



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

AUTUMN TERM 2023
SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

THE SOVEREIGN
ART FOUNDATION
SCHOOL ART PRIZE

BRITISH ROWING
CHAMPION
WINS GOLD

INTERNATIONAL TRIPS
Gambia & Ghana

CHARITY
FUNDRAISERS
Showcase QPHS
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YEAR 5 RISE TO
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CHALLENGE DAY



UNIVERSITY OF CHESTER
EMPOWERING
MATHEMATICAL
MINDS

FIELDWORK
Investigations

INDUSTRY
INSIGHTS &
CAREERS



YOUNG WRITERS PUBLISHED AUTHORS

WELCOME



“ As we welcome in 2024, I hope this newsletter gives you a taste of the experience we continue to offer at Queen’s Park High School as it showcases students’ life and their enriched school

experience, whether it’s through arts, drama, sports, or STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths).

Throughout this edition, we continue to celebrate how well students are engaging with literature and it is fantastic that we have published writers within our school. In September we launched an exciting initiative for Year 7 and 8 students: ‘Book Club’ which has become known as ‘Reading with the Head’. I am really enjoying reading the Steinbeck classic ‘Of Mice and Men’ with both year groups each week as part of their morning set up and we have already chosen our next book: a multi award-winning children’s novel called ‘Boy 87’.

We also continue to engage in charitable work with money being raised for Children in Need, CSASS, West Cheshire Food Bank and Save the Children, to name but a few. What an achievement! It is wonderfully humbling that so many of our students want to give to those less fortunate than themselves.

This issue also highlights our work around Careers Education, plus the continued success of our sports clubs and the QPHS Rowing Club.

A special mention must go to our Science team who were announced finalists in this year’s Educate Awards for their outstanding work around STEM - amazing!

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all parents/carers for their support with our drive to promote the importance of attendance and punctuality in school: ‘Moments Matter, Attendance Counts’.

We hope you enjoy flicking through the pages of this bumper edition magazine - happy reading!



Mr Kearns,
HEADTEACHER

Educate Awards®

ASL | RICOH

FINALIST 2023

STEMSATIONAL!

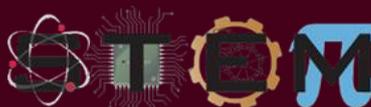
North West finalist for honours award



We are incredibly proud to announce that Queen’s Park High School is one of three schools in the North West shortlisted for the *Outstanding Commitment to STEM* category in the Educate Awards 2023.

This award honours schools that have exceptional STEM activities or projects to promote the importance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects to all students.

This recognition highlights the work and dedication we have towards STEM subjects. This has included a whole school STEM based Curriculum Enrichment Day to celebrate National Science Week in which students completed a range of exciting workshops on the themes of electronics, robotics and engineering.





“ Overall, the school demonstrates an incredible commitment to STEM through the Queen’s Park STEM Club, which includes a wide range of students. They clearly show outstanding engagement and ideas, including career based STEM activities! ”

Educate Award Judges 2023



“ It is fantastic to see Queen’s Park recognised for the work we do towards STEM on a regional level. We are very proud of the STEM provision we provide students to engage them further in STEM subjects and develop their skills for their future careers. ”

Miss Sutton,
Curriculum Team Leader for Science

These workshops were delivered by STEM employees including HS2 engineers. Other sessions involved students making links to STEM in history by looking at the medical heroes who have influenced our lives.

Year 8 students have also worked closely with Chester Zoo, engaging in a range of workshops on the theme of sustainability and climate change. Students completed 3 sessions in school to discuss how to protect wildlife and reduce the effects of global warming. The final session took place at Chester Zoo, where students had a talk on different conservation projects and how the zoo works to protect animal populations.

Being shortlisted for the Educate Award also recognises the work of the Queen’s Park STEM Club.

This is a very popular extracurricular activity which has been successful in both national and regional competitions.

The school has recently received the Gold STEM Club Quality Mark, highlighting the exceptional STEM provision we offer our students.

The winners of the Educate Awards were announced at their annual awards ceremony at Liverpool Cathedral on 17th November, which was attended by members of our science team.

Although we weren’t announced the winner of our category this time, we are extremely proud to share that we are now the second best secondary school in the North West for our outstanding commitment to STEM and are looking forward to building on this success in the future.





“ I have really enjoyed STEM club because we always do lots of fun practical work and do lots of experiments. ”
Santi, Year 7 student

STEM CLUB

Prosthetics, bath bombs, sleds and slime!

Year 7 STEM Club got off to a great start this year, with so many students signing up we had to split them into two groups!

During the Autumn term students have taken part in a wide range of STEM activities lead by QPHS staff. The sessions are mostly centred around 'hands on' experiments linked to the real life application of STEM (Science, technology, engineering and maths).

We started the year with some slimy fun, as students created their own oobleck from cornstarch and water. This led to a conversation about non-newtonian fluids and why these substances behave in such an unusual manner.

For an engineering challenge, students worked in teams to design a free standing structure (bridge), hoping to support the highest mass. They had to consider what shapes would

make the strongest supports and how the mass on the bridge would be best distributed.

Biology, biomechanics and material science came next, with students being inspired by the work of Stephen Davies (who himself was born without a hand), a CAD engineer who works with a volunteer network called e-Nable, that makes free 3D prosthetics for children. Using templates and instructions students had to create a 'hand' which by pulling on the string 'tendons' could pick up an object. Students were intrigued by the similarities with their own hands and how this knowledge could translate to improved designs for prosthetics.

Recent activities have included investigating the reactions between acids and bases while making bath bombs, aerodynamics and wing designs while creating gliders and STEM heroes, where students

impressed staff and the school's STEM ambassador with their presentations.

The final and festive themed activity of the term involved students creating and racing balloon 'sleds' to learn about force, friction and speed. They considered which balloon shape was most suitable, took measurements of distance and time to calculate who's balloon was the fastest!

In the New Year we look forward to the return of Chester Zoo, with the groups swapping for another 10 weeks of activities!

“ I have enjoyed it all especially the bath bombs. STEM Club is a great opportunity if you like science, competitions and being creative. ”
Imogen, Year 7 student



CONSERVATION WORKSHOPS

CHESTER ZOO

As well as the exciting workshops led by QPHS science staff, some Year 7 STEM Club students have been completing a 10 week programme with Chester Zoo.

These workshops have been based on conservation, breeding programmes and the role of zoos and have been delivered by the Conservation Education and Engagement Team at Chester Zoo.

Students have learned a range of information including problems faced by native species, how scientists measure the population sizes and the development of Chester Zoo since it opened in 1931.

One of the workshops focused on animal welfare and involved students designing their own enclosure for an animal. They have also discussed palm oil and completed a board game to explore the importance of using sustainable palm oil to save the Sumatra rainforest and its inhabitants. Other sessions focused on illegal hunting and why this happens so that measures can be taken to protect animals.

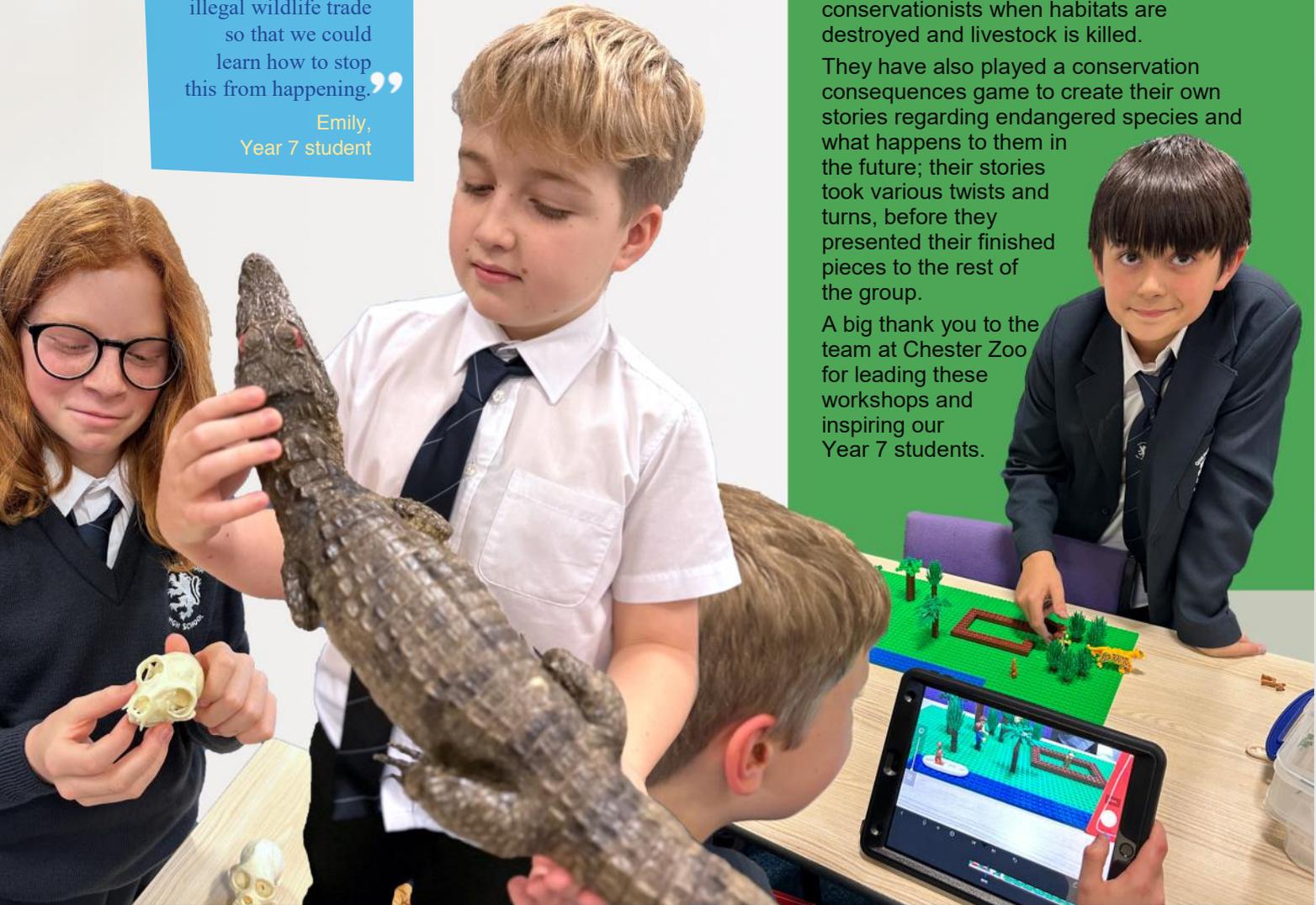
Students had fun using iPads and Lego to create a stop motion video to explore the problems faced by farmers and conservationists when habitats are destroyed and livestock is killed.

They have also played a conservation consequences game to create their own stories regarding endangered species and what happens to them in the future; their stories took various twists and turns, before they presented their finished pieces to the rest of the group.

A big thank you to the team at Chester Zoo for leading these workshops and inspiring our Year 7 students.

“ My favourite thing was making a home for 1000 people with Lego and looking at why all the resources they needed affect wildlife. I love STEM Club and I’m so glad I joined. ”
Ben, Year 7 student

“ My favourite thing was discussing the illegal wildlife trade so that we could learn how to stop this from happening. ”
Emily, Year 7 student





UNSOLVED

Published authors!

EVERY SENTENCE COUNTS

In a testament to their literary prowess, several students from Queen's Park have emerged triumphant in the Young Writers *Unsolved Cases* writing competition and have had their work published!

The competition challenged participants to craft gripping 100-word mystery stories, and our Year 8 students rose to the occasion with unmatched ingenuity and storytelling finesse.

The entries poured in, each one a miniature masterpiece, weaving intricate tales of suspense, intrigue, and enigmatic ideas. From missing artefacts to puzzling disappearances, the narratives spun by these budding wordsmiths kept readers on the edge of their seats, navigating through twists and turns

within a succinct 100-word canvas. Mr. Jones' infectious enthusiasm for storytelling and mystery ignited a passion within the student body, fostering an environment where creativity flourished.

The culmination of this literary journey saw our students achieving remarkable success, with multiple entries selected for publication. It's a testament not only to their talent but also to their dedication, imagination and diligence in honing their writing skills.

Mr Jones, elated by the astounding achievements of the participants, is brimming with pride. His unwavering support for each entrant and the sheer delight at seeing their work recognised is palpable. For him, every published story is a

triumph not just for the individual writer but for the entire school community.

Queen's Park have a successful legacy of published authors in these competitions and the success in the *Unsolved Cases* competition highlights the creative potential and storytelling abilities of our students. As their stories captivate audiences, it is evident that the future of literature holds great promise with such talented wordsmiths among us.

The Young Writers competitions are a fantastic opportunity for any and all students who enjoy writing, so if our Year 8 students have inspired you to pick up a pen, please visit: www.youngwriters.co.uk and find out what opportunities are coming up!

CHESTER LITERATURE FESTIVAL

Developing partnerships with Storyhouse

The Chester Literature Festival has been hosted annually by Storyhouse Chester since in 2012 and celebrates the written and spoken word. The festival includes best-selling authors, broadcasters, poets, performers and more, alongside workshops, performances lectures and storytelling throughout the month of November.

As part of our continued partnership with the Storyhouse, a number of our Book Loving Tuesday Club members and staff were thrilled to be invited to attend a poet recital at the Storyhouse during the festival.

The group went to see the poet and musician, Reece Williams perform *'This Kind of Black (Requiem for Black Boys)'* in his powerful new stage show combining music dance and poetry. It is based on the new poetry collection of the same name and is a coming-of-age tale set in 1990s Moss Side, Manchester, a stone's throw from conflict and violence.

This Kind of Black celebrates a community held together by prayers, warmth and humour, whilst also mourning the tragic loss of young life. Taking place at the intersection of race and class, when the media only portrays you through the lens of 'Gunchester,' gangs and poverty, it explores the relationship between a father and a son, and the impact of trauma on the mental health of young Black boys across generations.

Both staff and students were treated to a fantastic one man show that included a member of the audience having an imaginary haircut and Caribbean line dancing by Reece (the poet) and another member of the audience!

We will continue to develop our partnership with the Storyhouse and look forward to attending many more of these trips over the coming months.

“ It was a thought provoking evening and we hope this will be the first of many we attend at the Storyhouse. ”
Miss Melhuish-Jones, Librarian



This Kind of Black REQUIEM FOR BLACK BOYS

“ It's wonderful seeing our students' work published and it's amazing to think that we have several published authors within the school! Huge congratulations to everyone! ”
Mr Jones, Teacher of English

The Unknown

There's something staring at me from the bottom of my bed. It's not blinking or even moving. It's just staring at me with a grim smile. Why is it laughing? What is it laughing at? The fear in my eyes, my silent cries or my silent screams for help.

Another one appeared, only this time it was hovering over my head. My cries were becoming louder, my screams were becoming quieter somehow. Why won't anyone hear me? Am I too quiet or am I dead? I feel dead. I don't feel like myself. Like my spirit has left my body.

Sophie Kinsey (12)

Queen's Park High School, Handbridge

The Big Bang In Murder

In 1931, a murderer killed Georges Lemaitre. He was onto a new theory of Earth. Michael Evans was tasked with finding out who killed him. Normally, Michael was set with easy cases but this one was different from the rest. All the clues didn't add up.

He soon found a clue left by the murderer. It was a note. It read: 'The Big Bang is just a theory and so is Area...' The number was scribbled out.

Michael had to travel the world to find where the murderer was hiding.

"A key word to remember is Knight Templar, Michael."

Orla Morris (12)

Queen's Park High School, Handbridge

Her Final Say

I'm Mariana, a ghost and victim of a crime. I've watched inspectors fail to uncover the culprit. Now I've discovered writing, I'll reveal the truth.

I was at the lake when somebody grabbed me, pushing me underwater. Bubbles exploded from my mouth, my hope following. I'd hoped swimming would save me, yet the killer's grip was unforgiving. Before death, I was lifted and slammed back into the water. But I'd seen the murderer's face. He went by the name of...

That was the last thing Mariana wrote. Her time in the land of the living came to an inevitable end.

Alice Fotheringham (12)

Queen's Park High School, Handbridge

Blood And Dust

Detectives heard them before they saw them. In the middle of the field, they accepted that they'd be dead. Seconds later, all you could hear was the sound of flesh being torn from limbs, as the screams faded into the darkness. The creatures were decimating villages, like a plague.

Jake returned home to find his dad and sister arguing. June ran upstairs and slammed the door.

Suddenly, the TV switched on. "Breaking news, shadow spirits..."

Jake called for June but there was no answer. Suddenly, the lights started rapidly flickering and he felt something brush along his neck...

Emily Lloyd-Jones (12)

Queen's Park High School, Handbridge

The Silent Witness

In the eerie silence, a heinous crime shrouds the air with a chilling terror. Its brutality rivals even the darkest depths of hell and only a deaf-mute witness holds its account. Amidst a serene garden, hidden behind London's bustling streets, a sole cherry blossom tree stands witness to the tragedy.

Once a beautiful haven for friends, it now becomes the heart of an ongoing investigation, marking the haunting site of an innocent girl's murder. Whispers of the silent witness' testimony ignite hope for justice's embrace, as tenacious detectives unravel the twisted secrets of the garden's enigmatic past.

Dylan Hilder (15)

Queen's Park High School, Handbridge

Runaway Killer

Once upon a murderous day, a killer was on the loose. She had broken out of prison and was thirsty for blood. First, she had to find somewhere to hide. Gladly, she knew someone who knew a place.

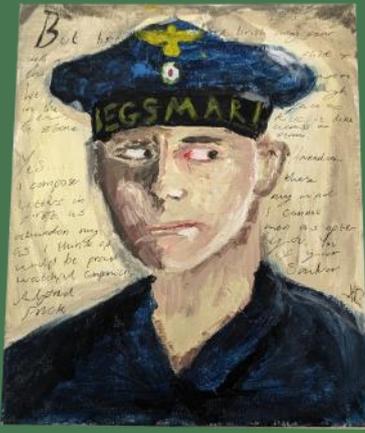
Once she was safe, her friend gave her some clothes. He also said he would be back with food once a month. It had been a year since she had broken out of prison. A couple snuck in there for a little canoodle and they saw her. She quickly used her killer instincts and ran up with something and...

Abigail Johnson (12)

Queen's Park High School, Handbridge

NOVEL INSPIRES WRITING

Above and beyond in English



At the beginning of the school year, our Year 8 students began reading the wonderfully evocative novel *Salt to the Sea* by award winning author Ruta Sepetys.

The book deals with the tragic loss of the German evacuation ship the Wilhelm Gustloff at the end of the Second World War and follows a cast of four diverse characters, from a pregnant girl fleeing war-torn Poland to a deluded member of the Kriegsmarine. The story begins with an uneasy trust between the refugees which builds to a heart-breaking tear-jerking conclusion.

Several of our amazing Year 8 students including Mia J, Indiana N, Harriet L and Lucy E fell in love with the 380 page novel and have been writing their own letters in role as the characters.

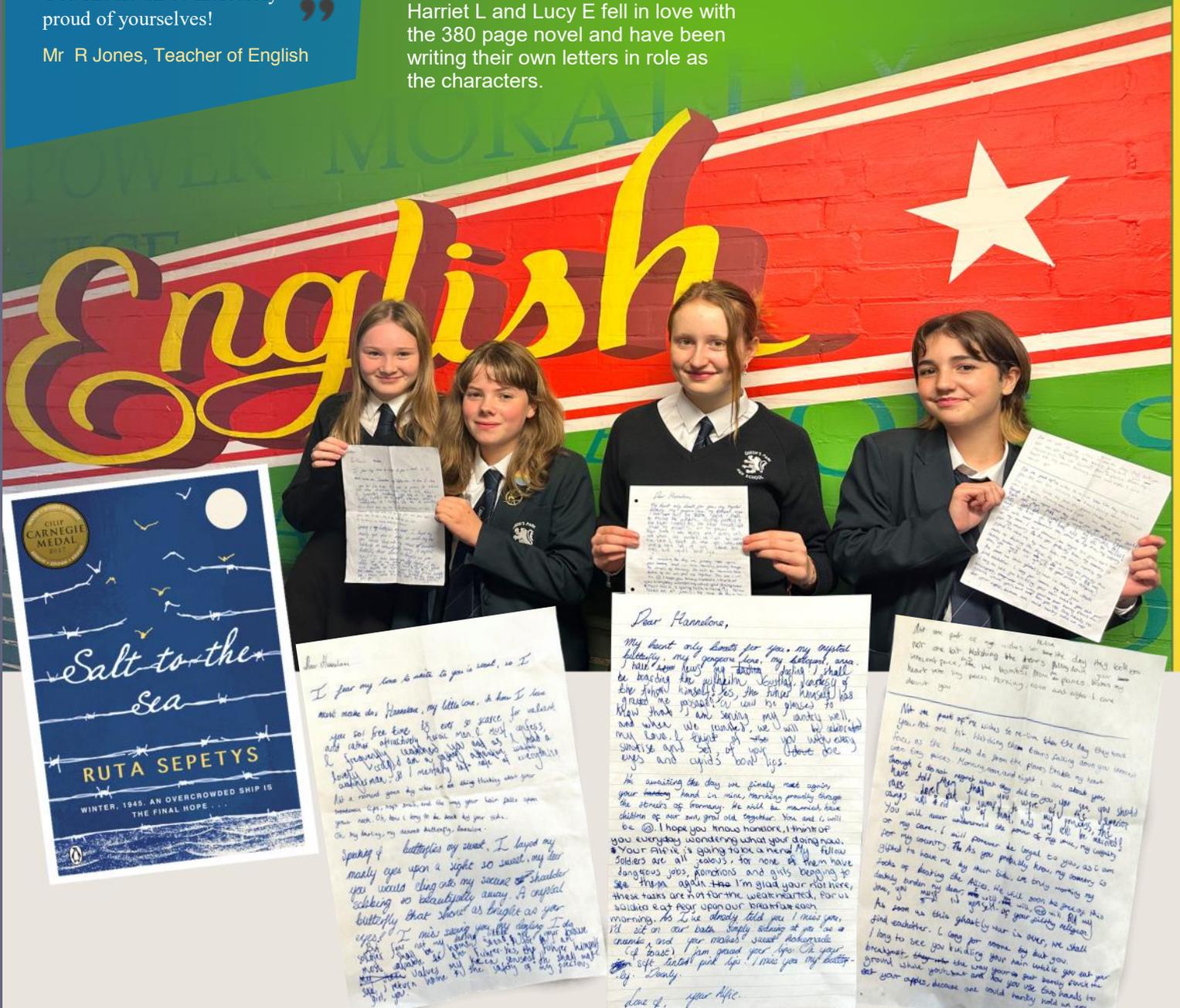
Their English teacher, Mr Jones has been so impressed with the letters which really capture the feel of both the book and the character, and has showcased their work on his classroom wall for all to see.

The girls wrote the excellent letters in their own free time and it's a real testament to how far our students will go when they love a subject. Harlow, Year 8 student even went so far as to paint their favourite character, and it's safe to say, has done an amazing job!

Congratulations to all the students for going above and beyond in English.

“ It’s so wonderful to see so many of our incredible students developing a real love of a subject and it’s heart-warming to see how passionate all the students are about furthering their education. Big well done girls! You should all be incredibly proud of yourselves! ”

Mr R Jones, Teacher of English



BOOK CLUB

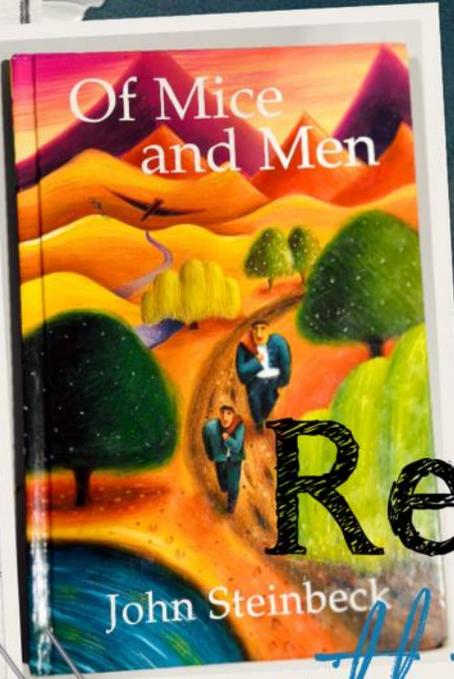
In September we were thrilled to launch an exciting initiative for Year 7 and 8 students: 'Book Club', also fondly known as 'Reading with the Head'. Once a week, during morning set up, students eagerly join together with Mr Kearns or Mr Gregory and share the opportunity to dive into the fascinating world of literature.

Reading is not just a pastime, it is an essential skill that will benefit students throughout their lives. By reading regularly, they improve their vocabulary, comprehension skills, and creativity. They explore different perspectives and broaden their understanding of the world. Reading allows students to escape into imaginary realms and travel through time, all from the comfort of their own school canteen! One of the great joys of reading is sharing a love of books with others.

In the reading sessions, students get to connect with classmates who might have completely different tastes and interests. Yet, when they discuss the stories they've read, they find common ground and discover new books from each other's recommendations. It's fascinating how a story can bring people together and spark meaningful conversations!

Recently, students delved into John Steinbeck's classic novel, 'Of Mice and Men'. This powerful book explores important social issues such as friendship, loneliness, and dreams. Through the characters of George and Lennie, students were able to reflect on the human condition and the challenges many people face. Reading this book together helped students develop a sense of empathy and understanding for others.

'Book Club' has given Year 7 and 8 a platform to explore new worlds and build a strong reading community. Reading not only enhances literacy skills but also enables students to engage with important social issues. We look forward to discovering more captivating books in the future.



Reading

with the Head



MATHS PGCE WORKSHOPS

Empowering minds and inspiring the next generation

On Thursday 30th November we welcomed our colleagues from the University of Chester into our maths lessons. Twelve Associate Teachers and two tutors from the University, including Senior Lecturer Dr Sally Bamber, worked with a range of Queen's Park High School students during the day.

Year 11 had the opportunity to work in pairs with a trainee maths teacher to improve topics that had proven to be challenging in their recent Mock exams. Positive comments from the students included, *"it was good to have extra support"* and *"I understand it better now"*

All Year 9 classes worked in small groups with the visitors to develop their understanding of straight-line graphs. The concepts were presented in a puzzle/game approach to our students, thus developing their problem-solving skills as well as their knowledge about gradients and intercepts.

The final session was for Year 10 GEM pathway students. The GEM pathway in maths and English supports students to succeed in their studies while learning real-life skills.

The focus of the session was about the famous 'Bamber Brownie'! After sampling the delicious brownies, Year 10 students worked with the

trainee teachers and used the secret recipe to research the best shops to find ingredients before deciding how much they could sell the brownie for to make the most profit. Students will now be writing up their plans in English lessons! Watch out for the next steps in this project!

Once again, we received positive feedback from our visitors, commenting on the engagement and positive attitude of our students. We were very proud of all the students involved.

Big thanks to the University of Chester Associate teachers and tutors for another very rewarding day!



University of
Chester

“ An absolute joy to work with your students again; so polite and enthusiastic. Lots of good maths conversations were happening. Another great day! ”

Dr Sally Bamber, Senior Lecturer in maths education at Chester University





“ This is a bi-annual event, and year on year our students engage with our visitors and gain a different perspective on their maths work. I was particularly proud of our Year 10 students who rose to the challenge and made lots of profit. ”

**Mrs Chalmers,
Maths Curriculum Team Leader**

MART

Creating art with maths

Following the success of the Maths and Art: 'MART' project in the summer term with Year 6 children at Lache Primary school, in October the PGCE maths students from the University of Chester and Senior Lecturer, Dr Sally Bamber, came into Queen's Park to work with our Year 7 students to develop ideas further on how we can create art with maths!

Year 7 were shown how the complexities of multiples and factors can create wonderful patterns. It also provided an opportunity to see how prime numbers work. The Year 6 experts from Lache Primary (now in our Year 7) were delighted to share their knowledge and help our peers grasp the concept. The PGCE students are currently training to be secondary maths teachers and they had first hand experience working with small groups of Year 7 students.

Our year 7s found the workshops really engaging and are already using what they have learned in their maths lessons.

Well done Year 7!





HOW CLEAN IS OUR AIR?

On location in Handbridge

Fieldwork is an opportunity for geographers to get out from behind the desk, to go and study the local environment, and that is exactly what our Year 9's have done in their geography lessons this term.

In September, Miss Sumner took two of her Year 9 Geography classes out of the classroom to assess air pollution in the local area.

Working on site at the Old Dee Bridge in Handbridge, students began their fieldwork investigations.

They collected primary data through Environmental Quality Surveys (EQS), a tally of different vehicles and then through secondary data found out about the local air quality at that particular time.



COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Formby Beach data collection

On Thursday 19th October, Year 11 geography students visited Formby Beach to develop their fieldwork skills and their Paper 3 Geographical Application exam.

With blue skies above and dry weather forecast, students embraced the opportunity to work outdoors collecting data and experiencing coastal landscapes and systems for their Paper 3 exam.

After a short walk along the windy beach, students arrived at Formby Sand Dunes where their main data collection took place.

They looked at vegetation succession and beach profiles using a wide range of geographical equipment including clinometers and ranging poles.

This trip helps to support students' wider understanding of the module 'Physical landscapes of the UK' with a focus on 'Coasts'.



FIELDWORK INVESTIGATIONS

Enriching learning in the great outdoors

It's been a very busy term for our geography students, with a variety of trips heading out of the classroom to enhance students' understanding of environmental concerns.

On a very wet day in October, A Level geographers braved the elements to undertake fieldwork investigations in the local area. Their task was to assess infiltration rates at 3 different sites, starting in Eccleston moving onto the Meadows and along the River Dee.

Alongside this, students also assessed the impact population has on the environment, where they completed air pollution recordings, environmental quality surveys (EQS), decibel readings and field sketches.

“ It was interesting to see and step outside of the classroom, experiencing first-hand what I have enjoyed in my lessons. I hope to go on to university to study Geology as I know that there are many career options that will open up to me. Participating in fieldwork was great as I love being practical and being outside. ”

Reece, Year 13 student

“ Despite the very wet weather, I found the Meadows trip very interesting because I got to see and understand the processes I have studied in my A Level lessons. I can't wait to participate in activities like this when I study Geography at University. ”

Freya, Year 13 student





CHANGING PLACES

Land use in Liverpool

In December, our A Level Geography students headed into Liverpool City Centre for a full day of field work.

This trip was part of the Non Examined Assessment (NEA), which makes up 20% of the students' overall grade.

During the visit, students split into two groups to carry out their fieldwork. One group worked at Bramley Moore Dock and the other in the Baltic Triangle.

Students designed their own fieldwork aim, hypothesis and data collection methods which they will use to write up their NEA project.

Both groups were interested in how regeneration has impacted Liverpool, both economically and environmentally.

Dan chose to investigate the

opportunities and challenges of the new Everton Stadium at Bramley Moore Dock.

“ I really enjoyed being able to carry out fieldwork on a topic I am interested in, and hear the opinions and concerns of construction workers and local businesses in the area. ”

Dan, Year 13 student

The groups conducted Environmental Quality Surveys (EQS), field sketches, land use surveys and questionnaires with visitors and local businesses.

All students were a credit to Queen's Park Sixth Form in their conduct and attitude to work during the trip. We wish them the very best of luck with the rest of their NEA projects.



THE SOVEREIGN ART FOUNDATION SCHOOL ART PRIZE

Year 13 student announced as finalist

We are thrilled to announce that Year 13 art and design student, Annalise has been named as one of the finalists for the Sovereign Art Foundation Students Prize Chester, 2023!

The Sovereign Art Foundation Students (SAF) Prizes are annual awards that champion the importance of art in the education system and recognise the talent and quality of artworks produced by secondary-school students across the world. Launching in 2023, The Chester Students Prize is open to all secondary school students in Chester and Cheshire West, aged 11-18.

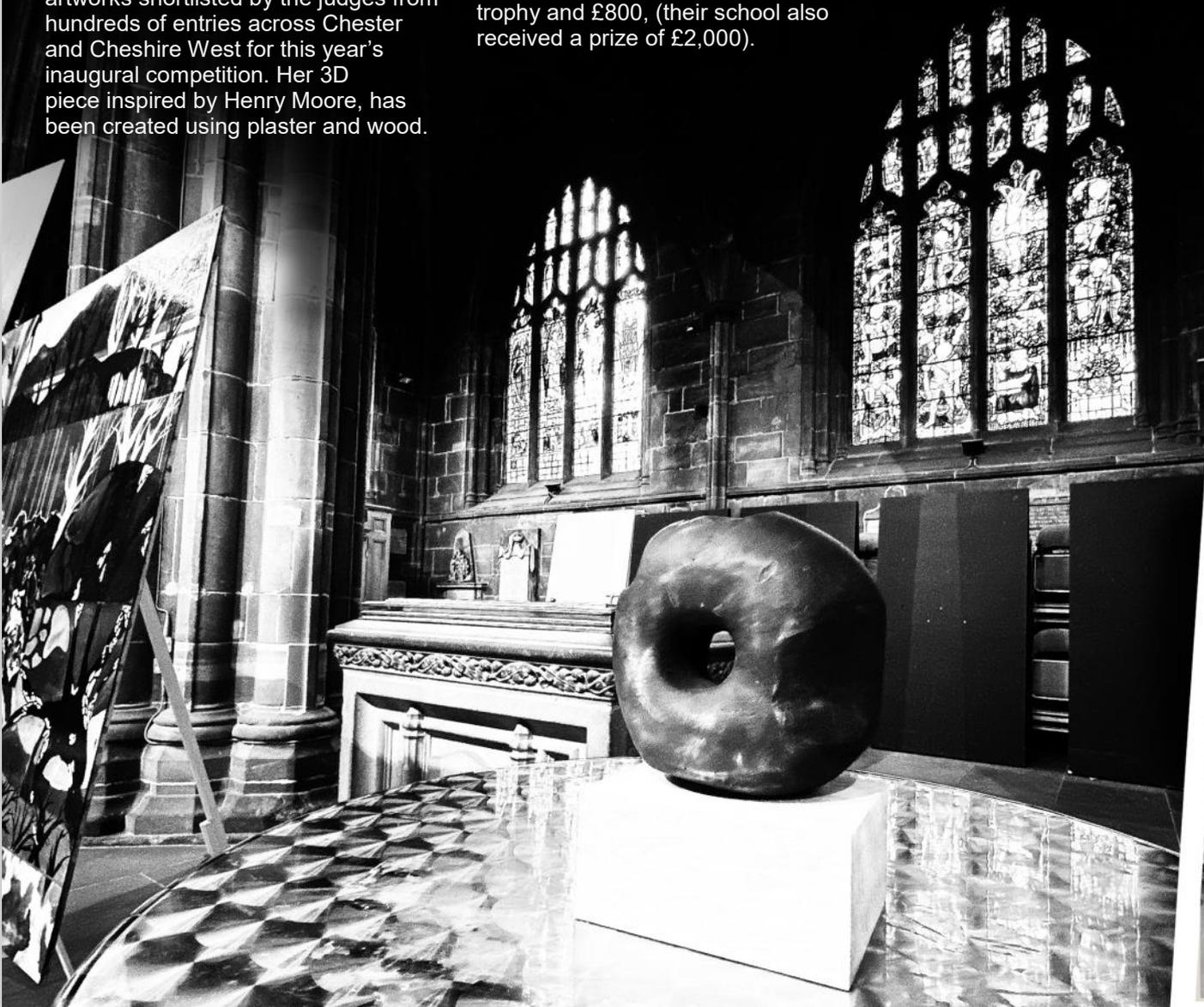
Annalise's sculpture, entitled 'Automated' was one of only 20 artworks shortlisted by the judges from hundreds of entries across Chester and Cheshire West for this year's inaugural competition. Her 3D piece inspired by Henry Moore, has been created using plaster and wood.

The 20 shortlisted artworks, were displayed in the Finalists' Exhibition from 20th – 27th November 2023 at Chester Cathedral with the Awards Ceremony taking place on Wednesday 22nd November.

The overall winner of this year's competition was determined by the judging panel, which included: internationally renowned artists: David Mach, Jim Wheat and Kevin Francis Gray, along with Howard Bilton, Founder and Chairman of SAF and Louise Shannon – Head of Programme Delivery at the Tate Liverpool. After re-examining the shortlisted work in the Finalists' Exhibition, they selected one student to be awarded the Judges' Prize trophy and £800, (their school also received a prize of £2,000).



“ We are delighted that Annalise's work has been selected for this prestigious award and it was great to see the variety of art work on display in the exhibition. Congratulations Annalise, on this amazing achievement.”
Miss Barmer,
Teacher of Art & Design



LIVERPOOL GALLERIES



Exploring traditional & conceptual art

In December, A Level Art & Design, Photography and 3D Design students visited 4 galleries in Liverpool to support their critical and contextual awareness of looking at and seeing original artworks in their primary place. The Walker Art gallery was host to this year's prestigious John Moores Painting prize, where students explored many contemporary and diverse artworks from artists from across the UK.

In the Bluecoat gallery, the installation at Tim Spooner's 'A New Kind of Animal' exhibition, challenged students' thinking skills. This touring exhibition features an exciting new commission alongside over 190 works in collage, painting, sculpture and objects used in performances. Students looked at how Spooner tries to explain the world through creation myths or metaphysics, as well as the abstract concepts of being, knowing, identity, time and space.

The Open Eye Gallery showcased photographs under the theme of 'A Place of Our Own'. This was a group exhibition bringing together the local stories of people across Walton, Prescott and Chester. The photographs recorded the pride in people's memories and associations they have with each place as well as having an acknowledgement of redevelopment and regeneration needed within each area.

The final gallery was the newly opened RIBA north gallery. This was an interactive space where students saw a range of eco-friendly architecture models designed for a new modern Britain.

Students had a great day exploring a wide range of art from traditional renaissance paintings to conceptual installation art.



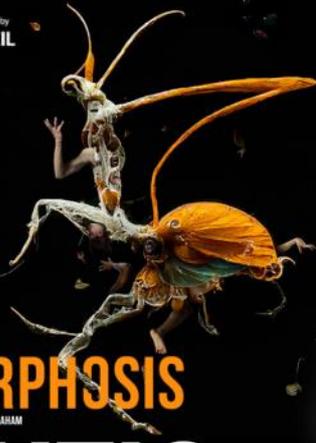
“ I saw a wide range of different types in the John Moore's exhibition which made me think about the meanings behind the artworks in a different way. I particularly like the painting on fragmented concrete called 'Taplow Shadows; The Aylesbury Fragments' 2023 by artist Harriet Men Hill. ”

Emily F
Year 12 photography student



“ It made me interpret photography of street life in a different perspective because it allowed me to experience a wide variety of people within the city of Liverpool. ”

Maani B,
Year 12 photography student



KAFKA'S
METAMORPHOSIS
ADAPTED BY LEMN ISSAY OBE | DIRECTED BY SCOTT GRAHAM
**FRANTIC
ASSEMBLY**

In November, Year 13 Drama and Theatre Studies students visited The Lowry in Salford to watch Frantic Assembly's touring production of Metamorphosis.

The production featured an incredible set and movement which provided so much visual stimulus, leaving the students and Mr Yeoman amazed at how physical theatre can be used to tell a story in such a creative way.

Annalise felt inspired by the production and said during a post-show discussion,

“ The whole performance made me question how music and art can work together with movement to create meaning. I loved the set and the way it twisted, representing the relationships between the characters on stage end!
Annalise , Year 13 student ”



SWEDISH VISITERS



Inspiring teaching in English & Drama

This term, in partnership with the University of Chester, we were delighted to be joined by eight teaching students from Sweden. As part of their training, they joined QPHS to observe teaching and learning in English and Drama.

Their timetables saw them working with classes from Year 7 to Year 13. Naturally, our students welcomed them with openness, friendliness, and curiosity to learn about Sweden and the differences in the education system there.

To conclude their visit, our guest teachers ran storytelling workshops, based around mythological tales, with some

of our Year 8 English classes. Their immersive and engaging storytelling held our students absolutely spellbound. One of the groups enjoyed their experience so much that they ran an extra session in order to meet as many students as possible: a testament to the conduct and engagement of our wonderful Year 8 students. We are hugely appreciative of their time and effort, and greatly look forward to running the project again in years to come.



University of
Chester



CHECKMATE!

Who will be crowned Grandmaster?

After huge popularity from the chess tournament last academic year, December 2023 saw the winter chess tournament hit the maths department, with 24 players from across all year groups eager to take part.

The first round lasted over two days and was a tense affair that saw some masters of chess at play. We then saw the second round in full swing showcasing some of the incredible talent of QPHS students. The semi-finals soon came around with Charlie L and Joshua L in an all Year 11 match, with Charlie coming out victorious.

The second semi-final was between Alexander B in Year 7 and Rudra P in Year 8 with Rudra claiming the victory.

The final match had to take place over 2 days as there could be no separating the 2 masterminds following an intense lunchtime session.

The second day of the final was a hugely gripping match with Rudra eventually forcing his opponent Charlie to concede the game after a succession of 'Check's' and then a checkmate situation. Rudra was crowned champion and QPHS Grandmaster!

Congratulations and a huge well done to all those students who competed. We look forward to seeing them all again and more challengers in the next tournament.

Chess Club runs every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday lunchtime in M4 for all year groups.



MASTERCHEF

What's Cooking...

Over the last term, our new Master Chef recruits have been very busy making tasty treats during their Tuesday afternoon enrichment sessions.

To develop their baking skills, students have been creating a range of sweet and savoury culinary delights based on the theme of the week! For Bonfire Night they made chocolate ganache apples, decorated with colourful sprinkles. On the run up to Christmas they brought festive fun to the dinner table by making sausage rolls, a Christmas tree pizza tart and homemade jammy Santa hat biscuits (a festive take on the jammy dodger), where they got to practise their piping skills.

For their Christmas centrepiece, they baked and decorated their own chocolate Yule logs with a homemade chocolate Swiss roll and chocolate buttercream, where they could really showcase their piping and decorating skills!

In previous weeks, students have also made cheese and onion pasties (better than Greggs!) and delicious chocolate chip cookies! We're looking forward to more culinary delights in the New Year.



CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT DAY

Empowering Minds outside the classroom

Diversity in the curriculum was on offer on our Cultural Enrichment Day with a huge range of activities taking place across all of our year groups.

Year 7 looked at the power, tradition and culture of storytelling from around the world working with the Communications Faculty team to explore the power of stories through time and in various cultures and languages.

Year 8 were focusing on diversity and were fortunate to have workshops delivered by the very engaging Diversity Role Models. This complimented their work looking at Black History Month too.

Year 9 took part in a Murder Mystery day watching a murder mystery performance from the

Physical and Performing Arts Faculty team before breaking off into small groups to explore forensic science and music making in order to explore and determine who the murderer was! Needless to say, Mrs Bearcroft and Mr Taylor looked very forlorn at the end of the day!

Year 10 worked with the Visual Art and Design faculty in the morning to explore *The Day of the Dead*; looking at this amazing cultural tradition and how art and design can draw from this culture and inform their own creative pieces. In the afternoon students had the opportunity to attend the Cheshire Futures Show and

meet with a huge range of educational, apprenticeship and careers providers, discovering for themselves, what their own futures could look like.

Year 11 meanwhile, were either in school exploring maths through drawing and geometry, or for those geographers in the year group, they travelled to Formby to explore the environment, providing them with vital resources to complete their coursework for their GCSE.





Year 12 worked with a range of external speakers to explore themes relating to Relationships and Sex Education as part of the school's commitment to providing supportive PSHCE to all of our Sixth Form students.

Year 13 meanwhile, explored democracy through the creation of three brand new political parties, complete with their own manifestos and advertising campaigns.

The rest of the school voted and the Clegg Party were declared the winners following the success and appeal of their promo video which formed part of QPHS' engagement with UK Parliament week!

This was a fantastic day and it empowered all of our students to explore their learning either outside of the classroom, or in a context enriching our curriculum!



SUBJECT STARS

Reward Badges

This term saw the issue of our first couple of batches of subject badges.

These special badges are awarded to students who have demonstrated a commitment, aptitude or attainment in our subjects, with students aspiring to collect the full suite of subject badges throughout their time at Queen's Park High School.

A huge congratulations to all those students who are the proud recipients of these highly prestigious accolades to date.

Keep up the fantastic work!



YEAR 7

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

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



OTTILIE

My first half term at Queens Park High School has been great. We haven't been pressured or threatened to do anything, just gently encouraged. Thanks to the range of extracurricular activities, I have plenty to enjoy doing in my free time.

My personal favourite lessons are Music, Drama and Maths. All of the teachers know how to make people enjoy the lessons, meaning that kids will be more excited to learn and therefore excel in most subjects. Thanks to Mr Watkins and Mr Giraw for being caring enough to make sure every one can learn well regardless of how fast it takes them, and just being great teachers in general. Thanks to Mr Yoseman and Mrs Bearcroft for proving to me why Music and Drama are some of my favourite subjects. Thanks to Ms Manzoor and Mr Ball for being reassuring and constantly celebrating the success of students.

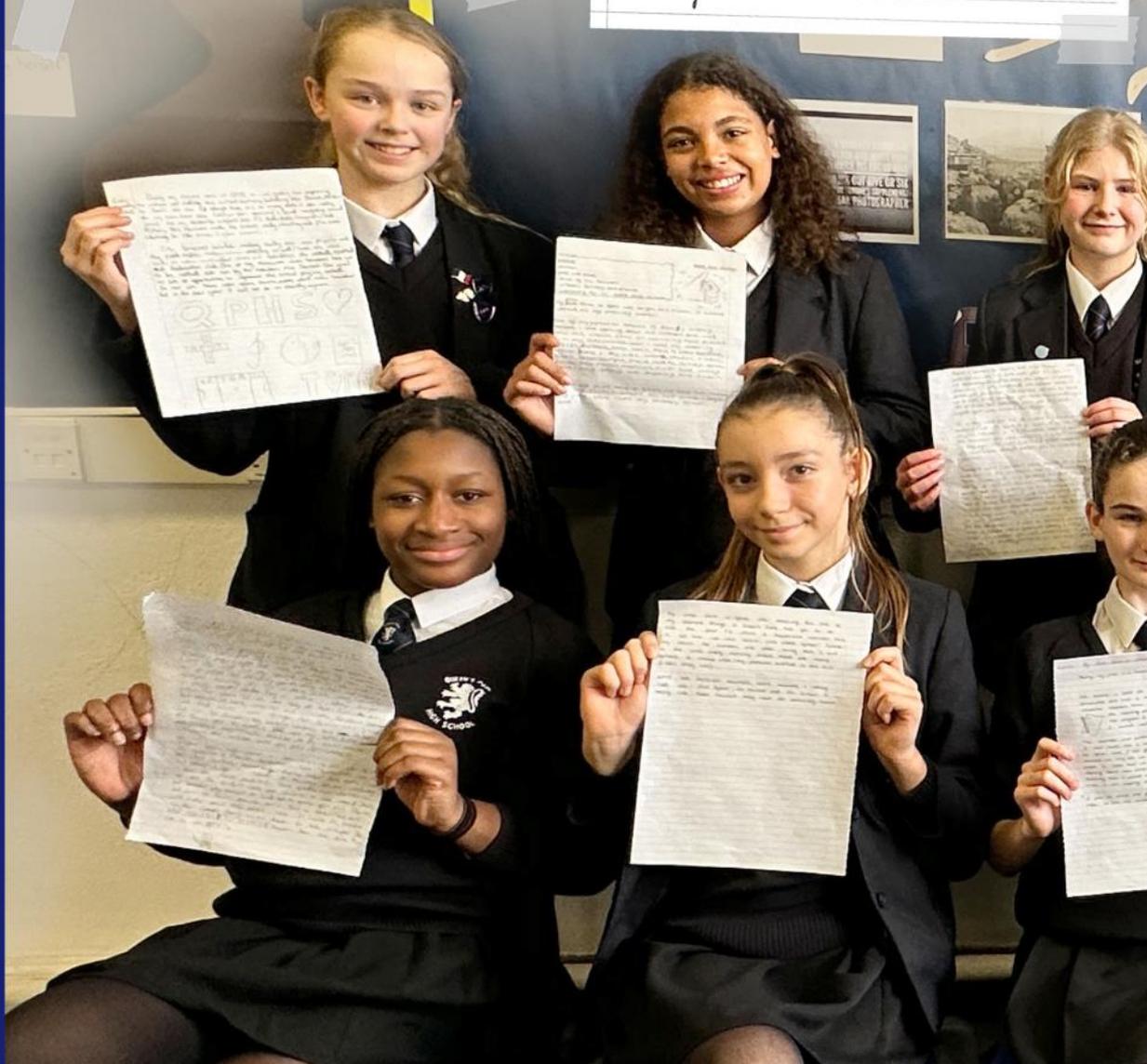
In summary, Queens Park has made me feel like I've been at this school for years, even though it's only been 4 months.



TEDI

My first term in QPHS was amazing. But, one of my favorite things in Queen's Park has got to be that the year 7's have a separate canteen. This is so that we can settle into school quicker! Speaking about the canteen, one other thing that I love is the food. Every morning break, there are many options to choose from (my personal favorite is the mini pizzas they sell).

QPHS has AMAZING teachers, some teachers I really like are: Miss Egden, Mr Thomas and Mr Giraw. I really like them because they have an amazing humor.



MY FIRST TERM

During my first 3-4 months in this school, I cannot believe how lucky I am.

The lessons in QPHS are truly amazing. They are so well structured and even if the lesson goes wrong, my kind, incredible teachers know how to fix it. The quality of the learning phenomenal. I am so proud of the progress I have made in this school and I cannot wait for what will happen next.



The charities and fundraisers in QPHS is extremely unique. I have never met a school doing this so often, and I am glad they do because not only are we supporting people in need but we are also learning about how others are struggling. Donating even a pound makes me feel better because I know I am helping people in need.



♥ I feel so proud and glad I joined this school and I hope to see the children reading this aspire to come here.

OLIVIA



SEREN



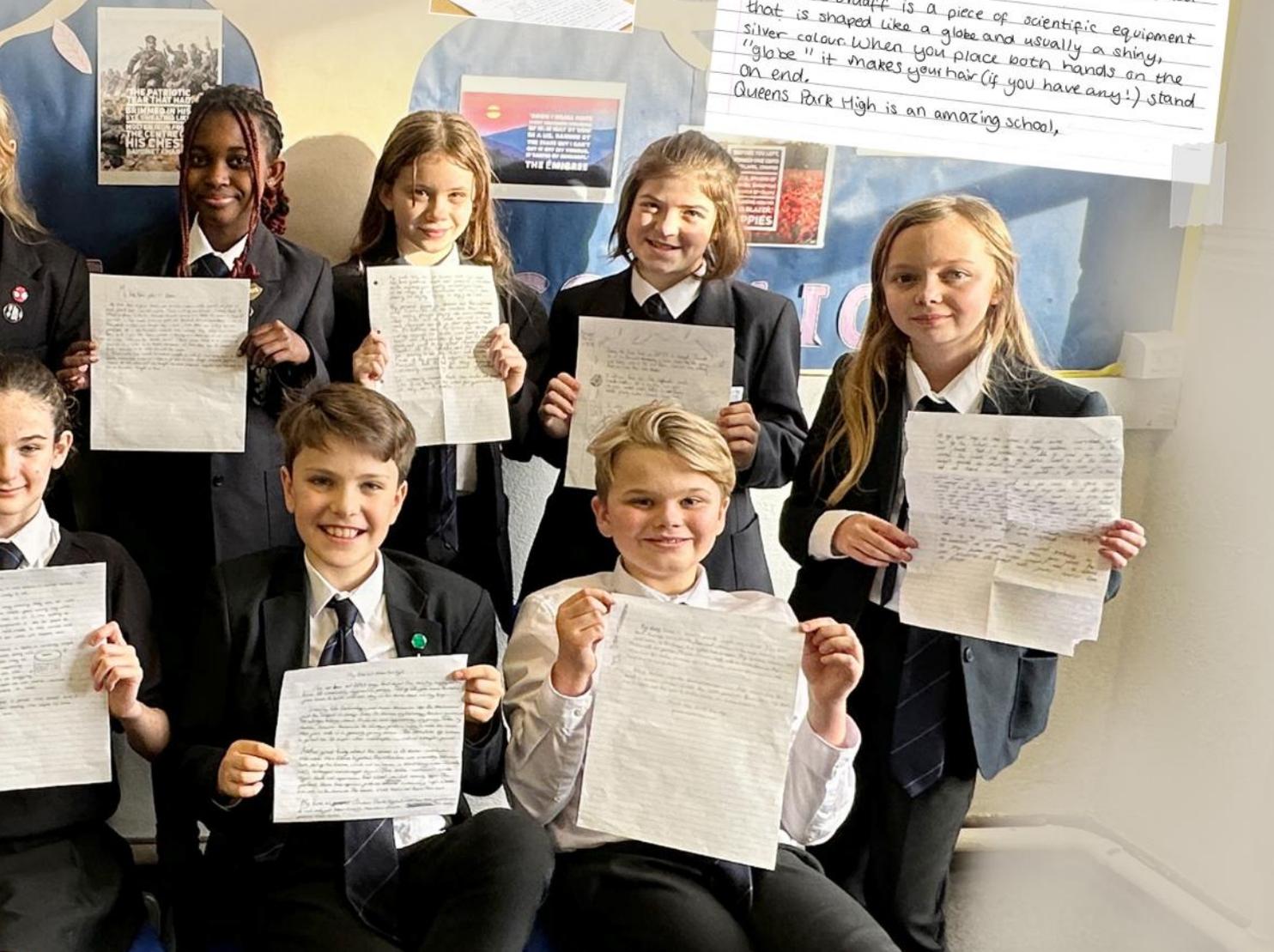
Before I started at Queen's Park High School, I was quite nervous, as I'm sure most year 6's are! For me personally, to get to know new people is really important. I highly recommend the summer camp. It is perfect for people that - like me - are nervous to move up to high school because: you make new friends; you get to know the teachers; and you try and figure your way around the school.

It is very hard for me to choose my favourite subject - but I'd have to go with English. My English teacher is 'Ms Manzoor.' When I met in my eyes, she was instantly a great teacher all round, but always (and is!) a great teacher yourself.

Someone who I couldn't have made this move without is Mr. Watkins. He is not only my Form Tutor but my science teacher as well. He is a brilliant science teacher, but, in my opinion his best quality is his humour! Once, in our science lesson, we were using the Van de Graaff* and Mr Watkins said that he would test it. The slight problem with that... he doesn't have any hair! He just smiled and said that it was broken!

*A Van de Graaff is a piece of scientific equipment that is shaped like a globe and usually a shiny, silver colour. When you place both hands on the "globe" it makes your hair (if you have any!) stand on end.

Queen's Park High is an amazing school,



I have enjoyed my first term at QPHS, this has been a really great experience for me, it is also very different from primary. My new favourite subjects are math and science.

When I was in primary I hated math and science but coming to Queens Park High School has changed my experience, because I always thought that math was boring but since high school I have seen math in a very different way to me now math is not a subject but something you do daily without noticing, for example checking the time is doing math, using a ruler is doing math, another thing is science I always thought science was about CO₂ etc. but really there's more, you have parallel and series, conductors and insulators, Resistance and more until high school I never thought that science was great but now it's incredible. My favourite teachers are Mr Neal, Mr Moses and Mr Walters ^{which} are my WPD, MATH and SCIENCE teachers. The teachers at this school are so welcoming and nice they make you feel so welcome.

Queens Park High School is also amazing for lots of stuff like activities or Charities fundraisers. Some activities we do are chess, football, basketball, drama, netball and more, I can love netball I go to netball on Mondays and on Wednesday I have the school production. Some fundraisers/charities we do are the football match for children in need, when A-levels and teachers play football at lunch and to enter you pay 50p to get in the exact amount but I think we earned £400 pounds with news about 800 people came to watch the netball. Another charity we did was the bake sale for the END VIOLENCE TO WOMEN program. These are some things we do at QPHS.



OLAOLUNAKITAN



On my first day at this school I felt quite overwhelmed about how big the school is and how many children are in it. I was scared that I wouldn't be able to find my way around the school and too my classes. Thanks to all the helpful teachers around the school that didn't happen. They were so kind and showed us where we needed to go and when.

School meals are really good and you have a special way of paying. At the start of the year every year all of your classes through points and you can use them so pay for good as your parents can add money onto it. Teachers are very kind and will help with whatever you need. There are lots of great subjects my personal support lessons would probably be music, drama and English. There is also a large range of extra-curricular activities to take part in. On normal days you leave at 3pm but on Tuesdays you leave at 2pm unless you do a club that you are part of until 3pm. High school is good so you be useful in year 7 everybody is very nice and will always help with anything.

Some of my favourite teachers would probably be Mr Beckett and Mr Jordan. In music you learn how to play piano and sing songs and in drama you perform role-play acts you have some in groups.

APHRA

My first term at Queens Park High was a blast. The sport, bull, charity, computer, huge ball, music on the key boards, are just some of the things that QPHS has to offer. My favourite lessons are music with Mr Jordan, PE with Mr Taylor, WPD with Mr Neal because they are all active. I've made so many new friends with new personalities and some new best friends.

It's a massive upgrade from primary school. For example the food is better, and more, the list goes on. But for my first term here and the start it's been great.

Thank you QPHS for my great experience.



ARCHIE





OPEN EVENING

A warm welcome to our school

At the end of September, we opened our doors to welcome a surge of Year 5 & 6 children and their families to one of the school's biggest events of the year. This whole school open evening event is a huge team effort involving both staff and students across all year groups and enables families to come and see the wealth of opportunities that lie ahead for children when they join our school family.

During the course of the evening our younger visitors were able to get involved in a wide range of activities taking place in each of the subject areas with 'Hands on Science' proving most popular as their rooms bulged with future STEM Club enthusiasts.

In the main hall, Headteacher, Mr Kearns and our newly appointed designated Transition Lead, Mrs Bearcroft, spoke to parents about the transition process whilst our Head students and a number of Year 7 shared their experiences of life and learning at Queen's Park; Alongside the presentations, our Sixth Form ambassadors led guided tours around the school.

Families were able to meet subject teachers and talk to Queen's Park

students whilst checking out displays of students' work and sample a variety of culinary delights cooked by our catering staff in The Eatery and students in Food Technology.

Those keen for a challenge tested their knowledge in a quiz about the school and all were given free entry into the prize draw to win a £50 dining gift card and runner up prizes!

In addition, families of children in Years 5 and 6 were invited to come along to our Open Mornings to find out more about the school and experience High School life during a normal working day.

Since the open events Mrs Bearcroft and Miss Morris has surprised the lucky prize draw and quiz winners with their prizes at each of their primary schools including Belgrave, Chester Blue Coat, Eccleston, Grosvenor Park Academy, Dodleston, Hoole, Highfield Community, Lache, Overleigh St Mary's, Newton and St Peters Church in Wales.

Congratulations to all the winners and runners up, we hope you enjoy spending your winnings!



Prize Draw Winners



A TASTE OF HIGH SCHOOL

Are Year 5 up for the challenge?

At the end of November, 90 Year 5 children from four of our feeder primary schools came to QPHS to enjoy workshops in Science and Art. Each workshop was designed to allow the children to get to know each other and experience what learning feels like at Queen's Park. It also gave each primary school a chance to see and work in some of our specialist facilities, ready for when they join us in September 2025!

In Science, year 5s enjoyed a taste of biology as they learned about Rosalind Franklin, (the scientist and unsung hero who contributed to the discovery of the structure of DNA) before they completed an exciting practical to extract DNA from a banana!

Students were able to use simple experimental techniques with washing detergent, salt and ethanol to extract the DNA.

They started by crushing the banana with salt and adding

detergent. This mixture was then filtered and heated. Once the ethanol was added students could see the DNA form at the top of the test tube!

Meanwhile in art, year 5s studied the 3d paintings of American abstract expressionist artist, Frank Stella, before creating their own abstract 3d patterns with interlocking painted layers. They learned how to mix colours with paint and manipulate card looking carefully at the shapes and colours they could see in the artist's work.

Well done to all the year 5s from Eccleston, Dodleston, Lache & Grosvenor Park Academy who rose to the challenge for our first Curriculum Challenge Day (CCD).

We're now busy planning for the next CCD during the spring term when we will work with more Year 5 children from other feeder primary schools.

“ It has been wonderful to offer our local primary schools the opportunity to come and see what life is like here at QPHS. The primary children shared lots of positive feedback about the workshops, and we look forward to welcoming them once more when they come to see our matinee performance of *Popstars – the 90's Musical* in February. ”

Mrs Bearcroft, Transition Lead



GAMBIA 2023

The experience of a lifetime for Taylor



The Gunjur Project Lodge is set in the rural village of Gunjur in Gambia. The project's focus is to ensure that all volunteers make a positive impact on the local community and The Gambia as a whole. It is an incredible opportunity to acquire knowledge and an understanding of Africa, its people, culture, and traditions and see the day-to-day lives of the local community.

Year 10 student, Taylor T and his mum, Claire were selected for this life changing experience along with 14 other volunteers including Diane Birchall, Social Worker for CWAC who shares their experience...

“ Our trip to the Gunjur Project should have taken place in 2020, however due to the COVID restrictions it was postponed until 2023. Once we arrived in Gunjur we got to know each other and instantly we all took a shine to Taylor. When he told us he was only 15years old we all commended him for coming

along for the experience and having the courage to want to volunteer.

Our week consisted of painting in a local school, entering into the classes and engaging with the children, Taylor took this to another level as he joined in the Hoki Koki and the children really enjoyed being around him.

Other activities and volunteer work consisted of meeting the locals and their children in the compounds. They loved Taylor and liked to challenge him to a race. He never disappointed them, managing to run in his sliders on uneven sandy ground! He took his role with pride and the smile on his face was priceless when he interacted with the children.

Taylor recognised that the children of Gunjur were appreciative of anything we gave to them, even if it was the smallest of sweets you would think we were giving them the world, they were so happy.

We took a trip to Brikhama market and went on a safari to Senegal.

Although we learned that Gambia has a very low crime rate, entering into the unknown can be very daunting at times, especially when you're in a country you are not familiar with and Taylor truly did become my protective shadow.

One night Taylor sat with Butch (Grandad of the project), my friend Veronica and I and shared some of his life experiences at a previous school where he was bullied. He opened up on how he struggled around these times but by moving schools to Queen's Park High, it had made such a huge difference. He talked fondly about his teachers, pastoral support and it was so heart warming to hear that he had overcome such trauma and experiences whereby he has a few trusted friends. We are proud to know that when he is older he wants to train to help young people who may find themselves in a similar position to where he once was. He will make the best pastoral support given his own experiences, maturity and insight.





Taylor takes a lot of pride in his photography and studies photography at GCSE. He loved the fact that there were three photographers with us on the trip and spent hours learning from them and discussing the photos they'd all taken.

Reflecting back on the week, we can honestly say there was not one single second that wasn't memorable, humbling and inspiring, as we were all blown away by how grateful the communities and the children were. We taught them games, dancing, English words and how to put this into practice to develop their confidence. Taylor was a huge part of this and we would all like to convey what a pleasure it was to have him there with us and cannot wait to do it all again with him in 2025. ”



“ Taylor is an absolute credit to Queen's Park High School and to his parents. We believe we took a young lad out to Gambia and we returned with a young man. ”

Diane Birchall, CWAC Social Worker / Gunjur Project Volunteer



GHANA 2024

Raising funds for charity mission

With just under 8 months to go, efforts are fully underway to raise funds for our international charity mission to Ghana that 46 students and 5 members of staff will be making in August 2024.

Part of these efforts involved a Fundraising Fashion show on 29th November, with professional models and a host coming all the way from Manchester with a huge range of high street labels on offer including: M&S, Wallis, Next and many more.

During the evening, some students sold their own creations whilst the raffle and refreshment stalls helped to raise over £1000 for the visit.

We are very excited about supporting the children in Ghana by building their school, coaching them in sports and even teaching them when we visit.

We're hoping to take over a huge supply of stationery too and this event, much like the many others to come in 2024, will enable us to make a difference to those young people who are so less fortunate than we are in the UK.

Keep an eye on our social media channels to see how you can get involved in our fundraising efforts!



Colours.

[FUN] DRAISING FASHION SHOWS



YOU'RE HIRED!

Preparing for the world of work

As part of our commitment to provide outstanding Careers Education Information and Guidance (CEIAG) we were thrilled to welcome over 27 employers from a wide range of organisations to conduct mock interviews with our Year 11 and 13 students. It was wonderful to see so many of our students smartly dressed and ready to engage in professional dialogue.

Students were given the opportunity to be interviewed by a local employer to give them an idea of what they can expect when making the step from education into the working world. Students also received feedback on their interview performance and CV so that they could leave the day, not only with the experience of an interview, but also with an idea of where they can improve when it comes to future job, College or University interviews.

A big thank you to The Chester Young Chamber of Commerce, Barclays, Peter Russell Group, CWAC Council, University of Wrexham, Lancaster University, Career Connect, QWEST, NHS, The Peel Group and Byotrol for their support.



Meet Rachel Moroney

Rachel Moroney from Career Connect is a Level 6 trained independent careers adviser who works with us at Queen's Park High School.

Wendy provides independent careers advice and will be having 1 to 1 appointments with all our Year 11 and 12 students as they make their career planning decisions. Individual action plans are made available to students and are emailed home via Synergy.



“ The feedback from employers was fantastic. I am so proud of how our students conducted themselves. This valuable mock experience ensures our students are prepared for future interviews. ”

Mrs Watts, Careers Lead



NEXT STEPS

UK University Search

In October our Sixth Form students attended the UK University Search Fair, which allows students to find information about University and Apprenticeships.

This exciting and informative event provided our Sixth Form students with the opportunity to speak to a multitude of University and apprenticeship providers. The universities that exhibited included: Russell Group, Red Brick and modern institutions.

During the event students attended vital seminars which included: *UCAS Personal Statement & Application Advice*, *Why take an apprenticeship?* and *Choosing a University Course*.

Students who attended left the fair with bags fully loaded with prospectus and pens, with some having a clear vision on what their next steps will be, while others left bursting with lots of new ideas as they now want to go to different universities from those they originally planned.

STEPS TO SUCCESS

Careers market place

Making decisions about post 16 options and pathways can be daunting but Year 11 are well on their way to making informed decisions about their futures! As part of our whole school careers programme and commitment to CEIAG, Year 11 were invited during the school day and into the evening with their parents to take part in a Steps to Success event.

The event provided the opportunity for students and parents to visit a careers market place where information, advice and guidance was available about options and pathways at Post 16. We welcomed ASK Apprenticeships to talk about all levels of apprenticeship and traineeships as well as Coleg Cambria and Cheshire College to talk about College courses. In addition, exhibitors from the NHS, Oliver & Co. Solicitors, CWAC Council, Bank of America, IChem (STEM), Encirc, Altimex, Armed forces; Navy, Submarines, Army, Protective Services Academy, Steven Gerrard Academy Chester University and Wrexham University were represented.

Following on from the work Mrs Watts - Careers Lead at QPHS - has been doing with the Careers and Enterprise Company to consider parental engagement at National level, this event is one of two programmed during the academic year to afford parents the opportunity to find out more and enhance their own knowledge and understanding about options and pathways with a view to supporting their child with their next steps.

Queen's Park High School is a forward thinking school where Careers Education Information and Guidance is embedded throughout the curriculum intent. If employers would like to be involved in any upcoming events, please contact Mrs Watts to find out more. Email: a.watts@qphs.co.uk

“ This event is invaluable as it allows Sixth Form students to think about life after Queen’s Park! ”
Mrs Prydden, Head of Sixth Form



“ The Steps to Success event was a huge success with many students making connections and finding out more about the options and pathways open to them. The feedback from employers was very positive with many commenting on the way students had conducted themselves to engage with discussion. Well done Year 11. ”
Mrs Watts, Careers Lead



LINKS WITH BUSINESS

Year 10 Careers Fair

In October, Year 10 took part in the Chester Careers & Education Fair organised by The Pledge Partnership for Cheshire & Warrington.

This event enabled our students to make links with employers, explore further and higher education options, find out about Independent training providers and voluntary organisations. Before the career fair, students planned who they were going to approach and what questions they were going to ask, this was so that they obtained meaningful information to help them make informed choices about their future options, pathways and careers. Over 50 employers, Independent Training Providers, Higher and Further Education organisations were at the event.

There are many events planned during the academic year which is part of our whole school careers strategy. Please look at our school website [Careers and Guidance](#) section where up to date information can be found to support students, parents and carers. Please also follow [@qphscareers](#) on X for up to date information about Careers.

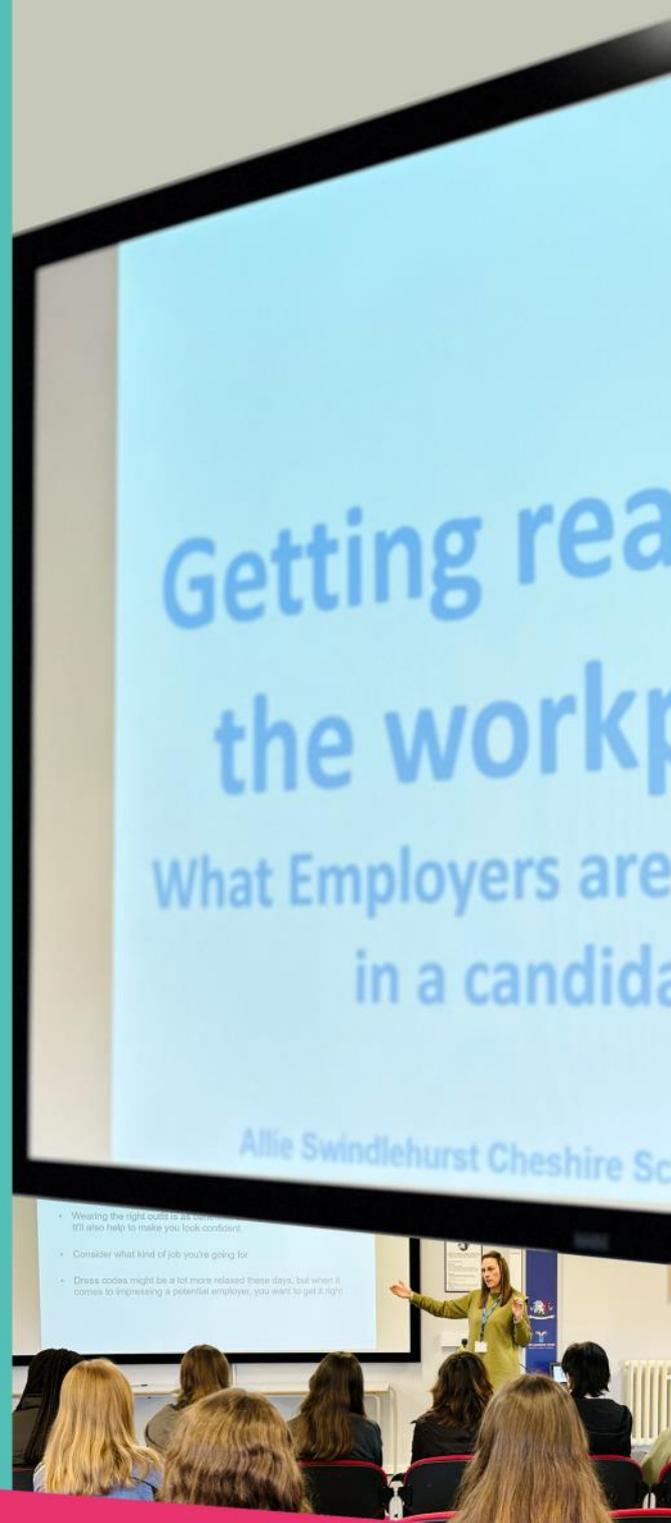


“ The careers fair was a fantastic opportunity for our Year 10 students to meet and ask questions safely and directly to employers and education providers face to face. it was great to see so many of our students engaging with this and thinking about the next steps on their careers journey. ”

Mrs Watts, Careers Lead

“ Student voice is important to us and providing what students are asking for is an important part of our PSHCE curriculum design. Inviting expert speakers into school enhances our provision.. ”

Mrs Watts, Careers & PSHE Lead



EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

Stand out from the crowd

Allie Swindlehurst from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) came in to speak to our Year 13 students about employability skills and how to prepare for interview. Allie provided practical advice and an interactive presentation which supported our students to prepare for the world of work and life outside of the classroom.

In the New Year, we are looking forward to welcoming more guest speakers from the University of Wrexham, University of Chester and Ypiyap to talk about University life, finance and gap year options.



INTENT

SMOKING PREVENTION PROGRAMME

ANTI SMOKING CAMPAIGN

INTENT is a smoking prevention programme. Queen's Park High School has been selected to take part in the programme to support our young people to making healthy choices. INTENT reduces smoking / vaping initiation by first getting young people to engage with anti-smoking / vaping messages, then creating Personal Plans (or 'Implementation Intentions') about how to refuse an offer of cigarettes / e-cigarettes.

Implementation Intentions involve students thinking through in advance specific situations they will encounter (e.g. *if my friend doesn't want to go for a run with me*) and forming a definite plan to ensure the intended behaviour will actually happen (e.g. *then I will go alone and run to my new playlist*). A meta-analysis of several studies has shown that these 'if... then' plans reduces the intention-behaviour gap, and improves rates of performance of health behaviours.

By forming a concrete plan about a specific situation, this situation is processed and becomes activated in our brain. This means that we have a better, faster memory of the right thing to do when we're in that situation for real.

During KS4 PSHE lessons, students have been taking part in INTENT. This will then be rolled out to KS3 during the Spring and Summer terms.



EVIDENCE TO IMPACT

AIRBUS FACTORY TOUR

Nurturing talent for the future of aviation

In October, Mrs Astill and Miss Jones took 20 Year 11 and 12 students to visit Airbus in Broughton to have a tour of their factory and opportunity to ask about apprenticeship opportunities post 16 and post 18. The trip proved to be an enlightening and captivating experience for our students. The facility unveiled the intricate world of aviation manufacturing, notably showcasing the production of A350 wings.

Upon arrival, students were greeted by the expansive Airbus campus and a familiar face: Tyler Gordon, former Queen's Park student who qualified and gained a place on the Engineering higher apprenticeship programme. The

tour commenced with an in-depth introduction to the company's renowned apprenticeship programs. Engaging presentations highlighted the significance of hands-on learning, fostering curiosity about engineering, and nurturing talent for the future of aviation.

The apprenticeship insights provided a unique perspective, demonstrating the blend of theoretical knowledge and practical application integral to the aerospace industry. Discussions with current apprentices unveiled their journey, from initial selection to gaining valuable skills while contributing to ground-breaking projects.

The highlight of the trip

undoubtedly was the visit to the A350 wing factory. Witnessing the meticulous craftsmanship involved in creating these colossal wings left an indelible impression on the students. From composite materials to cutting-edge technologies, the intricate process of wing assembly was unveiled, showcasing the precision and dedication required in every step.

The visit served as an eye-opener for aspiring engineers, igniting their passion for aerospace careers. Understanding the complexity and scale of aircraft manufacturing at Airbus Broughton inspired students to consider apprenticeships as a viable pathway toward a fulfilling career in the aviation industry.



“ I applied for an apprenticeship at Airbus because it was really interesting to see how a project comes together, from start to finish and seeing how the aviation industry works. I applied for an aerostructures and facilities management apprenticeship and have attended an open day at Airbus with 1000+ others where there was more information about other apprenticeships on offer and lots of people to talk to. I have had my first interview and there are about 8 stages to get through. I now have to wait until February to see if I have made it to the next round! ”

Freddie P, Year 11 student



INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

National Apprenticeship Show

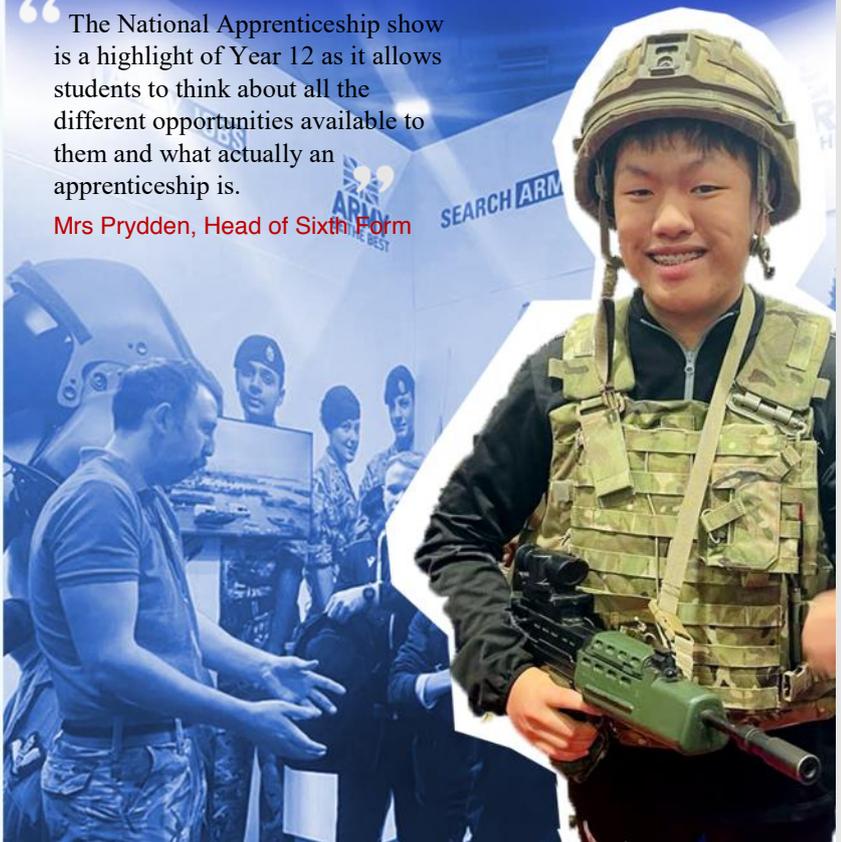
In November, Year 12 students headed to Liverpool on the new shiny Mersey rail trains to attend the annual National Apprenticeship Show at the Exhibition Centre. This event is a fantastic opportunity for the students to start thinking about their post 18 options and to look at alternative pathways other than going on to study at a university.

The National Apprenticeship show covers all levels of Apprenticeships, from entry level to higher and degree. The event enabled students to engage, face-to-face, with some of the region's top apprenticeship employers and training providers. Students were able to gain hands-on tasters on what an apprenticeship is like, as well as trying their hand at some practical challenges, such as pulling a pint (apple juice), how quickly they can build a Howdens kitchen cabinet and dressing up as soldier in the British Army.

The event was an eye opener to Year 12 students and started to get them thinking outside the traditional route of University.

“ The National Apprenticeship show is a highlight of Year 12 as it allows students to think about all the different opportunities available to them and what actually an apprenticeship is.

Mrs Prydden, Head of Sixth Form



Talking Relationships

Year 12 were involved in a series of workshops developing their knowledge and understanding of relationships and sex education.

Working in partnership with Body Positive, students explored the basics of happy and consensual sex as part of the Sex Smart programme.

The Cheshire Starting well 0-19 service delivered a workshop to provide information about contraception and STI's. The CSASS workshop focused on healthy V's toxic relationships, coercive control and consent.

“The information and advice provided will enable me to make more informed choices about my relationships and sexual health .”

Year 12 student

“ I enjoyed the workshops and they were delivered in a practical way by experts. ”

Year 12 student



“ Year 12 took a mature approach throughout the day, the dialogue around healthy relationship choices and limiting risk taking behaviour was excellent. ”

Mrs Watts, Careers & PSHE Lead



CHANGE THE STORY

End violence against women

We have been continuing our work with Chester Sexual Abuse Support Service (CSASS) since September, with a small group of Year 10 students leading a project linked to raising awareness about Sexual Violence.

During tutor time set up, all students across the school were shown a power point which presented facts and statistics to raise awareness of this topic

linked to White Ribbon Day. All students were invited to wear a white ribbon to show their support to #Changethestory.

As part of our continued fund raising efforts, students held a cake bake sale and in 20 minutes raised over £100 to support the work CSASS do in Chester.

CSASS
CHESTER SEXUAL ABUSE
SUPPORT SERVICE



MAKE A
NOISE
ABOUT
BULLYING

Odd
Socks
Day

WE'RE ALL DIFFERENT

Celebrating Uniqueness

At Queen's Park High School, we want to learn, work and enjoy ourselves in a culture of openness and support. We know that mental health and resilience are still key issues for a lot of our learners and as such, we are actively looking at how we can put in support systems to combat these main causes of anxiety around learning.

Led by our Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Williams, our 'Odd Socks Day' and assemblies/setup times enabled our students to put mental health, resilience and bullying to the top of the conversation agenda.

It was great to see so many students supporting the idea that

it's okay to not be okay and sharing the message of who, how and when to talk to someone about these issues.

Over the past 12 months the school has been conducting intensive research into how we can support students with their behaviour choices and as part of this work, Mrs Cutler and Mrs Williams shared our brand new Anti-Bullying policy.

Our Odd Socks day highlighted that it's okay to be different and that we are all unique and deserve to be treated with respect for our individual characteristics too.



PIZZA REWARDS

Attendance Matters!

As a school, we pride ourselves on ensuring students succeed in education by attending school every day. We have been working hard with students and their families to ensure they attend school each day and on time. The hard work is paying off and our attendance continues to be in line with the national average, meaning our students are attending as they should be.

As a little incentive, we have issued rewards for students who attend well. One of these is Domino's Pizzas on the last day of term for the highest attending tutor group which has proved to be very popular so far! We understand that children will get ill throughout the year, so by rewarding the whole tutor group, it allows everyone to be included and encourages everyone to work as a team.

Well done to those tutor groups who have already enjoyed their pizza treats; keep up the good work and watch this space for more Attendance Rewards!

CHARITY FOOTBALL

Interhouse Tournament



BBC
**Children
in Need**

To help raise money for Children in Need, Queen's Park High School has marked the first anniversary of its NEW inter-house competition *Staff & Sixth Form House Football*.

The event was organised by the Student Leadership Team, who have been working hard to increase house competitiveness within the school. Minimal stoppage for fouls meant things were bound to get competitive, and they definitely did!

The atmosphere started to grow as over 200+ students made their way into the sports hall to witness this inaugural event. The players were ready, the spectators had arrived, and the referee had his whistle... all was ready for kick off!

Game 1 started with Eaton vs Westminster. Things got off to a rapid start with these two houses! Both were eager to show they were the dominant team in this competition, and many shots were taken early into the game. No one succeeded in scoring for a while until Eaton accidentally opened a path in their defence. Westminster wasted no time in capitalising on

this lack of structure, scoring the first goal of the competition and continued to get past Eaton's defence a second time. Result: Eaton 0 – 2 Westminster.

Game 2 was Grosvenor vs Eaton. Eaton wasted no time in trying to scrape back their loss, they were quick, they were passionate, and this paid off! It seemed impossible for Grosvenor to keep possession, and their every move was predicted by Eaton. It was clear to everyone who the dominant team was. Goal one was quickly followed by goal two, and finally goal three. A bad start for Grosvenor. Could they use this loss to motivate them to a win against Westminster? Result: Grosvenor 0 – 3 Eaton.

Game 3 was set to be an exciting match. Students were cheering on their respective houses, the music was booming adding to the buzzing atmosphere, and the teams were in their huddle trying to formulate the best strategy to beat each other.

Unfortunately for one team, they could just not cope with the speed and tactics of the other. Goal after goal was scored against them and

it was clear who the winner of this match was going to be. With 5 goals already scored, it looked like all was over with 3 minutes left on the clock. However, the underdog started a comeback, scoring 2 consecutive goals. Unfortunately, they had too little time to comeback. Result: Westminster 5 – 2 Grosvenor.

Westminster were crowned the first champion of the annual inter-house football competition. Each team was awarded 1000 house points for a win so Westminster took 2000 points; Eaton took 1000 points and Grosvenor walked away with nothing.

This event was remarkably successful, and it raised £171.50 for Children in Need. This was more than expected during a 40 minute lunchtime, and it was proof that this tournament needs to return - which it will next year!

In the meantime congratulations and enjoy the win Westminster!

Written by Max J, Head Student





Christmas CONCERT

Sharing the joy from St Mary's

On the penultimate day of the Autumn term, students and staff came together to share the joy and festivities with families at our annual Christmas Concert.

This year, thanks to the kind support of Reverend Dr Ric Whaite and his team at the church, we were able to host the event at St. Mary Without -The-Walls Church in Handbridge.

This wonderful evening showcased some of the incredible talent we have in school, and as a result of the hard work and support of our music teacher, Mrs Landen, students from all year groups performed for an audience of over 200 people!

There were some wonderful highlights in the concert, too many to mention here, but definitely worth a shout out are the performances of: Nikol in Year 9 who sang Mariah Carey's classic, *All I Want For Christmas* and Silence in Year 10 who rapped his own work, *Concrete Jungle*, which was received with rapturous applause!

The event was supported by our dedicated PTA, who provided the refreshments during the interval. Proceeds from the concert will be going to support the creative arts and in particular, our forthcoming school production of *Popstar: The 90s Musical* in February.



band ON TOUR

Bringing the Christmas spirit to primary schools

It is always a privilege to be invited to perform in other schools and yet again, students of Queen's Park High School were asked to perform on tour, this time at Overleigh St. Mary's Primary School in Handbridge for part of their Christmas Concert.

Our Year 10 GCSE Music class, along with some supporting musicians from other classes, entertained the audiences of our feeder primary school with 13 different Christmas classics - all rehearsed in their own time!

The feedback from Oveleigh St Mary's was lovely to hear and recognised the real musical talent we have amongst the students in our school. Yet again, a shining example of our school's strong reputation for creative excellence!



2023

SANTA DASH

SCHOOL SUPPORTS CHARITY FUNDRAISER



THE COUNTES CHARITY

HOSPICE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



Save the Children

Every year the charity, Save The Children, asks for support from schools and organisations throughout the UK with their 'Christmas Jumper Day'. This year, QPHS took part asking students for a donation to the charity and also an item for the West Cheshire Foodbank in an effort to give to those who are in need over Christmas.

It was fantastic to see so many students and staff in their festive attire and even more heart-warming to see our Student Leadership Team

loading their cars with the items for the foodbank too.

As a result of all the kind donations, we managed to raise over £200 for Save the Children and 55.6kg of food and dry goods to the Food Bank. We know the charities will appreciate the generosity of our young people and know that it will make a big difference. Being part of a community that supports both itself and others is an important lesson for life and one that the school is proud to promote.



West Cheshire foodbank

Charity Fundraiser

The 13th Chester Santa Dash took place on Sunday 3rd December. This popular annual family event is organised by two local charities, The Countess Charity and the Hospice of the Good Shepherd.

Each year this event coincides with the launch of Queen's Park High School's car park Christmas opening times and we welcomed all eager racing Santas to park up for the race, with all proceeds donated to the charities.

We were delighted at the response from the public and local community who chose to use the school's space for their cars for the event.

Our Sixth Form car park attendants parked over 56 cars, helping to raise a grand sum of £170.00 which will now be donated to the two charities. We are very grateful to all those that helped to support us with this fundraising initiative.

The school car park is operated by Queen's Park High School's PTA and is open to the public every Saturday from 9am – 7pm and during the school holidays Monday – Friday 10am – 7pm at just £3 for all day parking. All proceeds go to support the school's extra-curricular activities, including rowing.



GIRLS' SPORT

Goes from strength to strength

Girls sport at Queen's Park has really hit the ground running. Netball Club has really thrived this last term hitting an outstanding number of 60 members across years 7-11.

Our Year 7 team have developed a really strong bond winning friendly tournaments 11-0. The Year 8 girls' passion and motivation is fabulous, as seen through their numerous wins already this season. Year 9 netballers have won nearly every tournament they have played in and hopefully this winning streak will continue for the rest of the school year. Meanwhile, Year 10/11 netballers are progressing well and developing really strong teamwork which is evident in their games!

Girls' Football has really taken off this year! The Year 7 team have been smashing it with various wins this term and getting through to the next round of the Year 7 5-a-side tournament final in January. Our Year 9 team played outstanding games of football at the Chester and District Tournament held at Chester Catholic High against 6 local schools. The girls did phenomenally well and won the tournament with gold medals to show for it! Amazing!

Our Year 10/11 *lionesses* have also reason to be proud, coming 3rd in their Chester and District Tournament with Lucy V scoring a hat trick in one game!

“ There's so much more to come in the New Year and I am really looking forward to seeing what our amazingly talented girls can do!
Miss Darroch, Teacher of PE ”



BASKETBALL

Slam dunk for Year 10 & 11

Following on from a series of student led training sessions, the Year 10 and 11 basketball team have ignited a real sense of passion for the sport.

Our first game in the group stages brought us up against Chester Catholic High School. The game was closely fought with both teams holding tight defence and hitting each other on the fast break. The team was led by the captain, Murat, who rallied our players together. Leading the team talk through a motivational speech, he confidently directed tactics and strategies to outwit our opponents.

The second fixture was away at Blacon High School. This high scoring match saw both teams exhibit flamboyant skills, as the top players on each side floated three pointers into the net. Special mentions go to Bruno for outstanding layups, as well as Luis for his precision dribbling and footwork.

As we enter the knock out stage of the competition, the QPHS team will face The King's School in a local grudge match!





YEAR 7 FOOTBALL

Eyes set on the silverware!

Our Year 7 football team have gone from strength to strength this year. Their winning ways began at the Chester and District 5-a-side football tournament, held at Abbeygate back in September where they competed against six other local schools.

After navigating some difficult fixtures against Blacon, Bishops Heber and King's, the team finished runners up to Christleton on goal difference. Special mention goes to Neavah who was a goal scoring machine.

It was a similar story in November as we attended the Chester and District 7-a-side tournament hosted by Christleton High School.

This competition was attended by all ten schools in Chester and welcomed the most elite players from the district.

In the group stages, we faced a nail-biting draw against Bishops Bluecoat, as well as a thrilling win against both Christleton and Chester Catholic High. The team then faced a tenacious Tarporley team in the semi final. After a nerve-racking start, Noah steadied the defence, Brody and Jack brought the creativity to the midfield and Elliott bagged the goal to win us the game.

There was tension in the air as we enter the final for a rematch against earlier opponents Bluecoat.

The game went to the wire, ending with a gripping penalty shoot out, and the team finishing proud runners up.

After comfortably winning their first two cup games, the team are also through to the semi final of the Chester 11 a-side trophy.

Watch this space as the team have their eyes set on more silverware in their already successful season!



ROYAL
LIFE SAVING
SOCIETY UK

LIFESAVERS

Qualified Pool Lifeguards

Congratulations to Dan, Raph and Ben who have successfully completed the internationally recognised Royal Life Saving Society's, National Pool Lifeguard Qualification.

The 6 day course took place during the October half term at Cambrian Aquatics Ltd in Connah's Quay and covered all elements of Pool Rescue Techniques, Lifeguarding Theory, First Aid and CPR.

The boys had to demonstrate their strength of character, resilience and fitness, as the course is physically demanding and includes swimming to set times, lifting casualties and diving to the deepest part of the swimming pool.

We are proud to announce that all 3 boys successfully completed and passed all 3 sections of training and assessment to attain the qualification.

A big thank you to Chester Schools Together Partnership for supporting funding.



ROSS REGATTA

Bank holiday family fun

Just before we all head back to school after summer holidays, many of our rowers travel down to Ross on Wye to participate in the 3 day event which takes place over the August bank holiday weekend.

This event brings boat crews and spectators from all over the country to enjoy a weekend by the riverside and it attracts around 1,000 competitors aged from 11 - 77, to compete in 140 events.

This regatta is a club favourite, where we camp as families and participate in dragon boat racing on Saturday, and then into a 2-day regatta, with the short course on Sunday and the longer course on Monday.

This is the final regatta the rowing club participates in before heading into the longer head racing season.

ROWING CLUB NEWS





AWARDS EVENING

Rowing Annual Dinner

Just after the start of first term, the Annual Awards Dinner for the Rowing Club was held at The Crowne Plaza Hotel. This annual event is a way to recognise the achievements of our rowers and the support of our rowing families with a fun evening filled with socialising, awards, karaoke and dancing.

A huge thank you to Julie Cox who managed and coordinated the whole evening and a big thank you to the businesses who sponsored all the raffle prizes.

Award winners

- Bev Chuter - Grace N
- Future Proof Leadership - Grace N
- Angie Mohan most helpful - Daisy H
- King Crab - Achilles
- Cox of the year - Macey L
- Best performing crew at National comp - Ned & Matt 2- at JIRR –

Year awards for most improved

(selected by crew coaches)

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| • J13 - Ephraim W | • WJ15 - Amy J |
| • WJ13 - Phoebe W | • J16 - Keir G |
| • J14 - Carlos LV | • WJ16 - Amelie P |
| • WJ14 - Eden M | • WJ17 - Freya C |
| • J15 - Will S | |



TOUGH MUDDER



No rest for our rowers!

After the celebrations of the Rowing Awards evening, the very next morning some of our Sixth Form rowers took on the challenge of the 15km Tough Mudder event at Cholmondeley Castle.

This event tests competitors mettle, physical fitness, stamina and endurance (skills our rowers have acquired through rigorous training programmes as members of the club!)

They took on the physical challenge, as well to raising money for the club. In just over 3 hours, they took on 25 obstacles and completed the 15km course, and raised a staggering £3300 for the Rowing Club!

Congratulations to all contenders and apologies to all the parents faced with an equal challenge of cleaning the clothes!



WELCOME

New coaches & helpers

After the successful *Learn to Row* programme in the summer term, the Rowing Club was pleased to be able to offer places to the 57 students who opted to join the club.

The club is now at its largest membership, with over 100 students rowing weekly with the club.

To help us manage such a large number of rowers, we welcome: Ant Hunt, Stuart Davies and Justin Dunkerley - parent volunteers, who give their time every week to support the club.

Farewell & Thank you

After 10 years at the helm, the club has said farewell and thank you to Richard Cox. Richard has moved across the river to King's School Chester as their Boatsman, and he is now seen regularly out on the river coaching and helping with their club.

As a school and rowing club, we cannot put into words the contribution that Richard and his wife, Julie have given to the Rowing Club, from driving trailers, running fundraising events, improving the boathouse, running catering, fixing boats, finding funding opportunities and continuing to promote the club, they have been the heart and soul of QPHSRC.

“ Thank you! ”



HEAD OF THE DEE

Great interclub event

This is a great interclub event for clubs on the Dee, hosted by the King's School, it takes volunteers from all the local clubs (Royals, Grosvenor, Kings and QPHS) to make the event possible.

We row a 4.2 km course, from Eccleston, and boats of all different sizes are pitched against each other, with the focus on how each crew performed against Gold Medal Time as a percentage.

What is Gold Medal Time?

This is the 2km time at the height of the rowing calendar at National Schools, for the winners of that event.

So, while a single will likely be much slower than an eight, it only matters how they do against similar boats from the year previous at the National Schools event.

We had three quads who achieved medals for their categories, and it was great to see all our crews respect the rules of the river!





HEAD RACES

A test of endurance

Chester Long Distance Sculls is the first head race of the season racing a distance of 5km from Eccleston to Chester on the River Dee.

Due to high river levels and fast flow, younger crews were unable to compete, which was a real shame!

There were no wins for the club this time round, but great performances and a good start to work on our rowers' endurance and getting those miles in!

As a home event, we were very thankful for all the hard work and support from our parents who help out with the catering. We raise a huge amount at these home events each time, which provide vital equipment for the club.

Northwich Autumn Head

This event was oversubscribed in under 90 minutes, but for those lucky rowers able to compete...freezing cold conditions, didn't deter their spirits!

Racing down the River Weaver along the 2350m course and ensuring navigation around moored boats and trees and other hazards are managed, was a huge challenge. Our teams did very well, and continued to build on their technique and racing strategies.

Winners:

- Murphy S - J17 1x band 2
- Achilles A - J15 1x band 1



AGECROFT HEAD

Racing against the elements

Torrential rain, blazing sunshine, raging winds... are all standard for the Agecroft Head!

Rowing at Salford Quays, in the middle of Manchester, makes for very different conditions than those on the River Dee. Great racing and performances across the club as they raced down the 4.2km course. Rowers were dripping wet at the end of some races due to the rain, lucky we always remember a change of clothes!

Winners:

- WJ18 4+ Lucy F, Sienna T, Lily W, Grace N & Cox Freya C
- WJ8 2x Sienna T & Freya C
- WJ6 4x- Elen P, Macey L, Alice T, Macy P
- J15 1x Bruno B
- J17 2x Ned H & Keir G

Well done to all of our competing crews, and congratulations to everyone that won a medal.



PUDDING RACES

All round family fun

Everyone looks forward to our end-of-year celebrations with families and rowers. With the river still in flood and flowing very fast, we decided to host a land-only event, which didn't disappoint! We had over 70 rowers down on the day with their families, and we don't believe the club has hosted such a large home event with over 130 people joining in the fun!

Random teams compete across multiple events. A running relay (where you have to carry a box of favourites, or heroes, or quality streets), skill test – balloon cups, 4km ergo relay, then a 5 round Christmas quiz.

BBQ and drinks put on for competitors and spectators.



MIXED QUAD WIN

Runcorn Autumn Head

A small band of our rowers attended the Runcorn Autumn Head, which made boat loading and the event a little less stressful (aside from the weather, which just seems to have been against us all this term).

Some fantastic rowing by our crews with our mixed quad victorious on the day:
Mx J14 4x+ (Evie B, Millie W, Leigh D, Phoebe W & Cox TJ)





BRITISH CHAMPION

Brings home GOLD!

Along with his teammates, former QPHS student and rower (he still comes and trains with our rowing club when in town), James Cox claimed the gold medal in the Adult Mixed 4km Relay in early December at the British Rowing Indoor Championships.

On an indoor rowing machine (Ergo), the team set a blistering time of 11 minutes 42.6 seconds to row 4km! What an incredible achievement!

RISING STAR

British Rowing Awards

Former QPHS student, and now coach at the rowing club, Tom Bamber has been recognised for his contribution to our rowing community through his winning the British Rowing Rising Star Award for the North West region.

This award is for exceptional young volunteers that have contributed significantly to the sport, for the benefit of the rowing community.

Tom currently coaches our J15 rowers and can be seen down at the club using his carpentry skills to build new racking and fixing up the boats.

Congratulations Tom!



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HM Government

Search NHS school illness guidance to find out more.