



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL

NEWS

AUTUMN TERM 2025

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

ROWING TO SUCCESS
PROGRAMME

UNILEVER
INSPIRES
Sustainability meets
Creativity

LEST WE FORGET
QPHS HONOUR
THE PAST

TAKING A
STAND
WEAR
RED DAY

SHAPING
CHESTER'S
FUTURE
Student Leaders
join the Mayor

BOOKS, BRAINS
& BIG IDEAS

ENGAGE EXPLORE EMPOWER

Igniting Young Minds in STEM Club

GOAL GETTERS
Kick-off to Victory

IDENTITY
UNLOCKED
CELEBRATING
CREATIVITY

ATTENDANCE
REWARDS
Every Day
Counts!

INSPIRING
TOMORROW'S
TEACHERS
UNIVERSITY
OF CHESTER

LANGUAGES
COMPETITION
Stephen Spender Prize

THE
PLEDGE
Employment
Readiness
Programme



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WELCOME



embraced experiences that will 'define their futures'.

This edition celebrates the planning of our second trip to Tokyo through the Turing Scheme, where three schools will unite this summer to create lifelong memories and global friendships.

Innovation has thrived in STEM Club, with Year 7 students exploring everything from slime to rockets and prosthetics, while Year 9 engaged with industry through the Unilever Inspire Programme. For our Sixth Form students, an Academic Writing workshop with the Royal Literary Fund offered invaluable skills for life beyond Queen's Park High School.

Cultural exchange has been a theme, with Swedish visitors joining our English and drama departments and over 70 trainee teachers from the University of Chester enriching classroom discussions. Creativity shines through our Visual Arts and Design showcase, the sell-out Christmas Concert, and preparations for our upcoming production of Oliver!.

Leadership and community spirit remain at the heart of QPHS, with Student Leaders joining The Lord Mayor of Chester to shape the City's future, and charitable initiatives supporting causes that matter. Sporting success has been another standout, from basketball champions to football triumphs and exciting developments in rowing.

As always, we are proud of the ambition, resilience, and generosity shown by our students. We hope you enjoy flicking through this edition and celebrating the achievements that make Queen's Park High School such a vibrant place to learn and grow.

Happy reading!

“

Mr Kearns,
HEADTEACHER

“ As the days lengthen and a new year begins, we reflect on a term filled with energy, achievement, and opportunity. From global connections to local leadership, our students have



CHESTER TO TOKYO

Global Connections, Lifelong Impact



Following the success of last year's trip to Tokyo, students across The Learning Trust are gearing up for another adventure of a lifetime! Thanks to the Turing Scheme, 60 Year 12 students from Queen's Park High School, Chester International School, and Christleton High School will embark on a transformative journey to Japan, immersing themselves in culture, education, and global connections.

From 5th to 19th July 2026, students will travel to Tokyo after securing a grant that covers flights, accommodation, and basic meals. This incredible opportunity will offer work experience, language exchange, and unique cultural insights.

TURING

SCHEME

Funded by the UK's global programme to study and work abroad

CAN YOU HELP?

To ensure that every student can fully experience this extraordinary adventure, we are seeking donations to support their fundraising efforts. By contributing, you'll be helping our students develop essential skills, broaden their horizons, and shape their futures in ways that will have a lasting impact.

If you can help to make a difference, please click on the link or scan the QR code below to make a donation:

[Turing Trip to Japan](#)

Thank you for supporting our students on this incredible journey!



The Turing Scheme, a UK government programme, enables students to study and work abroad, helping them gain new skills, boost employability, and broaden horizons through once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

It's now all systems go! Our Turing Team is working hard to plan and fundraise to make this trip the best it can be. Mrs Watts is collaborating with the British Council in Tokyo to design a work experience project linked to their global mission of building connections, understanding, and trust between nations. Students will meet British Council staff to learn about their roles, global partnerships,

and the Japanese education system, including the IELTS qualification. They'll also take part in language and cultural exchanges, deepening their understanding of life in Japan.

Beyond the classroom, students will explore Tokyo's rich heritage; from temples, museums, and parks to iconic landmarks like Tokyo Tower and even a visit to see the giant pandas at Ueno Zoo!.

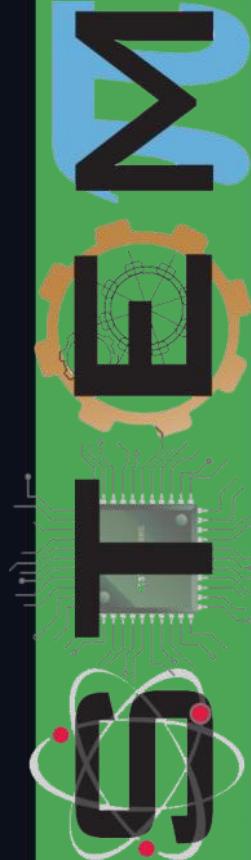
While the grant covers essential travel costs, activities and excursions must be self-funded. To make this trip truly unforgettable, students from all three schools are working tirelessly to raise funds through various initiatives.

We're inviting donations to help ensure every student can fully experience this extraordinary opportunity. Your support will help to empower our students to develop essential skills, embrace new cultures, and shape their futures in ways that will last a lifetime.





STEM CLUB



FUTURE INNOVATORS

From slime to rockets & prosthetics

STEM Club 2025 got off to a fantastic start, with Year 7 leading the way. Supported by QPHS staff, Sixth Form volunteers and our STEM ambassador, former RAF engineer and serial inventor Mr Todd, our young scientists explored the exciting world of science, technology, engineering, and maths through a series of hands-on activities.

We kicked things off with some slimy fun as students created their own oobleck (a slime made from corn starch and water). This sparked lively discussions about non-Newtonian fluids and why these substances behave so strangely, linking to careers in chemistry and material science. Students discovered how these materials are used in food science (ever wondered why ketchup won't pour until you squeeze?) and in protective gear like D3O body armour for motorcyclists.

Next came rocket science! Students designed and raced balloon rockets, investigating how shape affects speed. They learned about forces in action, measured distance and time and calculated results to see whose balloon was the fastest!

Our budding engineers then turned to biomechanics, inspired by Stephen Davies, a CAD engineer born without a hand who works with e-Nable to create free 3D-printed prosthetics for children. Using templates, students built a model hand that could grip objects by pulling string 'tendons'. They were fascinated by the similarities to their own hands and how this knowledge could lead to improved prosthetic designs. This activity opened discussions about the potential of 3D printing to revolutionise industries by producing personalised products with minimal waste.





IGNITING CURIOSITY & CREATIVITY

Physics brought more fun as our crack team of designers created a circuit buzzer game. Their first challenge was to build a suitable circuit including a buzzer, bell, or light, then design and make tricky courses for friends to navigate.

The creativity continued over the next two sessions as students prepared sumptuous scented, fantastically fizzy bath bombs and learned about the importance of formulation in industries ranging from food to pharmaceuticals.

Then came bridge-building under tight time and resource constraints, where teamwork and communication were key!

Finally, our STEM Clubbers wrapped up the year with an 'egg-cellent' challenge: designing egg landers to deliver their fragile cargo safely to the ground. It was a cracking way to end an incredible term!

We can't wait to welcome back our STEM Clubbers in 2026 for even more innovation and fun!

CHESTER ZOO

Adaptations in Action

In November, all Year 9 students enjoyed an exciting visit to Chester Zoo, a trip designed to deepen their understanding of animal adaptations and the challenges species face in the wild.

This hands-on experience gave students the chance to observe animals up close and see how their physical and behavioural traits help them survive in their natural habitats.

Highlights included exploring the new 'Heart of Africa' mixed habitat, where students watched zebras and giraffes feeding. The locusts and naked mole rats were another big hit, adding to the excitement of the new area. Students even managed a quick glimpse of the elusive snow leopard, perfectly camouflaged among the rocks, a real-life example of adaptation in action!

Other memorable moments included walking through the lemur enclosure, observing these lively primates up close, and watching penguins at feeding time. Some lucky students even spotted the tiger and jaguar, making the day unforgettable.

The visit allowed students to apply their understanding of adaptations to a range of different species, but also appreciate the vital work Chester Zoo do for the conservation of animals.



MIX, MELT, MEASURE

Turning Theory into Fun

This term, Queen's Park High School had the pleasure of welcoming 30 science associate teachers from Chester University to work with our Year 7 students. The visit aimed to strengthen students' understanding of practical science and spark curiosity through hands-on learning.

During the morning session, the associate teachers delivered engaging lessons focused on scientific enquiry and experimentation. Students explored essential investigative skills such as making observations, recording data, drawing graphs, and writing conclusions. Practical activities included melting ice and tracking temperature changes, dissolving salt at different temperatures, and measuring the force required to move an object.

The experience highlighted the importance of practical skills across all science disciplines.

It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to build confidence in their abilities, which is an essential foundation for success in their future GCSE science studies.



UNILEVER INSPIRES

Sustainability Meets Creativity

On 20th November, a group of Year 9 students visited Unilever's headquarters in Port Sunlight to take part in the Research and Development Showcase as part of this year's Unilever Inspire Programme.

Throughout the day, students engaged in a series of interactive workshops highlighting the innovative work Unilever does. Activities included designing sustainable packaging, exploring the use of technology in product development, and learning about the scientific processes behind scaling up production.

One workshop focused on product formulation, where students investigated the viscosity of shampoos and discovered how adding salt can alter consistency.

They also explored the role of surfactants in cleaning products and the science behind how they remove dirt from clothes.

The challenge now is for students to design a home or hygiene product that supports one of Unilever's Sustainable Living goals, such as reducing plastic waste or protecting nature. Next term, they will develop their ideas covering formulation, packaging, and consumer research, before presenting their final concepts to Unilever judges in March 2026.

This exciting opportunity has truly inspired our students to think creatively about sustainability and innovation in everyday products.



Unilever

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

Open Hearts & Minds

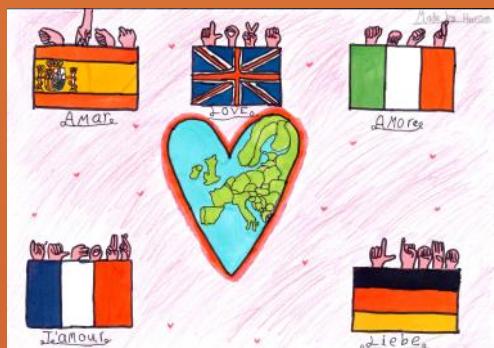


It has been a busy first few months in the Languages department, with students demonstrating their creative thinking and linguistic skills on both the national and international stage.

On 26th September, we celebrated the European Day of Languages, with students across Year 7 and Year 8. Students were encouraged to get creative for the annual poster competition and design a piece that reflected this year's theme: 'Languages Open Hearts and Minds'.

As always, students rose to the challenge, and we were flooded with wonderfully thoughtful and creative entries. All student entries are now on international display at the [European Day of Languages website](#). There were two pieces in particular, that caught the attention of our department and we felt that these students had truly encapsulated the spirit of European Day of Languages.

Congratulations to Harrison and Logan for your inspiring creations.



Harrison, Year 8



STEPHEN SPENDER PRIZE

Student's work receives commendation

In Year 9, a group of students have been utilising their language skills to compete at national level.

Each year we offer students the opportunity to participate in the Stephen Spender Prize, an annual competition for poetry translation that celebrates the creativity of young people across the UK and Ireland.

During the summer of 2025, the French Pen Pal Club looked at the poem *Soleil et Eau* by Aimé Césaire. Students were fascinated by the contradictory imagery within the poem and how Césaire used this to express his conflicting feelings towards his motherland or his heritage. Students translated the poem independently into English, carefully considering not only how to translate the words but also convey meaning.

It has been a long and tense wait

over the summer break, but it was definitely worth it, as we are thrilled to share that Alona's translation and commentary received a commendation from the judges for the Schools Laureate Prize in the French category. A fantastic achievement Alona, well done!

“ I am so proud of Alona and her achievement. It is a testament to the hard work and commitment that Alona has shown to learning French over the last two years. Her enthusiasm for learning about different people, languages and cultures shines through in her work as well as her empathy towards others. **”**

Miss Worthington,
MFL Achievement Lead

Quand?
WHEN?

My mother does not heed, or hear
It sings in secret, soft and clear
It does not sing-not quite at home
Like whispering from the party comes

My mother works in varied chores
It tells in voices, clear and sweet
And through eyes and delight will swirl
To say and laughter seems to well

Or in a birth in milk of earth
It laughter flowing through the earth
My mother is a friend to sweet
With dreams, yet rarely speaks at all

A song made clear and blessed
On wine-

Music, resonance, and learning bright
Music, hum, beneath the roofed roof
Be your eye- complete deep
Whisper, kindly, she and start, Impa-

PUZZLE MASTERS

National Language Competition

In November this year, a group of four daring linguists accepted their mission to compete in this year's National Language Competition (NLC). The NLC is a virtual competition organised by GCHQ (Government Communications Headquarters) for teams aged 13-14 from around the UK. Students compete against each other to solve language-based challenges and score points. Team Quiet Cobra worked tirelessly to solve puzzles, crack codes, and decipher messages in a diverse range of languages, including Ethiopian,

Russian, and Spanish. Their determination paid off as they secured an impressive third place in the North West region and ranked among the top 100 teams out of nearly 3,000 participants nationwide.

Through this competition GCHQ hopes to inspire young people by encouraging them to discover and appreciate their aptitude for learning languages. Some of the tasks were certainly challenging, but Team Quiet Cobra showcased outstanding teamwork and

“ I love languages and I love computing. Now I can see a career in which I can use both. ”

Alona, Year 9 student

resilience throughout the competition. Every student agreed they would recommend taking part, noting that even if languages aren't your strongest passion, the event is great fun and an excellent way to develop problem-solving skills. Congratulations to Elliot, Eleanor, Alona, and Olivia on this truly remarkable achievement!

Where will languages take our students next half term?

“ I liked the diversity of the challenges and how they required us to use our problem-solving skills. ”

Eleanor, Year 9 student





Read. Return. Repeat.

Building a Culture of Reading One Book at a Time

Since September, Queen's Park High School has launched a new library programme, giving students the chance to visit the school library once every two weeks during tutor time. Since introducing this initiative, we've seen a fantastic increase in library use. In the first half-term alone, students checked out more than 180 books and we're already on track to surpass that this half-term.

Reading achievements are also on the rise. Twenty-eight students have earned their Reading

Champion badges by returning three or more books since September, and two exceptional Year 7 students have already read and returned an impressive ten books each.

In addition, we have also been able to offer students the opportunity to see what it's like to be a librarian, with seven Year 10 students taking on the role since October half-term. These students help our librarian to scan, sort, and organise the library, keeping it in tip top shape for the whole student body to enjoy!

Looking ahead, they'll be looking at providing 'student recommends' reading sections, suggesting activities for World Book Day later in the year, as well as sharing valuable insight into what students want from their library.

It's been inspiring to see this vibrant hub used more than ever before. We're excited to keep building on this momentum.

Happy reading!



BOOKS, BRAINS & BIG IDEAS

Students Join the Royal Society Judging Panel

What happens in nature in eight minutes? What does a frog look like on the inside? Or what was the first written language? These are just some of the fascinating questions explored in the six books shortlisted for the 2025 Royal Society Young People's Book Prize and Queen's Park High School is thrilled to be part of the judging process!

This national prize celebrates the very best science books for under-14s, aiming to spark curiosity and inspire young readers. For over 35 years, the Royal Society has championed accessible STEM writing, and this year's shortlist is packed with exciting reads from the secret life of plants to prehistoric creatures and the history of information.

The shortlisted titles are:

- *Green: The Story of Plant Life on Our Planet* - Nicola Davies
- *Patience* - Rachel Williams

- *The Animal Body Book* - Jess French
- *The History of Information* - Chris Haughton
- *The Rocks Book* - Nancy Dickmann
- *The Wild Life of Dinosaurs and Other Prehistoric Animals* - Mike Barfield

In January, a group of QPHS students will dive into these books, gifted by the Royal Society, and share their verdicts. Their reviews will help decide the overall winner, announced in April 2026.

Professor Tamsin Mather FRS, chair of the national judging panel, summed it up perfectly:

“Science books offer strong narratives that explain the world around us and can draw in even reluctant readers. They deserve to be front and centre when we talk about children’s literature.”

We can't wait to see what our young judges think. Watch this space for their top picks!

AUTUMN TERM 2025 | QPHS NEWS

Writing Workshops



WRITING FOR SUCCESS

Mastering the art of academic writing

This term, our Year 12 and 13 psychology students have enjoyed a fantastic opportunity to strengthen their academic writing skills thanks to a collaboration with the Royal Literary Fund.

A huge thank you to Lizzie, Zoe, James, and Penny, who generously volunteered their time over the autumn term to lead focused workshops ahead of the mocks and A Level exams.

As part of our commitment to supporting academic transition, both psychology and ethics students have taken part in extended writing sessions designed to ease the shift from GCSE to A Level. The jump to A Level often brings new challenges, particularly when it comes to structuring arguments, analysing sources, and expressing ideas with clarity and depth. These workshops provided a supportive bridge between the two stages, helping students build confidence and competence in tackling more complex essay tasks.

Through guided activities, collaborative tasks, and expert feedback, students have learned how to plan, write, and evaluate essays to a higher standard.

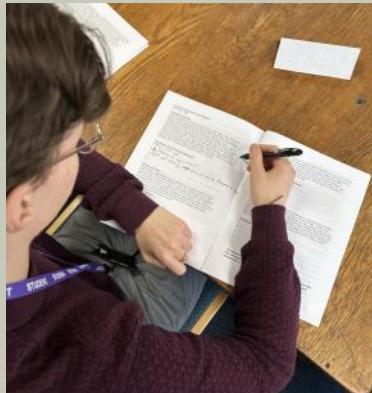
Sessions focused on key components such as thesis development, paragraph cohesion, and critical evaluation, skills that will serve them well throughout their academic journey. By investing in these foundations early, we're setting students up for success not only in exams but also in fostering resilience and independence in their learning.

We're incredibly proud of the effort and engagement shown by our Year 12 and 13 students and look forward to seeing the impact of this work as they continue their A Level studies.

“ The workshops have been invaluable. Students not only improved their writing techniques but also gained the confidence to tackle complex questions. It's wonderful to see them embracing the challenge. ”

Mr Neil, Teacher of Psychology

RLF
SUPPORTING WRITERS SINCE 1790



TRADITION WITH A TWIST

Christingle-making brings meaning to Christmas

During Mrs Merryweather's Religious Studies class, Year 10 GCSE students took part in a Christingle-making activity to explore the true meaning of Christmas and its Christian significance. While Christingles are often associated with primary schools or church services, this activity encouraged deeper reflection on the symbolism behind this tradition.

A Christingle is made from an orange, representing the world God created. Around the orange is a red ribbon, symbolising Jesus' love and sacrifice. In the centre is a candle, standing for Jesus as the Light of the World, bringing hope and guidance. Finally, sweets and dried fruit on cocktail sticks represent the fruits of the Earth and God's generosity. Our Christingles featured dolly mixtures for a colourful, modern twist while preserving the traditional meaning.

This hands-on activity helped students understand that Christmas is not only about celebration and giving, but about remembering why Christians believe Jesus was born.



The lesson also linked directly to students' GCSE Religious Studies course, particularly Christian beliefs about Jesus' role in the world. Making the Christingle encouraged thoughtful discussion and reflection, showing that traditions can still be meaningful for older students when explored in depth. It was a memorable way to celebrate Christmas while focusing on its true Christian message.



SWEDISH VISITORS

Trainee teachers discuss myths & explore learning across cultures

This term, we were delighted to welcome more than 70 trainee teachers through our strong partnership with the University of Chester, along with an inspiring group of visitors from Linköping University in Sweden!

During their three day visit, our Swedish guests spent time observing Key Stage 3 lessons in English and Drama, gaining valuable insight into what teaching and learning looks like in a British school. They were especially keen to see how creativity, discussion and collaboration come to life in our classrooms.

To give something back, the visitors delivered their own engaging lessons to our Year 7 students, introducing them to the world of Swedish myths, from mischievous swamp trolls to powerful Norse gods. Students loved acting out the stories, asking questions, and learning about Swedish folklore in a fun and interactive way.

It was a brilliant few days of shared learning, storytelling and cultural exchange. We look forward to them returning to Queen's Park High School in the future.





MATHS IN ACTION

Shaping Tomorrow's Teachers

In November, we were thrilled to welcome sixteen PGCE Maths students from the University of Chester to QPHS for their annual visit. These trainee teachers are preparing for careers in education, and their time with us was all about sharing knowledge and inspiring future mathematicians!

Our Year 10 and Year 11 foundation GCSE students worked in small groups with the visitors, tackling key topics such as trigonometry and Pythagoras' Theorem along with creative, visual approaches to make these complex concepts easier to grasp. The sessions were highly interactive and engaging, giving our students the

chance to strengthen their understanding through hands-on activities and discussion. At the same time, the trainee teachers gained invaluable classroom experience, learning how to adapt their teaching to different learning styles and build confidence in delivering lessons.

After the lessons, the PGCE students joined Mrs Blears-Chalmers, Maths Curriculum Team Leader, for a reflection and Q&A session. It was a fantastic opportunity to discuss teaching strategies and celebrate the success of the day.

We look forward to welcoming the University of Chester students back next year for another inspiring collaboration!



GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK

Data, discovery & Dee Meadows

This term has been an action-packed one beyond the classroom for our A Level geography students, as they took their learning outdoors to carry out a range of hands-on fieldwork activities across several locations. They started with a local trip to Eccleston and the River Dee Meadows.

Throughout the day, students collected valuable data including noise readings, environmental quality surveys, lichen samples, air pollution analyses, field sketches, and infiltration rate measurements. This hands-on experience allowed them to apply their geographical knowledge in a real-world setting while developing key fieldwork and data collection skills.

From Market to Storyhouse

In December, our Year 13 A Level geography students headed into Chester city centre for their final NEA (Non-Examined Assessment) data collection. Despite the wet and windy conditions, they battled through the elements kept up their

enthusiasm to complete their fieldwork.

Focusing on Chester Market and Storyhouse as major sites, students carried out a range of investigations, including environmental quality surveys, land use surveys, and clone town assessments. They also questioned the public, gathering opinions on topics such as the diversity of Chester's community and the impact of increased footfall around new developments.

This hands-on experience allowed students to apply classroom theory to real-world contexts, strengthening their understanding of urban geography and data collection techniques. Their commitment and teamwork were outstanding, especially on such a wet and windy day!

Well done A Level geographers!



“ I am so proud of all of our students for their effort and engagement throughout the day, as well as demonstrating their geographical knowledge in a practical setting. ”

Miss Sumner, Teacher of Geography



“ Year 13 students represented QPHS brilliantly throughout the trip. Their enthusiasm, maturity and commitment to their studies stood out at every stage. Well done geographers! ”

Miss Sumner
Teacher of Geography

GEOGRAPHY GOES URBAN

Greener Travel in Manchester

As part of their A Level Geography course, our Year 13 students have been hard at work on their Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) project. This is an independent investigation that makes up 20% of their final grade and gives students the chance to apply classroom knowledge to real world issues.

Students travelled to Manchester to carry out their primary data collection, focusing on the city's growing reputation for sustainable transport. With its mix of trams, cycle routes, pedestrian zones and investment in greener travel, Manchester offered the perfect setting for students to explore how urban areas can adapt to a more sustainable future.

Throughout the day, students

completed a range of fieldwork activities, including field sketches, land-use surveys, environmental quality assessments and public questionnaires. These hands-on tasks not only helped develop their research and communication skills, but also gave them a first-hand insight into how data is gathered and used in geographical investigations.

Back in school, students will now use their findings to produce graphs, carry out statistical tests and write up their analysis and evaluation. This next stage is a demanding one, but it is also where their hard work in the field really comes to life.

We look forward to seeing how their projects develop!

STORYHOUSE FUTURES FESTIVAL



Inspiring Change Through Theatre

On Monday 10th November, our Year 10 GCSE Drama students had the fantastic opportunity to take part in the Storyhouse Futures Festival, a day designed to explore how we can shape a more sustainable and socially responsible world.

The day featured a filmed performance by the acclaimed contemporary theatre company Complicite, followed by discussions that challenged

students to think deeply about themes such as social justice, climate activism, and environmental change.

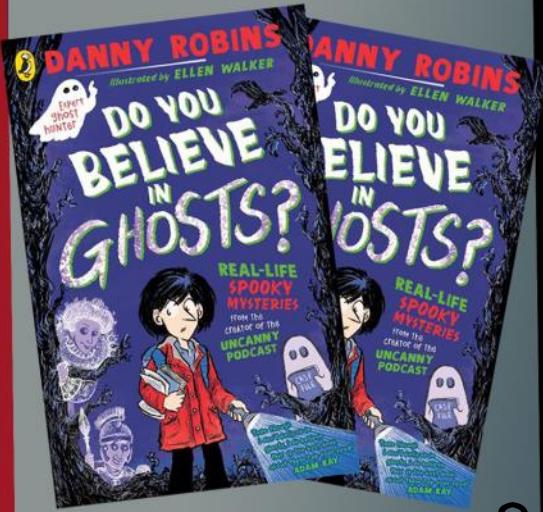
Students also heard from guest speakers from the University of Chester and representatives of the Cheshire Archives, who shared fascinating insights into how climate change and flooding have affected the local area over time.

Back at school, these experiences sparked lively conversations that

will inspire the students' devised drama pieces later this year. The group left the festival motivated and full of ideas about how theatre can be used to explore real-world issues and drive positive change.

It was a privilege to be part of such a thought-provoking and inspiring event, and our students are excited to build on what they've learned as they continue their creative journey.





DO YOU BELIEVE?

A Spooktacular Day

We were thrilled to be invited, as part of Chester Schools Together, to The King's School for an inspiring author talk with Danny Robbins, writer and podcaster, about his new book *Do You Believe in Ghosts?* In October, Mrs Melhuish-Jones took an excited group of Year 7 students for an afternoon of spooky fun.

Danny shared how his fascination with ghosts began in his school library, reading classic ghost stories. He then posed the big question: *Are you a believer or a sceptic?* There was plenty of lively discussion as everyone shared their views on stories from Roman soldiers haunting York without their legs, to Uri Geller's famous spoon bending and even ghostly encounters in school toilets! With Chester's rich Roman history, we could not help but wonder if we might have a few spectral visitors of our own!

The afternoon ended on a high as our students were gifted a signed copy of Danny's book, courtesy of Chester Schools Together. It was a fantastic experience that sparked imaginations and left us all with plenty to think about...and maybe a few goosebumps!



FANTASY, FOLKLORE & NETFLIX

Curtis Jobling Shares His Story

Thanks to the generosity of Storyhouse, 52 excited Year 7 and 8 students had the chance to hear local author Curtis Jobling speak about his newest book, *Wereworld*.

Curtis shared how he first came to Chester to study at Art School, following his lifelong passions for drawing and reading. He fondly recalled borrowing stacks of books from his local library, and how discovering Tolkien in Year 7 sparked his love of fantasy and folklore.

His career has been an extraordinary journey, from designing Bob the Builder for the BBC to seeing his *Wereworld* series brought to life as an animated show on Netflix. Many students had already watched the series, so they were thrilled to hear directly from the author behind it.

Curtis also spoke about the origins of fairy tales, tracing them back to the Brothers Grimm and reminding students that the earliest versions were often very different from their Disney counterparts! He introduced his new book, inspired by folklore and his childhood holidays on the Isle of Man, and even treated the audience to a live reading of a chapter. Students left eager to get their hands on the full story.

Before the session ended, Curtis encouraged everyone to pursue their own hobbies and interests outside the classroom, explaining that his own passions had led him to his successful career as an author.

STORYHOUSE





IDENTITY UNLOCKED

Art & Design GCSE Portrait Project

Year 10 GCSE Art and Design students have made a strong start on their coursework this term, working under the theme of identity.

As a starting point, they explored the work of mixed-media artists, Sabrina Ward Harrison and Julliana Coles. Students analysed their styles and experimented with a broad range of materials, including: drawing, collage, watercolour and Photoshop.

Using their own self-portrait photographs as inspiration, students then began creating striking monochromatic acrylic paintings. Each student has chosen and mixed a colour scheme

that reflects their own personality, resulting in pieces that already feel personal and unique.

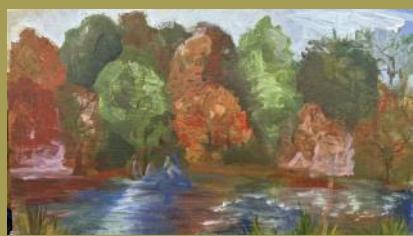
They are now developing the backgrounds of their portraits, building up pattern and texture to add further depth. Text will soon be incorporated to link the work even more closely to each individual and to the artists they have studied.

“ This project has been an excellent start to students’ GCSE portfolios, and I am sure their efforts will lead to some truly outstanding portraits. ”

Miss Barmer, Teacher of Art



Celebrating
CREATIVITY





INSPIRED BY THE DEE

From riverside sketches to studio masterpieces

Year 12 Art & Design students have made the most of our school's stunning riverside location by the Old Dee Bridge, overlooking the River Dee. Autumn provided the perfect backdrop for exploring natural colour in one of the most vibrant seasons of the year. Armed with sketchbooks, coloured pencils, watercolours and cameras, students captured the beauty of trees, flowing river, shimmering reflections and crisp golden sunlight.

Their observations revealed a rich tapestry of textures, tones and contrasting forms.

Through sketching and experimenting with different techniques and mediums, students developed a deeper understanding of place, over a period of time. The ideas collected were then used to develop their final studio paintings working on canvas in acrylic.

The outcomes are outstanding!
Well done Year 12!

I've really enjoyed the work we've been doing in art. Having the chance to go down to the river and approach art from a different perspective has been truly inspiring. Although I'd started exploring observational art before A Level, this experience has helped me develop my skills and notice the smaller details in the world around us. I hadn't worked on canvas before, so being able to experiment with larger-scale pieces has been exciting. Some of the styles were challenging, but it has allowed me to push myself massively, and I'm so grateful for the opportunity!

Annabel, Year 12 student





CRAFTING CREATIVITY

Year 10 Jewellery Project

This term, our Year 10 Design Technology GCSE students have been busy transforming their ideas into beautiful personalised pewter jewellery. What began as simple sketches evolved into thoughtful designs that combined creativity, practical skills and modern manufacturing techniques.

Students started by sketching their concepts, experimenting with shapes, meanings and how their pieces might be worn. They then moved into CAD, recreating their designs in TechSoft 2D Design. These files guided the laser cutter, which produced the layered plywood moulds needed for casting.

With their moulds ready, students had the exciting opportunity to work with molten pewter, carefully heating, pouring and watching their designs take shape. Once the metal cooled, they refined their pieces using files and abrasives to shape, smooth and polish each item.

The finished jewellery looks fantastic. Every piece is unique, well made and something to be proud of.

This project gave students valuable hands-on experience with both traditional metalwork and digital tools. Their pewter jewellery is a brilliant example of what can be achieved with patience, creativity and growing technical confidence.



MOCK EXAMS Leavers 2026!

It's hard to believe that Year 11 are already approaching the end of their high school journey and gearing up for their summer exams. To give them the best chance of success, and help them get used to what can be a tense and nerve-wracking milestone, they completed their mock exams at the end of the autumn term.

Our students rose to the challenge, staying focused and prepared throughout. We even made sure they were wrapped up warm for exam season!

They did themselves proud showing real commitment and maturity. It has been wonderful to see Year 11 flourish and demonstrate such resilience and determination. Their cosy Leavers hoodies added a little extra comfort along the way! A big thank you to Uniformity for delivering them in perfect time.





CHEFS IN THE MAKING!

PARADISE BAY STREET FOOD

Our talented Year 11 students recently took on the Paradise Bay Street Food Challenge, and what a feast they created! As part of their WJEC Hospitality & Catering practical exam, they spent three hours crafting dishes that could rival any food market. From loaded fries with spiced aioli to seafood linguine, fish tacos with mango salsa, and caramelised onion focaccia, the variety was vast.

Sweet treats were on the menu too, with indulgent options for those with a sweet tooth, including Tiramisu, Tarte Tatin,

and rich chocolate chip brownies to complete the full dining experience.

This challenge wasn't just about cooking; it was about creativity and precision. Every plate showcased big flavours and professional presentation, earning well-deserved praise from staff and peers alike. It's safe to say our future chefs are on the right path to success.

A huge congratulations to all involved, you've set the bar high for street food excellence!



LIONEL BART'S OLIVER!

Coming soon...

Rehearsals are well underway for our next blockbuster school production!

This February we will be staging the classic musical, *Oliver!* and we have already made big progress on the epic choreography, direction and even the building of the set itself!

Auditions were intensive, and ultimately some very tough decisions had to be made on the casting of roles due to the exceptional quality of talent at Queen's Park High School. The commitment of the students involved has been wonderful and it is great to see such enthusiasm for the production which we know will be a roaring success.

Tickets are already on sale and are selling out fast!

The show takes place in the Main Hall over three nights from: Wednesday 11th - Friday 13th February 2026. Tickets are priced at £8 for students and £10 for adults.

To book, your seats, scan the QR code below or visit: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Queens-Park-High-School/oliver/e-leeoma>

We would love to see you there!



SELL-OUT CELEBRATION

A Night of Music, Magic, and Festive Cheer



Each year we step into the holiday season with our much-loved Christmas Concert, guaranteed to fill everyone with festive cheer!

This year's concert was a sell-out and featured 24 amazing acts from students across all year groups.

From stunning solos and lively ensembles to show-stopping whole year performances, the evening was a true celebration of talent and togetherness and of course festive musical favourites! It was the perfect way to mark the season and showcase the incredible musical ability within our QPHS Family.

All acts did themselves proud, and we'd like to give a special mention to the Year 7 singers who made their QPHS debut with fantastic renditions of *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree* and *Last Christmas*. Our soloists also impressed with beautiful performances, while Stan and Eliza S delivered a memorable vocal duet. Sonny with band members Eashan, Rory and Joe wowed the crowd with their version of *Live Forever*; sibling duo, Robert and Annabel performed a woodwind and brass duet and Sam brought the beats to *Do I Wanna Know* on drums.

TREE FESTIVAL

Christmas Creativity

Chester Cathedral's much-loved Christmas Tree Festival returned this year and we were thrilled that Queen's Park High School was able to sponsor one of the 80 trees, highlighting our commitment to supporting the city and its local business community.

In line with this year's theme, '*Christmas Around the World*', our Year 10 students have worked their creative magic during their 30 minute enrichment session each week to produce intricate 3D decorations from recycled paper ready to adorn the tree.

Using simple techniques of cutting, folding and glueing, they transformed everyday materials into detailed festive works of art that reflects global traditions and promotes an eco-friendly approach to seasonal décor.

The Christmas Tree Festival offers a peaceful escape from the city's Christmas rush and ran from Friday 28 November 2025 to Sunday 4 January 2026, expecting to welcome more than 50,000 visitors during December.

It's a wonderful way to celebrate the season so we hope you had time to stop by and see our tree!



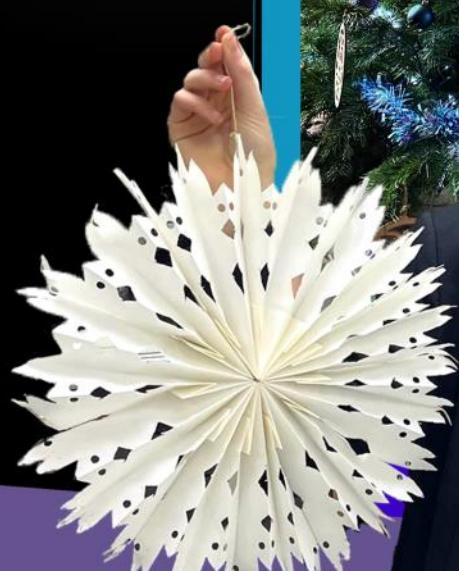
Other instrumental highlights included Mila's classical guitar performance of *Prelude/Layenda*, piano solos by Riley, Lydia and Susannah along with Amara's electrifying rendition of *The Final Countdown* on electric guitar.

We also congratulate our choir, all 4 bands and the Year 10 GCSE music group and friends' ensemble. Every student gave their best and it was an amazing effort all round!

A huge thank you also goes to our Sixth Form hosts, Phoebe and Dan, who kept the evening running smoothly and entertained the audience throughout. Their energy and professionalism ensured every act was on track and the festive spirit never wavered!

“A huge shout-out to Mrs Landen for leading what was honestly my favourite concert yet. The sense of inclusivity and cohesion she created was something truly special. Sitting with Year 7, dancing and singing along to EVERY act, was a particular highlight for me.”

Mr Kearns, Headteacher



MY FIRST TERM

YEAR
7

Wondering how our
new Year 7 students
have settled in to high
school life?

DANIEL

EMILIA

My first Half Term
Before I joined school, I felt so much
trepidation. I kept on thinking school is so big I am
going to get lost or am I going to make new friends
but luckily I made friends pretty quickly. I
wondered whether I do well in GCSEs straight
away at every night. On my first day I had math
W.P.D tutorial English and W.P.D (again I know).
When trying to find my way from class to class
I ALWAYS got lost but after the first week
I knew where all my lessons were. My favourite
subject so far is P.E because I enjoy pushing
myself to the limit physically especially but mentally
as well. I really enjoy being taught by Mr Yerger
because of all the hilarious jokes he does.
After just a few weeks at QPHS we did our baseline
assessments. If the word assessment scares you
believe me it is nothing to worry about. All
it is is you have to be silent and answer some
questions. What they do with the results is
measure what place you should be working at and how
much help you need. So far at QPHS I have had a
great time.

My first Half Term at QPHS
My first half term at QPHS has been
a wonderful experience. At first I was
nervous at such a big change from Primary
to secondary, but all the teachers and staff
have made me feel welcome, and now
I feel truly part of the school. I have
made many friends and I am excited
about what's to come.

I have particularly enjoyed English, as
you get to be creative and use your
imagination, especially when learning about
'The Land of Nod'. We are lucky at QPHS to
have drama as a lesson, as it is not
mandatory, and I have thoroughly
enjoyed it.

Outside of lessons, QPHS has a lot of
extracurricular activities you can get
involved in. I have enjoyed football club,
and recently have been selected to play
a match against Bishops Bluecoat, which
I really enjoyed. I am also part of
the Page Turners Book Club, which takes
place in the library and is where I can share
my passion for books.

Here's a snapshot
of what they think
so far...



When I joined QPHS I was unsure what it would bring but as soon as I stepped though the doors I was welcomed and felt at home. All the teachers were kind so we didn't have to be shy also they made really fun lessons for the first week or so.

My favourite subjects are WPD because you get to see things people believe about and interesting facts. Also I like drama because you can get active while performing and can be a good time to get to know each other like music.

Outside of lessons I've enjoyed giving a speech to the year sixes and seeing a musician. Also I got to see an author and my favourite I got roles in art show OLIVER!

HARRY



When I first went through the gates of QPHS on my first day I felt pretty nervous but also extremely excited to go through this new change. On my first day, I walked with my friends from primary school down to my new school. When I got in I was slightly worried and got lost seeing how it was such a massive school, but eventually I learned how to get around easily. The staff are extremely kind and caring and will help you if you need anything.

So far my favourite subjects have been; Technology as you get to make sand and make characters, P.E as you get to do many good sports, History as you get to learn cool things about the past, and Computing for all the incredible computer things you do. Although they are all my favourite, all the lessons I have done are good in their own right. Other things you can do is practicals in science, learning Spanish in Spanish, and many more fun activities.

My favourite moment in my first half term so far is probably 2 things, the first thing is when some of us went to Kings School for an author talk. It was an amazing experience and we even got a book! The other thing is when a full time musician named Joel visited us and told us about his journey in high school and played us some of his songs. Even though it's only my first half term in QPHS I have enjoyed it truly and can't wait to see what's ahead!

ALEXANDER



YEAR

7

FIRST TERM

MY

WEEK



EVA H

My primary was very small so only 3 people came and it all started on the transition day when I became friends with Daisy and now she is my best friend. On the first day I was a little bit nervous but mostly excited to start a new school and make friends. High school is a great place to make new friends and meet lots of new people. In primary I only had 4 friends and now I have about 20 from only being here for around 6 weeks. If you are worried don't be you will make lots of new friends and the teachers are nice.

My favourite subject so far is probably drama or PE because I didn't have drama in primary and PE is very fun because I have a really nice teacher (Miss Darroch) and you get to mix forms so you can compete with new people. I have also started playing netball which I didn't do in primary and now I'm getting really good and are playing for the team today.

One teacher who has really helped me is Miss Humphrey because she is my form teacher and she is really nice. Some other teachers I really like are Miss Hammond, my English teacher, Mrs Morris, Miss Marzec, head of year and Mr Griffiths because they are all really nice and good teachers. I also really like Miss Darroch because she is so fun and nice.

Outside of lessons, there are lots of clubs to get involved in. I enjoy netball club the most because it's so fun and you can meet people in years above. I also do quiz club for enrichment on a Wednesday.

My favourite moment so far has to be when a singer, Joel Foster, came in to sing for us and it was so good, he was amazing at singing.

This school also has a very good support system and I'm very happy I chose this school.



My first half-term here at Queens Park High has been amazing!! Before I came here I was really scared and nervous but within about a week I felt at home. My first day here was pretty overwhelming because this school is a lot bigger than my primary school.

So far, I have enjoyed making new friends and my favourite subject is PE because we've done Netball and Benchball. All the teachers here are super friendly! I've also really enjoyed English with Miss Hammond because she's so nice and I've loved making our own maps with her!

I currently do Netball on a Monday after school, it's so fun! I've also made the netball team both times! Miss Darroch (the netball coach) is so supportive and so understanding.

Overall, I have loved my first half term here and can't wait to see what else I have in store! ☺

DAISY



Before I started at QPHS, I was very nervous. As I was walking to school on my first day, I was wondering if the teachers would shout at me if I got lost and was late to class. But I was wrong, when we got there, all the teachers were really nice and I felt like I belonged there. If you get lost, then the teachers will understand why you're late because we don't know our way around yet. All the other years are really nice too, they'll tell you the way to any class and will understand.

My favourite subject is drama because we have to be naughty because that's what our character is and we won't get in trouble because we're acting. I also really like science because even if you're not doing a huge explosion right away, your teacher makes it really fun and you get to do some practicals within the first 5 weeks.

Because I like drama, I auditioned for the school performance, Oliver Twist. As soon as you come out of audition it feels like you've done something big and you feel very proud. I also really enjoy netball, so I practised a lot and now I'm on the school netball team! We get lots of opportunities to go on trips like to the Storyhouse, which I found really fun. Because there are so many amazing things to say, it could go on for way too

long and would take up too much paper but QPHS is great and I'm so glad that I go to this school.

EVELYN



MILA

My first half term at Q P H S has been breathtaking, it was like hiking up a mountain, but I know I haven't gone even a quarter of the way yet. I went through a collage of emotions, the wonderful teachers here have helped me so much! The moment I stepped into this school, oh, it was massive! I felt so scared and anxious, some moments I had to hold back tears. Everyone was so much bigger than me. I felt so small in Year 6, but in Year 7, it felt like I went all the way down the stairs again. I know it's been hard, but the teachers here help you trudge through your teacherous journey!

My favorite subjects!

The learning here for the first half term here has been a blast, and it still is! In my personal opinion, I quite enjoyed Science, Maths and History. I loved Science because of the States of Matter. Solid, Liquid and Gas! (I'll need to never forget that!) I love History because of the fascinating ways people lived before the 21st century. You won't believe what people did to survive! Finally, Maths. The teachers in Q P H S make doing Maths!

Maths so fun! It is full of problem solving, History it really tickles your brain!

How I been involved in extracurricular activities?

Yes I have, and they are exhilarating! I am quite a sassy person, so I do as much as I possibly can possibly can. There are so many clubs in Q P H S, you won't be able to choose just one! Best of all, they are after school and are completely free! I am involved in STEM Club, it stands for: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. It is a fun way to express yourself, make new friends and become more confident in STEM subjects. You might even get a job to do with it when you become older, I've only been there one week and I feel more confident already! Lastly, I am also involved in Music Club. My father teaches me guitar at home, so I play in Music Club with other children in a band.

Q P H S is most probably the most sensational school I've ever been to!



MY first half term at

Q P H S

My first half term at Queens Park High School has been ~~so~~ great. I've made lots of new friends here and I ~~feel~~ feel welcomed in very well.

When I joined QPHS I first felt nervous but then I met some new friends and the nervous feeling decreased. I wondered whether I would make it into the school netball team because I love netball now and I've made the team. I started to settle in on the 2nd week when I met Rose, Iris, Isla, Lily, Ellie, Emilia and Evelyn.

My favourite subjects are probably PE, Science and drama because in PE I learnt netball and also some new skills. In Science I learnt the IDC variables. In Drama I learnt skills like freeze frame and mime.

One teacher who has really helped me is my form tutor, Miss Humphrey, because she is so kind and helps me understand science better. She is also a new teacher here so it helped me because we were starting together into the school.



Outside of lessons, there are lots of clubs to get involved in such as school shows, rowing club and netball club. I particularly enjoy netball club because you get to go on matches and compete in tournaments. Miss Darroch has taught me to be more confident with netball and PE in general.

MEGAN





YEAR 7 GET POLITICAL!

UK Parliament Week

Engage. Explore. Empower.

What is Parliament? What do Members of Parliament do? Who represents us locally? And what roles do the House of Commons, the House of Lords and the Monarch play in shaping our laws? These were just some of the big questions explored during National Parliament Week (24th - 30th November 2025) and in recent PD assemblies.

Students learned about representation, which is at the heart of our democracy, and reflected on the privileges we enjoy living in a democratic society. Key Stage 3 students were especially intrigued to discover that by the next General Election, due by August 2029, the voting age is set to be lowered, giving 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote.

Adding to the excitement, Year 7 took part in a mock election on

Democracy & the power of representation

Thursday 27th November. After considering the manifestos of four parties: *Transform, Vision, Progress* and *Tomorrow*, students were ready to cast their votes! The results were:

- **Vision Party:** 64 votes
- **Tomorrow Party:** 42 votes
- **Transform Party:** 12 votes
- **Progress Party:** 5 votes

The Vision Party won by a landslide with a manifesto that included:

- Offering online GP appointments 24 hours a day
- Helping troubled families turn their lives around
- Increasing choices for children with special educational needs
- Improving the health of poor people in developed countries

There was a real buzz in the air as students debated ideas and made their voices heard, an inspiring glimpse into the democratic process!



Looking ahead, we are excited to welcome the CWAC Road Safety Team in the New Year, along with guest speakers for World Religion Day and assemblies focusing on Internet Safety, National Careers Week, National Apprenticeship Week, World Book Day and Science Week. Stay tuned!



Please follow @QPHSCareers for up to date information about careers

Personal Development

As part of our whole school Personal Development Programme, students attend PD assemblies during the week with Mrs Watts. This provides opportunities for students to learn about a wide range of personal development topics, enriching their understanding of the world around them. During the Autumn Term students have learnt about:

- The Equality Act 2010 – Protected Characteristics
- The Importance of Languages linked to the European Day of Languages (26/9/25)
- World Religions – Faiths and beliefs
- Mental Health linked to World Mental Health Day (10/10/25)
- Halloween and Bonfire night Safety
- Remembrance
- Anti-bullying week
- Parliament and democracy
- Slavery linked to the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery (2/12/25)
- Risk taking behaviour with a specific focus on vaping.



“ The careers fair gave Year 10 students the opportunity to meet employers and education providers face to face and ask questions. It was great to see so many of our students engaging with this and thinking about the next steps on their careers journey. ”

Mrs Watts, Careers Lead

EXPLORING FUTURES

Chester Careers & Education Fair

In October, our Year 10 students attended the Chester Careers & Education Fair, organised by The Pledge Partnership for Cheshire & Warrington. This valuable event provided students with the opportunity to connect with employers, explore further and higher education pathways, and learn about independent training providers and voluntary organisations.

Ahead of the fair, students prepared by identifying which exhibitors they wanted to speak to and planning thoughtful questions. This preparation ensured they gathered meaningful insights to help

inform their future choices regarding careers and education.

The fair featured over 50 organisations, including employers, training providers, and representatives from higher and further education. It was an excellent chance for students to broaden their understanding of the opportunities available to them. As part of our whole-school careers strategy, we have many more events planned throughout the academic year. For the latest information and resources to support students, parents, and carers, please visit the: [Careers and Guidance section](#) of our school website.



THE PLEDGE
CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON

Inspiring Individuals



Westminster Foundation

Individuals



SHAPING CHESTER'S FUTURE!

Student Leaders join the Mayor!

We are very proud of the members of our Student Leadership Team who supported Tayla from Year 13 at the Chester Residents Association Group meeting with members from the local council.

Their voices gave a valuable viewpoint of the One City Plan and will help to shape the direction of travel for the city of Chester over the next 20 years.

The plan addresses all aspects of living in Chester, from housing through to employment, transport and the environment, all of which are key issues for our students. Following on from their valuable discussions, the local authority have decided to start a forum for young people to gain direct feedback on issues relating to the them. The first of these meetings will take place early in 2026 and it is a real chance for our student leaders to not only share the voice of our students within school, but outside too!

Championing Youth Voice

We're incredibly proud of Tayla, a talented Year 13 student who continues to impress both in and beyond the classroom. Recently, Tayla was announced as the winner of the 2025 Chester Business Club Vision Award,

recognising her dedication, leadership, and forward-thinking approach.

Following this achievement, Tayla was invited to join the Westminster Foundation Youth Voice Panel, where she took part in an inspiring discussion with an audience of around 60 people. The panel explored themes of communication and co-creation, focusing on how young people can play a more active role in shaping community projects and charity work across Chester.

The event highlighted the importance of listening to youth perspectives and involving young people in decision-making, something Tayla spoke passionately about. Her commitment and enthusiasm reflect the values we celebrate here at QPHS, and we couldn't be prouder of her achievements.



A DAY OF DISCOVERY

Former Student returns with Oxford Team

In September, we had the privilege of welcoming the Oxford University Chemistry Outreach Team, joined by former QPHS student Julia Neal, for an exciting day of interactive workshops showcasing the vital role of chemistry in the modern world.

Julia, who went on to study Chemistry at the University of Oxford, returned to school as an accomplished alumna to share her journey and inspire the next generation. Her visit was a fantastic opportunity for students to learn from her experience and success, and we were thrilled to welcome her back.

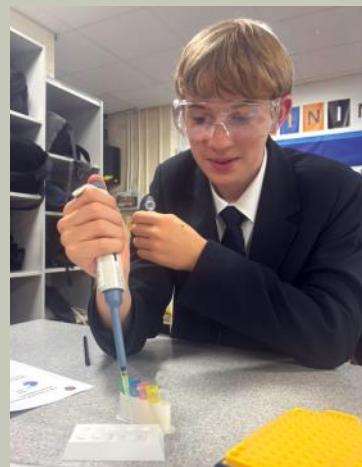
The day began with Year 12 students attending an engaging talk on cutting-edge research projects currently underway at Oxford University. The session aimed to spark curiosity and encourage students to consider studying Chemistry at degree level.

Meanwhile, Year 10 Triple Science students took part in 'A Bug Fight', an interactive workshop exploring

antibiotics and the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Students examined zones of inhibition using a photo of a disc diffusion assay (DDA), gaining insight into real-world microbiology challenges.

Year 11 students enjoyed 'Small but Mighty', a fascinating introduction to nanoscience. They explored practical techniques used in degree-level studies, giving them a taste of advanced scientific investigation and the exciting possibilities within this field.

A huge thank you to Oxford University and especially Julia, for delivering such an inspiring and educational experience for our students. It was a privilege to welcome Julia back to Queen's Park. Her journey from QPHS Sixth Form to Oxford is truly inspiring, and we are immensely proud of all she has achieved. Seeing her share her passion and expertise with our students was a wonderful reminder of what hard work and ambition can lead to.



Studying Chemistry at Oxford

Saskia O'Sullivan
Head of Outreach and
Public Engagement with Research



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD





AHEAD OF THE GAME

Pledge Employer Readiness Programme

Our Year 13 students have been taking important steps towards their next chapter by taking part in The Pledge Employer Readiness Programme. The sessions are designed to give students a clear and realistic understanding of the opportunities available to them post 18, whether they choose university, apprenticeships or employment.

On 18th November, we were delighted to welcome James Pritchard-Wood, Nigel Jones, and apprentices from Bank of America, who have been leading the programme and sharing their own experiences of entering the workplace. Their insight has helped students understand what employers look for and how they can present themselves with confidence.

Throughout the programme, students have explored a range of topics including how to apply for apprenticeships, what to expect at assessment centres and the key skills needed to

succeed in interviews. The most recent session focused on the STAR technique (Situation, Task, Action and Result) with practical examples of how to apply this in interview situations. This structured approach helps students clearly explain their experiences and achievements, something that can make a real difference when talking to potential employers.

The Pledge Employer Readiness Programme has proved to be a valuable experience, giving Year 13 students both the knowledge and confidence to move forward and get ahead of the game. Our students are gaining a clearer sense of direction and are well on their way to becoming truly future ready.

In the New Year, we look forward to welcoming representatives from Bank of America who will be delivering financial literacy workshops to our Year 12 students as part of their WPD lessons.

Dates for the Diary

Year 9 Guided Choices/Careers Event:

Thursday 15th January 2026

An opportunity for students to make informed and guided choices about their options at Key Stage 4 and beyond. There will also be a Careers Market place where employers and our independent careers advisor will be available to discuss next steps.

Year 13 Mock Assessment Centre

Tuesday 20th January 2026

An opportunity for students to meet employers and take part in a mock assessment centre scenario.

Year 11 & 13 Mock Interview Day

Wednesday 21st January 2026

An opportunity for students to meet an employer and take part in a mock interview scenario.

Year 11 Parents Evening & Careers Market Place

Thursday 5th February 2026

Students and parents are invited to meet a wide range of employers and Post 16 education providers in order to make informed choices about next steps and futures.

Year 10 & 12 Work Experience (WEX)

w/c 13th July 2026

All Year 10 & 12 students will take part in work experience and should be in the process of securing their own placements. Please visit the: [WEX section](#) on our school website for more information.

Risking It All

Tackling Teen Risk Through Theatre

On Thursday 4th December, our Year 9 students took part in a powerful and thought-provoking performance titled *Risking It All*, delivered by the talented Theatre in Education group, 2Engage. The production formed part of our wider PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) education programme and gave students the chance to explore real-life issues in a safe, engaging, and meaningful way.

Risking It All tackled a range of challenging topics, including risky behaviour, grooming, underage drinking, unhealthy relationships, and exploitation. Based on the lived experiences of teenagers, the performance brought these themes to life through honest storytelling, drama, and audience interaction. Students were encouraged to reflect on how peer pressure, manipulation, and control can influence decisions, and how certain situations can escalate quickly with serious consequences.

The session sparked open, thoughtful conversations among students and helped build awareness around the risks and pressures many young people face today.

We are very fortunate to have received continued support from the Westminster Foundation, which enabled us to subsidise this high-quality educational experience. Thanks to their generosity, our students were able to benefit from a powerful, real-world learning opportunity that might otherwise be beyond reach.

We're grateful to both 2Engage and the Westminster Foundation for helping bring these essential messages to life in such a meaningful and memorable way.

“ An outstanding and highly engaging performance covering a wide range of PSHE themes. **”**

Mrs Watts, Careers Lead



JOEL FOSTER Live Performance

On Thursday 2nd October, we were privileged to welcome an exclusive performance from Joel Foster, an up-and-coming singer and musician!

Performing for our Year 7 and 8 students, 20 year old Joel captivated the audience with a mix of original songs and popular covers. Alongside his music, Joel spoke openly about bullying and mental health, sharing personal experiences and offering heartfelt advice to the younger generation.

Joel starred on the very first season of *The Voice Kids* and has since gone on to achieve thousands of streams for his music. His journey from a young contestant to a rising artist was truly inspiring.

It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to experience a live performance from a professional musician and to hear his words of encouragement. This event will undoubtedly be a memorable one, reminding students of the importance of resilience and showing them what can be achieved through determination and self-belief.





Celebrating Individuality

On Friday 14th November, our QPHS family once again pulled together to celebrate our annual Odd Socks Day as part of Anti-Bullying Week. The day is organised nationwide by the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) and serves as a cheerful reminder of a very important message: everyone is unique, and it's okay to be different.

Across the school, students and staff proudly wore their brightest, boldest, most mismatched socks: spotty, stripey, red, yellow or green, all symbolising individuality and the importance of embracing what makes each of us special. Odd Socks Day is fun, but it also carries a powerful purpose: raising awareness of bullying and empowering children and young people to use their 'Power for Good' to speak out, support others and build a world where kindness wins.

The event helps to mark the start of Anti-Bullying Week in the UK and reminds us to champion equality, diversity and inclusion every day. By taking part, our school community reinforced the values we stand for: kindness, respect and acceptance.

A huge thank you to everyone who pulled on their odd socks and joined in to help spread positivity throughout our corridors. Your enthusiasm and commitment to inclusion make QPHS a warm, supportive place for all.

“All different, All welcome is the No Outsiders slogan and it was wonderful to see this message reflected in so many students wearing odd socks. Difference enriches our community and every single positive contribution will always feel valued and welcome. ”

Mr Yeoman, Assistant Headteacher

 **ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE**

YOUNGMiNDS

fighting for young people's mental health

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Our annual Hello Yellow Day on 10th October brought a vibrant splash of colour to QPHS as students united together and swapped parts of their uniform for something yellow to champion an important message: mental health matters, and it's OK to not be OK.

The Hello Yellow campaign, organised by the charity *YoungMinds*, supports World Mental Health Day and encourages

people to come together in yellow to raise vital funds and show children and young people they're not alone with their mental health.

This initiative reminds us all of the support available in school, which is regularly shared through lessons and assemblies. Our amazing Pastoral Support Managers bring a wealth of experience and go above and beyond to help students who need it.



“ Hello Yellow Day is such a powerful reminder that mental health matters. Seeing our students come together in a sea of yellow shows how much we care for each other. It’s okay to ask for help, and we’re always here to listen. ”

Mr Yeoman
Assistant Headteacher

For more information, guidance, and useful resources, visit our dedicated Mental Health & Wellbeing page under the ‘Students’ menu on our website: [QPHS Mental Health & Wellbeing](#)
And remember that our staff are always here to listen too.



TAKING A STAND

Sixth Formers show Racism the Red Card!

On 15th October, our Sixth Form centre was awash in red as staff and students came together to support Show Racism the Red Card, the UK's leading anti-racism educational charity. The organisation uses sport, particularly football, to educate and inspire young people to challenge racism in all its forms.

This year marked the 11th anniversary of 'Wear Red Day', which is an annual event held each October bringing schools, organisations, and individuals across the UK together to promote anti-racism and raise funds for the charity's vital work.

On the day, students attended an informative assembly by Mrs Prydden, Head of Sixth Form, highlighting the importance of anti-racism and raising awareness of the impact of discrimination in society. The session helped students understand how they can take a stand in their own communities.

The campaign's slogan, *Show Racism the Red Card*, takes its inspiration from football, where a red card is shown to send a player off the pitch. In this context, it symbolises rejecting and banishing racism from our society. The charity provides workshops and resources to empower students to challenge discrimination in their everyday lives.





ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

WE WILL REMEMBER

QPHS come together to honour the past



This November, Queen's Park High School marked Remembrance Day with a real sense of togetherness. While remembrance has always been an important part of school life, this year felt particularly unified, with students and staff from every area of the school contributing in their own way.

In the days leading up to the 11th, preparations took place across several departments:

In Food Technology, students baked red and purple-themed biscuits and cupcakes to raise money for the Poppy Appeal.

In English, students used war poetry, specifically *Dulce et Decorum Est* by Wilfred Owen and *Ballad of a Hero* by Kae Tempest to explore their thoughts and feelings about remembrance.

Year 9 History students spent time studying the First World War, but it was learning about the former QPHS students named on the school memorial that had the greatest impact. Realising that these were local young people who never returned home brought a meaningful connection to their learning.

In PE, students watched the Christmas Day Football Match of 1914, a reminder of how humanity can persist even in times of conflict.

In Languages, classes explored how other countries mark remembrance, broadening students' understanding of its global significance.

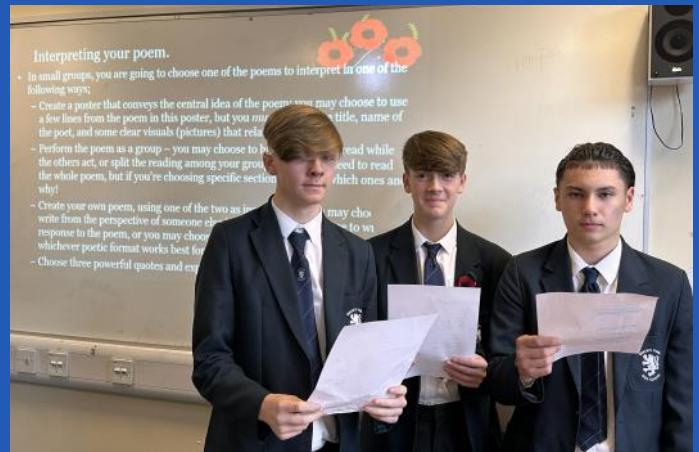
The Sixth Form Leadership Team and Uniformed Protective Services (UPS) students played an important role throughout the week, supporting the cupcake sale and selling poppies for the Poppy Appeal. UPS students also prepared for their part in the Remembrance Day parade. Their teamwork and maturity set a strong example for the whole school.

On the day itself, UPS students and staff gathered in the courtyard for the two-minute silence. *The Last Post* played by Sixth Form student Annabel C on her trombone sounded and the entire school fell silent as everyone took a moment to reflect together.

Remembrance Day 2025 at QPHS was a truly whole school effort, with every year group contributing in their own way. It was a thoughtful and respectful event that brought the QPHS community together to honour the past and consider the importance of peace today.

“What made this year stand out was not one single activity, but the combined effort of the whole school. From Year 7 students experiencing their first Remembrance Day at QPHS to Year 13 students marking their last, every year group played a part.”

Jamie Denyer
UPS Lead





World Prematurity Day



“ Approximately 15 million babies are born pre-term each year, accounting for about 1 in 10 of all babies born worldwide. ”

Sophie, Year 11 student

‘BAKING’ IT HAPPEN!

Sweet Success for a special cause



It is always great to see a student with such enthusiasm and passion for helping others come up with brilliant ideas to support their charitable drive! World Prematurity Day took place on Monday 17th November and Sophie C in Year 11 wanted to do something special to mark the occasion.

Motivated by her mum’s work in the Neo-natal department at Liverpool Women’s Hospital, Sophie learned about the real need for items to support mothers of premature babies.

The hospital even has an Amazon wish list to help families during their stay.

Determined to help, Sophie and her grandma spent the weekend baking and decorating over 400 cakes for a school bake sale. Thanks to her incredible efforts and generosity of the QPHS community, Sophie raised £300 to buy equipment and resources for the hospital.

The kindness of the people in our school is matched only by the drive they have to help others; amazing effort Sophie, well done!



PUMPKIN PRIZES

Attendance wins BIG!

Five mysterious pumpkins appeared overnight in our trophy cabinet during the final week of the October half term.

Inside each pumpkin was a golden envelope enclosing a secret prize for the tutor group with the highest attendance. Every day that week, the winning tutor group could choose a pumpkin and reveal these spooky surprises!

It was great to see the pride students took in having their prize read out to them. This little trick, or rather treat, brought a perfect mix of suspense and celebration to the end of term. Even better, it sparked conversations among students and staff about why showing up matters.

A fun reminder that attendance really does pay off!

GOLD STAR CHAMPIONS

Rewarding brilliance, effort & achievement



Making students famous for the right reasons is one of our goals at Queen's Park High School! This is made so much easier when there are so many students doing wonderfully in school and, as a result, we had over 200 students in each half term so far this year recognised for the number of House points they received.

Every gold star winner was presented with a certificate and gold star badge, with two students from each year group lucky enough to win Amazon vouchers in our prize draw. On top of that, two students from all of those shining gold star recipients have walked

away with incredible prizes: a brand-new laptop and a £100 Amazon gift card!

It is always a pleasure to reward students who consistently try hard, achieve their best and contribute to the wider life of the school. Their commitment to personal growth and positive engagement with our community is something we value deeply. More importantly, these qualities will empower them to succeed in the years ahead.

Congratulations to all of our gold star winners so far, and watch this space, because there are plenty more stars to be awarded in 2026!



Advent Rewards

Every Day Counts!

To spread a little Christmas joy and highlight the importance of being in school, our Giant Attendance Advent brought both excitement and anticipation to the final weeks of term. For each school day in December, the tutor group with the highest attendance gathered in the main canteen with their tutor and chose one of 15 keys to unlock a door and reveal a prize inside!

There was a huge range of prizes up for grabs for the whole tutor group, including cinema trips, Domino's pizza lunches, mountains of chocolates, own clothes days, and even Amazon gift cards for every member of a tutor group!

We know how important it is to be in school as much as possible and, while we understand that sometimes students need time to recover when they're unwell, we also believe school should be a place where children want to be. This initiative helped make that happen and we were thrilled to reward over 230 children this month!

Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow!

“ We all understand how important it is to be in school. Regular attendance greatly increases the chances of improving both the quality of qualifications and the personal development of our young people! ”

Mrs Cutler, Attendance Lead



Food
and
Tech
Support

As with every year, it was an absolute joy to see students joining in with the festivities and wearing their own clothes and Christmas jumpers. On Thursday 11th December, alongside the normal offering of pizza, pasta and wraps, we offered Christmas dinner to the whole school. It tied in brilliantly with our charitable efforts to raise money for *Save The Children* and donations for the West Cheshire

Foodbank. Christmas Jumper Day brought more than just festive fashion, it was a chance to celebrate together as tutors and tutees gathered in our festively decorated dining areas to share lunch and chat about their hopes for 2026.

It certainly helped us all to get into the festive spirit!



FESTIVE FEAST!

5-Star dining for lucky tutor group

As part of our Attendance Advent prize, Mr Evans' tutor group were treated like royalty with their very own private dining experience. Their Christmas lunch was prepared by our very own crack team of chefs: a talented group of Year 10, 11 and 12 students studying Hospitality and Catering, led by Miss Longson.

The students worked tirelessly throughout the morning to prepare, cook and serve full roast dinners for all 29 members of the tutor group. Complete with waiter service, crackers and

even reindeer-themed desserts, this festive feast was nothing short of spectacular!

This incredible experience was one of the prizes awarded through Attendance Advent and it's safe to say the whole tutor group were thrilled to enjoy such a reward, completely free of charge!

At Queen's Park, we pride ourselves on being a close-knit community. Creating moments like these helps everyone feel they belong to something truly special.



“ Our students worked so hard to make this a special experience. From planning the menu to serving the meals, their professionalism and teamwork were outstanding. I am so proud of them. ”

Mrs Longson
 Teacher of Food Technology



SPORTS REPORT



The Year 10 and 11 basketball team recently showcased their talent in the Chester Schools Basketball Competition, facing off against seven local schools.

Drawn in a tough group with The King's School, Chester Catholic High and Blacon High School, our team rose to the challenge with determination and skill.

The opening match against King's was a nail-biter! Captain Tom led from the front, dazzling spectators with his flawless lay-up technique. Meanwhile, newcomer Harvey proved to be a defensive powerhouse, dominating rebounds and giving QPHS repeated chances to attack.

Against Blacon, the trio of Josh, Kris, and Will formed an impenetrable defensive wall, making it nearly impossible for the

opposition to break through. Hayden and Matty kept the energy high with lightning-fast breaks, ensuring the team stayed responsive and competitive throughout.

The season concluded on a high note with an excellent win against Chester Catholic High, a testament to the team's hard work and unity.

A special shout-out goes to Murat, whose coaching expertise guided the squad to success.

Murat and Tom are already planning ahead, training younger year groups and stepping into sports leadership roles.

Year 8 and 9 basketball fixtures kick off after Christmas with a Year 7 tournament in early February, promising even more excitement on the court!

KICK-OFF TO VICTORY

Launching the season with trophy glory

It's been an action packed start to the football season at Queen's Park High School, with all six of our teams competing in both the Chester Cup and Chester 6-a-side tournaments, and some year groups even taking on the Cheshire Cup challenge!

A huge shout-out goes to our incredible Year 8 footballers, who stormed to victory in the Chester & District 6-a-side tournament, beating ten local schools to claim the title! Their journey was nothing short of thrilling.

The opening game against Abbeygate College saw Ben's dazzling dribble and clinical finish put us ahead. Next up was Christleton High School, despite Georgi's rock-solid defending and Bjorn's heroic saves, we narrowly lost 1-0. But revenge was on the horizon!

After a battling win over Chester Catholic High, thanks to Joel's grit and Jake's relentless pressure up front, we advanced to the semi-finals against a strong Bishop Heber side. It was a nail-biter that went to penalties, where Bjorn's early save and our cool composure sealed the win.



Year 8

The final brought us face-to-face with Christleton once again. Led by our inspirational captain Harry, the team fought hard in a tense 0-0 thriller. Penalties decided it, and this time, QPHS claimed the silverware!

And the excitement doesn't stop there! Year 9 are still in the Cheshire Cup, having edged out Kings Leadership Warrington 3-2 in the last round. Next up: Tarporley High in the last 16. Watch this space, more trophies could be on the way!



Year 7



Year 9



Year 9



Year 11



Year 12



Year 11

GOAL GETTERS!

Lionesses bring home the silver!



It's been a really exciting start to the term in Girls' PE. Our Year 8 girls showed real fire in the 5-a-side indoor football tournament. They battled for every ball, supported each other brilliantly, and we were treated to a fantastic goal from Naomi F. Year 7 were just as impressive, with shout outs to Paisley MC and Skye B showing great skill and confidence throughout their games.

One of the real highlights this term was the Chester & District 7-a-side football tournament at Chester Catholic High School. Our Year 7 team played the entire competition a player down and still managed to win their group, win the semi-final, and only narrowly missed out in a very close final!

Emilia P was on fire, scoring some

brilliant goals, and every single girl gave absolutely everything. A huge well done to Sky B, Emilia P, Elena M, Daria B, Paisley MC and Hope B for their effort and fantastic football that evening. It was a proud moment for Miss Darroch on the side lines watching and cheering them on.

A special shout-out also goes to Poppy K, our Year 7 team manager. She was fantastically organised, positive and a brilliant role model for the younger players. Her support made such a difference to both the girls and Miss Darroch on the day.

After Christmas, the competitive netball season gets underway, and Monday after-school training will be essential ready for another successful term.



“ I've loved seeing the enthusiasm the girls have brought to every fixture and training session. Thank you for all your hard work ladies! ”

Miss Darroch, Teacher of PE



FITNESS FUN!

Brio brings the beat!

September's National Fitness Week got off to an exciting start for our Year 9 girls, who took part in a Brio dynamic dance class during their PE lesson. Thanks to Daniela and Cheryl from Brio Leisure at Chester Northgate Arena, the students enjoyed a lively taster session filled with upbeat music, energetic moves, and plenty of fun.

The session encouraged everyone to get moving. Students focused hard as they learned some tricky choreography, felt the rhythm, and discovered a new and exciting way to stay active. It was a brilliant opportunity for the girls to try something different in PE, combining fitness with dance in a way that was both challenging and enjoyable.

The event was a real hit, with students and staff praising the positive atmosphere and enthusiasm throughout the class. The girls, although cautious at first, loved stepping out of their comfort zones to embrace this new and engaging activity.

A huge thank you to Daniela and Cheryl for bringing the energy, creating a buzz for dance and giving our students a fantastic introduction to Brio's dance fitness sessions. They helped make National Fitness Week at QPHS one to remember.

We look forward to more fitness fun in the future!



We're in very safe hands with Safina in the water! We're incredibly proud of our Year 12 student, who took part in a brilliant opportunity offered through the Chester Schools Together Partnership over the October half term.

Safina joined five other students from Blacon, Christleton and Upton High Schools to complete the Royal Life Saving Society's National Pool Lifeguard Qualification (NPLQ), the UK's leading lifeguard award. Not only is the NPLQ internationally recognised, but it also carries 8 UCAS Tariff points, making it a brilliant addition to any CV or university application.

The group took on a tough five-day course involving timed swims, deep-water dives and lifting casualties, as well as practising pool-rescue techniques, first aid and CPR. They also completed a written lifeguard theory test before earning their qualification.

The fully funded programme, hosted at Christleton Sports Centre, brings students from across Chester together for exciting learning experiences beyond the classroom and Safina embraced every moment with enthusiasm and determination.

Well done, Safina! This is a fantastic achievement.





ROWING TO SUCCESS

Opening doors to rowing for young people

Three organisations have come together to bring rowing opportunities to young people in Chester. Love Rowing, the Westminster Foundation, and Queen's Park Chester Rowing Club have launched Rowing to Success, a five-year inclusive programme to engage young people into rowing.

The partnership combines the expertise of Love Rowing, British Rowing's charitable foundation, the resources of the Westminster Foundation, and the local knowledge and facilities of Queen's Park Chester Rowing Club. Together, they aim to create sustainable pathways into rowing for young people in Chester.

Rowing to Success will provide access for up to 300 young people each year, offering both indoor and on-water rowing through youth-focused programmes.

The programme will employ two dedicated staff members: a full-time

Youth Rowing Coach and a part-time Activity Coordinator and Welfare Officer, who will work closely with schools and young people throughout their rowing journey. From year three onwards, a youth leadership programme will be introduced for students in years 10–12, offering volunteering opportunities and qualifications.

Over the course of the year, all QPHS Year 7 students will have the chance to row. Teamwork, communication, confidence, and organisational skills have already been developed by the first cohort, alongside new friendships and a strong sense of achievement.

Reminder: All Year 7 students at QPHS will be offered Learn to Row sessions during the Easter holidays. Please look out for details on how to join the Rowing Club.



ROWING EVENTS

Chester Long Distance Sculls

The 5km stretch along the River Dee from Eccleston to Chester is a rite of passage for our senior rowers competing in the Chester Long Distance Sculls. This event demands a smart race plan. Pacing is everything, with consistency the key to success over such a challenging distance.

Rowing 5km is no easy feat, and all our crews delivered outstanding performances, achieving personal bests and building on their training goals.

Congratulations to our winners:

- Issy, Eden, Alice, Millie W (WJ17 4x-)
- Jack and Henry (J17 2x)

Runcorn Autumn Head

This year, all our senior rowers took on the challenge of competing in singles at the Runcorn Autumn Head. Rowing solo is the ultimate test of focus and resilience out on the water as there's no one to offer encouragement, so it's all down to mindset and determination.

We were thrilled to see Hayden, Leigh, Henry, Achilles, Carlos, Sasha, Phoebe, Millie, Eden, Alice, and Issy rise to the occasion and give it their all. A special congratulations goes to Millie W, who claimed victory in her race. An outstanding achievement!

“ Our unique partnership with the Rowing Club has enabled us to send groups of Year 7 students to the Boathouse for intensive Learn to Row courses supported by funding from the Duke of Westminster and his Foundation. It was fantastic to see the enthusiasm and natural flair of this first group on the river. ”

Mr Yeoman, Assistant Headteacher





A TEST OF ENDURANCE & SPEED

Agecroft Head

Rowing in the heart of Manchester at Salford Quays is a fantastic way to spend a Saturday, and this year our rowers rose to the challenge of the 4.2km course.

Congratulations to our event winners:

- Henry (J17 1x)
- Carlos & Jack (J17 2x)
- William, Thomas, Trystan & Alex Coxed by Margaux (J14 4x+)

Well done to all who competed and represented the club with pride!

Dee Autumn Head

As the weather turns colder and wetter, the River Dee brings more water downstream, creating faster but more challenging conditions for rowers. This year's Dee Autumn Head saw some exceptionally quick times thanks to the powerful flow of the river.

We were proud to have a strong contingent of club rowers competing, with standout victories from::

- Alyssa (Wj15 1x)
- Henry (J18 1x)

Congratulations to both for their impressive performances in tough conditions!



BATTLE FOR GLORY

Regional clubs unite at Head of the Dee



This event follows a slightly different format than most, with crews competing for a percentage of Gold Medal Time. This means that a single can race against a quad or an eight, based on their time (relative to a gold medal performance time from the previous National Schools events).

Hosted by The King's School Rowing Club, the event brings together top regional talent, including Shrewsbury School Rowing Club, Royal Chester

Rowing Club, and others from across the Dee.

It was fantastic to see our crews from J14 through to seniors take on the challenge, with medals won across the majority of our boats.

A brilliant day of racing and achievement for all involved! We are incredibly proud of our rowers for showcasing determination, teamwork and the QPHS community spirit on such a competitive stage.

NORTHWICH AUTUMN HEAD

Extended 2 day event

The Northwich Autumn Head is one of the most popular events on the rowing calendar, often selling out within minutes of entries opening. This year, Northwich Rowing Club extended the competition to two days, dedicating one day to junior rowing. Thanks to this change, we secured places for our Year 10 and senior rowers.

Competing in singles were:

- Issy, Millie Warren, Carlos, Henry, Arthur, Joshua, Alex & Alyssa.

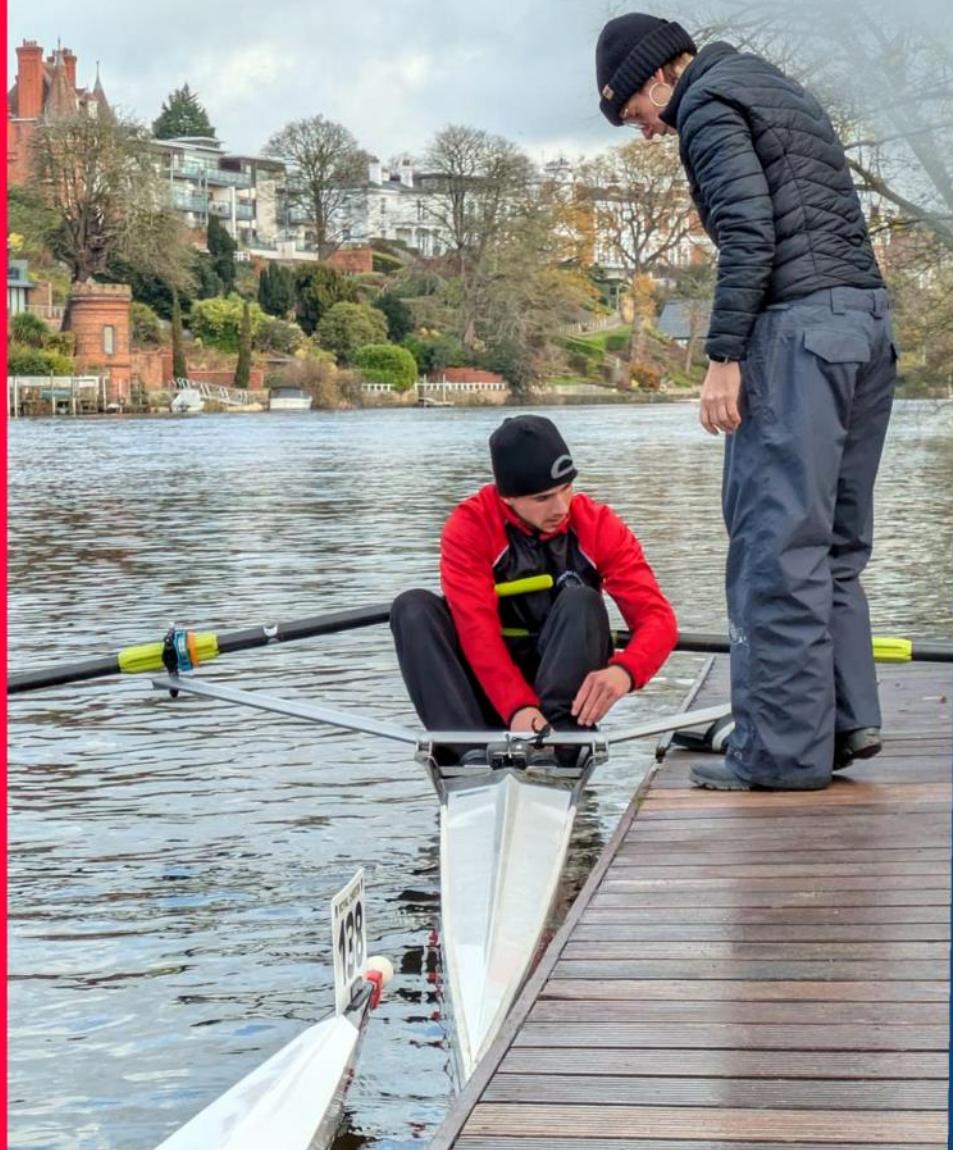
In doubles, we had:

- James & Kodey, Libby & Phoebe, Eden & Alice and Georgia & Abigail.

Rounding out the competition in a coxed quad were:

- Harriet, Valentina, Susannah & Scarlett, coxed by Abigail.

Congratulations to everyone who represented the club with determination and skill!



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