team's overall success. This team is exceptionally strong with a fantastic group dynamic. Exciting times lie ahead for this team in the upcoming season!

Year 9 New Dynamic

Year 9 introduced a new mix of players to the team, and they quickly proved their brilliance on the field. Leah C was phenomenal, scoring a full rounder every time she stepped up to bat. Grace O's amazing catches showcased her strong fielding skills. Kelsey B and Miley M were also crucial to the team's success, with excellent fielding that kept their opponents at bay. Great teamwork, Year 9!

“ Overall, this rounders season was marked by exceptional performances, teamwork, and numerous memorable moments across all year groups. The players' dedication and skill were evident in every game, making it a season to remember. Very proud teacher as always! ”

Miss Darroch, Teacher of PE



Chester & District Athletics

Another year and another record set of results for Queen's Park High School athletics team, as over 100 students from years 7 - 10 competed in both track and field events at the Chester and District athletics competitions in Deeside this term. The PE staff are incredibly proud to celebrate the outstanding efforts and achievements of our Year 7, 8, 9, and 10 students who participated in the Chester Districts this year. Representing our school with exceptional dedication and sportsmanship, these students shone brightly in every event they entered, giving their best and embodying the true spirit of teamwork and determination. Special congratulations go to the following students who excelled and secured top three positions in their respective events:

Year 7:

- Erin N: Javelin, 3rd
- Joseph H: Javelin, 3rd

Year 8:

- Alice F: Long Jump, 3rd
- Alice B: Javelin, 3rd
- Indianna N: Javelin, 2nd
- Evie S: Shotput, 2nd
- Theo D: Shotput, 2nd
- Milo P: Long Jump, 3rd

Year 9:

- Millie W: 100m, 1st; Long Jump, 2nd; Relay 4x100m, 2nd
- Pheobe W: 200m, 2nd; Javelin, 2nd; Relay 4x100m, 2nd
- Poppy B: Discus, 3rd
- Leah C: Relay 4x100m, 2nd
- Grace O: Relay 4x100m, 2nd
- Miley M: Relay 4x100m, 2nd

Year 10:

- Bruno B: High Jump, 2nd
- Evan M: 400m, 1st; Discus, 1st

A special mention to 3 students who went on to represent Chester & District in the Cheshire Athletics:

A huge congratulations to:

- Phoebe W - 7th in the junior girls javelin
- Evan M - 2nd in the intermediate boys 400m final
- Millie W - 2nd in the junior girls 100m final

Millie and Evan went on to compete in the Mason trophy, representing Cheshire.

What an incredible set of results! All students' attitude, morale and support for their team was exceptional throughout! Well done to all involved!



UNDEFEATED!

Team shine in dominant campaign

In an extraordinary display of skill and teamwork, the Year 10 boys wrapped up another cricket season undefeated, cementing their reputation as one of the most formidable school teams in the area!

Under the astute leadership of captain Aryan, the team demonstrated fantastic solidarity and a winning spirit that carried them through every match. Aryan's strategic acumen and motivational leadership were pivotal in guiding the team to victory, ensuring that each player performed at their best.

The season kicked off with a thrilling match against Chester Catholic High School, where the boys set the tone for their campaign with a comprehensive win. Their exceptional batting line up including Bruno and Jack laid a solid foundation, while the bowlers executed precise and effective deliveries, stifling the opposition's scoring opportunities.

Against Blacon High School, the team's unity and resilience were evident. The players supported each other on and off the field, particularly after a strong batting start by Blacon saw them rack up a respectable 30 runs in the first few overs. With a big task ahead, this match saw some of the lads' best performances of the season, with several players contributing significant runs and taking crucial

wickets to eventually take the win.

The final match against The Bishops' Blue Coat. Facing a strong and enthusiastic opponent, the Year 10 boys rose to the challenge with remarkable batting displays by Carlos and Sam and sharp fielding by Fynn, Tem, Oliver and Jack. The bowlers once again proved their mettle, restricting Bishops to a low score and sealing the unbeaten record.

The boys' outstanding performances throughout the season are a reflection of their hard work, passion and discipline. The team's camaraderie was a key factor in their success, with each player stepping up when needed and celebrating each other's achievements. Captain Aryan's leadership was instrumental in fostering this spirit of unity and excellence. His ability to inspire and lead by example was evident in every game.

As the season concludes, the team can look back with pride on an unbeaten campaign. Their success is not just a testament to their individual talents but also to the power of teamwork and the importance of strong leadership. They have proudly represented Queen's Park and the whole school congratulate them on their achievement, well done lads!

SPORTS DAY

An 'Olympic' battle of the Houses

The stage was set, the lines were marked, the gazebos were erected, this could only mean one thing: Sports Day 2024! Each year this event presents an opportunity for the school to celebrate its sense of community and sporting achievement as students from Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 compete to represent their house in pursuit of the coveted house trophy.

This year's sports day joined the theme of the Paris Olympics. Each tutor group was given a country to represent. During the morning students prepared celebratory banners to signify their nation. As the theme tune to *'Chariots of Fire'*

blared out loudly, students proudly paraded their country and tutor group around the performance theatre, aka the front field.

The atmosphere had been building all day and it didn't disappoint as the roar from the crowd kicked off the event with the obligatory Year 7 girls 100m event. The Queen's Park High Sports Day is designed to combine more traditional events with other more eccentric and accessible sporting activities. This allows us to combine a competitive atmosphere which is respectful of opponents, whilst encouraging participation through an appreciation of a healthy

PARIS 2024



active lifestyle. This year's more traditional track events included 100m, 200m, 300m and the 4x100 relay, whilst the field activities involved high jump and shot put. Meanwhile, students were also treated to activities such as tug of war, penalty shoot-out, snag golf, team rowing, inflatable gladiator duels and bungee run.

The atmosphere was electric throughout the day, boosted further by a performance from our school band *'Radio Silence'* as well as tunes from budding DJ, Mr Yeoman.



There were some outstanding performances including: Silence in the 100m sprint and Jayden in the penalty shoot-out.

Results were announced by Mr Taylor as part of the final assembly on the last day of term.

The tutor groups in Westminster house were clearly nervous as their house ribbons were ceremoniously removed as the reigning 2023 winners. Tutor groups with the most points were initially announced. Cheers could be heard as 'MOS' were announced in 3rd place, with 'JOM' and 'EVA' securing the joint 1st place. Then for the main event, the winning House, and this year it couldn't have been closer!...

In 3rd place was Westminster with 72 points, in 2nd Place was Eaton House with 75 points and in 1st place was Grosvenor House with 77 points! This victory brought Grosvenor House even on all time sports day wins with Eaton House, meaning that next year it is all to play for!

Congratulations Grosvenor!



WIMBLEDON

Tennis Championships

The PE department were ecstatic to be lucky enough to secure 10 tickets to Court 1 on the prestigious final's day of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships. This once in a lifetime opportunity was given to students in the GCSE PE class, with a view of inspiring and further promoting their passion for sport.

Students arrived dressed to impress the Wimbledon crowd, and within 5 minutes of entering the championships, they had rubbed shoulders with the celebrities, passing within touching distance of tennis star, Djokovic and the Dr Who actor, Benedict Cumberbatch! The group initially toured the outside courts, where they had the opportunity to sit front row court side where they observed competitive qualifiers, elite tennis players warm up and invitational matches, where ex-professionals show off their skills.

Our budding athletes then took their seats on Court 1 to watch the boys U18 and girls U18 finals. Our future stars could also be seen enjoying the tennis in the background on the BBC commentary! It was clear to see that the opportunity to watch elite performances was an inspiration to our individuals and encouraged them to actively think about what it takes to become a top performer as well as considering the principles etiquette and sportsmanship which are required to achieve respect amongst elite sports performers.

On leaving Court 1, the group headed to 'Henman Hill', which was alive with atmosphere as Alcaraz competed against Djokovic in the Wimbledon Men's final. The crowd roared as Alcaraz triumphantly took the match in straight sets, and our students absorbed the electric Wimbledon atmosphere.



“ We were very proud to be able to provide our students with access to this prestigious event. We hope that this will inspire our next generation of athletes and provide yet another draw towards studying our fantastic GCSE Physical course work! ”

Mr Taylor, Curriculum Team Leader for PPA



LEARN TO ROW PROGRAMME

Charter of Entitlement

Our annual 'Learn To Row' programme continued to grow this year with a large proportion of Year 7 students taking part in 7 hours of intensive coaching before being formally invited to take part in the Queen's Park Chester Rowing Club from September 2024.

The programme is a sustainable, inclusive model for the rowing club and has been so successful it has been built into the school's *Charter of Entitlement* which ensures that all students have the opportunity to take advantage of this facility during their time at Queen's Park High School.

Over 90 students signed up to the programme during the summer term. Incorporating 3 intensive water sessions and a land safety and club introduction, they learned how to be safe on the

water, hazards when on and near the water, carrying boats and equipment, working as a team, boat and rowing terminology, coxing, steering and basics of the rowing stroke.

The sessions were led by Kayte Parlevliet, Queen's Park Chester Rowing Club volunteer coach and parent, along with other members of the club including senior student rowers, coaches and newly trained school staff, who gave up their free time to support this initiative.

Students had a fantastic time learning to row in both quads and singles. Further sessions are scheduled for our SEN students early in September, with the next Learn to Row programme for our new Year 7 intake to be run by the rowing club in Spring 2025.



“ This is one of the best things I've done in Year 7 and something I've been looking forward to all year; I'll definitely be joining the club next year. ”

Year 7 Student



“ We are so proud to be awarding Sienna with the Michael Ord memorial presentation. Sienna embodies the purpose of this award, not only is she an elite performer, representing Wales at international rowing events, but Sienna also recognises the importance of giving back to the community by inspiring the future generation of athletes . ”

Mr Taylor,
Curriculum Team Leader for PPA

SPORTS HONOUR

Outstanding contribution to rowing

The Michael Ord Award is a prestigious memorial trophy presented annually to a sixth form student from Queen’s Park High School. This award honours a student who not only exhibits a passion for sports but also dedicates their time to nurturing and supporting the development of younger athletes.

This year, the Michael Ord Award was presented to Year 13 student Sienna Taylor in recognition of her outstanding achievement and commitment to rowing, along with her dedication to coaching younger students.

On Wednesday 3rd July, Sienna received the memorial trophy from Stuart Ord, who established the award in honour and memory of his son, Michael. It has been 31 years since Michael, a former Queen’s Park High

School student and avid sportsman, tragically died of meningitis at the age of 14.

The presentation was deliberately a small intimate event held in the Conference Room at QPHS and was attended by Stuart Ord (Michael's father) and partner Sue along with a small number of teachers and Sienna's family and friends.

Sienna's name has now been engraved onto the honours plaque, which lists past winners dating back to 1994. We are incredibly proud of Sienna for her exceptional sporting achievements both in and out of school. She is a true ambassador for her sport and fully deserves this honour. Congratulations, Sienna!



“ Affording the opportunity to learn to row to the students of QPHS is something we are very proud to offer. QPHS continues to be one of five state high schools in the country with access to a river boathouse and this is something we are committed to maintaining for years to come. ”

Kayte Parlevliet,
Chairperson & Coach QPCRC



NATIONAL SCHOOLS REGATTA

Olympic rowers in the making!

Held at Dorney Lake in late May, the National Schools Regatta is the key national event for schools to compete in crew boats (for J14 and J15 rowers) and then smaller boats for the older athletes.

Crews headed down to London, Eaton College over three days to compete in this national event on Dorney Lake. The excitement and buzz of the site is amazing, and this year was no different, with over 5000 rowers from around the UK competing.

Our crews performed incredibly well in their events.

Final Results:

- Sienna T and Grace N – Won C Final Championships Girls pair
- Dan H – 5th D Final Championships boys single
- Evie B, Phoebe W, Millie W, Millie P, Cox – Leigh D, Won D final WJ14 coxed quads
- Isobelle C, Siyana M, Alice N, Eden M, Cox Amy H - 26th out of 45 in the time trial for WJ15 coxed quads.
- Healy S, Bruno B, Achilles A, Toby M, Cox Louis P - 30th out of 39 in the time trial for J15 coxed quads
- Carlos LV, Henry H, Jack M, Louis P, Cox Amy H - Won D final J15 coxed fours.





SHREWSBURY REGATTA

Rowers do club & school proud

A great weekend camping at Shrewsbury on the River Severn, the Shrewsbury Regatta is a terrific spectator event for parents and friends. Like most regattas, with a short course rowed on one day, and then a longer course, we split our rowers across the two days of racing to ensure that everyone can compete at least once across the weekend.

With phenomenal weather, great food and views, our rowers did the school and club proud, with many competing for their first time. Many crabs were caught, boats fell apart, and lessons were learned, but amongst all that, we had wins, teamwork, great leadership and fun! Congratulations to all the winners, and well done to everyone for representing the club so well.



IRONBRIDGE

Facing tough racing

Split over two days in June, the Ironbridge Regatta is a well run event on the River Severn.

The first day is a 950m event and then the second is a shorter 550m sprint. Our senior crews raced on the Saturday and then our junior crews on the Sunday.

There was some tough racing, but brilliant sportsmanship was shown on the day.

CHESTER

World's oldest regatta

Chester Regatta is the oldest regatta in the world, first raced in 1733!

Now a two day event, our very own home regatta (where the club works alongside the other River Dee rowing clubs to host the event), is one mass team effort which saw a jam packed weekend of racing on the River Dee.

The club had crews in singles, doubles and quads across the weekend, with many of our year 8s and 9s in singles for the first time!

It was a busy weekend, with first races for some of our newer rowers. There were strong performances, great participation and learning and some medals won across the two day event.

Well done to the crews and a huge thank you to parents and volunteers for their support in a very successful event.





RUNCORN REGATTA

A stellar day at the Ball Cup

One of our favourite events on the racing calendar is the Ball Cup held at Runcorn on the River Weaver.

A round robin event means that each crew gets to row multiple times up and down a short 300m stretch, sprinting against each team in their event. The crew who wins the most receives the gold medal, then silver and bronze.

We had a stellar day, with most of our Year 8 and Year 9 crews racing across the day.

All of our Year 8 and 9 rowers performed incredibly well with the Year 8 rowers bringing home an impressive tally of 8 gold, 12 silver and 4 bronze medals!

Amazing achievement!



BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS

National Water Sports Centre

This 4 day event at the National Sports Centre in Nottingham is a fantastic way to end the year, as our rowers take part in the combined British Championships for Junior and Senior Rowers.

Our rowers from Year 9 and 10 raced a 1500m time trial to determine their finals position for the finals event being raced later that same day. The finals were side by side racing over 1500m.



Year 9s who competed and represented the school were: Evie B, Phoebe W, Millie W, Millie P, Tristan D, Matthew C, Leigh D, Ephraim W and Henry M.

Year 10s: Jack M, Henry H, Carlos LV, Louis P, Bruno B, Toby M, Isobelle C, Siyana M, Alice N, Amy H, Eden M (Amber M coxed, Year 8)

Senior rowers (Year 11 through to Year 13) had a slightly longer race of 2000m as a time trial, and then into a 2000m side by side final.

Senior rowers who competed: Dan H, Keir, Ned H, Amelie P, Lucy F, Sienna T.

Congratulations to all rowers who rowed incredibly well and should be very proud of their races.



THE YEAR AHEAD...

New name...

We are pleased to announce our ongoing relationship with the rowing club. While the club will be moving to a new legal entity and a new name: **Queen's Park Chester Rowing Club**, we are delighted that students at Queen's Park High School will continue to receive the opportunity to learn to row when they join the school in Year 7.

The school and The Learning Trust will continue to support and work with the rowing club to ensure that students can access rowing, and all the benefits it brings to the wider school community.

Register now to join!

We would like to extend a welcome to students at Queen's Park High School who are interested in joining the rowing club. Please register your interest by scanning the QR code and signing up or visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/c/azv7sdpc>





QUEEN'S PARK
HIGH SCHOOL

OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 18th
September 2024

6.00pm - 8.00pm

OPEN MORNINGS

Thursday 19th & Friday 20th September

Monday 23rd September

9.15am - 12pm

To book a tour on our Open Mornings, contact:

01244 257088

openevening@qphs.co.uk



Secondary School of the Year
WINNER
Queen's Park High School

www.qphs.co.uk @qphschester

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Cheshire West &
Chester Council

Important
information for
parents or carers

Applying for a Secondary School place - Year 7 September 2025

Is your child due to transfer
from Primary School
to Secondary School in
September 2025?

YES – from 1 September
2024 you must apply for a
school place.

You can apply from 1 September 2024:

- online at www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/admissions (last year 99.3% of parents/carers applied online), or
- by telephoning the Authority on 0300 123 7039 to request a 'Transferring to Secondary School 2025-26' booklet.

In addition you can view a copy of the booklet:

- in all Cheshire West and Chester primary schools
- online at www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/admissions.

Closing date for secondary applications 31 October 2024

If entitlement to transport is important to how your child will get to and from school, it is vital you read the Home to School Transport Policy before applying for a school place. Visit the authority's website for further information.

Visit: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/admissions



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