



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

SPRING TERM

APRIL 2022

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

WELCOME



The Spring Term has been exciting and action packed, despite the interruptions COVID-19 continues to bring. I hope this newsletter gives you a taste of Queen's Park

High School life and the enriched school experience we have continued to offer our students.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their support with our drive to promote the importance of attendance and punctuality in school. We have remained in line with national average attendance figures but strive to ensure all our students attend regularly. With this in mind, we will endeavour to achieve 'smart starts' to our school day over this coming term.

As we move fully into the government's plan on 'Living with COVID-19' I hope our education setting can return to focusing on our students and supporting them to achieve their full potential. Below outlines the latest guidance from the Department for Education:

- *Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.*
- *Children and young people with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days.*

As we begin the Summer Term, we look forward to being able to offer a full transition programme to our Year 6 students who are due to join us this September. Add this to our summer term extra-curricular and enrichment programme, I know it's going to be a fantastic end to the academic year.

The Queen's Park journey draws to a close for our Year 11 and 13 students and our QPHS family will surround them with all the care and support they need for success during this final push to the summer exams.

I hope you enjoy this latest issue of the school newsletter and hope to see many of our parents/carers at upcoming school events. Happy reading!

Mr Kearns,
HEADTEACHER

UKRAINE Fundraiser

'Dough'nations come flooding in

Staff and students at Queen's Park High School have been delighted to raise an incredible total of just over £1680 in support of the British Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal.

Thanks to three fundraisers involving the sale of doughnuts and a generous supply of tubs of ice cream from The Ice Cream Farm in Tattenhall, a talent show and non-uniform day, the Queen's Park

family were able to play their part and show their solidarity for those affected by the war.

On Tuesday 8th March, W11JOH supported by the Sixth Form Student Leadership Team held a doughnut sale during morning break. It was so popular that almost 200 doughnuts sold out in just over 5 minutes, raising £110 for the appeal!

After publicising the fundraiser, Mr Johnson was contacted by Mrs Lewis, one of the school parents who works at the Ice-Cream Farm, kindly offering to donate a number of ice-cream tubs and a Cheshire Farm Ice-cream tricycle to the school if we were going to hold another sale. Three days later, the second sale was a roaring success with 250 doughnuts and more than 100 tubs of ice-cream being sold, raising an additional £290 for the fund!





The 'V' Factor

Following on the success of the 'sweet treat' fundraisers, on Thursday 31st March the school held their annual 'V Factor' concert in an effort to not only showcase the incredible talent of our students (and staff) but also to add to the funds already raised for the Ukrainian refugees.

After a successful round of auditions, 15 acts went through to the student vote before being whittled down to six acts who then performed live across our 'Teams' platform for the whole school during the final lesson on the last day of term.

All the acts were amazing, with some stand out performances from Ceri and Eirinn and Faith. Staff were also allowed to take to the stage, so there were some interesting and unique

performances from various members of teaching staff! Congratulations to Year 8 students, Henry, Julian and Toby who were judged the overall winners of 'The V Factor 2022' for their rendition of 'Where is my mind' by The Pixies. It truly was an stunning performance! On the same day students could show their support for the Ukraine by wearing something blue and/or yellow. Through non-uniform contributions the Queen's Park community managed to raise a whopping £1281 which added to the previous fundraisers brings the grand total to just over £1680 This will go directly to supporting the refugees. A fantastic and wonderful way to end a very busy term!

“ It was quite remarkable to see what the QPHS family could raise in just a 15 minute break-time. ”

Mr Johnson, Achievement Lead maths & coordinator of 'sweet treat' sale fundraisers





BRITISH
SCIENCE
WEEK



“ I really enjoyed making the water devices which could help people collect more water. ”
Archie, Year 7 student

STOP the Spread Challenge

During March, all students in Years 7 and 8 celebrated British Science Week with a new and exciting STEM project.

As part of the 'Stop the Spread' initiative introduced by the UK CREST awards scheme, students were set the challenge of building a handwashing device for a primary school in Kenya that would improve their general hygiene. The device needed to be able to collect and dispense rain water, be made from locally sourced and sustainable materials and keep within a tight budget!

Students worked in teams as researchers, product designers and engineers to plan and build their model. They used their creative

skills to draw out their designs, then using the project shopping list purchased modelling materials from the science 'shop' to construct their devices whilst calculating the overall cost.

Students worked collaboratively to build, test then redesign to improve their models.

The final part of the challenge tested students' creativity and communication skills as they produced an educational resource to explain the importance of hand washing and why it is key in reducing the spread of infectious diseases. The creativity of the students shone through as the resources ranged from leaflets, poems, books and even a podcast!



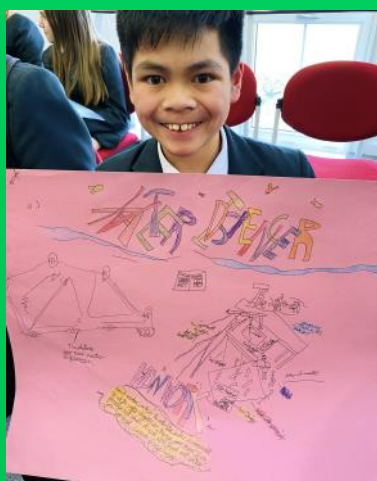
“ I enjoyed that science week has given us a chance to express ourselves. We were able to work with other people and collaborate. We could use our creativity to make anything! ”
Maheen, Year 7 student





“ I liked researching the importance of handwashing and creating our presentations. ”

Charlotte G, Year 7 student



After two weeks of hard work, students were ready to share their work with the rest of their year group. Each team presented their ideas on handwashing and demonstrated how their models worked. The winners from each year group will be announced next term!

All students' projects are currently being submitted for a discovery CREST award and into the Youth Global Challenges competition. CREST is a UK award scheme for 11-19 year olds recognising success, building skills and demonstrating personal achievement in science technology, engineering and maths project work.

Good luck to all students.

“ It was fantastic to see students engage in the project and confidently present their ideas to their peers. Well done! ”

Miss Sutton, Achievement Leader of Science

“ I enjoyed making the models and developing teamwork skills. ”

Hallie Year 7 student

“ Science week has given us all the freedom of imagination and has helped us to improve our teamwork skills ! ”

Emily T
Year 7 student



STEM CLUB

SCIENCE • TECHNOLOGY • ENGINEERING • MATHEMATICS

Blast off with Stem Club!

At the end of last term, students in Year 8 learned how to make a crystal snowflake!

They started off making a model snowflake from pipe cleaners which was then placed in borax solution and left overnight. Once the solution had crystallised, the pipe cleaners were covered in large crystals which made the perfect Christmas decorations for Miss Sutton's classroom!

To kick start the Spring Term, students took on the role of spacecraft engineers. They were given the challenge to design and build a model spacecraft which would allow an egg to land safely on the ground - not an easy feat!

Students built their models from a range

of materials including card, bubble wrap, foil and tissue paper before testing their design to see if it could land safely without breaking its cargo. It was fantastic to see some groups achieve a safe touchdown even from the great height of 3 metres!

One of the more popular activities was the mini rockets which allowed students to develop their engineering skills further. Each student made several different designs for their mini rockets from a straw and paper. They then got to test their designs to see if the shape of the fins, length of the rocket and the launch angle changed the distance travelled by the rocket.



“ I learned so many things that I never knew before. It was so much fun! ”
Year 8 student

“ I enjoyed the egg drop challenge because it was fun to see which eggs didn't break. ”
Year 8 student



Other space themed sessions included students working in groups to create a model of a space base camp from newspaper. Students investigated the best material to use to protect the contents of a space craft from the sun. They tested cotton wool, tin foil and polystyrene as heat protection to see which would stop an ice cube from melting.

For the final session we moved away from the space theme to biology. Students were given the exciting and rather daunting opportunity to dissect a fish head! This involved students carefully removing the gills from the fish and even removing the fish eyes! It was great to see all students engaged in this activity as it was the first time most of them had carried out a dissection.

Currently, Year 9 and 10 students are participating in a 5 week STEM programme. Students are working in groups or individually to develop a new product, item or approach which solves a problem facing our world or the people in it. The projects will then be entered into the 'All about STEM - making it happen' competition. Students have been working hard on researching their ideas and have started their practical investigations which include waterproofing materials and testing the strength of packaging.



“ I enjoyed dissecting the fish because it was interesting and a new activity. ”
Year 8 student



WORLD BOOK DAY!



Sharing a story in a day!

In celebration of World Book Day, which took place on 3rd March, the whole school took the opportunity to read together, sharing a story. Staff and students read Ray Bradbury's wonderful 'All Summer in a Day', a short science fiction story that deals with themes of isolation, wonder and betrayal.

Set on the planet Venus, a small community of people wait for the appearance of the sun – which can only be seen once every seven years. The children, who were too young to remember the last sunshine, eagerly await this magical moment, and Margot most of all. However, at the last moment, her classmates play a cruel trick on her – one that they come to deeply regret!

As students moved from lesson to lesson, their teachers took it in turns to read instalments of the tale, so that by the end of the day, all students had shared the full story. Bradbury's writing provoked some fascinating conversations, from the scientific ('Venus has a temperature of over 400°C, so it's unlikely to be colonised by humans!') to the empathetic ('Margot is such an outcast; she must feel so isolated.')

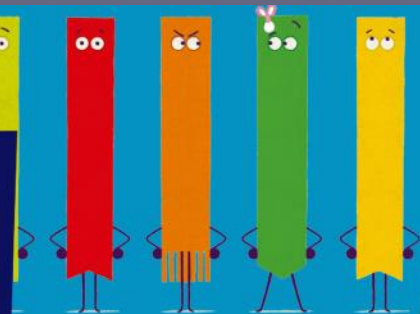
RAY BRADBURY All SUMMER IN A DAY



“ At Queen's Park, reading is rightly regarded as one of the most rewarding and vital parts of education. It was wonderful to hear staff in every department reading with students, discussing their favourite books, and passing on their recommendations. ”

Mrs Cogger, Teacher of English & Literacy Lead





**NATIONAL
BOOK
tokens**



“ The benefits of reading for pleasure are countless. Reading regularly has been shown to raise students’ confidence and self-esteem, lower their stress levels and significantly improve outcomes in later life.

While World Book Day takes place just once a year, we would encourage all students to read as much as possible, seek out recommendations for books they might enjoy and share their favourite reads with their peers. ”

Mrs Cogger
Teacher of English & Literacy Lead

YOU ARE A READER

Inspiring a love for reading

World Book Day is celebrated in over 100 countries around the globe and this year marks its 25th anniversary with the theme, ‘You are a reader’. World Book Day is a charity with a mission: to give every child and young person a book of their own and aim to change lives through a love of books and shared reading.

The charity is sponsored by National Book Tokens and works in partnership with schools, book publishers and booksellers to provide over 15 million £1 World Book Day book tokens to children and young people. These tokens can then be exchanged for free, new and exclusive world book day books from participating booksellers.

Thanks to the efforts of Mrs Melhuish-Jones and the support of WHSmith in Chester, this year we collected over 350 brand new books which we’ve gifted to Year 7 and Year 8 English classes to share the joy of reading for pleasure.

We hope they enjoyed their Easter reads!



GUEST AUTHOR VISIT

Thrilling creative writing masterclass



As part of our World Book Day celebrations, 30 lucky students from Year 8 and 9 were chosen to participate in an exciting creative writing masterclass with author, Cynthia Murphy.

Cynthia is a YA (Young Adult) writer from the North-West of England. She has a long-standing love affair with all things scary, reading Point Horrors at primary school before graduating to Stephen King in her misguided teens. Classic 90s and 00s horror movies are definitely her pub quiz strong point and her first love may well have been Buffy the Vampire Slayer.

Studying for a degree in Art History and Archaeology meant that she developed a thirst for anything old, beautiful and very often dead. She tries to combine this with contemporary settings in her writing to make unique and chilling modern stories.

His name, like a poisonous cartoonish. He like people just want to say their little speech and move right on. They kept their little shells like it means something. Off they knew her at all, they knew she hated candles, more than anything. He like none of them even knew her at all, anyone. One of the candles flickered at me, nothing, lavender scented. I don't have the heart to take them. Everyone liked lavender. She didn't like lavender. She never was like "candles", was she?

Like lavender. There was lavender. Sweet but ever so deadly. Witty by its very nature. She was fascinated by death, entranced by the unknown. Even so, she said what she wanted. This and what anybody wanted.



It just sat there. Burning. Melting. Why?

How did it get there? I moved closer. The smell burnt my lungs; my nostrils flared. I carried on walking towards it, somewhat mesmerized by its daunting beauty. My eyes fixated on the dancing flames. I swallowed hard. My throat was dry and smoky, my hands sweaty - but not from the heat. My ears were filled with the sound of nothing; complete silence. I shuddered. None of this made any sense.

Something shot through me. I don't know what. Terror? Rage? Uncertainty? I trudged through the sand, I grabbed the lit candle and threw it into the sea.

That's weird.

How can a candle burn under water?

I don't know where I am. I am in this sort of wood land surrounded by nothing but trees and the small beams of the pale moonlight flooding through the branches of the trees. I got up and started to walk, having no sense of direction, just hoping I was going the right way. I had been walking for at least 10 minutes when I was startled by a small twig falling on my head. feeling confused, I picked up the branch. The small prickly branch seemed almost out of place, it had a shiner to it, couldn't really tell and dark, saying that they all looked exactly the same.





During her introduction, Cynthia shared the journey she took when writing her two novels 'Last One to Die' and 'Win, Lose, Kill, Die.' Students were then invited to ask questions and share their own experiences of writing.

The masterclass really began when Cynthia shared her top tips for writing thriller novels using the five main senses and the deeply intuitive sixth sense. Students then got the opportunity to write the opening scene to their very own gripping and rather chilling story.

They began by using their senses to describe one of eight items, including a skull, lantern, book, candle, twig, apple and coffee. Cynthia explained the importance of starting a story with something memorable which directly affects the main character. She advised them to give a little hint of what's to come by setting up a chain of events. After reading the students' work, Cynthia was very impressed with their creative flair!

At the end of the workshop, she kindly offered to sign copies of her novels for our delighted students to take home.

To find out more about Cynthia Murphy please visit her website: <https://www.cynthiamurphy.co.uk/>

“It was fantastic to be able to welcome such an inspirational and engaging author into school to work with our students. The students were thrilled to learn the tricks of the trade and have the chance to share their ideas with a ‘real’ author. We can’t wait to invite more authors to Queen’s Park over the coming months.”

Mrs Phillips, Associate Assistant Headteacher & Curriculum Leader of Communications





Nature

Nature is so beautiful but we're destroying it. Animals live in it and ruin it, tear it apart and force it underground and even monkeys, even running and flying with our machines. Even the elephant has a terrible fear when

Lotte
Queen's Park High School

EMPOWERED

Poetry Competition



Teen Poets' work selected for publication

Following the Empowered Poetry Competition last term, we are thrilled to announce that 12 students from Mrs Ikpeh's Year 7 tutor group have had their work selected for publication by Young Writers.

Young Writers aims to encourage young people to engage in creative writing and poetry by working with schools to run competitions across the UK.

The last 18 months have been hard, particularly for students, with school closures, isolation and general disruption to their education. Being able to voice a concern, an opinion or a point of view is so important, especially when students' interaction with peers has been restricted over the last

academic year, reducing their opportunities to discuss what matters to them.

In response to this, Young Writers invited students aged 11-18 years to write a poem for 'Empowered', and take back some control over their lives. 'Empowered' aims to help students find and use their voice to express themselves through poetry.

During their tutor time, Year 7 students were given the poetry prompt 'your voice shapes you' to write a poem that made them feel confident and to showcase what is important to them. These were then submitted to the Young Writers competition.

Congratulations to all our budding poets whose work

has been selected from hundreds of schools across the UK, to feature in an anthology, which has just recently been published! These books can now be ordered on the Young Writers website.

Well done to Evie, Lotte, Ruvimbo, Nicole L, Sophia, Maheen, Isabella, Tristan, Kieran, Kris, Alvaro and Hannah. What a fantastic achievement!

“It's so exciting to be able to equip our students with the literary tools needed to express themselves. It brings me so much joy to see Year 7 diligently searching out the vocabulary that best articulates the sentiment of their hearts. We're sowing seeds here at Queen's Park High School! I cannot wait to see our students grow and flourish as prolific writers.”

Mrs Ikpeh, Teacher of English



Empowered - Teen Poets

Beautiful, so wonderfully big, we all live in it,
traying it still
it, they treasure their home, but we come
aving them sad and alone
ests, savannah and lakes, jungle and skies,
nals' sake
d over, the animals' habitat, worms and
ng and jumping away, when we come
es, they just want to play
ts, the giraffes and the deer flee in
en we come too near.

Handbridge

The World

The world is dark
The clouds are black
We whisper in the dark
Hoping the light will bring
And we will be back.

Nicole

Queen's Park High School, Handbridge

Refuge

Sometimes people say that you're not welcome
You're not needed
Sometimes people say that we would be better off without
you
You are needed
You are loved
You have refuge.

Evie

Queen's Park High School, Handbridge

Love

Love is like a circle, it's never-ending
Over the hill you will find a home
Very nice people run around the house, making you feel
welcome if you're a human or a mouse
Every time you stop by ask for a snack, the house is quite
exciting even if it looks like a shack!

Hannah

Queen's Park High School, Handbridge

River

Life is like a river
You are a fish inside
Going with the flow
Taking it slow
Sometimes there are rocks in the path
But you could still break through
It has its ups and downs
But when it reaches its end
You'll finally find peace again.

Tristan

Queen's Park High School, Handbridge

ASPIRING AUTHORS

Twisted Tales - Are villains really so bad?

There's no writers block for Year 7 students at Queen's Park High School! Since our teen poets have been celebrating having their work published by Young Writers, our creative writers have done it again! This time, their short stories have been selected for publication!

During last term, a group of Year 7 students seized the opportunity to write their own original short stories in a brand new mini saga writing competition called 'Twisted Tales'. This national competition, open to children across the UK aged 11-18 years, is a fantastic way for students to explore character perspectives and empathy through creative writing.

The premise of 'Twisted Tales' is to put a twist in the classic narrative of

good vs evil, giving students the opportunity to flip the script and explore another side of the story. Students were challenged to think about: *how much a story changes if we change the point of view? What would the villain say if they could share their story? Are the bad guys evil? Misguided? Misunderstood?* Having submitted their original pieces to the Twisted Tales competition, we were delighted to hear that all our students' stories have been selected for publication by the Young Writers Company; an organisation that aims to encourage young people to engage in creative writing and poetry.

While Year 7 have experienced some difficult months, navigating secondary education amid a

pandemic, Queen's Park students have demonstrated great resilience and strength taking up the challenge to refine their creative writing skills beyond the classroom while competing against other students across the UK.

Congratulations to Alvaro, Maheen, Emily, Erin, Hannah, Lotte and Evie! To celebrate their creative talents, our aspiring authors will have their work featured in an anthology due to be published by Young Writers next month.

“My superstar students have done it again! It's so exciting to see the energy and enthusiasm by which they choose to challenge themselves and seek opportunities to grow and evolve as writers. I am so proud of them and wish them every success as they diligently commit to developing and exercising their writing skills beyond the classroom.”

Mrs Ikpeh,
Teacher of English





BOOKFLIX CHALLENGE

In February, students in 7IKP completed the Bookflix challenge! Over the course of 16 weeks students immersed themselves in the reading challenge which aims to build a love for literature.

During that time, Maheen, Sophia and Lotte read over 80 books collectively!

Congratulations to all three students and especially to our overall Bookflix champion, Maheen who managed to read an incredible 40 books! Amazing!

POETRY LIVE

A unique insight into poetry anthology

To launch the new half term, the English department were excited to take 60 Year 10 students to watch 'Poetry Live' at Bridgewater Hall in Manchester.

Introducing the event was Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage who is widely considered to be one of Britain's best poets. Simon read his work from the anthology and even shared some new, never-heard-before material! Next up was Carol Ann Duffy who is one of the most read, studied, and loved of today's poets. She was also an inspiring and transformational Poet Laureate from 2009 to 2019. John Agard appeared virtually to give one of his famously exciting performances in contemporary poetry. He also shared his views on historical awareness and his unique cultural insight showing extraordinary humour. Imtiaz Dharker also shared her work and Daljit Nagra stole the show, inspiring the whole theatre to recite some spoken word poetry themselves.

All the poets responded to student questions and discussed how poems connect to and influence other poems. As an added bonus there were two examiner sessions where students heard from highly experienced Chief Examiners who shared the skills which are vital for success in the GCSE English Literature examinations.

The trip proved invaluable, giving a unique insight into the poems and the poets. Students returned to school with a new vigour for studying the GCSE poetry anthology.

“ I'm so incredibly proud of them for challenging themselves in this way. Their excitement, enthusiasm and reading ethic is commendable. ”

Mrs Ikpeh, Teacher of English



“ The last time I visited Poetry Live was in 2018 and it was just as brilliant as I remembered. There's nothing like hearing poetry spoken out loud to bring the themes, ideas and messages to life for our students. ”

Mrs Phillips, Associate Assistant Headteacher & Curriculum Leader of Communications



STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD

Learn a modern foreign language

On Thursday 17th February, the MFL department welcomed guest speaker, David Binns, into Queen's Park High School to deliver a presentation discussing the role of MFL in the workplace to all Year 9 students. David is the owner of the UK branch of Sanako Connect, a global technology company.

David shared his own educational journey and career path to success with students, stressing the importance of modern languages from an employer's perspective. He highlighted a plethora of celebrities as examples of successful individuals all of whom could speak more than one language.

This included football pundit and broadcaster, Gary Lineker who now presents Spanish football for La Liga TV.

David also talked through recruitment processes and what can make a CV really stand out from the crowd. He stressed that skill in a language need not be fluent, and that a GCSE or A Level qualification could make an employer sit up and take notice.

The MFL department

are now looking forward to teaching as many students as possible next year for their GCSEs.

David was so impressed with our school and students that he has offered us a year's worth of free language software!

Fantastic!

“ Year 9 left the talk with a real sense of how languages could help them in their next steps and was perfectly timed with their Options Evening event the following week. ”

Mrs Whitehead,
Teacher of Spanish





MATHS MASTERCLASS

PGCE maths students lead the way

Earlier this term, we were delighted to once again welcome the maths PGCE students and lecturers from the University of Chester into Queen's Park High School's maths department to spend a full day leading workshops for our Year 7 and Year 8 students. Our strong relationship with the University continues to flourish and is having a positive impact on our students.

During this enrichment day, the PGCE team took small groups from each year group and worked with them on different tasks.

Year 8 explored interesting ways to look at properties of shapes while Year 7 looked at number theories primes, factors and multiples using fun maths activities to really test the brain.

Both groups interacted well with the student teachers and were actively engaged throughout the sessions.

The purpose of maths enrichment is to look at ways to delve deep into a particular maths topic and start to discover ways to solve problems. The students can then use this

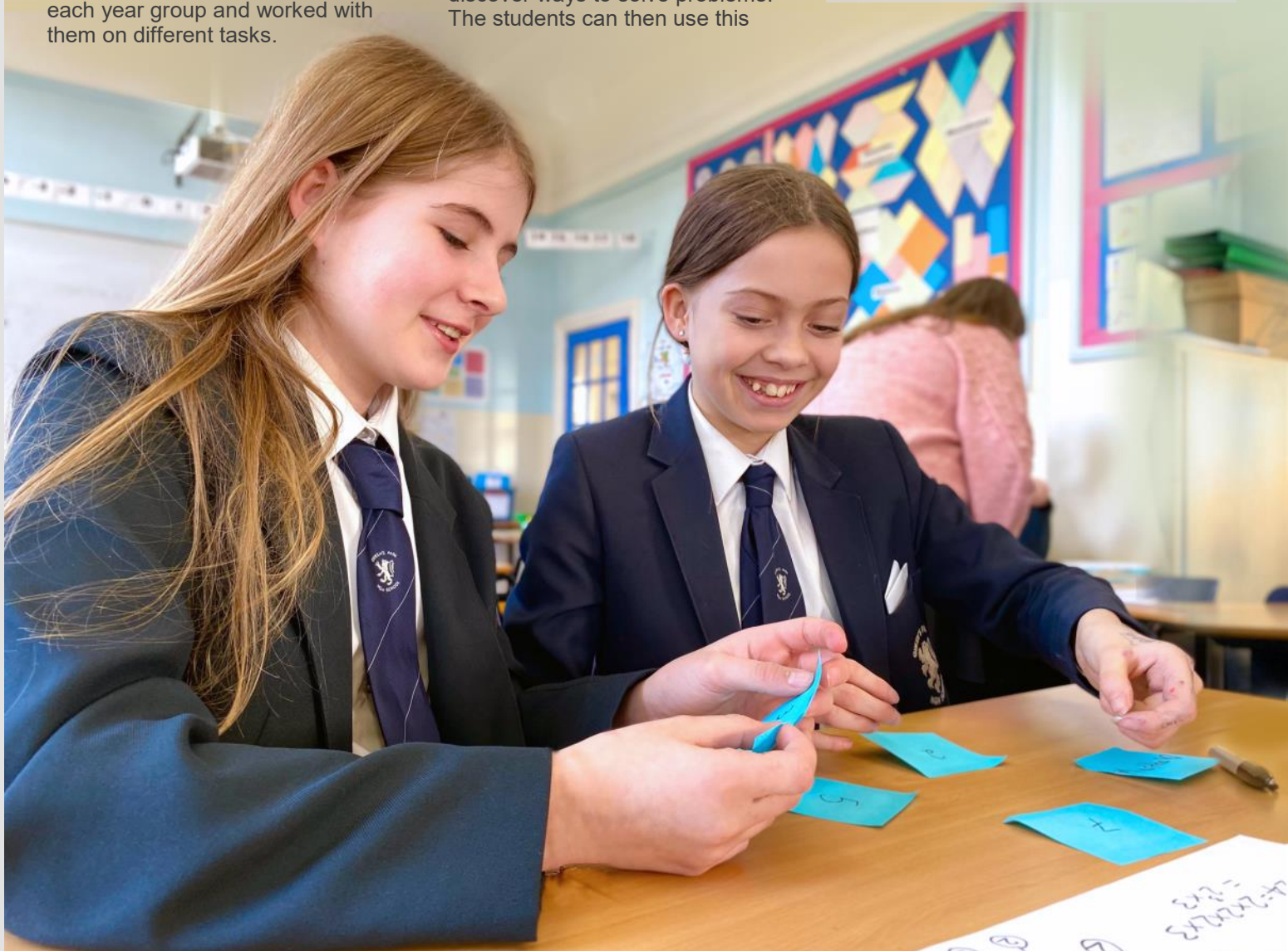


University of
Chester

deeper understanding to help them in their normal maths classes.

“ Walking round the students' groups it was amazing to see them getting stuck into the tasks set and you could feel their brains working and discovering. ”

PGCE maths student



The maths PGCE team were really impressed with the engagement and respect the students displayed throughout the whole day and said they were a delight to teach.

The student teachers are currently studying their maths PGCE course and look to become full time teachers next term. This experience has really helped them to understand different methods of teaching.

We would like to thank the University of Chester PGCE students and especially Dr Sally Bamber for giving up their time to work with our students.



“ Just fantastic, well-mannered students who were more than up for taking part in the sessions. Well done to all those students who took part! ”

PGCE maths student

“ All the students that I engaged with were really keen to learn and helped each other in the tasks we did with them. ”

PGCE maths student



DRAMA



Holocaust Memorial Day

To commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day in January, through abstract drama and sensitive discussion, students explored what it is to be treated differently because of who you are.

Linking into both the history and PSHCE curricula, the topic helped students understand the importance of celebrating diversity and helping to shape a future in which everyone can live together harmoniously.

Migration Workshop

On Thursday 24th March, Associate Drama Teacher Miss Ramsey, delivered a two-hour workshop for Miss Johnson's Year 7 tutor group. The session focused on migration and the reasons why people move from one country to another.

Through the use of 'mantle of the expert' students were able to adopt the roles of reporters and country leaders to unpick why people move and what sort of impact this has on families.

Students created really powerful pieces of work in the form of news reports which were performed at the end of the day.

GCSE and A Level Practical Examinations

On Tuesday 15th and Monday 28th March our Year 11 and 13 GCSE and A Level students performed a series of monologues for our two visiting examiners.

This was the first time in three years that students had the opportunity to be assessed in a live performance and their efforts were all outstanding. Every student who performed showed real talent in terms of performing and in truly understanding the complexities of portraying a character.

In addition to this, we were very proud to support Harry in Year 13, with his lighting design as a result of a £1500 investment in new equipment for the department. This grant will enable future drama students to use lighting design as their assessment for the practical aspects of the examination courses.



PHILOSOPHY CONFERENCE

**PHILOSOPHY
NINJA**

Mastering the complexities
of religious language

On Saturday 5th March, Queen's Park High School Social Studies department were delighted to host the Sixth Form Philosophy Conference. The event was delivered by the brilliant Clare Lloyd, author of our revision guides, creator of 'Philosophy Ninja' website and former senior examiner for Eduqas A Level Philosophy and Ethics.

During her presentation, Clare covered the very challenging Philosophy Theme 4 'Religious Language' topic. In the afternoon she worked with students on essay writing techniques for A02 evaluative style writing. Our Year 12 and 13 students and our guests from Christleton High School experienced a high quality learning experience.

“ The talk was very informative and engaging. Clare Lloyd's approach to understanding religious language made it easily digestible for such a complex topic. ”

Gracie, Year 13 student

Mrs Merryweather, Curriculum Leader for Social Studies said,

“It was great to collaborate with Christleton, our partner school in the Trust and to have Clare's expertise shared with all students in such a personalised way. Our students were a credit to the school, engaging in every task with enthusiasm and giving up their Saturday to deepen their philosophical knowledge. Well done to all involved!”

“ It was very helpful to have such a comprehensive look into the subject. ”

Adam, Year 13 student

“ The students' empathy with the subject was absolute and as a result, they were able to sensitively put themselves in a completely different context and understand others' perspectives. ”

Mr Yeoman
Assistant Headteacher & Teacher of Drama



Sophia



Artist of the Month

Congratulations to both Taylor (Year 13) and Sophia (Year 7) who have both been selected for the 'Artist of the Month' award this term.

Taylor has demonstrated excellent progress in her personal investigation unit. Her work, comprising of mixed media drawings and face casts are inspired by SFX artists within the film industry.

Sophia has demonstrated excellent progress in her colour project. Her skill in colour mixing, evidenced in a successful ALA and final painting based on Howard Hodgkin's frame paintings, show great control and use of vivid colour.

Keep up the amazing work girls - well done!



Taylor



PHOTOGRAPHY

The Urban Environment

Year 11 photography students have been busy preparing ideas for their mock exam response to the urban environment. For inspiration they have been studying the work of Isidro Blasco, an artist who combines architecture, photography and installation to explore physical and psychological terrains.

During their photography lessons students have been out and about in Chester taking a series of 20 photographs of the Abode hotel from different viewpoints ready to reconstruct into photographic 3-dimensional assemblages or photo-sculptures!

Students have been experimenting with construction techniques using photoshop, then with their digital images and building materials they have pieced together various arrangements for their final composition!



CELEBRATING Creativity



CHESTER DUCK RACE

Students design for sustainability

We were thrilled to hear that the Countess of Chester was bringing back the annual Chester Duck Race to the River Dee and on 9th April would be unleashing hundreds of amazingly decorated corporate ducks to race on the river.

Aaron and Partners Solicitors in Chester were one of many businesses that generously sponsored a duck in aid of the Blue Skies Balcony Appeal. The charity aims to build a balcony onto the ICU at the hospital so patients have access to an outdoor space in a safe and infection control supported environment. Aaron and Partners decided to team up with Queen's Park High School and invited art and design students to decorate their duck based on the theme of sustainability.

Year 12 students, Eve and Amelia were delighted to take up the creative challenge and ingeniously named the duck EcoTopia before embarking on its transformation.

“ We were pleased to accept the challenge of decorating EcoTopia for Aaron and Partners this year, focusing on sustainability and how we can all do our bit to support the environment. It's fantastic to be a part of the Duck Race to raise funds for the Blue Skies Appeal, and I know our Year 12 art students will be watching the race closely and cheering our duck on all the way . ”

Mrs Scanlon
Deputy Headteacher



SNEAKERS UNBOXED

Design Technology



Based on the exhibition at the Design Museum in London in 2021, students in Year 9 set to work on the 'Sneakers Unboxed' project in Design Technology.

They researched how the design of sneakers developed out of the need for athletes to have performance footwear which met their requirements in terms of wear, support and comfort. Students discovered that the success and fame of the athletes led to a market developing for fans of the sport wanting to wear the same footwear.



Students looked at Michael Jordan and his collaboration with Tinker Hatfield, chief designer for Nike. They also examined how youth culture and Grime music and fashion influenced the design and colour of sneakers. They considered how Adikoggz customises sneakers before deconstructing and reconstructing their own designs from recycled trainers.

3D design



BUG HOTELS

Sustainability Project

GCSE 3D design students have been designing and building their own bug hotels. Students were given a design brief to make an innovative and stimulating environment to attract insects. As a starting point they researched the benefits of attracting insects and wildlife using recycled materials to create an end product.

The bug hotels needed to be visually interesting and creative so students researched the work of others and developed a range of their own design ideas.

The GCSE 3D design course is designed to take students through the research, design, development and making processes. This enables students to create products for real life situations with great success!

Students are currently working hard in the workshop to construct their designs.

Keep an eye out for all the final products being displayed in different locations around the school grounds!

OLIVER!

Set & Stage Design

During their 3D Design lessons, Year 10 were introduced to the subject of set and stage design,

Students studied the work of Es Devlin, an artist and stage designer for theatre and music and examined how she creates intimate environments for the audience to experience a powerful show.

Students discovered how the use of light, film and projection might be used to create versatile sets, but also how structures could create a set that is interchangeable and affect how the audience views the scale and drama of a performance.

The drama department invited students to develop their designs as ideas for next year's school show, Oliver! Students researched the script and discussed how to portray this.

Year 10 learned how to begin by model making - using card and images, different types of paper and surface to create their sets for both a contemporary and a more traditional storytelling of Oliver.





WHAT'S COOKING?

KS3 Healthy Eating

As a new member of staff Mrs Adamson has been impressed by the enthusiasm and interest in food technology and some of the amazing dishes students have produced both in school and at home.

Year 7 students have been learning how to cook safely and developing skills to make healthy meals. They are gaining their own independence, knowledge of nutrition and how to evaluate their own work.

Year 8 students have been building their cooking skills looking at world foods and have cooked some delicious, healthy meals from both British and world cuisine.

Year 9 students have focused on food science and how ingredients react together. They've created a range of dishes such as quiche, flapjacks and stir-fry.

The aim of food technology is to promote healthy eating and develop skills to prepare students for independent living.

KS4 Italian Cuisine

This year the GCSE food and nutrition focus has been on Italian cuisine.

Year 11 students have planned, prepared and cooked a two course Italian meal.

As a starting point they researched different Italian dishes and cooking techniques. Students mastered complex skills such as making fresh pasta and flavour infused sauces to complete final dishes of lasagne and carbonara. This was followed by tempting and mouth-watering desserts which included tiramisu and cannelloni!





Risking It All

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

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

Working in association with Cheshire West and Cheshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, Year 9 students took part in a performance and discussion entitled, 'Risking it all'.

This interactive workshop led by 2Engage, aims to support the welfare of young

people across the region whilst highlighting key issues around safeguarding risk-taking behaviour in adolescence. 2Engage are a not for profit organisation who facilitate and deliver theatre-based projects in educational and community settings.

The stories presented by the actors explored the impact these issues have on young people's mental and physical health, their education and their relationships with family and peers.

The powerful performance highlighted: social network and substance misuse, inappropriate relationships, risk-taking behaviour, peer pressure and the sometimes unseen process of grooming.





Road safety awareness

This term, Year 8, 9 and 13 students have taken part in road safety workshops.

The aim of the workshops are to raise students' awareness of the dangers they face on the roads and how to look after themselves by giving them a better understanding of the risks they encounter and how to minimize them.

The Year 9 session delivered by Road Safety Officer Gill Shaw, focussed on increasing students understanding of how vulnerable the human body is when it is subjected to a vehicle collision including:

- To recognise how common injuries occur
- How safety equipment including clothing, helmets and seatbelts can help to reduce these injuries
- How these injuries could impact on their life goals
- To form an intention to minimise their risks.

In support of Cheshire Police's Fatal 5 Campaign, the Year 13 session was a hard hitting and emotive presentation about the reasons why people continue to be killed and seriously injured on the roads of Cheshire. Delivered by a police officer this presentation covered:

- Common causes of a collision
- The injuries that can occur in collisions
- Those who must deal with such incidents
- Supporting young drivers to be safer on the road
- Safer driving schemes



PREVENTION IN SCHOOLS

No-one should stand by

The Year 13 Student Leadership Team took part in the Prevention in Schools project led by Chester Sexual Abuse Support Service (CSASS) and hosted by Storyhouse Theatre.

The aim of the project was to discuss 'What is public sexual harassment?' with the objective of starting the conversation about young people's experiences and enabling them to recognise and prevent 'rape culture'.

The discussion focused on what healthy, positive relationships should be, and feel like in their community.

Future work will involve designing a whole school approach to tackling the issues with discussion, interactive and practical workshops to be embedded within PSHCE lessons.

We look forward to working alongside CSASS and Clarity One UK on more projects linked to the theme of 'Keeping Everyone Safe' as part of our whole school PSHCE programme.





National Careers Week

NCW



CAREER TALKS

Driving aspirations and ambitions

As part of our ongoing commitment to provide outstanding Careers Education Information and Guidance (CEIAG), students celebrated National Apprenticeship Week in February and National Careers Week in March by engaging in tutor time activities and talks from guest speakers.

During National Careers Week, Miss Whitford-Stark invited her very good friend from secondary school, Daniel Tyler into Queen's Park to talk about his experiences in successfully applying to Cambridge university and subsequent career journey as an accomplished solicitor.

Dan gave first hand expert advice to those students interested in applying

to 'Oxbridge' - either Cambridge or Oxford, and started by recommending a Sutton Trust summer school placement. This allows students in Year 12 to attend a top university and network with other students, while engaging in academic study. It's a real 'taster' of what is to come.

Students also gained an insight into university interviews. Dan wanted students to recognise that nobody is the 'finished product', and that developing your ideas and wider reading is crucial.

Dan also expressed the importance of something he potentially missed out on as a student - that history is all around us and that although

reading is fundamental, there are more ways to experience history. He avidly encouraged students to visit museums, art galleries, listen to podcasts and radio interviews... the list is endless!

Dan's advice for those interested in careers in law was to gain experience and ask the experts. He explained that you don't necessarily need to apply for a 'Law degree', but that there are recognised qualifications that can convert your degree to law: the PGDL (Postgraduate Diploma in Law).

Many thanks to Dan for giving up his time and sharing his invaluable knowledge and experiences with our students.

National Careers Week

NCW

“

Dan was an excellent speaker. His experience at university and his career path was hugely inspiring. It was an extremely engaging and informative talk.

”

Anna K, Year 12 student



Apprenticeships

National Apprenticeship Week



Bank of America opportunities

During National Apprenticeship Week in February, Sixth Form students developed their understanding of the banking sector whilst engaging in a virtual workshop led by Jill König from the Bank of America.

During the interactive session, Jill spoke about the importance of personal branding, how to write a CV, how to gain an apprenticeship and the technology based apprenticeship opportunities available for students to apply for at the Bank of America.



SPEAKERS
for schools

Engineering Discovery Workshop

During Career's Week, Year 12 physics students participated in an Engineering Discovery Workshop hosted by Speakers for Schools.

This workshop involved several representatives from leading international engineering consultants, Colas and Waterman sharing their first-hand experience working in the civil engineering sector. They provided an insight into the various pathways that lead to an engineering career, as well as the myriad of roles and opportunities available.

Our students were particularly impressed by the ability to learn and develop new skills in the workplace to allow employees to transition to vastly different roles over time.



Careers Leadership

Congratulations to Mrs Watts who has completed her Careers Leadership qualification with the University of Derby.

Mrs Watts strategically leads Careers Education Information and Guidance across Queen's Park High School working alongside Mr Knight, an Independent Careers Advisor.

If you would like to find out more about our CEIAG programme, please visit the Careers & Guidance section on our school website: www.qphs.co.uk

Now on Twitter!



Please follow [@QPHSCareers](https://twitter.com/QPHSCareers) for the latest information, advice and guidance for students and parents linked to careers.



CAREERS IN MULTIMEDIA

Is your office a circus?

Continuing with our guest speakers for Careers Week, Year 10 were lucky enough to hear from CEO and founder of Angel Solutions, Andy Kent. Andy told our students all about Angel solutions: the company who design technology for education, and how their office is a circus - not in a bad way... it is literally decorated and fully kitted out like a circus!

As a creative media company owner, Andy was able to give incredible careers advice to our students. This advice was targeted at students wanting a career in multimedia or creative arts sectors, but his words of wisdom certainly helped all students.

Andy discussed creating an eye-catching CV and showed some fantastic examples from colleagues he now works with, whose applications stood out from the many. One tip he gave was to do your research for the company. He recommended that if you are applying for a creative media job, make your CV eye-catching and move away from the black and white rigid structure. He gave an example of someone who submitted a circus-themed CV and explained how it stood out from the many standard applications the company received; this person ended up being hired!

Students found Andy's talk extremely engaging and enlightening. At the end, he invited questions and our Year 10 students were eager to get some advice on their work experience. Andy acknowledged the difficulties now that many companies are working from home, but reassured our students that they should find something they are passionate about and keep trying.



'FLYING HIGH' OVER THE NORTHWEST

Janstan spreads his wings and takes flight (with his group tutor)!

Jantsandorj in Year 11 is reaching for skies as he strives towards his pilot license.

Twice a month, he heads to Mersey Flight in Broughton Aviation Park where he has a 15 minute on-the-ground lesson before he takes flight. Flying initially towards Beeston he then spreads his wings over the whole of the North West.

Janstan is hopeful that this amazing experience will open up a whole host of potential careers such as the RAF, commercial flying or even aviation engineering.

On Saturday 5th March, Janstan invited his maths teacher and Year 11 tutor, Mr Johnson to take to the skies and accompany him in a 4-seater Piper Cherokee plane that he would be flying!

“

I knew that Jantsan had been learning to fly for a few years and I was thrilled when his dad suggested that he could take me for a flight.

We met at the Aviation Park in Broughton, next to the Chocks Away café. Lucas was the instructor who was Jantsan's co-pilot for the day and I sat in the back. Jantsan taxied the plane to the runway and Lucas lifted us off.

I was slightly nervous, but more than that, I was very excited. The day was calm, and visibility was amazing.

We flew up the Dee Estuary with Lucas pointing out Snowdonia, the Lake District, the Isle of Man and even Manchester in the far-off distance. Jantsan guided us round the tip of the Wirral and I spotted Hilbre Island below us. We crossed the Mersey and circled around Liverpool; it was fabulous!

It seemed like we were not that high (1800 feet Jantsan tells me) and we could clearly see the Radio City Tower, the Liver Building, the Albert Dock and both Anfield and Goodison Park. Jantsan flew us back to Chester over the Wirral and Lucas landed us safely.

In 25 years of teaching, this was the first time I had been flown by one of my students. Jantsan did a super job and I can't wait to hear about how his flying progresses. ”

Mr Johnson, Achievement Lead of Maths



“

Despite the challenges of learning so much theory alongside my school work, flying is a wonderful experience and I am very grateful to my parents for giving me this amazing opportunity. ”

Janstan, Year 11 student & pilot



A TASTE FOR MEDICINE

Pursuing a career in the healthcare sector

Working in partnership with Medical Mavericks, The Cheshire & Warrington Growth Hub and representatives from the NHS, Key Stage 3 and 4 students who expressed an interest in pursuing careers in the health care sector were given the opportunity to find out more about the wide range of career options and pathways open to them.

The first interactive workshop enabled students to work alongside medical professionals and use medical equipment. Students enjoyed learning about how to take basic medical observations: blood pressure, oxygen stats and pulse rate. They also learnt how to take respiratory tests, how to use an otoscope ear camera, use an ultra sound machine, practise key hole surgery, record and print an ECG and examine surgical tools!



“ The workshops were really fun, I am aspiring to be a midwife and know exactly what grades I need to achieve my goal. ”
Year 8 student





The second interactive workshop led by Fiona Exley, Health & Social Care Catalyst, from Cheshire & Warrington Growth Hub enabled students to learn about the wide range of roles within the healthcare sector including:

- Healthcare science
- Nursing, midwifery
- Medicine
- Allied Health professions
- Ambulance service
- Management and administration
- Health informatics
- Dentistry



“ I couldn't believe how many different career options there are in the healthcare sector. It was interesting to find out about Local Labour Market Information and the fact there will be so many job opportunities in this sector in the future. ”

Year 9 student

“ I had a brilliant morning and learned a lot. I definitely want to be a surgeon and enjoyed practising keyhole surgery. ”

Year 10 student





PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Achieving academic & personal goals

It's been all systems go for the Protective Services Academy (PSA) at Queen's Park High School this term.

Launched in 2017, PSA has been working intensively with the school and its Sixth Form students since September 2021.

Specialising in helping 16-19 year olds achieve academic and personal goals, the PSA course provides students with all the necessary skills they need to pursue a career in a number of the protective services.

Whether interested in pursuing a life in the Armed Forces, front line Blue Light Emergency Services, Prison Services or even Border and Security Agencies, after completing this course recruits will achieve a nationally recognised BTEC qualification to gain employment or to progress on to further studies at university.

The course covers both theory and practical work, with a focus on developing knowledge, leadership and teamworking skills, self motivation, physical and mental toughness. Here are some of the highlights PSA students have experienced so far this term; it's no wonder this course is so popular!



Open Evening

At their recent Open Evening at Queen's Park High School on 24th March, the team were delighted to share PSA's work and the opportunities available to students interested in a career in the protective services.

Whether keen to join the Armed Forces (Navy, Royal Marines or Army) or Fire Brigade, Police or Ambulance Service, students and their parents/carers came along to find out more about the course and also enjoyed a complementary slice of pizza too!

Students wishing to further their studies at university also heard how enrolling in the PSA course, provides the equivalent of three A Levels, which can be counted as UCAS points for further education.

Fire & Rescue trip

Unit 7 of the course involves planning for emergency incidents, so the team organised a visit to Manchester Airport Fire & Rescue Service.

This was a fantastic day of learning outside the classroom, providing students with the opportunity to experience one of the UK's busiest airports and witness first-hand what goes into tackling an aircraft fire or emergency.

A brilliant, simulated demonstration from the fire crews at Manchester Airport was followed by practical exercises and training. It was a truly engaging, motivating and exciting day for all.

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

A number of PSA students have been busy undertaking their DofE Gold Award.

Tackling Moel Famau, the highest hill in the Clwydian Range and the highest point of the county of Flintshire in Wales, the team conquered everything from map reading to cooking in the great outdoors.

A huge highlight was meeting The Duke and Duchess of Wessex who were keen to hear all about the group's adventures on the hill.



Watersports

The course activities are as much practical, as they are theory.

For their Unit 10: Skills for outdoor activities, PSA students recently took to the water at the Albert Dock at Liverpool Watersports Centre to learn paddle boarding and kayaking skills and the principles of water safety.

Earlier in the term students also got the opportunity to test their agility and practise their mountain climbing skills at The Boardroom Climbing centre in Deeside.

Physical Fitness

Being in peak physical condition is important for any role in the uniformed protective services, so PSA students are constantly testing their stamina and fitness working hard at the gym and getting introduced to home workouts. The more fitness tricks in the toolbox, the better!

For more information on PSA, please visit: www.psaeducation.co.uk

“ The PSA course has been a great decision for our son. Sam and the PSA team were helpful and supportive during the application process following his GCSE results, offering advice and reassurance.

Since starting the course our son has settled in well to the new routine at school which is largely due to Sam and the instructors. Our son is enjoying the topics covered and we as a family highly recommend this course commitment. ”

Parent of current PSA student

NETBALL TOURNAMENTS

Year 7 & 8 compete in Chester & District competition

Since the beginning of this academic year and the start of a new season of netball and football, the PE department have seen record numbers of students attending netball practice in afterschool clubs. Every Monday the sports hall is filled with a sea of coloured bibs as Year 7 & 8 students are eager to play and develop their netball skills. Similar commitment has also been demonstrated on a Wednesday lunchtime for indoor football.

In the last newsletter Mrs Cutler, Teacher of Girls PE spoke of the successes of our netball teams in the Small Schools' League and our Year 7 team remaining undefeated.

With the Chester and District tournaments scheduled for this term, the girls needed to focus on their performance and be ready to perform against other schools in

the district, who have the advantage of greater numbers from which to choose their teams.

First up, were our Year 8 team who performed well and finished a respectable 7th out of 11 teams. This tournament is always more of a challenge, especially when competing alongside girls who have recently been selected to play for Manchester Thunder and county teams!

Year 7 were up next, and due to their great commitment to training it meant Mrs Cutler was able to take an A and a B team to the tournaments.

With the quality of netball in the district constantly improving and an increasing number of players now playing at club level, this tournament was set to be a tough competition.

Both teams played amazingly well with the A team finishing 5th; the best performance from a Queen's Park High School netball team in a long time!

The B team also put up a great fight. They found themselves in a close league for the group stages: winning one, drawing two and losing one. Ultimately, they played Bishops Bluecoat to take 7th place behind extremely strong competition.

In the Summer Term the PE department look forward to success on the rounders pitch and athletics track and hope our students keep up the good work and their commitment to extra-curricular practices!

“ I am extremely proud of all the players for their commitment to training, their drive to improve and their conduct in matches against other schools. ”

Mrs Cutler, KS4 Lead and Teacher of PE





Year 7 Netball Teams



Year 8 Netball Team



GIRLS FOOTBALL

U14 team reach Cheshire finals

Our girls football teams have also had success this year, which has been reported in previous editions of the newsletter.

Following their win at the Chester and District (7 aside) tournament at Chester Catholic High School last term, the U14 team, now Chester and District champions were set to take on their next challenge. At the end of March, the team travelled to Moss Farm with Mrs Cutler to represent the Chester Schools Partnership in the Cheshire Finals.

The girls represented the area well, playing some great football. Unfortunately, luck was not on their side and despite only losing one game, they did not qualify for the semi-finals.

However, their efforts were rewarded at the end of the tournament when they were presented with the 'Spirit of the Games' trophy. An award presented by the referees and tournament organisers to the team who display the best attitude and fair play throughout each match.

Well done girls!



Year 9 Girls Football Team

SHOOTING HOOPS

Chester & District Basketball Competition



Year 7 Team

Following their recent basketball scheme of work, Year 7 students tested their skills at the Chester and District Basketball Tournament. The students had recently been practising the skills of dribbling, passing, lay-ups and set shots as part of their basketball lessons. Proudly wearing our school kit sponsored by HL financial, they put their ability to the test against four other local schools.

In the first fixture, they faced a strong team from Chester Catholic High School. Luckily, Tom was on hand to secure the draw with a last-minute three pointer to save the game! The team grew in confidence as they entered their second fixture against Blacon High.

Archie and Matt helped our team to keeping the ball moving with their quick passing. This created space on the court, allowing Louie and his silky dribbling skills to go to work securing a win. The boys took this confidence into their final two games against Bishop Bluecoat and The Kings School. The Queen's Park team successfully secured joint runners up in the tournament. This will give them confidence as they enter into the Year 8 basketball league next year.

Great work boys!

Sixth Form slam dunk performance



Sixth Form Team

In February, Queen's Park High School hosted a three team, round robin basketball tournament against Chester Catholic High and Upton-by-Chester High School.

A strong sixth form team consisting of Dag, Jakub, Louis Simon, Richard, Jonny and Dan comfortably defeated both schools to win the overall competition in style.

Game 1 of the tournament saw the Queen's Park team win emphatically 20-10 against Chester Catholic High with Jakub scoring an incredible 10 of the 20 points!

Game 2 of the tournament resulted in a convincing 19-6 win for Upton against Catholic High thus making Game 3 a deciding match!

A close encounter followed and thanks to every member of our team scoring at least 2 points, Queen's Park came home with a 17-14 victory! Well-done boys, what a fantastic achievement!



Festival of Football

Year 8 students represented Queen's Park in the 'Festival of Football'. The team competed against Blacon High, Bishop Heber and The Kings School in a series of closely fought games.

Aryan put on a fantastic goalkeeping display, proving the importance of good reactions when saving shots. Jack led our back line, organising our defensive shape and making vital defensive tackles. Meanwhile, Evan dazzled our opponents' defensive lines, scoring some impressive goals and finishing the tournament as our top scorer. Well done to all the team!

STUDENT MENTOR

Leads Coxing Masterclass

Coxing is something which is often sidelined for being a less-engaging role within the rowing crew, a perception, which to this day, continues to run both inside and outside the rowing community. This coxing workshop was led by Tyler G, Year 13 student and chief coxswain of Queen's Park High School Rowing Club for our Year 9 rowers to help tackle this stigma, as well as equip them with sufficient knowledge to cox safely.

The session covered:

- What a coxswain does
- What verbal commands a coxswain makes
- How to identify different types of boats
- The advantages and disadvantages of sternloader and bowloader boats
- How to command a crew both off and on the water
- Fundamental steering techniques for safe navigation
- The teamworking and communication skills associated with coxing

All students enjoyed the session and took away something new about the art of coxing.

Victory at Futsal Tournament

In February, Year 9 competed in their first futsal tournament at AbbeyGate College against Bishop Heber, Blacon High and the home team Abbeygate.

Futsal is indoor 5 aside football that originated in South America. The basic difference is that the ball is smaller and heavier and the game is faster so it relies on players' speed and skill.

The boys showed great teamwork and confidence, winning all their matches and were declared the overall winners of the competition.

Congratulations to the team and a special shout out to top scorers, Rod and Curt.



“ By making the session as fun and interactive as possible, I could really convey the fact that coxing is so much more than just sitting statically and steering the boat – it is in fact one of the most crucial components of a successful crew.

It was very fulfilling to see how eager everyone was to learn about coxing and I greatly look forward to seeing these newly-learnt skills being applied out on the water. ”

Tyler G, Chief Coxswain & Sixth Form student



ROWING CLUB NEWS



BRITISH ROWING AWARDS

Coach honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award

A massive congratulations to Andy Turner on winning British Rowing's Lifetime Achievement Award. A coach who has impacted so many athletes over so many years!

We are delighted for volunteer and coach, Andy Turner from Queen's Park High School Rowing Club as he was named one of the exceptional winners at the British Rowing Awards 2021. The national winners were announced in a live webcast on 20th January, hosted by British Rowing Chair, Mark Davies who was joined by a number of volunteers from around the rowing community to present the awards. The event also included special guest appearances from double Olympic Champion, Helen Glover and two-time former World Champion, Mat Tarrant.

Andy was shortlisted for this prestigious national award having been announced one of the regional winners from the North West for his incredible dedication to the sport.

The Lifetime Achievement Award has had an illustrious list of winners over the years and this year is no

exception. The award recognises a lifetime of achievement and dedication to the sport of rowing.

Read on to find out how Andy has made a huge impact on his club, region and the wider community...

Andy is in his 50th year of coaching rowing. He has been with Queen's Park High for nearly 10 years after retiring from King's School, Canterbury Rowing Club following a 20 year plus career. He only came for a couple of seasons and ended up staying for much longer.

His rowing life started when he was in the RAF and he later joined Grosvenor Rowing Club where he was made a life member a few years ago.

Back in the 1980s he was head coach at Queen's Park High and a regional coach for the North West and for the GB Rowing Team. He has coached many athletes to a national standard and has been involved with the national team where he has many fond memories and regularly tells stories of travelling for days towing a trailer to foreign places abroad.

“ Andy's dedication to the sport and his charges is exemplary; it's always about them and what they can realistically achieve. He is well known to all the clubs on the River Dee and he has impacted the lives of so many in such a positive way.

Well done Andy and thank you . ”

Clare Briegal
North West Rowing Regional Chair

“

At Queen's Park High School, Andy is technical coach and rotates through all the squads looking at technical aspects of the rowing stroke alongside the club's newer coaches. He coaches five days of the week and doesn't think twice about travelling to an event to support his athletes.

Andy is so passionate about the sport. He is happy to share his knowledge with the athletes and coaches; from how to repair a boat, down to how to hold a blade. Apparently, his secret passion is teaching a quadruple scull of rowers!

He is constantly looking at and thinking of ways to make a boat go faster. Overall, he has probably developed thousands of kids through rowing over the years, with many still in contact with him today.

As this is his 50th year of coaching rowing, it is a perfect time to recognise and celebrate his incredible commitment and success.

”

Richard Cox,
Chair and head coach at QPHSRC



Since Andy was awarded this exceptional honour by British Rowing, he has also recently been nominated for the Chester Standard Community Heroes Award, which is sponsored by the University of Chester.

We are delighted to announce that Andy's achievements have once again been recognised and he has been named winner of their Lifetime Achievement Award.

Huge congratulations to Andy on receiving both these fantastic awards, an honour which is truly well-deserved for a man who has devoted much of his life to the sport, enabling others to enjoy and fulfil their ambitions on and off the water.

“

To complete that length of time is a credit to the athletes that I have taught, many of whom I am still in touch with. It's a big team effort from everyone at QPHS Rowing Club and also all the other clubs that I coached at. What makes it so enjoyable is the kids and seeing how they progress..

”

Andy Turner





TRAFFORD HEAD

Year 8 rowers make their debut

“ It was fab to see our younger crews experiencing a competition first-hand and learning from our older rowers. ”

Tyler G, Chief Coxswain

Trafford Head was a great opportunity for our younger rowers (Years 8 and 9) to row either the 1000m or 3200m race on a canal.

Our Year 8 rowers made their debut here at this competition, rowing in the J13 quads and doubles category. Throughout the year they have made excellent progress training on our home river and were finally ready to kick off the year with their first competition.

We had a total of three J13 coxed quads and one J13 double racing, who all performed really well and put the months of training to good use. It was also fantastic to see their co-operation and teamworking skills when off the water, whether it be rigging the boats or tying boats to the trailer.

Our Year 9 rowers were well represented, entering two J14 coxed quads and four J14 doubles. The 'brisk boys' J14 coxed quad raced superbly in the J15 category (due to lack of opposition) and tackled the longer 3.2k course head-on. The 'swift sisters' also performed well, with Florence and Alice annihilating the competition in their double to get the win.

Lastly two of our senior students James (rowing for Warrington RC) and Tyler (Year 13) took to the water in singles. James placed strongly in his category and laid down an impressive time. Tyler finished off his rowing with a solid race – opening up a decent gap to the opposition and giving it a final send.

Meanwhile the seniors were training hard back at base for the upcoming time trials in Northwich for the Inter-Regional Championships.

Ultimately, it was a great start to the competitions of 2022, and we are very much looking forward to the next event.

Written by Tyler G, Chief Coxswain



NORTH OF ENGLAND HEAD



Chester's River Dee plays host to rowing event

Considered the last head race for crews to prepare for the Head of the River Regatta on The Thames, our own River Dee plays host to this annual event.

The return of this event on the 20th March brought sunshine and a fabulous day out to support our senior rowers as they rowed the 5km from Eccleston to Chester.

The event only allows larger boats of either 4 or 8 rowers and this was an opportunity for our crews to try out new configurations and beat their previous times on the course.

Four crews took to the water to represent QPHS Rowing Club:

- Year 10 girls beat their previous time by over 2 minutes, narrowly taking 2nd place. (Lucy, Lily, Maisie, Amelie with cox Leah)
- Year 11 boys came in sub 20 minutes taking 2nd place. (Callum, Nathan, Fin, Mate)
- Mixed quad of Year 13 and Year 11 girls beat their set time. (Kiara, Grace Nugent, Gracie, Sienna)
- Year 10 boys rowing in their eight for the first time

managed to win the race! (Keir, Finn, Fletcher, Harvey, Ned, Murphy, Dan, Matt with cox Tyler)

Not only is the event about the rowers, it was fantastic to play host and welcome other crews to our club house, as well as fundraise with our famous BBQ, soups, cakes, teas and coffees to raise much needed funds for the club.

Thank you to everyone who came down and showed their support on the day.





JIRR TIME TRIALS

On 6th March 2022, QPHS Rowing Club attended the annual Junior Inter-Regional Regatta time trials held in Northwich. This is where crews are selected to represent the North West at a national event held in Nottingham in late April.

It is open to rowers aged 14-16 years.

The weather was lovely and despite the headwind on the course the sun helped to keep morale high. The race itself is a timed 1500m race on the River Weaver, involving a relatively straight but narrow section of water. We had a total of 12 crews competing here, ranging from single sculls to coxed quads.

All our crews placed strongly against the competition, achieving

impressive times and demonstrating great technique out on the water. Training consisted of attending before-school, after-school and weekend sessions to maximise time out on the water and focus on developing and refining the rowing technique. In addition to this, weekly gym sessions greatly contributed to the building of strength and endurance; whether that be circuit and weight workouts or training on the rowing machines in school.

Our three junior coaches (Year 13 students Kiara, James and Tyler) also helped run the event. James was tasked with managing the umpire parking bays, Kiara communicated race numbers to the finish umpires and Tyler helped out with marshalling in the finish launch.

It was fantastic to see all our rowers representing the club and the school on the day and a fabulous opportunity to see the talent and true determination of our crews.

Congratulations to the following QPHS rowers who have been selected to represent the North West region at the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta later this month:

- Year 9: Florence & Alice in WJ14 2x
- Year 10: Keir, Finn, Dan & Murphy in J15 4x+ with cox Tyler (Year 13)
- Year 11: Sienna & Grace N in WJ16 2-
- Year 11: James P & Tom B in J16 2x

Good luck to all our crews!



Written by Tyler G, Chief Coxswain



SCULLERY HEAD

An amazing opportunity for our rowers is to race in locations where the Olympics have been held. Dorney Lake down in London is one such place and on Wednesday 16th March, 30 QPHS rowers travelled the distance to take part at the Scullery Head in crews of 4 or 8.

Whilst the location is fantastic, the weather was horrendous, with relentless rain over the course of the day; even days later the rowers' bags and other items were still drying out!

The race is a time trial in two parts, where each boat has to race 1.8km up the course, turn, and then race back the 1.8km again. Both laps are timed, and then the total up and down the course is the final time.

All our crews finished in the top 2/3 of boats entered for each category, with many of our boats finishing in the top half and one of the J15 quads reaching the top 10! These are incredibly encouraging and positive results, as the club uses this to measure potential for the remainder of the year at other national competitions.



Spacehive PROJECT

Seeking Supporters!

Seeking supporters and donations to improve security and safety for our rowing club.



Before

Take a look at our before and after pictures of our boathouse! Our parents, rowers and the school have worked to improve the facade of the boathouse over the last 12 months.

The final stage of this improvement is to replace the fences and secure off the landing stage which is often used as a hang out promoting anti-social behaviour. We are hoping to secure funding from Cheshire West and Chester Council, however we need as many supporters as possible before they consider funding this essential project.

For further information about the project please visit the school website: <https://www.qphs.co.uk/news/?pid=162&nid=2&storyid=240> or to donate and register your support please visit: <https://www.spacehive.com/riverside-safety-security-improvement#/idea>



After

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Win a cash prize each month!

The 200 Club is a fun and easy school fundraiser run by Queen's Park High School's PTA. For an annual fee of £12 you are automatically entered into our monthly prize draw with the chance of winning a cash prize!

Congratulations to our winners this term that include, Maisie M (Year 10), Jack MJ (Year 10) and Finn H (Year 10). For more information on how to join, please visit the PTA page on our school website.



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