

Queen's Park High School

NEWS

AUTUMN TERM OCT/NOV 2018

ROWING CLUB NEWS

Gold & Bronze medal wins

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Year 12 students get business savvy

FORMER STUDENT
AWARDED
OHN MOORES

PAINTING PRIZE

YEAR 7 CONWAY TRIP

Transition residential

MATHS PGCE

Numeracy challenge

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BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

MY FIRST HALF TERM

Year 7 students give their view of high school so far

QPHS RUN FOR CANCER

Equinox 24 Challenge



We are on Twitter. Follow @QPHSchester to keep up to date with our news

WELCOME



The end of a long half term is upon us and what a busy and exciting one it has been! Our new Year 7 cohort have fully settled into the swing of school life, coping admirably with the demands of high school. I had the pleasure of getting to know some of them on their visit to the Conway Centre in the second week of

term and equally through judging the diary competition upon their return - their personalities certainly jumped off the page!

In September, the school opened its doors to an abundance of visitors for our Open Evening. Thank you to everyone who came to see us, even on the wettest night of the year. Our students once again stole the show, showing such pride in their school, themselves and the staff. On evenings such as this, I too am made to feel very proud of 'who we are' as a school and our journey to this point. We received a lot of positive feedback about the 'feel' of the school, its warmth, friendliness and the caring approach of both the staff and students and I am delighted to say that applications for places for September 2019 are now on the rise once again (with not long to go before the October 31 deadline).

Prepared, Engaged. . Respectful

One of our key areas of focus over the last half term has been upon our 'climate for learning' within school, underpinned by the three core values of being 'Prepared - Engaged -Respectful'. These values apply to all members of our school community and form the backbone to our revised approach around behaviour and expectations which focuses much more upon building positive relationships at all levels to ensure successful outcomes. We are just developing a new framework around the use of rewards based upon feedback from the students themselves. This will be implemented and shared with you over the course of the next half term. Finally, I would just like to congratulate all our students who are showcased within this newsletter, for making such a valid and diverse contribution to our school community. As I say to the students regularly, life is what you make of it, step out of your comfort zone and you might be surprised by what you can learn or achieve. Keep challenging yourselves and well done!

Miss Watterson, HEADTEACHER

SIXTH FORM LEADERS

A 'head' of the game

We are very proud to introduce our new student leadership team, Head Boy, Morgan Linfield; Head Girl, Martha Wardle; Deputy Head Boy, Cameron Neill and Deputy Head, Girl Libby Chare.



We are all excited to begin our new roles in school. We believe we can improve school life in a positive manner by introducing new, exciting initiatives and events, making Queen's Park High School a place of learning and fun for all. We are already organising new events and charity days and further developing the peer mentoring programme and recycling initiatives. We would like to invite anyone who has any ideas for improvement within the school to come to us and we can liaise with the school council and/or governors if required. We truly believe that Queen's Park High School is a great place for learning and engagement for all. We would like to thank everybody for the opportunity that we have been given and we hope we can help to improve the school for all students.

Morgan Linfield, Head Boy



It has been 8 weeks since they started at QPHS and they have completed their first half term! Here are some opinions from Year 7 students and their view of high school so far...

My first half term at high school has exceeded every expectation that I had before coming to every expectation that I had before coming to this amorping school. One of my highlights has to be this amorping school. One of my highlights has to be science. The class topics that we cover are really interest ing and it is really gun. Everyday. I always look gornard to right and it is really gun. Everyday. I always look gornard to science. Another one of my highlights is making new science. Another one of my highlights is making new greads who have helped me settle in to school. Every-



Jake Spaven E7WHT

Tabitha Lodge E7HOW My firt fiew works at high school have been amazing and not all what I expected. I was really worked about starting high school but when I started I was compleated sine. I didn't get lost as many times as I thought I would and I made greends really easily and everyone is really nice to one another, this is an amazing highsdool and I am really hoppy I chose to dome here. I am really exited for what is to come.

I have had an amazing start cut high school with loads of new events and opproximates. Already I have represented the school in botball and the open evening. The lessons are pabular as evoything is for move advanced but still loads of fur. In English I'm learning about nice and men and I have adjuntable teacher.

Matthew Hunt GTAY

Finn Howard G7TAY On the first day you will feel very reacus, but once you get to know your nay the lessons are not easy, they are not too difficult, depending on what set your un, but exercisely helpful, in lessons where they teach their nonder ful subject, and helping you round the school and where your dasses are. Askell as lessons, there are many sport dules such as S-a-side football, poining, dodgeball and plenty more

I love the fact that we have a wider variety of lessons from my old school. You also feel more privileged as you have a teacher completely assigned to teach that subject, whereas in primary school you had one teacher for almost everything. I have enjoyed being able to squeeze 5 periods in a day, as you always want to grab that extra bit of knowledge per day.

Joss H G7TAY

Joss Holloway G7TAY



Matthew Hunt G7TAY MENAI JOURNAL 2018 WINNER

MONDAY IOTH SEPTEMBER - DAY

Looming over the horizon came a great building it was the grand embrance to the Comuray Centre Once we had earled the coach and had grabbed our luggage we were laken inside to a social room to put our bags in for the time being Them someone led we with our packed lumches to the main room to have a four and eaf our lunches. After our lunch we were told which doring to the week adownstates to go to my activity On the way we grabbed some equipment to dimb the rock and to make sure we didn't fall There was a 20 min hike to get to the difface but it was when we got on the rock it was loads of got 3 goes but then had to go back to meet was an amazing day and I just hope had tomorrow we want to the process of the control of the control of the process of the control of

TUESDAY IITH SEPTEMBER - DAY 7

Breakfast went fast but it was really mice. Them I had advites. The first one was golf frisbee I was basically golf but with a frisbee I loved it Them I had orienteening I bossed it with 11.36 mins! It was them lunch Offer lunch I had camoring. We got to jump in at the end and it was freezing I got back and had a shower that was way too hot Them it was time for tea lea was tasty but was over guickly Them we had a disco which was loads of fum. Them we had a go to bed I was a great day

NEDWESDAY IZIH SELIEWBEK - DAX 3

chad a juicy last day with eggs splatting left right and centre! We did the egg drop challenge and only 2 survived. We dropped 12 10 eggs died that day ch was the viay egg massacre. Then it was lunch we had to wait because there were loads of schools there.

there was lots of sweets and just O vegetables if was amazing but sadly we had to go back home However the Comway Centre was loads of him and I loved it I hope I get to go there again.

















OPEN EVENTS

Welcoming families to our school

Over the last month, during a number of Open Mornings and an Open Evening event, QPHS have been busy showcasing the extensive opportunities that lie ahead for children when they join our school community.

After an initial presentation outlining the transition process (by Headteacher, Miss Watterson and Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Scanlon), families were able to tour the school. Children had the opportunity to get involved in a range of exciting activities taking place in each subject area, meet teachers and support staff, talk to QPHS students, check out displays of students' work and sample a variety of culinary delights cooked by our students in the newly opened food technology workspace.

Those keen for a challenge tested their knowledge in a quiz about the school, booklovers entered a library competition and all got free entry into a prize draw to win a £50 Frankie and Benny's voucher!

In addition, families of children in Years 5 and 6 were invited to come along to discover more about the school and experience life at Queen's Park high School during a normal working day.

All of the events were well attended and feedback about the school and our students was exceptionally positive.

Over the last couple of weeks, Mrs Scanlon and Miss Morris have been presenting the lucky winners with their prizes at each of their primary schools including Belgrave, Chester Blue Coat, Eccleston, Dodleston, Lache, Overleigh St Mary's and UCFS.

Congratulations to the winners and runners up, in particular Devon Gentile (Lache) who was the overall prize draw winner, Freya and Macy Perks (OSM) who won first prize in the quiz and Evie Wright (UCFS) who won the 'Fall into a Book' library competition.























GREASE IS THE WORD!

Hundreds flock to audition for this year's production

On Wednesday 26th September 2018 we held our auditions for this year's production of '*Grease'*, which will be on stage in our school Hall from 11th-15th of February 2019.

Over a hundred students auditioned and, because of the extra effort they had put into their preparations, the judges had some very difficult decisions to make! The auditions from students in all years were very strong and the performing arts department have now selected a cast with whom they firmly believe will work incredibly well together and who will provide a dazzling performance for our audience. The team are very much looking forward to working with all our amazing and talented students!

Watch this space for information about how to purchase tickets for the show in the New Year... *Grease is the word!*



WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

'Cake tastes better together'

We hoped to help 'change lives with every slice' on Friday 30th September as staff joined in with the World's Biggest Coffee Morning and hosted our very own McMillan Coffee Morning. This year it was held in our brand new food technology room.

During morning break, staff with a sweet tooth came to satisfy their taste buds and enjoy a slice of cake with a hot brew. They dug deep into their pockets and parted with their hard earned pennies to help raise money for this worthy cause.

Our star baker this year was Miss Brandreth – her delicious carrot cake was a real hit with delighted staff!

Well done to Mr Footitt for correctly guessing the length of the veggie slice at 49cm and winning the prize of a bottle of Prosecco.

In total we raised £70.52 – not bad for a 15 minute coffee break! The donation has been sent to McMillan Cancer Support who provide care and support for those families whose lives are affected by cancer.







Since the last academic year, a group of Queen's Park High School staff have been on a fundraising drive in an effort to raise much needed funds for two worthy charities, The Clatterbridge Cancer Charity and The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity.

As well as training for the main Equinox 24 event, the team have been making every effort to raise as much money as possible through various means including bag packs, cake sales and the *'going green'* week. In addition, Mr Johnson hosted a family music quiz at the school on Friday 14th September with all funds donated to the QPHS Run for Cancer appeal.

Equinox 24 takes place each year at Belvoir Castle in Leicestershire. The race is a 24 hour endurance challenge which tests competitors' stamina and fitness as they run ten kilometre laps around the castle grounds in one continuous relay. Two of the team members participated last year, but most were running novices and this presented a significant challenge for them. The intrepid team of Miss Britland, Miss Oliver, Miss Whitford-Stark, Mr Footitt, Mrs Cutler, Mr Taylor and Mr Johnson (with help from a non-QPHS team member Mr Walters) smashed their Equinox target of 20 laps and clocked up a whopping 210km within a 24 hour period! Yes, there were blisters. Yes, there were dodgy knees. Yes, it was scary in the dark for some members of the team. . . but by working together they achieved their goal and, in the process managed to raise a substantial amount of money for their chosen charities.

On Tuesday 9th October Elspeth Wilson, Fundraising Manager for Clatterbridge Cancer Charity visited QPHS and was delighted to be presented with a cheque of £1773.69 - the incredible result of our staffs' fundraising activities. The donation will to go towards their appeal to raise £15 million to build a new specialist cancer hospital in Liverpool city centre.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our dedicated staff team and donated to their 'Just Giving' page. Their hard work and lack of sleep was all worth it as they raised over £1700 for such a great cause. We are very proud of their efforts.

Miss Watterson, Headteacher





Mr Johnson's post event blog

66 No one had said it was going to be easy and it wasn't! The weather was against us from the start with high winds, cold temperatures and heavy rain. Parts of the course were a mud bath and the terrain was unforgiving. Yet, fuelled by Miss Corcoran's endless cups of tea and coffee and Mrs Blears-Chalmers gourmet pasta bolognaise and Mr

Nixon staying up all night to greet each of the runners at the 9km marker, whatever the weather, we made it!!







Teaching for the next generation

Working in partnership with the Cheshire Vale Teaching School Alliance and Liverpool John Moores University, Queen's Park High School welcomed 25 associate teachers into school to take part in professional studies training. The workshops were linked to behaviour management, inclusive classrooms and removing barriers to learning.

Mrs Scanlon and Mrs Williams led the sessions, which gave the next generation of teachers expert tuition to support them with their future studies.

ENABLING ENTERPRISE

Employer engagement visits



Enabling Enterprise works in partnership with Queen's Park High School. Together we bring the world of work into the classroom through tutor time activities and challenge days, as well as

educational visits to our partners. We are aiming to ensure that one day all students leave school equipped with the necessary enterprise skills, wider experiences of the world of work and high aspirations to succeed. The enterprise skills are a set of eight skills that employers are looking for in an employee and are the skills that have been proven to unlock learning. Crucially, they are built from the foundations of empathy, resilience and confident communication, which we believe will support our students to achieve their goals.

Employer engagement visits have been planned for Year 9 students and Miss Maier's tutor group have been invited to attend a challenge day at Bruntwood in Liverpool on 8th November. Entitled 'The Building Bridges Challenge', the teams must design and construct a model of a brand new bridge connecting the town of Bogsby with a new development planned for construction on the other side of the river. Along the way, students consider pros and cons of simple construction techniques before designing and building a scale model and presenting back their work. We look forward to seeing some of their innovative designs!





WORK EXPERIENCE

Students set for the world of work



Work experience is offered to all students in Years 10 and 12 and this year's initiative was launched by *Changing Education* during an assembly earlier this term.



During the summer term, between 1st and 5th July 2019, students will be expected to spend a week in employment. This will enable them to gain experience in the workplace and develop skills to support decision making to inspire them to achieve. Students are requested to arrange a self placement by Friday 7th December 2018. All risk assessments and administration (planning, employer liaison etc) will be completed by *Changing Education* and Queen's Park High School.

Students will be required to use the Connect Placement Manager mobile phone app to organise their work placement.

Changing Education provide a database of employers across a wide range of sectors to support students and find appropriate placements. Both school and Changing Education will give more support to those who, despite their best efforts, have not been able to find a placement.

More information can be found on the QPHS website under the *students* > *careers* & *guidance* > *work experience* section.



YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Discovering the next apprentice!

Running throughout this academic year, Year 12 students have the opportunity to set up and run their own business. They are empowered to make all the decisions about their enterprise, from deciding upon the name and product, to creating a business plan, managing the company finances and selling to the public at trade fairs. All this takes place with the support of a volunteer business adviser from Chester University Business School who brings a wealth of business knowledge and expertise. A range of resources are provided to help manage the company, teams track their progress using self-assessment tools and even compete against other schools in local, regional and national competitions.

A big thank you to Meadow Foods who has provided the funding to enable our students to take part in this initiative.

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES Coding Club

Over the last half term, as part of the school's Enrichment Programme, Year 7 students have been exploring the power of Raspberry Pi 3 in Coding Club. Students have been creating Python scripts using Minecraft, making interactive games on micro controllers and creating pixel animations.







PARTNERSHIPS

UoC PGCE maths numeracy challenge



As part of our ongoing partnership with the **University of Chester** (UoC) and to support our students in their maths studies, we welcomed into school 22 new PGCE Maths students to spend the day working with our Year 10 and Year 7 students.

Year 10 students worked on quadratic functions using quadratic tiles to explain factorizing and expanding. During the afternoon session, Year 7 students were fed a buffet of numeracy problems which supports our Maths Mastery teaching strategy. The feedback was very positive and we look forward to working with the PGCE students again later in the year.



LIVERPOOL GALLERIES

Former student wins acclaimed painting prize The The

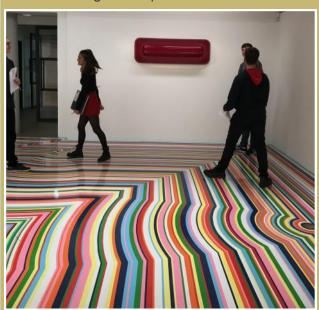


On 17th October, Year 12 & 13 visual arts, photography and design students went to view the latest exhibitions

on display in the Liverpool galleries and collected resource material and ideas for their A-Level studies.

One of the highlights of the day was the famous John Moores painting prize exhibition at the Walker Art Gallery, showcasing contemporary living artists work. The students spent time engaging with this eclectic exhibition of works and got a real surprise when they discovered one of the prize-winners was former QPHS student, Tom Howse for his painting, 'The Thunderous Silence of Your Presence'. Photography students went to the Open Eye Gallery to study the latest exhibition by international photographers Madiha Aijaz and George Osodi. During their visit to the Tate, students were given a trigger artwork to find and analyse.

The ideas collected will support students' progression and give them a greater understanding and depth within their studies.











CEIG (Careers Education, Information and Guidance) is the acronym used to describe the support provided to students that informs them of their options going forward. This could be the transition to the next phase of education (options at GCSE for example), decisions about post-16 education/training or indeed the choices available at higher education, further education, apprenticeships or employment at the end of post-18 study.

A new careers hub has been created in the library learning centre where students can find information about careers, university courses and apprenticeships. A blog can also be found on our school website detailing current information about apprenticeship opportunities and open days.

More information can be found on the QPHS website under *students* > *careers* & *guidance* > *apprenticeship* & *career opportunities*.

In addition KS4 and KS5 students are actively encouraged to use **Unifrog** - an online tool to help find university and apprenticeship places, school leaver programmes and Mass Open Online Courses (MOOCS). Our main aim is to ensure that all of our students are considering and planning for their future throughout their time in school and make the right decision for them.

More information can be found on the QPHS website in the *students* > *careers* & *guidance* section.



Meet John Knight

John Knight is a level 6 trained independent careers adviser who works with us at QPHS. He provides independent careers advice through individual appointments with students in Years 11 and 12 as they make their career planning decisions.



Individual action plans are made available to students and are emailed home via parent mail. John will also be available for drop in appointments at our forthcoming Futures
Evening for Years 9 and 11 students, where parents and students can ask for advice.







Gale force winds can't hold our rowers back!

Brave, driven, focused, committed! Four of the many words that could be used to describe the QPHS rowing team who competed at Agecroft on 13th October. Our rowers had to compete against heavy winds, with waves coming up to their shoulders and water drenching them, as they navigated their way down the 3100m course. Many of the races were cancelled, which was disappointing for those who had travelled as competitors were still committed even though the weather conditions were horrendous.

Despite this, we had many outstanding achievements with Luke Harris (Year 9) and Joe Bamber (Year 10) winning their single events. Grace Stark and Megan Dixon won their doubles event, as did the WJ14 quad comprising of Sienna Taylor (Year 8), Emily McDermott (Year 9), Claudia Jackson (Year 9), Lowri Jones (Year 9) and cox, Olivia Halewood (Sixth Form).

All our rowers continue to show amazing drive, commitment and team spirit - the difficult conditions only highlighted this.



NEW ROWERS GET A DUNKING

One of the success criteria for rowing is the ability to stay dry. Not so during the weekend of the 6th October, where our annual capsize training took place at the Chester City Baths. 22 rowers across all year groups passed their capsize training an essential skill to ensure the safety of our team. Each rower demonstrated the ability to swim 50m fully clothed, swim underwater for 5m, tread water for 2 minutes, as well escape a capsized boat, overturn the boat, and then use the boat as a floatation device and paddle to safety!

A special thanks to Mike Harris for co-ordinating the day, and our senior student helpers and coaches for being on hand to carry out the training.

ROWING NEWS

Meet the new Club Captains

We are delighted to introduce our new QPHS Rowing Club captains, Bethan Curtis (Year 12) and Ben Baker (Year 11).

Both Ben and Bethan are positive role models for our club, demonstrating week in and week out their commitment to the club and its success.

66 I am able to take feedback from the rowers to make the sessions personalised, interesting and beneficial to the rowers individually and as a team.

Bethan Curtis Year 12



I am keen to raise the club's image by acting as an ambassador at rowing events and during outings.

Ben Baker, Year 11

They will focus on leading and mentoring the younger students in the rowing club, organising core training sessions, assisting with the *'learn to row'* program and ensuring training sessions are optimised through working with the coaches and other students.

We look forward to the strong leadership that both Ben and Bethan will offer.



GOLD & BRONZE MEDAL WINS

British Rowing Junior Championship

It was an exciting end of term for QPHS students who took part in the British Rowing Junior Championships held in Nottingham as they faced some of the best competition in the country.

The highlight of the event had to be the Year 9 rowers who proved their skills, technique and speed in the J14 omnium event. lestyn Burke and Dylan Howard in the boys double

were awarded gold medals after competing against 44 other doubles and James Cox received a bronze medal in the single event overcoming a tough field of 72 competitors!

There were significant placings for all QPHS rowers, including Tyler Gordon & Josh Williamson who came 6th in their double. Joe Bamber came 11th and Josh Halewood came 16th in their singles. Meanwhile, in the WJ14 girls doubles, Kiara Parlevliet & Erin Kendall-Smith and Gracie Twigg & Beth Henderson Palmer

were placed 12th and 20th respectively out of a field of 62 competitors. Later, the girls teamed up and were delighted to win their minor final in the WJ14 quads. The Year 10 boys quad came 18th overall after some tough racing against some of the best J15 quads in the country whilst Kiera Burke & Zara Gautier-Price finished an impressive 5th place overall in their double after one of the most exciting races of the day.

Commitment and drive from the athletes and the unwavering support from the athletes and to the season.

Richard Cox, QPHSRC Chairman





QPHS ROWING HOTS UP

As weather starts to cool

The start of the new season of head racing has seen some terrific results from students at Queen's Park High School Rowing Club, kicking off with the Runcorn Autumn Head event.

On Saturday 29th September, the QPHS squad travelled to Runcorn Rowing Club to compete against some of the top rowing clubs in the North West. Tackling distances of 2250m and 4500m, the rowers showed their resolve, determination and power as they all ranked in the top three for their races.

The club had wins for J13 single, Luke Harris; Women's J14 coxed quad, Darcy Smyth, Claudia Jackson, Lowri Jones, Emily McDermott and cox, lestyn Burke; Women's J14 double, Darcy Smyth and Claudia Jackson; J16 coxless quad, Ben Baker, Dan Williams, Charlie Doyle and Ioan Gwenter; J15 coxed quad, Josh Halewood, Iestyn Burke, James Cox, Dylan Howard and cox, Josh Williamson.

All other QPHS rowers were successful in being placed either second or third for each of their races.

Congratulations to all involved, this is a fantastic start to the season!





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Can you beat the teachers?

Come and join us for the fourth annual QPHS quiz night hosted by the PTA!

It's a guiz with a festive feel and has something for everyone including questions on sport, music, general knowledge and much more! Have you got what it takes to beat the teachers and become the next Queen's Park High School Champions? We are looking for teams of 8 people to enter. If you would like to come and meet other parents but don't yet have a team, don't worry - this is an ideal opportunity to meet new people!

Doors open at 7pm. Tickets are priced at £10 each, which includes a ploughman's supper, and are available through *parentmail* or from school reception.

Our licensed cash bar will also be open on the night.

All proceeds will support QPHS students' extra curricular activities.

We look forward to enjoying a fun packed evening!

Date	Event	Time
24 October	Review Evening	4.30-7.00pm
25 October	Review Day	9.00-3.00pm
27 October	Rowing Event - Dee Autumn Head, Chester	
29 October - 2 November	AUTUMN HALF TERM	
5 November	School re-opens for all students	8.40am
6 November	Sixth Form Senior Maths Challenge	
7 November	The Learning Trust Careers Fair at Christleton High School	6.30pm
8 November	Year 9 Enabling Enterprise Trip, Liverpool	All Day
11 November	Rowing Event - Northwich Head	
13 November	SEN Information Session for parents, Ellesmere Port	10.00-1.00pm
14 November	Year 11, 12 & 13 Geography Trip, Liverpool	All Day
15 November	CITIZENSHIP DAY Year 10 Into Film Festival, Cheshire Oaks Year 12 & 13 Work Skills Live, NEC Birmingham	All Day
19 - 28 November	Year 11 Mock Exams	
20 November	QPHS Choir Performance at STORYHOUSE	
20 November	SEN Information Session for parents, Ellesmere Port	10.00-1.00pm
24 November	Rowing Event - Hampton Head, London	
27 November	SEN Information Session for parents, Ellesmere Port	10.00-1.00pm
28 November	Year 9 Parents' Evening	4.30-7.00pm
29 November	Year 13 Psychology & Business Studies AQA workshops, Manchester	All Day
29 November	Official opening of the Library Learning Space by special guest - Gyles Brandreth	11.00am
29 November	Year 5 Curriculum Challenge Day (Group 1)	9.30-2.30pm
30 November	Year 5 Curriculum Challenge Day (Group 2)	9.30-2.30pm
30 November	PTA QUIZ NIGHT	7.00pm
1 December	Rowing Event - Liverpool Victoria Head	
3 December	INSET DAY School closed to students	All Day
4 December	SEN Information Session for parents, Ellesmere Port	10.00-1.00pm
5 December	Awards Evening	6.30-8.00pm
12 December	Year 11 Parents' Evening	4.30-7.00pm
18 December	Christmas Concert	7.00-9.00pm
24 December - 4 January	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	
7 January 2019	School re-opens for all students	8.40am

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