



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

AUTUMN TERM

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2022

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English Schools
National Cup

ROWING NEWS

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Leadership Team

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CELEBRATING CREATIVITY

in Visual Art &
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UNIVERSITY OF CHESTER

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Student's work
published

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Bronze Award
Challenge

First school in
UK to receive
**STEM Club
GOLD
AWARD**



WORLD GB SILVER MEDALIST



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WELCOME



“ A very Happy New year to everyone, I hope 2023 treats you all well.

I am sure you will feel uplifted to read about the fantastic achievements of our students in this latest issue of the school magazine. From the success of our sporting and rowing teams,

particularly James Cox who has achieved silver in the World Rowing Beach Sprint U19s, to showcasing the wonderful writing and linguistic talents of our new Year 7 students, who have settled brilliantly into life at Queen's Park.

It is our intent to enrich the curriculum by bringing it to life with practical experiences and in this edition, you will read how many of the curriculum subjects give students this experience. I must also announce the fantastic news that we are the first school in the country to be awarded the STEM Club Gold Quality Mark for our exceptional STEM provision – phenomenal!

At Queen's Park we encourage all students to be the best they can be and we strive to celebrate this. This spring sees the launch of our new rewards system in school. Students are now awarded house points for achieving in lessons for classwork and effort, as well as when they represent and participate in extra-curricular or wider school activities. Will it be Eaton, Westminster or Grosvenor house that bring home the trophy this year!

Inspiring individuals is one of our core values as a school. One of the ways we aim to achieve this is by giving students as many experiences as possible to widen their view of the world, which will hopefully inspire them to do their best. Look out for the new enrichment opportunities for this half term.

Following the success of our improved exam results, you will see our mathematics team, has been highlighted as a beacon of good practice and is now working to support other schools and the development of new maths teachers across Cheshire. What an achievement!

I hope this bumper edition, gives you a flavour of life at Queen's Park High School. I look forward to seeing you all in February at our first whole school musical since the pandemic, 'Billy Elliot'. Please join us - it is going to be outstanding! Visit our website www.qphs.co.uk to book your tickets!

Mr Kearns, HEADTEACHER



QUEEN'S PARK FIRST TO RECEIVE GOLD AWARD!

Recognising outstanding STEM provision



We are thrilled to announce that Queen's Park High School is the first high school in the country to receive the Gold STEM Club Quality Mark! This is the highest award to recognise the exceptional STEM provision on offer for students.

STEM Club features exciting activities linked to science, technology, engineering and maths. At Queen's Park STEM teachers, led by Miss Sutton, run STEM Club sessions as an extra-curricular activity. It involves fun, interactive and inquisitive sessions to allow students to explore and further question STEM subjects.



“ Queen’s Park High School is forging a path we hope many schools will follow. Schools deserve recognition for the amazing STEM Clubs they have and to showcase the positive influence they have on club members, from broadening knowledge to raising attainment to building confidence to developing skills to helping students realise their potential. And all within the context of STEM subjects. Queen’s Park deserves the Gold Award! ”

Joanne Mitchell, STEM Enrichment Co-ordinator and Careers Lead

Queen's Park High School's STEM club is built on a legacy of success, with groups of students selected to represent the North West at the National Big Bang finals after winning the regional competition.

The club is immensely popular with currently over 60 Key Stage 3 students taking part in challenging, fun and at times mind-blowing practical activities every Thursday after school.

STEM Clubs are a gateway to building enthusiasm for STEM subjects, increasing attainment and greater awareness of real-world context. The SCQM endorses the embedding of careers awareness, enhanced STEM subject learning and promotes best practice and transferable skills amongst club leaders and young people.

Schools that engage with the STEM Clubs Quality Mark, demonstrate their ability to deliver a high standard of enriching extracurricular opportunities for young people.

“ It is fantastic to see our STEM club recognised with this award and it highlights the outstanding extracurricular opportunities for our students. It is great to see that our STEM opportunities continue to develop and that more and more students are taking part in a range of activities. ”

Miss Sutton,
Curriculum Team Leader for Science





STEM CLUB

YEAR 7 Experiments & Discovery

“ I loved doing the balloon experiment where the balloon moved down the track. We had a competition to see how far it could go. I love STEM Club and I'm so glad I joined. ”
Aoife, Year 7 student

STEM Club has been so popular this year we have run additional sessions to accommodate both Year 7 and Year 8 students.

During the Autumn Term, Year 7 students have taken part in an exciting seven week programme to carry out experiments into a range of STEM subjects.

The afterschool club provides students with the opportunity to get stuck in to a range of 'hands on' activities and experiments linked to science, technology, engineering and maths.

Students have worked in teams to design, build and test a self-supporting bridge using only newspaper. They've learned about force, friction and rocket propulsion by experimenting with balloon rockets; discovered how acids and bases react whilst making bath bombs using citric acid and sodium bicarbonate.

They've also been making and learning about the properties of non-newtonian fluids or as it's more commonly known, 'slime' using cornflour and water.

To link science and technology, students learned about prosthetics and built a functioning bionic hand using only card, straws and string. During the final session of the term, students embraced the festive season and created their own snowflakes using crystallisation.

“ My favourite was the bridges because it involved structural engineering for it to be effective. ”
Alexander, Year 7 student

“ Making slime was really fun. It didn't behave like normal slime, it was hard when you touched it but when you didn't it was gooeey! ”
Lily, Year 7 student





CHESTER
ZOO

“ I really enjoyed it when we did the stop motion and also learning about the illegal wildlife trade. ”
Darwin,
Year 8 student

YEAR 8

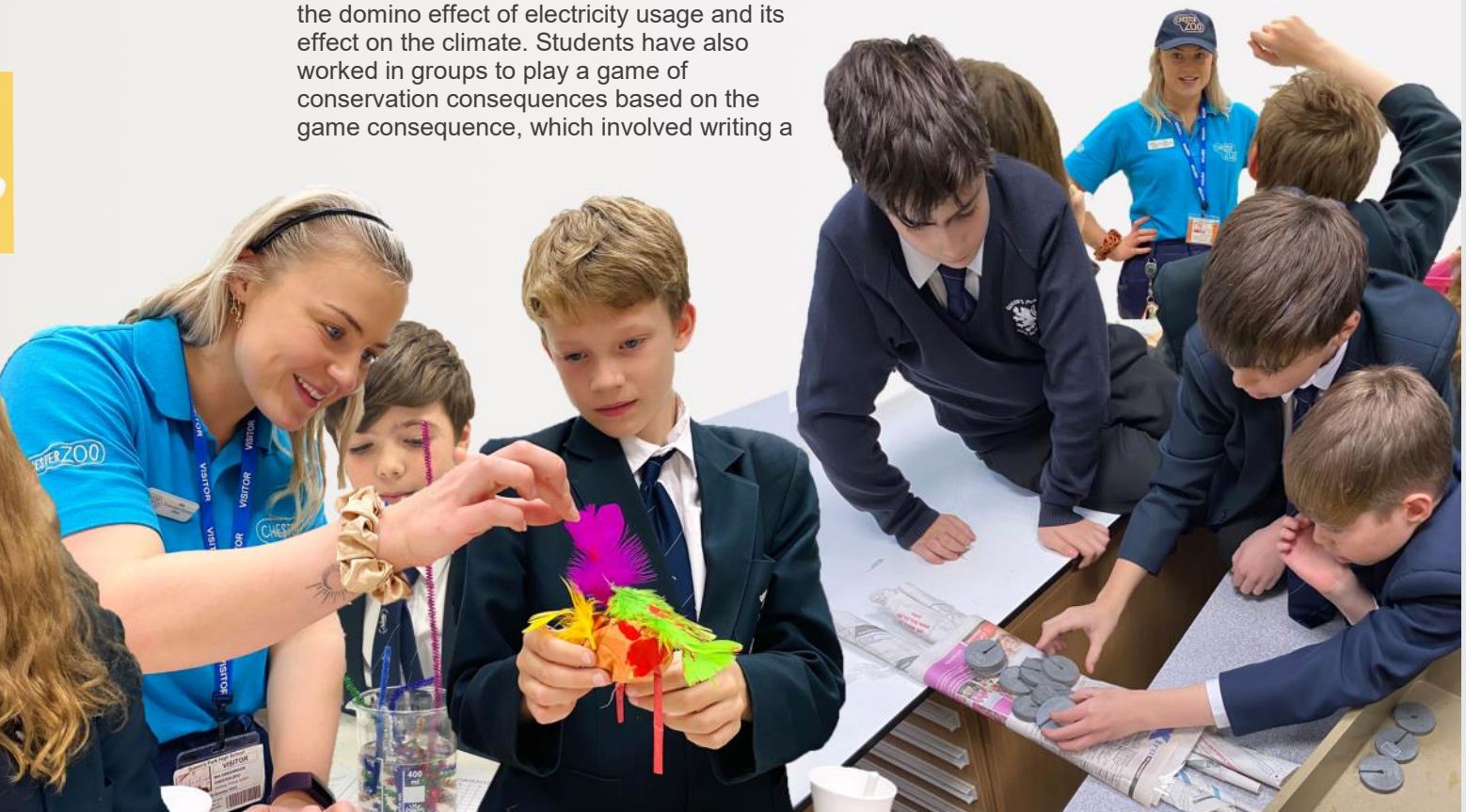
Working with Chester Zoo

For Year 8 STEM Club this year, students have taken part in an exciting 10 week programme led by Chester Zoo Conservation Team. These workshops link to the work Chester Zoo do in the UK and around the world to prevent extinction. This was also an amazing opportunity for students to speak to a local employer and find out more about careers at the zoo and the work they do.

This has included a range of hands-on activities and creative opportunities including students designing their own animal species and creating a village from Lego to understand the domino effect of electricity usage and its effect on the climate. Students have also worked in groups to play a game of conservation consequences based on the game consequence, which involved writing a

story as a group to demonstrate Chester Zoo's conservation project. Students have also produced their own stop motion films to narrate the tiger and human conflict problem in Nepal.

The programme has involved students developing their understanding of reasons for extinction, the illegal wildlife trade and deforestation. Students have also learnt how conservationists can estimate population sizes using microchips and cameras. This involved students building a mammal tunnel to detect footprints which were left on the school field – unfortunately all we caught was a slug!



“ Delighted to be back at Queen’s Park for our annual event. We are always welcomed and pleased to have such a strong positive relationship with this school which supports the next generation of teachers, ”
 Dr Sally Bamber, Senior Lecturer in maths education at Chester University



PGCE VISIT

Inspiring the next generation of teachers

In November we were pleased to welcome 24 maths and science PGCE students into Queen’s Park as part of their enrichment activities at the University of Chester. The student teachers prepared some group tasks to deliver to our students.

During their visit, the maths PGCE students observed some Year 10 maths lessons and then taught small groups of Year 7, 8 and 9 students.

Year 8 lessons focused on ratio, while Year 9 worked on probability. In Science students explored variables using shapes and pipes to investigate what effects the sound of pitches.

The lessons gave our students an opportunity to gain deeper

understanding of the concepts while working in small groups. Our students were encouraged to discuss their ideas and use manipulatives to support their learning. The teaching sessions were followed by a Question and Answer session where the PGCE students quizzed Mr Mosses and Mrs Blears-Chalmers about teaching maths and giving them an insight into life as a teacher!

Students’ feedback was positive and our visitors were very complimentary about our students’ attitude and understanding.

We look forward to more collaborative work with Dr Bamber, Mrs Packer and the PGCE students in the coming months.



University
Chester

maths MASTERY

Sharing best practice with Cheshire teachers



Over the past two years Mrs Blears-Chalmers has been training to be a Secondary Maths Mastery Specialist, and successfully gained her accreditation in the summer.

Teaching for Mastery is the underpinning principle of how maths is taught at Queen's Park High School. We teach to deepen the students' understanding of concepts using a variety of strategies and ensure students have skills that are transferable to other settings.

We are fortunate enough to work closely with the West Cheshire and Wirral Maths Hub, and welcomed 13 maths teachers who are Mastery Advocates into school for a workshop.

Our visitors observed Mrs Blears-Chalmers teaching a Year 9 class (31 students and 14 adults in one room – thanks to Miss Oliver for lending her large classroom!).

Following the observation, the advocates took part in a workshop led by Jayne Watts and Mrs Blears-

Chalmers, where they were introduced to the five big ideas of teaching for mastery and asked to identify the strategies seen in the Year 9 lesson. Advocates were then given the opportunity to plan the next steps and consider how they might use the ideas seen in their own teaching.

Following this session, Mrs Blears-Chalmers will then be visiting two of the advocate teachers to support their journey of developing teaching for mastery.

The visitors also commented on the exceptional behaviour of our students and said they were amazing ambassadors for our school.

Well done Year 9!

“ We have really enjoyed our visit to QPHS and enjoyed the interactive maths lesson we observed. All the students were engaged and showed clear understanding of the algebra concepts being delivered by Sarah.”
Jayne Watts, Assistant Hub Lead for West Cheshire and Wirral Maths Hub



MWE

MATHS WEEK ENGLAND

14.11.22 - 18.11.22

TREASURE HUNT

Maths week adventure

Maths Week England was set up in 2019 with the goal of ensuring that no children miss out on the opportunities that being a confident competent mathematician can give them. In 2021 it became the largest national maths festival in the world, helping to build a nation of confident mathematicians, who both use and enjoy mathematics.

In conjunction with Maths Week 2022, Queen's Park High School maths department organised an exciting competition for all Year 7 and 8 students; their first maths treasure hunt!

Fifty staff from different departments around the school volunteered to wear a number badge. Students were given an entry form and then set to the challenge; to find a variety of numbers with different properties: even, odd, Factor of 48, square number etc... that answered each question correctly. In total there were 10 categories, and each number & member of staff could be used only once. Staff discovered whether they were a prime, square or triangle number!

During the week students searched the school to find staff with the numbers they needed and the entries box was emptied every day. When the number treasure hunt finished and all the answers had been checked, the correct entries were placed into a draw and the winners announced by the maths department's special guest - Buddy the Elf aka Mr Nixon!

Congratulations to the winners: Seyma K in Year 7 and joint entry winners: Sasha M and Lydia S in Year 8.

Well done to everyone who entered and a big thank you to all the staff whose team effort helped to make this challenge such a success!



National Cyber Security Centre

Captain. Logic. Chatter. Vision.
Have you got what it takes to win the CyberFirst Girls Competition?

Grab your friends. Form your team. And ask your teacher to sign you up for the chance to win prizes.



CYBERFIRST

Cyber security competition

This year two teams of Year 8 girls from Queen's Park High School competed in the qualifying round of the Cyberfirst Girls Competition.

This annual competition is organised by the National Cyber Security Centre which aims to engage girls in Cyber security and inspire them to think about future careers in this sector.

Each team was made up of four girls.

The qualifier consisted of a large number of challenges which fell into five categories: Logic and Coding, Networking, Cyber Security, Cryptography and Speciality (everything else). These could be completed in any order and each challenge ranged from 10 points upwards, depending on the difficulty.

Congratulations to our winning team: *Slay* (made up of Lydia S, Sasha M, Emma C and Sophie B), who scored a grand total of 2466 points! Well done to our runners up team: *You Go Girl!* (made up of Nainika B, Martha R, Maria S and Grace O) who scored a total of 626 points.

Both teams worked extremely hard on every challenge they took part in, both in-school and at home. Unfortunately, our teams didn't quite get enough points to go through to the regional finals, but they have all earned a certificate from the NCSC (part of GCHQ).

Next year, we will be running the competition again, so if there are any girls (or students who identify as girls) in Year 7 who would be interested in taking part, please come and speak to Mr Griffiths in H6.





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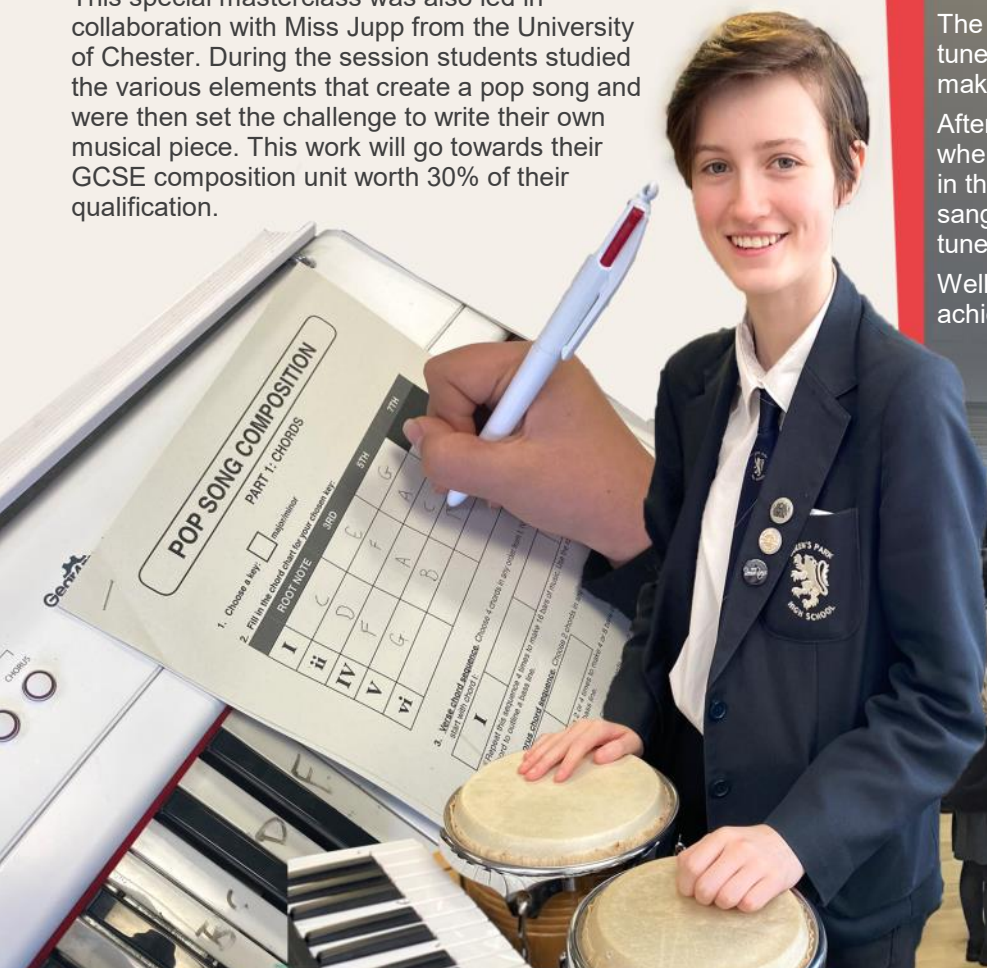


POP COMPOSERS

Music immersive workshop

In November, we had the pleasure of welcoming back to Queen's Park, Teacher of music, Mrs Tonon to work alongside Miss Firth and lead a music immersive workshop with 12 of our GCSE music students.

This special masterclass was also led in collaboration with Miss Jupp from the University of Chester. During the session students studied the various elements that create a pop song and were then set the challenge to write their own musical piece. This work will go towards their GCSE composition unit worth 30% of their qualification.



JINGLE BELLS

Belgrave music masterclass

Mrs Tonon has been working with our feeder primary school Belgrave as part of her role as Strategic Lead for Secondary Music PGCE through the University of Chester.

In December, she organised a music workshop with Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children with a focus on group singing.

They began with syllable games and matching body percussion with 1 and 2 syllable words, then transferred these skills to "Jingle Bells". Once all children mastered the lyrics and body percussion movement, they all went on to sing whilst Mrs Tonon played the chordal accompaniment.

The children learned about the musical terms tune, rhythm, and dynamics and used these to make their performance exciting.

After break, the group moved to the school's hall where they combined what they had learnt earlier in the morning to a 4 part Canon. The children sang in 4 parts and were able to hold their own tune throughout!

Well done to all the children, who managed to achieve this very challenging task in only 2 hours!





WHAT IS GEOGRAPHY?

Interacting with the environment

Fieldwork is an opportunity for geographers to get out from behind the desk, to go and study the local environment, and that is exactly what our Year 7s have done in their geography lessons this term.

Students created a question and hypothesis surrounding litter at Queen's Park High School and used quantitative data collection to find results.

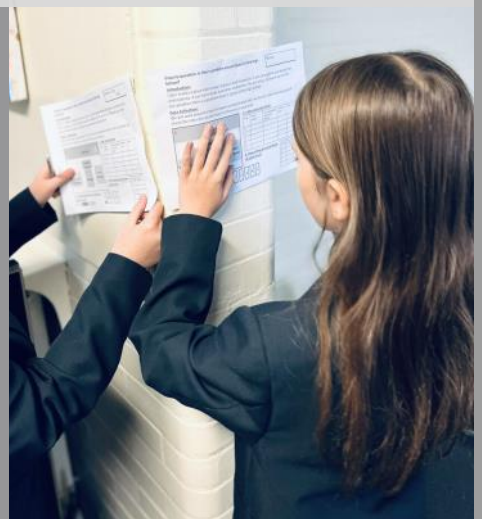
Focusing on *What is Geography?* as their module, Year 7 have learned all about the different types of geography and how humans interact with the environment.

Litter makes a place look messy and can give it a bad impression. It can carry germs, attract flies and rodents, and can harm birds and other wildlife too.

The aim of our Year 7 fieldwork was to find out whether litter is a problem here in Queen's Park High School.

Year 7 groups worked brilliantly in small teams to walk around school and surrounding outdoor spaces, to see what litter they could find in each area. This involved them checking the litter bins and recording how full they were in each area. Students then used their data collection to analyse and evaluate results to test their hypotheses.

“ All Year 7 students participated in this mini fieldwork excellently, and showed clear understanding on the importance of looking after our local environment. ”
Miss Sumner, Teacher of Geography





COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Transferring knowledge to the real world

On what seemed to be one of the windiest days of the year, our Year 13 geographers braved a day of fieldwork on Prestatyn Sand Dunes for their NEA data collection.

Worth 20% of their overall grade, the NEA is an independent research project that allows our Sixth Form students to step out of the classroom and bring their taught knowledge to the real world.

Students arrived at Prestatyn Beach and used their drawing skills to sketch out the local environment, including coastal management strategies and in-depth annotations of the coastal landscape.

After a walk along the windy beach, students arrived at Prestatyn Sand Dunes where their main data collection took place. Students took data on beach profiles, dune succession, and vegetation types using a wide range of fieldwork equipment.

“ Our A Level students collected an amazing amount of quantitative data, which will allow for extensive analysis and evaluation in their NEA projects. Well done Year 13! ”

Miss Sumner, Teacher of Geography



GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK

Enhancing Learning outside the classroom

We have had very busy term with our Geography students, with a variety of trips heading out to enhance students' understanding of environmental concerns and careers within Geography.

The first trip of the year saw Year 13 A Level geography students undertake some fieldwork in the local area starting with a brisk walk to Eccleston, assessing the infiltration rates along the River Dee as we move closer to Chester City Centre.

In conjunction with this, students also assessed the impact population has on the environment, where they completed air pollution recordings, environmental quality surveys and decibel readings.





GLOBAL CITIZENS

Youth Climate Change Festival

In November, a group of Year 8 students were invited to take part in the Youth Climate Change Festival at Chester Cathedral organised by Chester Sustainability Forum.

Working alongside the University of Chester and Chester Zoo, students were able to assess the impacts of climate change and how we can make our towns, cities and our individual lifestyles more sustainable in order to reduce carbon emissions.

During the event our young global citizens were very lucky to be given the opportunity to listen to a special speech given by the local Greenpeace candidate on COP27 and what Young People can do to help our local representatives best represent them in parliament and local government.

Students also had the opportunity to find out more about future pathways and careers in geography. This event was also a great experience to explore their ambitions.



MANCHESTER AIRPORT

Talking careers & improving sustainability



On Monday 21st November, Year 9 students visited Manchester Airport Visitor Park to work with the Runway Education department. The team enlightened students on the wide range of careers available within Manchester Airport and spoke about the qualifications required for different careers and how to make the most of apprenticeship opportunities.

Students then learned about the airport itself and how improvements are being made to make it more sustainable overtime. They enjoyed an in-depth Q&A session following guest speakers talking about the environment around Manchester Airport and what they were doing to manage their environmental impact and protect it.

As well as having a tour of the facilities around one of the airport's three terminals, the highlight of their experience was seeing the famous Concorde! They learned about how technology can improve travel overtime and how Concorde developed travel into the 21st Century.



2022

[illegible]

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Young Writers' Annual Showcase - Beneath The Ink

with the cats all over the oval. Then she remembered, she was at Eggleston Manor School.

Her first day at boarding school had left her exhausted. The mad time of rising and supper all felt like a blur now. She had met some friends, but she felt that she already had a few little group of friends to follow her around and make her feel better.

There was loud, dominating Jane Rogers. Quiet, timid Tilly Brown and last but not least, her perfect match, Doris Tilly Brown. Daisy was confident and kind with flower hair and Dorothy wished she could be with Cunasty.

She was quiet, clever Dorothy Bogy who felt like she wasn't really there, but she was. She was a little bit of a loner. Later that same day, Daisy felt a feeling, intimidating school, did belong at Eggleston School after all.

After the girls had eaten supper and completed their prep girls (that was not they) (the homework), the small group of girls had welcomed Dorothy's worriedly all trooped into the common room.

As they all entered Daisy suddenly jumped up again with a look on "Auch! What left this here?"

She reached into the armchair and retrieved some crossbody. She looked at it and said "What's that?"

"Oh, what's that?" Jane and looked like an old notebook.

"I don't know but I say we should have a look," answered Daisy.

The girls had now hurried around Daisy, eager to find out what was in this book. Daisy opened the first cover and found started flicking through the pages intrigued.

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"It looks like a diary from the 1920's," said Daisy confidently. As came to this school, she was so confident about it, she continued to flick through the diary an excited craze.

Tilly was leaning over her shoulder and suddenly remarked, "Verity Barker, I know you by that name, she was the girl who married my mother's parents when they came to the Summer House years ago."

"Really?" It had heard about that. Didn't she shove them off the cliff just like the boy? questioned June.

Nobody noticed that Dorothy went awfully quiet when Daisy told her. Nobody noticed that Dorothy would all the girls in the started reading that diary aloud for all the girls in the

"Verity Barker, Age 12, Wednesday 15th May 1921."

Dear Diary

Another dreary dull day at Eggleston Manor. Nothing ever happens around here. Sometimes I wish I were with my parents again but no one can do anything about it. When you order your own room or make you grow up. I really I should think that we must be so nice to be a grown-up. No wonder you are sweetest because you have such a friend even, Violet Higgins, was sent to the same school as me. I don't like her very much. She has enormous bag of chocolates for her 13th birthday from an aunt over in Canada. Dear Verity that entry is so lucky, she's got so many rich relatives and I must go as it's time for prep. Oh, Mother is calling and I must go as it's time for prep.

Goodbye for now my lovely diary, Verity Barker.

Daisy had read without a pause. "I don't see what was expected that," Daisy whispered with Bessie. "For a girl who is called that," Daisy wrote her own parents that entry was surprisingly boring."

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Young Writers' Annual Showcase - Beneath The Ink

Only Tilly noticed that Dorothy was still awfully quiet.

"What's up, Dot?" Tilly asked calmly.

"Oh, I'm fine, Tilly, just a bit tired. In fact, I think I'll go to bed now if that's okay," Dorothy muttered.

No one heard her as Dot's had just had a thought and said, "I say, that Verity has your surname, Dot, and didn't you say that your grandparents were famous authors who used to travel around the world?"

That was enough for Dorothy who almost whispered, "I never knew my mother as I was adopted when I was born. I was told that my grandparents died tragically but I never knew what they were like. I must have been kept from me all this time." Dorothy gulped with shock.

Everyone in the common room fell quiet as they began to feel really sorry for their new friend.

Sophia (11)

Creative writing published!

Congratulations to Sophia H in Year 8 whose creative writing has won her fame in the Young Writers Annual Showcase 2022. Sophia's murder mystery story, entitled The Secret of Eggleston Manor was submitted as one of the independent entries earlier this year for this brand-new Creative Writing Competition for ages 4 -18 to showcase their best piece of work.

The competition celebrates all writing styles from stories and poems to articles and memoirs, giving the skill and creativity of the next generation of writers a chance to shine.

We are thrilled to announce that Sophia's story has been selected for publication and now features in 'Beneath the Ink' – an annual showcase anthology packed full of young writing talent.

This taste for success follows on from last year when Sophia's Year 7 tutor group entered The Young Writers' short stories and poetry competition. We were delighted to hear that over 12 students were announced winners and their work chosen to be featured in the Young Writers' 'Empowered' and also in the 'Twisted Tales' publications!



“It is wonderful to see Sophia’s talents being recognised and celebrated. She is an outstanding creative writer, and I’m sure that readers of ‘Beneath the Ink’ will look forward to seeing more of her work in print! The Young Writers competitions are a fantastic opportunity for any and all students who enjoy writing, so if Sophia has inspired you to pick up a pen, get on www.youngwriters.co.uk and find out what opportunities are coming up!”





SPANISH Spelling Bee CHALLENGE

Who will be crowned Queen Bee?

There has been a buzz around the MFL department this half term as 24 brave linguists from Year 7 have been participating in Queen's Park High School's annual Spanish Spelling Bee Challenge. The competition led by Miss Worthington and Mrs Whitehouse has taken place during lunchtime as an extra-curricular activity open to all students.

Miss Worthington said, "The standard has been exceptionally high this year, with students clearly demonstrating their knowledge and ability to recognise, translate and spell a series of words using the Spanish alphabet."

Following a series of rounds, it was set to be nail biting and grippingly close final! Who would be crowned *Queen Bee*?

On Friday 9th December, four students went head to head in this intense linguistic battle! In the end, it was an impossible decision to choose only one winner as all four students had not made a single mistake throughout the competition!

Congratulations to our four *Queen Bees*: Indiana, Alice F, Lucas B and Harriet L and well done to all participants this year!



**Instituto
Cervantes**

Mánchester



manchester.cervantes.es

SPANISH TRIP

Mrs Whitehouse and Miss Worthington took a group of Year 10 and Year 11 linguist students to the Instituto Cervantes in Manchester for a day of immersion into the language and culture of Spain.

During the visit students had a lesson entirely in Spanish from their native speaking tutors and a flamenco lesson in which participation was enthusiastic! Students were then treated to watching a Spanish film.

All students who attended really embraced the opportunity to experience authentic Hispanic culture and were a credit to the school.

Tutors at the institute commented on students' fantastic Spanish accents and willingness to throw themselves into the dance class.

Well done to everyone who participated.



STUDENT MENTORS

RE lesson for younger peers

At the beginning of December, a group of Year 11 GCSE Religious Studies students visited Belgrave Primary school accompanied by Mrs Merryweather to deliver a lesson for Year 5 and Year 6 children about the diversity within Christianity.

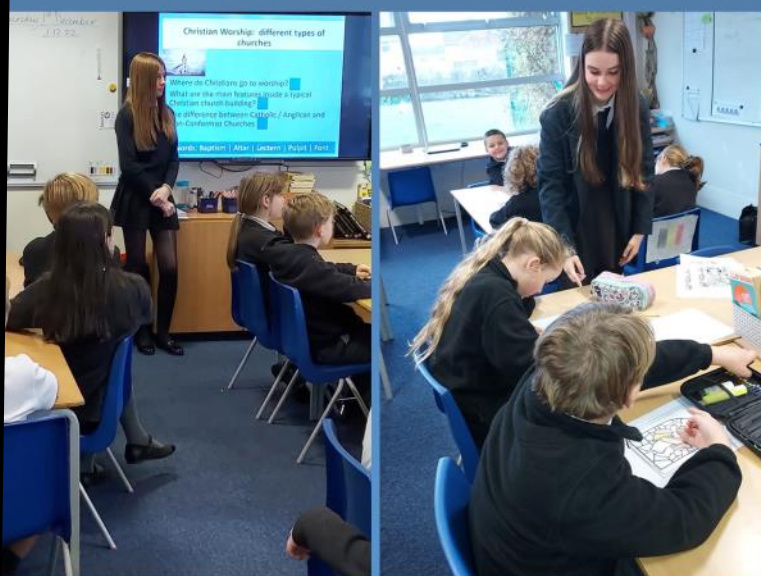
Year 11 student, Alice H, shares her experience:

“ So we could plan our session, we looked at Belgrave’s RE curriculum in advance and decided to choose different kinds of places or worship within Christianity. We chose this topic to try and highlight the differences and similarities in how people from various Christian denominations worship.

We planned and delivered the lesson ourselves. I didn’t realise how much preparation was required for just one lesson!

Ben, Alyssa and Ellie worked with Year 5 and Victorine and I taught Year 6. Victorine said she really enjoyed the opportunity to be in the shoes of a teacher. Ellie thought it was an enriching experience and Alyssa observed that the children were very good listeners.

For Ben and I, it was a trip down memory lane; we were amazed to see the similarities and differences in our old primary school and were delighted to catch up with our old teachers. Ben even got to see his little sister working hard!



Overall, we really enjoyed ourselves and the children were so engaged and polite. We are now looking forward to displaying their lovely work back at Queen’s Park next term. ”

“ This session aimed to deepen their own understanding and increase their confidence by challenging them to train younger students. ”

Mrs Merryweather,
Curriculum Leader of Social Studies

THE AWARD WINNING
DANIEL TAYLOR PRODUCTIONS



English theatre trip

At the start of October, 64 Year 11 students went to the Epstein Theatre in Liverpool to see the production of Shakespeare’s Macbeth. Students have been studying this classic tragedy as part of their GCSE English Literature course and this was a perfect opportunity for them to experience the play as it should be: onstage!

We were lucky enough to have front-row seats at the sold-out show, just inches away from the witches as they prowled along the aisles! Our students conducted themselves impeccably throughout and were a respectful and appreciative audience. It was especially impressive to listen to their discussion about the play before the curtain rose and during the interval as they shared thoughtful perspectives on the performances and staging.

“ We hope that Year 11 enjoyed seeing the play as Shakespeare intended - onstage! - and that this provided a helpful opportunity to revise a key text for their English Literature exam ! ”

Mrs Cogger,
Curriculum Leader of Communications



BILLY ELLIOT

THE MUSICAL

School production set to be a sell out!

Billy Elliot rehearsals and crew meetings have been underway during the Autumn term with our cast and crew now firmly established ahead of the school production this February.

Auditions were held back in September and it took our judging panel a long time to decide who best suited the various roles due to the huge range of talent on offer.

This will be our first major production since the pandemic and as such, we are pulling out all the stops to make sure that this is our biggest and best show ever! We are excited to welcome our new choreographer, Cariad Morgan who will be working with us throughout the Spring half term to turn our cast into confident ballet and contemporary dancers.

We know this will be a show to remember and look forward to seeing everyone at one of the evening performances. The show runs from Tuesday 14th – Friday 17th February, at 7pm. Ticket information will be released in the New Year!



Launching debut broadcast

Under the skilful guidance of our Student Leadership Team, the launch of our long anticipated radio station took place at 8.20am on Wednesday 7th December.

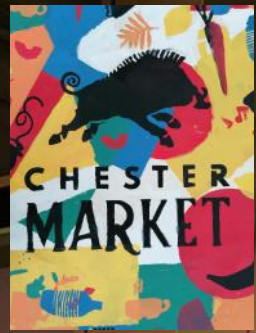
Initially, broadcasting to The Eatery area in school, the broadcast was a mixture of live and pre-recorded audio, including an interview with Headteacher, Mr Kearns and discussions around the World Cup.

The whole management of the project is entirely led by a brilliant team of enthusiastic Sixth Form students, with Tess, Jack, Sam and Kaitlyn spearheading the group. The team have already enlisted students from across all year groups after a rigorous interview process which they conducted themselves.

“ We are very lucky to have such a facility in school and it certainly sets us apart from the offer of other schools in Cheshire. We look forward to future broadcasts and ultimately, broadcasting over the internet for the whole world to listen to! ”

Student Leadership Team





MARKET HALL PRIVATE LAUNCH

Students' creativity brightens Chester's Northgate Development

Year 7 students lead the procession showcasing their artwork for the new Chester Market Hall at the private launch of Chester's new development.

Working in partnership with the Northgate Development Team, a group of Year 7 students from Queen's Park High School had a fantastic opportunity to work with Chester based artist, Lucy Jones to create artwork that is now showcased in the new Chester Market Hall.

On Thursday 20th October Lucy came into school to work in the art department and lead a printmaking workshop as part of the school's Cultural Enrichment Day. Students worked together as a team to create colourful surface patterns and symbols using stencil printmaking techniques which were then transformed into a stunning series of large scale banners ready to decorate the new Chester Market Hall. Students also designed a range of screen printed t-shirts

featuring images and symbols coordinating with the banners, to wear during the market's opening event.

Mr Parker commented, "It was a wonderful experience for the students to work with an artist in school. They showed great teamwork and support towards each other for the duration of Lucy's workshop."

Ahead of the official opening, a select number of students were invited to represent Queen's Park High School at the private launch event on Friday 4th November, accompanied by Mr Parker, Curriculum Team Leader for Visual Art & Design. The colourful banners and props created by the students were used to decorate the square during the proceedings before taking up a more permanent place in the market hall.

To kick start the event, students took part in a short procession proudly carrying their banners into the market hall in front of a host of special guests,

stall owners and lucky golden ticket holders. Music, entertainment and food featured largely during the celebrations and was enjoyed by all.

Mr Parker added, "The students represented QPHS at the market opening with beaming smiles for what was a fun event of a wide range of activities."

This art workshop follows on from the 'History in the Making' project back in June, in which Queen's Park High School was one of only three schools selected to participate to bury their own time capsule in the new Northgate development to provide future generations with an insight into life in Chester in 2022.

The new Chester Market is part of the £72 million Northgate development which has transformed the city centre. It officially opened its doors to the public on Tuesday 8th November with over 30,000 visitors. The new complex replaces the old market,

STER KET



which had been based in the Forum since 1967. Cheshire West and Chester Council said the driving force has been to create a 'modern traditional market' influenced by venues in London, Barcelona, Stockholm and Altrincham and to create a 'unique blend' of produce, goods, food and beverage traders in a welcoming and inclusive space for everyone to enjoy' and where people can 'shop local and eat global'.

Our students artwork can now be seen in situ on display in the produce area until next Spring 2023 when there will be a more encompassing community opening for the whole development.

“ Enrichment opportunities like these enable our students to learn from employers, to enhance their personal development skills and attributes essential for life in modern Britain. ”

Mrs Watts, PSHE / Careers Lead

“ The art workshop was brilliant because we had to work together as a team to create a huge group piece of work. When we went to the opening, it surprised me a bit, the market looked stunning, there were fish stalls, meat stalls, drink stalls and much more. The lights, sounds and smells were amazing, I really recommend you go! ”

Emily-Faye,
Year 7 student



“ The art workshop was really fun. We talked about the new Chester market and we also made t-shirts with the wild pig symbol on it. At the opening event, there were people in costumes... we laughed, we played, we did a little parade, we ate food and we also talked with the stall holders about their stalls and what they sold, it was great! ”

Enoch, Year 7 student





CELEBRATING Creativity

Art Club

Art club for Year 7 has slightly changed this year. Since September the club has been set up and run by two of our Year 13 art and design students, Emily Mc and Lucia M. Our Sixth Form mentors have organised the group to develop a group piece of work that will be shared for the rest of the school to see in the school's snack bar.

Emily and Lucia have worked alongside the students, directing and supporting them, organising materials and providing encouragement along the way. It's been a real pleasure to see the students all working together and taking ownership of their art club.

We're all looking forward to seeing the finished piece in situ!

“ Working with the Year 7s has been a positive experience. It has allowed me and Emily to engage and share our experience of our art studies to help and support their practical work. We aimed the art club to be based on teamwork where students are working together to create a large scale abstract geometric painting for the East End Snack Bar. ”

Lucia M, Year 13 student

Artist & PHOTOGRAPHER of the month



Cara



Emily



MAKE BANK

Reach your creative potential

A range of GCSE students at Queen's Park High school have been lucky enough to have been gifted art and design material packs to support learning at home. These amazing packs have been donated by *Make Bank*, a social charity who believe everyone should be able to pursue their passion and the kits they provide help students reach their full creative potential.

“ Young people often don't recognise the scope of opportunity which lies within the creative industries and so don't view a career in design as a viable life choice. To counteract this, we share creative career stories, inspiring advice and insightful resources. Our hope is to create a bank of online content which proves that you can make a living while doing what you love. ”

MAKE BANK

We are very grateful that students have these extra resources to allow them to continue their GCSE practical studies at home and pursue their own creative journey.



And the award goes to...

Since September, the art department have been celebrating creativity with their 'Photographer' and 'Artist of the Month' feature.

Congratulations to Emily McDermott in Year 13 who has been awarded November's Artist of the Month Award for her quality of ideas that have developed into highly sophisticated artworks in a broad range of media for her Personal Investigation Unit. Emily has produced a vibrant sketchbook, detailing experiments of landscapes that have led into final paintings of the River Dee as well as fragile fused glass pieces. Her inspiration throughout the month was the

landscape paintings of British artists Simon Parker and Kurt Jackson.

Congratulations to Cara Mc in Year 11 who has been awarded November's Photographer of the Month Award for her wonderful portfolio of work for her current mock exam. Cara has produced an in-depth body of work using studio based photography with lighting for her idea. Her focus throughout the month was the abstract still life photographs inspired by Ion Zupcu and Jaromir Funke.

Congratulations to both Emily and Cara. Keep up the amazing work!



PHOTOGRAPHY

Year 12 photography students have been exploring panning techniques in their practical lessons this term.

The technique helps to create a sense of movement by showing the subject in focus and the background blurred. Students have ventured out into their local environment in Handbridge to experiment with these techniques to try and capture movement.



3D design



Year 13

Freya, in Year 13 is exploring lighting in 3D Design. She's been working with a range of materials to create designs and prototypes of lamps that incorporate plants and elements of nature. Currently, she's experimenting with Modroc and ivy - we can't wait to see the final pieces!

Year 7



Year 7 students have had a fantastic start to the year. They've been exploring fabric binding and tie-dye techniques in textiles focusing on bunching, circle, spiral and stripe to produce some amazing vibrant tie-dye designs. These will then be cut, sewn and transformed into bespoke pencil cases - ingenious!



Celebrating Creativity

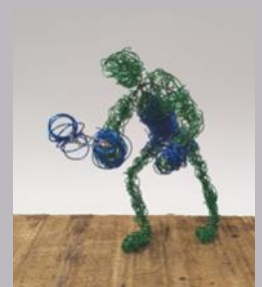
Year 10 students have been busy this term in 3D Design. They began their studies looking at how to create simple 3D forms from paper and then transformed these into miniature everyday kitchen appliances and furniture.



Students have also been exploring how to build form around a skeleton framework and using different poses to add character and movement. They've then designed then created their own 3D wire sculptures.

Year 10 have also developed their woodworking skills this term. They've designed and produced some innovative glasses stands that we think will be the envy of designer opticians in Chester!

Great work Year 10!



Year 9

Year 9 students have been practising intricate embroidery skills in textiles this term and have created handmade felt structures focusing on form, texture and pattern. Super skills Year 9!



HICKORY'S™

MENU CHALLENGE

Let's talk BBQ & magic dust rub!

At the end of last term, we were thrilled to welcome staff from Hickory's Smokehouse in Chester, into school to launch an exciting challenge for our Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students.

As students arrived they were welcomed by Hickory's managers, Craig Gibson and Matt Jones, who started off their masterclass by offering drinks samples, popcorn and menus to the delighted students! Hickory's Chester is an authentic American BBQ restaurant set on the banks of the River Dee where you can enjoy a traditional style of cooking that has its roots in the US but is now firmly rooted in Chester. When visiting, you are assured of a warm, Southern hospitality and family-friendly welcome.

During the morning session, Matt and Craig delivered an inspirational and engaging presentation about the history of the restaurant, where the food is sourced and how it is made and developed for the menu. They also talked about working within the catering industry and the pathways to get there. Students were told of the unique ingredients in Hickory's famous BBQ sauce and their 'magic' dust rub! Using this as inspiration, students have been set a task to create a dish suitable for the Hickory's own menu. The prize will be for 6 students to spend a morning at the restaurant and enjoy a slap-up meal!

We look forward to seeing and tasting their final ideas!



MASTERCHEF

Tasty Treats

A little round up of what Masterchef have been up to during Enrichment sessions this term...

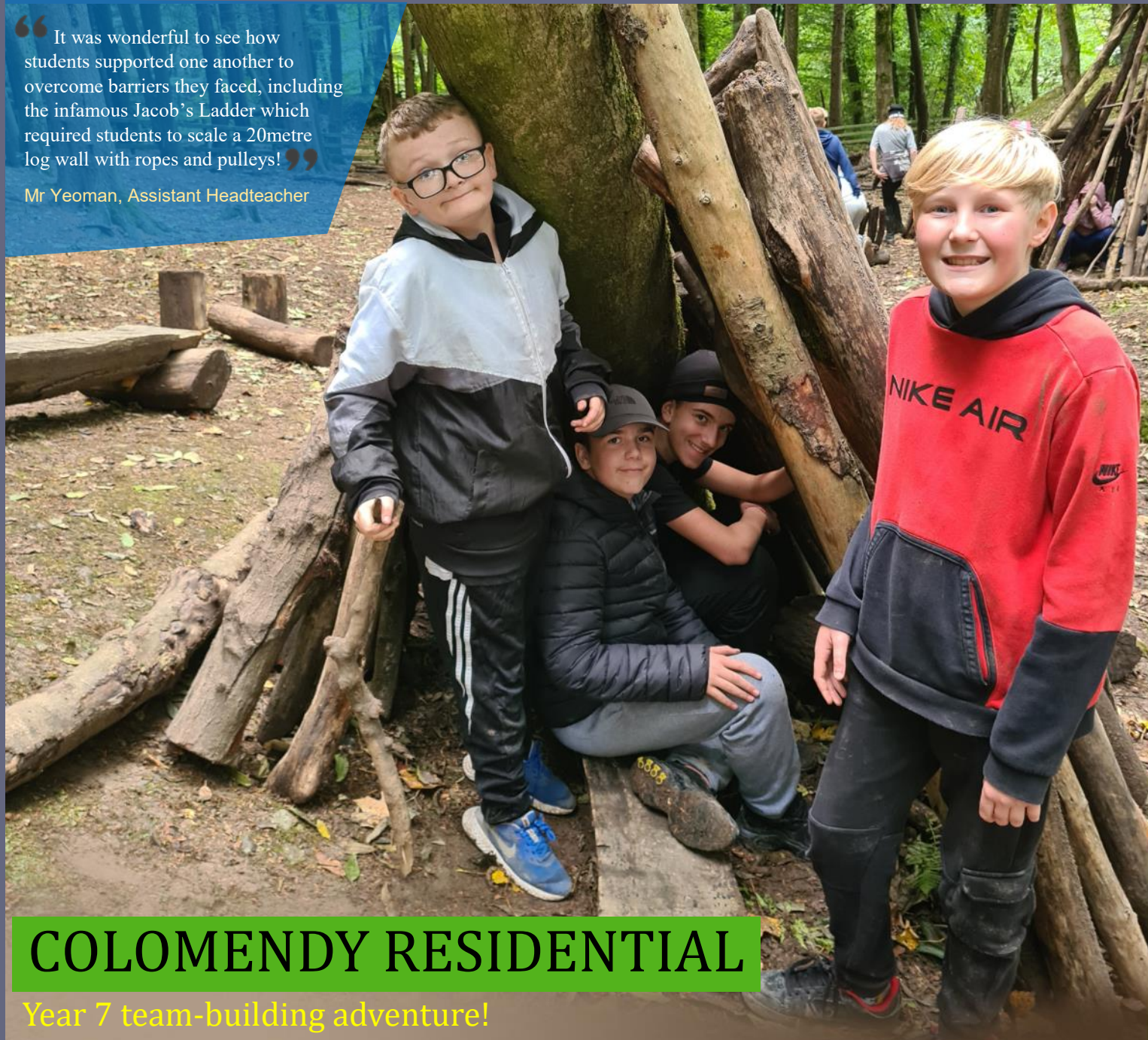
For a Bonfire Night treat, our junior Masterchefs have adapted the traditional toffee apple and made chocolate apples, decorated with colourful sprinkles.

In the run up to Christmas, they enjoyed making (and tasting) a range of indulgent snacks including cheese straws, homemade Jammy Dodgers and crunchy chocolate refrigerator cake. Just before the end of term, our star bakers each managed to make a Swiss Roll which they decorated the following week to transform into their showpiece festive chocolate log!



“ It was wonderful to see how students supported one another to overcome barriers they faced, including the infamous Jacob’s Ladder which required students to scale a 20metre log wall with ropes and pulleys! ”

Mr Yeoman, Assistant Headteacher



COLOMENDY RESIDENTIAL

Year 7 team-building adventure!

As part of their induction into Year 7 and getting to know their tutors, Year 7 students set off for an activity intensive residential at the Colomendy Centre at Loggerheads. The aim of the trip was to allow them to develop friendships with new students and learn how to work successfully as a member of a team to solve a series of challenges and tasks. Over the course of the three days there were some incredible examples of resilience and of students overcoming their fears of heights, mud, and even the cold! The whole group’s campfire and marshmallow experience was a wonderful evening and despite the cold, spirits were high as they heard stories and told jokes as they huddled together around the burning logs. The nightline activity proved to be a very funny experience with students relying on the support of one another to make their way through an obstacle course completely

blindfolded. It was brilliant to see how they helped one another by giving advice as to the route ahead and holding out their hands to guide their new friends through - a wonderful metaphor to reflect upon for the school journey ahead! The real creative skills of the students was brought to the fore when they were challenged with building their own survival shelters out of moss, branches, stones and mud. Some of the ideas for their designs were amazing and looked even better when realised in the middle of the Welsh hillside forest. Had it not been a little chilly, we’re sure many would have been tempted to stay the night in their new found holiday homes!

Sharing a dormitory with others is always a daunting experience. Learning to respect the space and need for quiet for others, whilst also joining in with the conversations about the experiences of the visit can always

be a real challenge. It was reassuring to see how friendships were forming and not surprisingly, most dorms were fast asleep quite quickly each night as the need to recover from the exertions of the day took hold. A hearty cooked breakfast each morning helped to set everyone up for the busy days ahead.

As expected, the students were a credit to the school and we know they will have formed friendship and skill sets to see them through the next 7 years of education at Queen’s Park High School.

During the course of the residential, students were asked to write a diary of events and detail their experiences, with the overall winner seeing their journal published in the school magazine!

Congratulations to Lucy E in G7GIR whose winning journal can be read on the next page.



Lucy E G7GIR

COLOMENDY JOURNAL
WINNER 2022

WEDNESDAY 5TH OCTOBER - DAY 1

On Wednesday, we waited for the fourth period when we all rushed upstairs to the assembly room to collect our bags and then soon after jet off on the coach. When we arrived, we were kindly shown to our dorms where we unpacked our bags, chose our beds and got to know everyone better.

Our first activity, which was just before dinner, was the nightline, where we had to link arms with the person in front of us and follow a trail through the woods whilst blindfolded. It was a difficult task and involved good teamwork but we still managed to complete it. Then it was dinner. We had fish and chips which we all demolished as we were so hungry. After tea we had some time in the dorms before we all met up again to go to the campfire. We had marshmallows and sang songs. I dropped my first marshmallow in the fire but I got a new one. Then we all went back to the dorms, got ready for bed and we were all so tired we went straight to sleep.

THURSDAY 6TH OCTOBER - DAY 2

The next morning, we all woke up really early and swiftly got ready and went down to breakfast. For breakfast we had toast or an English breakfast. Before the first activity, we made our way back to the dorms for a little while. When we met for the first activity, we had an instructor take us to the location for Jacks Ladder. It's a giant ladder where the gap between the bars get larger every time - I made it to the top!! Then we had an obstacle challenge where we had to work together to complete a bunch of challenges. Then we had lunch - I had a shepherd's pie pastry. After lunch, we had shelter building. We had to work in groups to make a shelter. Next, we did low ropes where we had to walk along a rope while our friends supported us. Then we had dinner. That night it was either curry or bolognese - I had the bolognese. That night we had a night walk through the forest before going to bed.

FRIDAY 7TH OCTOBER DAY 3

On the last day, we were told we needed to pack our suitcases before we went down for breakfast. Breakfast was the same and once we had all finished we went back up to the dorms, grabbed our suitcases and laundry before taking the laundry to the laundrette and our suitcases to a small room. Our first activity was climbing and I think we had done enough climbing before we got up to the climbing wall - the hills were really steep! The climbing wall was really fun and I got to the top but we had to move on to our next activity which was buggy building. We had two barrels, four planks and two poles and we had to make it into a moving sort of car! We got our buggy working, however we had to end the activity early because it was heavily raining and we all got soaked. We went inside the main building where we did a drama freeze frame activity and we also had our lunch. Later on, we made our way home. We had a fun trip and I really hope we can do something similar again.



YEAR 7

MY FIRST TERM

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

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

My first term at Queen's Park High School has been very fun and exciting. I love how everyone is so kind and welcoming.

The subject I love the most is computing because I find the work really fun. A few weeks ago we made a presentation about cyberbullying which was fun to do. I also really enjoy good tech and technology because I love making things and baking. My favourite teacher is Miss Worthington because she is really kind and helps me when I am stuck. In addition, my form teacher is kind and funny, he is also supportive and caring.

Overall, my first term at QPHS has been really fun and intriguing. I love most of the lessons and the teachers. High School has challenged me to do things that I wouldn't normally do.



CHARLOTTE



HARRIET

My first term at Queen's Park High School has been an amazing experience. I have learned so much over these past months that I can hardly believe it!

The subject that I find compelling is Spanish, because you are always learning new things about language, and it is interesting and makes you thirsty for knowledge. I also really enjoy Art and Drama, because they let your imagination run wild, and you not only do them, but learn about different types of Drama and Art, and different techniques and styles.

My favourite teacher at QPHS is Ms. Worthington, who teaches Spanish. She has taught all of us so much, and is a lovely teacher. I think that without her I would not be half as interested in Spanish. In addition my form teacher Mr. Girrow is very kind to everybody, and has a talent to make people laugh on the harder days.

Another thing I am extremely excited about is the school productions. Students in any year can audition, and if you are not a huge fan of being on the stage, you always have the option of being in a backstage crew, or band. This year we are going to perform Billy Elliot, which I cannot wait for!

When I first came to QPHS, I was very nervous, because I had just moved from Canada, and did not know anyone. But all the staff and students have been welcoming and kind, and soon I had a hilarious group of friends. The teachers also make sure that me and everyone else understands what we are learning about.

Overall, my first term at QPHS has been fantastic, and I am enjoying it so much that even if I didn't have to, I would come everyday. QPHS is a wonderful high school, and I look forward to every lesson.





OLIVER

My first term at Queens Park High School has been an amazing rollercoaster. Everything has been extraordinary, from the teacher, to the lessons and the clubs. I've loved every second.

My favourite subject is history. At the moment we are learning about rulers (kings and queens). I really enjoy it because in primary school we didn't do history but now we do and I love every moment. I like all my teachers but my favourite is Mr Girrow. He's my form tutor and math teacher. He's really kind and funny.

Outside of lessons, I do basket ball, netball and backstage for the school productions. I really enjoy taking part in backstage because it's something new. Personally, I'm not the most sociable person but QPHS has made me feel more involved and backstage has made me meet new people so it really helps. At break / lunch, the canteen is open and they have many yummy treats. The line is long but it's worth it.

We went on an amazing journey to wales for our residential. I made lots of amazing friends. The best thing was the campfire. We sang silly songs and ate marshmallows.

Overall, QPHS is the best school. It makes high school less scary.

SOPHIE



My first term at QPHS has been exciting and fun at the same time. I made lots of new friends at QPHS and the teachers are really nice too.

The subject I love the most is PE because you get to do contact sports you weren't allowed to do in primary school and it gets really competitive. My favourite sport at QPHS is badminton because you get to pick who's team you're on. I also really enjoy maths because you learn new ways to solve a problem or work some thing out. My favourite teacher is Mr Girrow as he teaches maths and is our form teacher he is really funny and can put a very serious face on.

Out side of lesson we have the chance to do football, dodgeball, basketball and rugby. I have enjoyed taking part in basketball and football. At break / lunch time we can play chess, badminton and DnD (Dragons n Dungeons) QPHS is different to primary school because there are more people and more walking. But it is the best school to go to.

We had an amazing time when we visited wales for our school residential trip. My favourite part was the night walking we had to activities are first one was night walking we had to put blind folds on and go on an obstacle course it was amazing.

Overall my first term at QPHS has been so fun it's going to be amazing. Can't wait to meet you.



YEAR 7

MY FIRST TERM



THEO

My first term at Queens Park High School has been brilliant. It was a complete switch from primary school.

The subject I love the most is PE because I love sports and very active. I also really enjoy my math teacher is really nice. My math teacher and my teachers are Mr Girrow (my math teacher) and Mr Howens (My History teacher) because they are sunny and they make their lessons very enjoyable. In addition, my gym teacher is Mr Girrow as well.

Outside of lessons, we have the opportunity to take part in school and represent QPHS with our many sports teams. I have really enjoyed taking part in the year 7 school football team as I get a chance to represent our school in the form of football. At break and lunch time we can participate in many different clubs like badminton, Dand D, table ball and girls football. QPHS is different to my primary because there is so many more teachers and a bigger school. As well as that you have to find your way around instead of just staying in one class.

Overall, my first term at QPHS has been very enjoyable and I would definitely recommend to come.

My first term at QPHS has been a truly exciting journey. I have made many new friends, uncovered my new favorite subjects and in general just had fun.

The subject I enjoy most is maths because it requires thought, dedication and just intrigues me. I also really enjoy Spanish probably because I like the teacher and she helps us through by planning fun and educational tasks for us to try. I thought I'd really struggle, but I haven't at all. My favorite teacher is probably Miss Worthington as she just makes the lesson a lovely place to be in - the homework is also really fun. In addition, my form teacher is Mr Girrow. He is such a lovely teacher and always makes sure everyone is okay if we're troubled.

Outside of lessons, we have the opportunity to join clubs, chat to our friends, grab food and much more. I have really enjoyed taking part in the after school drama club on a Tuesday and I also joined the school production (Billy Elliot) and I got myself a role in the cast. At break and lunch we can grab food from the canteen (which is delicious) and chat to our friends. QPHS is different to my primary school because I have more opportunity to decide the person I want to become in the future. I have many more people there for me and I learn the subjects in much greater detail.

We had an amazing time when we visited Wales for our school residential trip. My favorite part was the dorm rooms and how I got to meet different girls in my year. I also really enjoyed the daily activities we got to participate in. We did fun tasks such as climbing wall and walking through the forest everyone connected like a train - we were also blindfolded. It was wonderful to spend some quality time with some of our new teachers and get to know the people in our form a little more. We had lots of fun when we did the night activities, such as a campfire and a walk through the forest. I had such a great time and hope we can do something similar again.

Overall, my first term at QPHS has been an adventure however I am certainly settled now. I am looking forward to spending the next few years of my life here.



LUCY

When I first came to QPHS, the whole school was so welcoming. The subject I enjoy the most is PE because sport is my favorite thing to do. My other favorite is science because you get to do experiments.

Overall, my term at QPHS has been... Amazing and I look forward to learning more.



GEORGIA



Outside of lessons, we have the opportunity to make friends, enjoy cool and new clubs/activities. I have really enjoyed taking part in netball club and meeting new people, trying out new things. At break/lunchtime we can get food with our thumbprint and go outside. If it is raining outside the hall will be open for us to go sit down/chat. QPHS is different to my primary school because you move classes for different lessons - more good choices, more lessons, more people + bigger. Primary school and QPHS are very different.

Overall, my first term at QPHS has been great and I think is a great choice to go to school at.

MIA



My first term at QPHS has been really enjoyable. I've made loads of new friends, met new teachers, and had the freedom to explore even more compelling subjects!

I just came to QPHS, knowing 3 people and being reasonably nervous. But as soon as I said 'hello' to new people I was surrounded by new friends and already felt at home. My favourite subjects are history, drama and art / DT. All of the teachers are so welcoming, and patient and they won't stop helping until you understand. My top 3 teachers is I had to choose three would be, Mr Howers (history), Soranita Worthington (Spanish) and Mr Grew, (my form tutor and teaches maths!)

One main thing that brought the whole of year ^{together} would be the Residential!!! We went to Kingswood, Colmanville and we all bonded so much I feel like I've known them for years! Residential, to me, was crucial and fun because I got to know everyone away from a uniform. Residential was truly magical, there were some of my favourite moments... The Campfire, team building, making des out of trees (not by hand!) and last but not least making friends for life.

Outside of lessons we have the chance to socialise, and every year there is a school play, which this year is Billy Elliot! Overall my first term at QPHS has been amazing! I hope to see you in September!

My first term at Queens Park High School has been amazing! It is completely different to primary school, in the best way possible. But I think that if I went to another one / high school, I feel like I wouldn't enjoy it as much as I do right now.

The subject that has completely drawn me closer is definitely WPD! Not just that, but I also really enjoy chemistry because there are many things I am able to do that I couldn't in primary. For an example, experiments. They are so compelling, and they unlock a better understanding about how certain things work. Not just those two, but I've really enjoyed english and history! They make me explore my mind, and I love that feeling!

VALENTINA



MAX





OPEN EVENING

Welcoming families into Queen's Park

At the end of September, we were delighted to open our doors and welcome Year 5 & 6 children and their families to one of the biggest and well attended school events of the year, Open Evening! This whole school event is a huge team effort involving both staff and students across all year groups and enables families to come and see the wealth of opportunities that lie ahead for children when they join our school community.

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

In the main hall, Headteacher, Mr Kearns, spoke to parents about the transition process, and members of our Sixth Form Leadership Team and Year 7 students shared their experiences and spoke about high school life at Queen's Park; Alongside these presentations, our Sixth Form ambassadors led guided tours around the school.

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

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

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

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

Since the Open Events, Mrs Bearcroft and Miss Morris have surprised the lucky prize draw and quiz winners with their prizes at each of their primary schools including Belgrave, Chester Blue Coat, Eccleston, Grosvenor Park Academy, Dodleston, Hoole, Highfield Community, Lache, Overleigh St Mary's, Newton and St Martin's Academy.

Congratulations to all the winners and runners up, especially Hattie (Overleigh) who was the overall prize draw winner and Noah (Belgrave) who won first prize in the quiz. We hope you enjoy spending your winnings!

QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL
"Inspiring Individuals • Empowering Minds • Defining Futures"
 T: 01244 251888
 www.qphs.co.uk



Winners



Runners Up

RE-ENERGISED LIBRARY



New look; new space; new purpose

The summer saw a flurry of activity behind the scenes in the library and the new Sixth Form study area. Thanks to members of the TALS team the area has been revitalised and repurposed to offer a great work space for Sixth Form students to undertake their Independent Study and for other students to use the library space.

A full audit of the library stock was undertaken as a result of the implementation of a new library system. In partnership with Cheshire Educational Library Services, our in house library is able to offer all students an ordering system for books whether it be to support their studies or to read for pleasure.

As part of the Enrichment programme on Tuesday afternoons, there is a Book Club more popularly known as

Book Loving Tuesday, which is well attended by student in all year groups. The students are currently taking part in the Cheshire School Book Awards having completed the first round of the quiz. The quiz is run by Cheshire Educational Library Services across all secondary schools in the County – Queen's Park has entered two teams from Year 7 and 8. The students will read six books over the course of the academic year on which there will be a quiz and general book quiz.

In conjunction with the Library Services we have been asked to participate in the Cheshire School Book Awards 2023. This will involve our students reading a selection of the latest Young Adult books, then cast their votes and submit book reviews. In May the club will attend the final and the winners revealed.

During lesson times the library space and team are available to support Sixth Form students with their studies which include recommending and sourcing books, podcasts and interesting news items pertinent to their studies. We offer support which will assist students in their next steps in education and the work place.

The library is available to all students at break, lunch and after school as a place to study, do homework and find a new book to read. We encourage all students to come and say hello, hopefully find a book and be part of the next chapter of the library's life here at Queen's Park High School.

Happy reading!

Mrs Melhuish-Jones
Librarian & Sixth Form
Learner Support Co-ordinator

CHESHIRE SCHOOLS' BOOK AWARD 2023





Meet Rose Ireland

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

Rose provides independent careers advice and will be having 1 to 1 appointments with all our Year 11 and 12 students as they make their career planning decisions.

Individual action plans are made available to students and are emailed home via Edulink.

Rose will also be available for drop in appointments at our forthcoming Parents' Evening for Year 11 students, where parents and students can ask for advice.

MOCK INTERVIEWS

Preparing for work in the real world

Working in Partnership with the West Cheshire & North Wales Chamber of Commerce, Year 13 students took part in a mock interview day.

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

This mock interview day was one of the many events that the Young Chamber Programme helps to make possible annually across West Cheshire & North Wales. These events range from Careers Talks and CV building to Work Experience Placements and Enterprise Projects. The programme has engaged with over 6000 students since its introduction and continues to support hundreds more from 19 Schools/Colleges across the region.

As part of our commitment to provide outstanding Careers Education Information and Guidance, Year 12 will take part in a Careers Event on 16th January and Year 13 on 7th February where further opportunities will be provided for them to find out more about careers, options and pathways.



“ I would like to thank all of the employers who gave up their time to provide such a valuable experience for our Sixth Form students. This opportunity has enhanced their understanding of the interview process, how to engage positively in an interview situation and through the feedback provided from the employers, to take positive steps forward.”

Mrs Watts, Careers Lead





INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

National Apprenticeship Show

On Wednesday 12th October our Sixth Form students had a fantastic opportunity to take part in The National Apprenticeship Show in Manchester, which highlights Apprenticeship opportunities across the UK. This event is now co-located with their new sister event, The UK Higher Education Expo, which highlights Higher Education opportunities and information. There was a huge range of apprenticeship and careers pathways exhibited which enabled students to have face-to-face conversations with Apprenticeship employers, training providers, and Higher Education institutions.

National Apprenticeship Show and UK Higher Education Expo Exhibitors included:

- Howdens
- Greene King
- Marston's
- Mitchells & Butlers
- Mercedes-Benz
- Pets at Home
- Royal Mail
- Trafford College Group
- British Army
- AstraZeneca
- Newcastle University
- University of East London
- University of Law
- Dyson Institute of Engineering and Technology
- BIMM
- Salford University



DEFINING FUTURES

Metropolitan Police talk

In November, we were thrilled to welcome back into Queen's Park, former student Wida Moghadam, to deliver a workshop to our students about crime and punishment. Wida now works as a sergeant for the Metropolitan Police in London. In her talk she covered reasons for crime, forensics, crime scenarios and FGM. Her Q&A sessions were incredibly engaging.

Year 10 Religious Studies students were able to suggest a list of reasons why people commit crimes in association with their work on theme E Crime and Punishment. Year 12 and 13 criminology students were able to display a strong knowledge of forensics and ask intelligent questions.

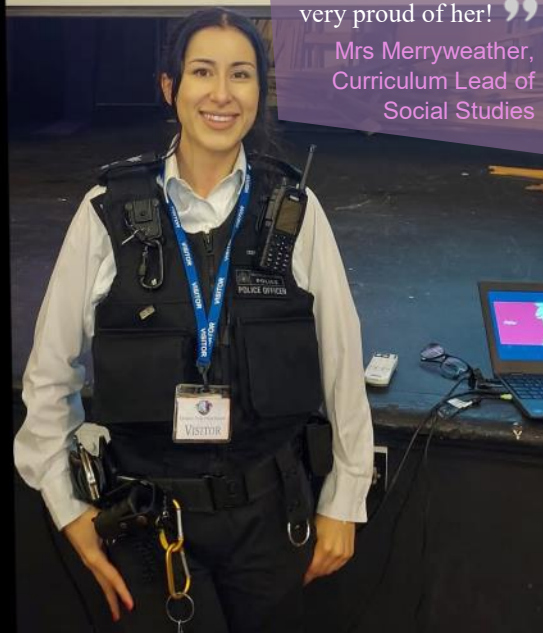
Mrs Merryweather found out what a zombie knife was and how it can lead to an immediate arrest! Students also learned about malicious communications and the forms of punishment they can lead to. Wida was asked questions including: *what's the worst situation you've been in?* She answered honestly and told students about a knife attack by a female perpetrator.

Students also learned about the different types of offences like affray and possession of an offensive weapon. They discovered what it is like to be a female police officer in a male dominated career. In Wida's station only 3 out of the 30 officers there are female. Wida did say she was treated differently but that this has improved.

Zahara in Year 13 called Wida a "girl boss" and said she had been given "a real insight into the career of a female police officer".

“It was great to catch up with Wida and see her doing so well in her career. I am so very proud of her!”

Mrs Merryweather,
Curriculum Lead of
Social Studies





FIRST AIDERS

Mental Health Matters

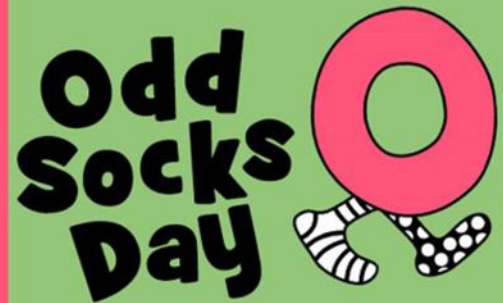
In November, 14 Year 12 and 13 students took part in Youth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training led by Claire McDonald - Chester/Winsford MHST Clinical Co-Ordinator and Alfredo Galera MHST. The two-day course, teaches in depth skills for providing first aid to young people who may be experiencing mental health issues such as depression, anxiety and psychosis and leads to an internationally recognised MHFA accreditation.

During the training, students learned that we all have mental health, they discussed England's child health care policy, risk factors, protective factors, preventative mental health issues and how to promote wellbeing. Students now have an informed understanding of depression, anxiety, self-harm and eating disorders, how to support themselves and their peers including sign posting to support services. The aim of taking part in this training was so that students can support themselves and their peers as part of a whole school strategy and approach to Mental Health and wellbeing.

MHFA England is a social enterprise with a vision to improve the mental health of the nation. They believe in zero stigma around mental health and hope that through training, campaigning, and reinvesting, they will equip people with the skills to support their own and others' wellbeing.

We are delighted to announce that all participants including both staff and students successfully completed the training and are now Youth Mental Health First Aiders. Congratulations to all participants!

“ Mental Health influences how we think and feel about ourselves and others and how we interpret events. We all have mental health and how we manage this influences our ability to cope with life. At Queen's Park, we believe that Mental Health matters and that it is everyone's responsibility to not only look after ourselves but each other as part of our whole school approach to addressing the stigma around mental health and wellbeing. ”
Mrs Watts, Senior Mental Health Lead



Celebrating Uniqueness



On Friday 18th November we held our annual 'odd socks' day in a bid to raise awareness around individuality and to celebrate that we are all different and all unique. It was also a reminder to our school community to 'be kind' to one another.

Whilst this was part of the school's overall strategy to be inclusive, it coincided with Anti-Bullying Week, a national initiative launched annually by the Anti-Bullying Alliance and The Diana Award.

The day sends out an important message that we should all be allowed to express ourselves, our individuality and our uniqueness free from bullying and helps us celebrate Anti-Bullying Week in a fun and positive way.

It was fantastic to see so many brightly coloured socks on show, although a little dazzling to cope with everyday!



→
ANTI-BULLYING
WEEK 2022
←

REACH
OUT

#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK



#HelloYellow

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

A little yellow goes a long way and on Monday 10th October staff and students took part in 'Hello Yellow' for World Mental Health Day.

The drive to wear yellow to school was part of the 'Hello Yellow' initiative inspired by YoungMinds; a charity which aims to support the mental health of young people in the UK.

To support this campaign, all students and staff were invited to wear something yellow to school and in true Queen's Park spirit, everyone was eager to jump on board, donning yellow T-shirts, hats, gloves, headbands, socks and even an inflatable banana outfit in a bid to make our #HelloYellow day as big and as bright as possible!

The school shone with rays of yellow sunbeams and helped to demonstrate that together we can show young people they are not alone with their mental health.

“

We are all too fully aware of how society, particularly post-covid, has increased levels of anxiety and as such, we want to remove the stigma associated with having mental health issues and support a culture of openness and honesty where support can be offered. Wearing something yellow was a great way of saying that it's okay to not be OK and we certainly managed to raise awareness around this very important issue including where young people can go to both in and outside of school for support.

”

Mr Yeoman, Assistant Headteacher



YOUNGMINDS
fighting for young people's mental health



Cultural Enrichment Day

Learning beyond the Curriculum

At Queen's Park High School we understand that school and indeed education, isn't just about the academic achievement students acquire at the end of Year 11 and Year 13. Our school journey here is about developing the individual as a well-rounded, culturally enriched young person with a vested interest and appreciation in the differences in society and the wider world around them. Our Cultural Enrichment Days, of which we have two this year, are designed to provide opportunities which sit beyond the normal curriculum and provide students with access to a diverse and broad addition to their learning.

On 20th October, we entertained a whole host of activities in school for all of our students from Year 7 through to Year 13.

Year 7 worked with our Communications Faculty to explore storytelling around the world, focusing on key texts and languages to explore how ideas are communicated in different cultures. Alongside this, a group of students were selected as part of the Northgate Development Project to work with a professional artist in preparation for the opening of the new Chester Market in the city centre. This was a fantastic opportunity to work on a collaborative piece of artwork that will be showcased at a major event in Chester and students gained a lot from working with a professional artist in school.

As part of our commitment to celebrating diversity and championing the rights of everyone to be who they want to be, Year 8 students worked with our EBACC team to look at diversity and understand how identity is a personal choice. Through a series of workshops, including one led by the

organisation, 'Diversity Role Models' students were supported to understand the experience of others with the aim for students to become accepting and tolerant of others around them. The workshops were all very well received and supported our aim to be an inclusive school.

In Geography, students focused on fighting climate change and created protest signs whilst in History, they studied British black history reading chapters of David Olusoga's book. They also tested their mathematical skills to solve the enigma code created by Alan Turing.

Year 9 students conducted many scientific experiments and analysis on the day as they tried to work out who the murderer was in the brilliantly staged play, *Who Murdered the Headmaster?*. With the support of the Science department, our Year 9 forensic teams conducted a range of tests to determine an evidence base before the Oscar worthy performance of the PPA faculty concluded the day with the solution!

Year 10 students engaged in a variety of Art, Design and Technology projects throughout their day looking at specific assignment briefs set by big companies for them to develop. They had to work collaboratively and creatively to fulfil the briefs and there were some brilliant examples of teamwork and products produced as a result of their efforts. Following on from this, the year group spent the latter part of the afternoon at Cheshire College South and West looking at the range of careers and post-16 options open to them as they considered their futures at the local careers fair.





Year 11 put their maths skills to the test to embed their understanding of maths even further with a series of mathematical challenges that included creating intricate geometric optical illusions and looking at the Fibonacci sequence, proportions and the golden ratio in nature and the human body. This was an extension to the maths curriculum but the day was used to support students' learning in this area and pushed some of our students to apply their knowledge of the subject into a vocational context.

Our Key Stage 5 students spent the day focusing on mental health and county lines along with looking at career and employment opportunities. This is part of the school's commitment to ensure that all students, whether they are interested in Higher Education or not, are prepared for the wider world and understand the myriad of opportunities open to them post-18.

“ Cultural Enrichment days provide opportunities for our students' broader development, in that it supports them to develop their character, including their resilience, confidence and independence. QPHS prepares students for life in modern Britain by equipping them to be responsible, respectful, active citizens who contribute positively to society, developing their understanding of fundamental British values / SMSC, their understanding and appreciation of diversity, celebrating what we have in common and promoting respect for the different protected characteristics as defined in law. ”

Mrs Watts, PSHE & Careers Lead



“ It was an incredibly successful day and one that all students really benefitted from. We know that our investment in cultural capital is just as important as in their knowledge of our curriculum and as such, we are pleased it went so well! ”

Mr Yeoman, Assistant Headteacher



Diversity
Role Models

Christmas CONCERT

Showcasing Talent

The first term back to school culminated with a fantastic evening for parent's, carers and families - our 2022 Christmas Concert! A whole range of performances took place with some wonderful instrumental arrangements and performances from all five of our Year 7 tutor groups.

The concert was a sell-out event with so much Christmas spirit that it would have been impossible for anyone to leave without the joys of the season inside them! It was great to see such a high standard of talented students performing on stage which was testament to all their hard work in rehearsals.

It was clear that everyone involved enjoyed it as much as everyone who watched it. We look forward to continuing to produce outstanding musical events throughout 2023 (which is hard not to do with such talent at Queen's Park)!

“ A huge shout out to all at Queen's Park for a fantastic night. Student performances were brilliant tear jerkers and a highlight was the staff East 17 tribute! Well done to all. ”
Mrs Vernon,
Parent & audience member

2022

**SANTA
DASH**

**SCHOOL
SUPPORTS
CHARITY
FUNDRAISER**



**THE COUNTESS
CHARITY**

HOSPICE
OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD



“ It was lovely to see all the dashers and the weather wasn't too bad in the end! ”
Jacqui Halewood,
School PTA Team



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



Save the Children



Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Queen's Park community, not only was the school awash with festive and seasonal jumpers on Thursday 8th December, but we managed to raise over £500 for the charity, Save The Children! As a result of the community's kind donations, this money will go to support children all over the world and give them access to education they simply wouldn't have been able to have. This in turn, will change their life chances and opportunities.

In conjunction with this, Sixth Form students Lucia and Jack took the generous donations of food and dry goods gifted by our families, to the West Cheshire Foodbank in Ellesmere Port for distribution to our local community on behalf of the school. We managed to completely fill her car with provisions which is testament to just how much our school cares for those around us. Thank you to everyone who helped to support this.



Charity Fundraiser

The twelfth Chester Santa Dash took place on Sunday 4th December. This popular annual family event is organised by two local charities, The Countess Charity and the Hospice of the Good Shepherd.

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

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

Our Sixth Form car park attendants parked over 44 cars, helping to raise a noteworthy £132.00 which will now be donated to the two charities. We are very grateful to all those that helped to support us with this fundraising initiative.

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



West Cheshire
foodbank



Congratulations to all the fearless Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Bronze participants who braved the elements to successfully complete their expedition training in June.

At the beginning of June 2022, 38, Year 10 DofE students battled against the adverse weather conditions to complete their first Training Hike/Camp. The training started with map reading and route planning before setting off on a hike along the sandstone trail which started at Delamere and finished in Kelsall.

The expedition pushed students to their limits, both physically and mentally; testing their teamwork, navigation and interpersonal skills within their groups. They navigated through forestry, fields, footpaths and villages to show their understanding of map reading and their developing orienteering skills.

Students were ready and prepared for the assessed expedition in July, but unfortunately, Covid reared its head and the trip had to be postponed until September.

When school returned for the new academic year, students were ready and eager to face their delayed challenge. Once they had arrived at their destination under temperamental weather conditions, they walked a route from Bishop Heber High School to Waverton via Bickerton Hill and were assessed on their practiced navigational skills, camp craft and teamwork.

We are delighted for all students who faced their challenges with grit and determination, demonstrating excellent endurance and resilience. We are extremely proud to announce that all 38 students successfully passed their assessed expedition, and have achieved the DofE Bronze award with flying colours!





bronze DofE AWARD

At Queen's Park High School, students in Year 10 are encouraged to train for the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. This is a scheme which is offered in over 140 countries and aims to introduce young people to exciting, positive, challenging and enjoyable experiences.

A Duke of Edinburgh Award programme is a real adventure from beginning to end. It doesn't matter who you are, or where you are from, you just need to be aged between 14 and 24 and realise there's more to life than sitting on a sofa watching life pass you by!

You can achieve an award by completing a personal programme of activities in four sections (five for the gold award):

- Volunteering
- Physical
- Skills
- Expedition

You will find yourself helping individuals or the community, getting fitter, developing new skills, going on an expedition, and taking part in a residential activity. But, here's the best bit - you get to choose what you do!

Your programme can be full of activities and projects that get you buzzing and along the way, you'll pick up experiences, skills and friends that will stay with you for the rest of your life.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award has been very popular since we began to run it over 20 years ago. For Year 10 students 2022-23 information on Duke of Edinburgh was released in December. Please see Mrs Cutler for details. Email: j.cutler@qphs.co.uk



Service



Physical
Recreation



Skill



Adventurous
Journey



Residential
Project



FOOTBALL FOCUS

Recent match reports

Year 7

This year so far in Year 7 football, the boys have competed in numerous fixtures and competitions including the Cheshire Cup and the English Schools National Cup. The boys have proudly represented QPHS and have showed fantastic team spirit, support and passion for each other. Some notable performances have included the away fixture to Blacon High School, where they stormed to a 3-1 win with a solid team performance which left our boys in high spirits. The next challenge they faced was the annual 7-a-side tournament at Christleton High School. Some superb teamwork and heroics from Jacob R in goal put us in good contention to progress out of the group after a 1-0 victory over Tarporley. Sadly, it wasn't to be, as Queen's Park finished 3rd in their group, narrowly missing out on goal difference. Nevertheless, it was a great experience for the boys in their first year playing together. The future looks bright!

Year 8

Carrying on from where they left off last year, the Year 8 boys have embraced the step up and challenge

of competitive school football by passionately competing in numerous sports fixtures. A stacked schedule has given them the opportunity to compete in the National Schools Cup, Cheshire Cup and Chester and District inter-schools competitions - a challenge they have risen to! Displaying sportsmanship and professionalism, the boys have fought hard against some tough opponents, narrowly missing out on success in both cups. There is a real sense of unity and camaraderie amongst the team and the PE department are proud of how they have competed.

Year 9

Our Year 9 football team have been repeatedly challenged this year with high level football and each time they have matched it. Advancing to the 3rd round in the National Cup with a strong display and win against a stubborn and resilient Bridgenorth team which had to go to penalties to break the deadlock, it was the heroics of Jack M who stepped up last minute to fill an empty goalkeeper slot that saved two penalties in the shootout to help us advance. The boys next travel to Wrekin College where they will compete for a place in the 5th round.

It wasn't meant to be in the Cheshire Cup 2nd round however, as they faced a well-organised and skilful Helsby side that on their day deserved the win. Away from the cup fixtures, the boys have also been involved in the 7-a-side tournament at Christleton, where it was the turn of Louis P to step up to the goalkeeper role, producing numerous great saves throughout the tournament which at times kept the team afloat. Throughout these fixtures, the boys have shown great leadership, enthusiasm and desire which has undoubtedly contributed to their success so far.

Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form team faced some tough competition in their tournament at The King's School, Chester, against Kings, Abbeygate College, Bishops and Christleton High Schools. Although they didn't win they showed sharp footwork, excellent ball control and great resilience! Well done boys!

Lastly, a very special thank you to Tyler A and his dad for providing additional transport on numerous occasions this year, which has helped to support us being able to field a full team, thank you!





Year 7 Team



Year 8 Team



Year 9 Team



BASKETBALL

Shooting Hoops

Our Year 11 Basketball team travelled to Upton to compete in a Basketball match as part of the Chester league which includes Blaenau, Upton, Chester Catholic, Kings and Bishop's Blue Coat High Schools.

Throughout the duration of the fixture the boys were in high spirits and laughs were being had. Accompanied by Mr Kincaid and Mr Taylor the boys arrived ready for the challenge in their way. After warming up, brief scouting of the Upton side and a team talk full of tactics and formations the boys were ready to go for their game. Once the game commenced it was a competitive affair throughout, unfortunately it wasn't meant to be as Upton did in fact come away with the win. However, the involvement, fun and enjoyment that the boys received from the fixture overshadowed the end result.

The attitude and the levels of intensity that the boys displayed throughout was an outstanding reflection of the standards Queen's Park High School sets. A special mention to the boys Jake S and Dan H for their great efforts on Defence and to Finn H for his efforts throughout the game.

As always, we'd like to take this opportunity to give a huge thank you to our basketball kit sponsors, HL Financial, an independent financial company based in Handbridge. The kit really gives the students a real sense of pride and ambition.





“ I couldn't be more proud of this group. There is no such word as can't...just when is the match and what sport am I playing. ”

Mrs Cutler, Teacher of PE

THESE GIRLS CAN

There's no such word as 'can't'!

Year 8 girl's sport is going from strength to strength. Name a sport and they can play it. The football team got through to the third round in the Cheshire Cup having already beaten Whitby and Kings Warrington. They are due to play The Heath School from Runcorn in the next round. They performed brilliantly as a team with a couple of Year 7 students thrown in at the deep end and not looking out of place.

At the very end of last term, our under 13 5-a-side lionesses showed their skills once more, performing incredibly well in the Chester and District football tournament. They finished in second position as runners up, narrowly missing on first place by just 1 goal!

Some of these girls then decided, football wasn't enough and entered the Chester and District U14 Basketball competition, (yes they are only U13)!. After three fantastic games the girls finished on the same points as Abbey Gate College. Due to an injury to one of their players, a final was not possible so 1st place went to count back on points. We missed out by just 4 points and came away with the silver medals – fantastic!

If that wasn't enough for them, the group have also competed in the small schools netball league, playing against Abbey Gate, Bishops, Blacon and Chester Catholic High. They remain undefeated.

Netball practice continues every Monday after school for all year groups, with football every Wednesday lunchtime.





VOLLEYBALL GRUDGE MATCH

Staff vs Sixth Form

The long awaited return of the staff versus Sixth Form grudge match competition took place on Friday 25th November during lunchtime. Behind the scenes, covert team talks had been held by Mr Taylor (Curriculum Team Leader for PPA) and Joel C (Sixth Form Leader), igniting the historic rivalry between the staff and students respectively!

On the day, tension grew as the music encouraged the curiosity of a capacity crowd from all year groups. As the warm up began, it was clear that Mr Howens had retained the same old school stretches from his own PE days. A growing apprehension could be seen on the teachers faces as Sixth Form students Cari and Yana began to warm up, clearly, they had been no stranger to playing volleyball on their summer beach holidays. That said, the staff appeared to have the roaring crowd on their side, with the banners signifying Mr Kenny as a crowd favourite!

As the first serve was hit, it became clear that staff had two secret weapons: Miss Darroch who had been placed deep in the court for her quick reactions and dig shot, and Mr Footitt who had been tactfully positioned at the net for his height and blocking ability. This enabled the staff to comfortably win the first game, however, their celebrations were short lived as the students drew it back level in the second game. This meant a tie breaker, where winner takes all!

Following one last huddle, the teachers came out fighting taking the sixth formers by surprise, to win the final game. Rumour has it, the Sixth Form students have conceded to the teachers superior sporting talent for now. Instead, they are focusing the next challenge on an intelligence based rivalry, as they feel that this may be more of a weakness for the staff!

Watch this space...



WORLD GB SILVER MEDALIST

A Queen's Park High School Rowing Club competitor has won a world silver medal in a new format of the sport.

James Cox, 18, who is now at Manchester Metropolitan University, finished second in the coastal under 19s men's solos in the World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals staged in Saundersfoot harbour, South Wales in October.

He was just a second behind Mohamed Rayen Hafsa from Tunisia in the final and was more than satisfied with his performance in both the time trial and three spectacular races in the final eight.

Beach Sprint rowing is a progressive new format, aiming for inclusion at the LA 2028 Olympics and confirmed for the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Australia.

James was the fastest boat in his age category during the time trials, almost three seconds ahead of Spain in second place. After that first day in

Saundersfoot James said, "I just stayed relaxed, which is the best thing you can do in beach sprints. I really wasn't expecting to come first, so that's a bit unbelievable."

James is in his first year studying sport coaching and development at university after leaving school in the summer.

He is on the Great Britain Start Rowing training programme at Agecroft Rowing Club in Manchester, which aims to develop future Olympic athletes and also coaches rowing part time for Manchester Youth Rowing to under privileged children.

James started out in the sport at Queen's Park firstly as a Cox in Year 6 and progressing on to rowing throughout his time at school.

James won all team trial days that were organised throughout the year to be selected for the World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals and is hoping to take part again next year.



ROWING CLUB NEWS





“ My races were pretty clean. My first race, I could’ve been a little faster coming back but can’t complain. In the final I got a bit unlucky with the waves but I’m really happy with my medal. ”

James Cox, GB Silver Medalist



MEET OUR...

Rowing Leadership Team

Traditionally Queen's Park High School's Rowing Club has had one, or maybe two club captains. Over the last two years we have seen the responsibility for this role grow, and with it an opportunity to change our approach to leadership within the club.

We are delighted to introduce our Rowing Leadership Team for this year, which ensures skills across each individual can be combined to give the best format for our younger rowers and support to our coaches.

The team include Sixth Form students: Callum L, Freya C, James P, Nathan F and Sienna T, along with Tom B (former QPHS student, now completing an apprenticeship and coaching our Year 9 boys) and Grace N (former QPHS student who is coaching our younger year levels and continues to row for Queen's Park).

The team meet every half term to structure their work, and together, they deliver lunchtime ergo training to younger year groups, write news articles, update the school website, coach other crews, and attend events to support our younger rowers and coaches.

The impact they are having on the club is already noticeable, and the skills they are developing as leaders, working within the team highlight that rowing doesn't just provide an opportunity to row, it also enables personal growth.



LONG DISTANCE SCULLS



Return to Head Racing

The brutal reality of Head racing returned with the first event of the season, racing 5km from Eccleston to Chester for the Chester Long Distance Sculls.

Traditionally a race for single sculls, it now accommodates many types of boats, and we spread our entries across all categories, having singles, doubles, and quads represented.

Luckily, we had the weather on our side, so we were not freezing cold like other head events that take place over winter, but 5km is a hard race coming out of short regatta pieces that are usually sprinted.

All our rowers did incredibly well, rowing to either beat a set time, set a personal best or work on their long-distance racing.

Congratulations to our winners:

- **WJ15 2x:** Florence & Alice
- **J14 4x+:** Healy, Jack, Henry, Louis with cox Evie
- **WJ17 1x:** Grace

A special touch to the event, was that medals were presented by Olympic silver medallist Vicky Thornley this year.

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





AGECROFT HEAD



A test of power & stamina

Agecroft Head is a 3.2km course that runs through Salford and Manchester, finishing at Salford Quays.

QPH Rowing Club had a busy, fully packed day with 16 boats racing throughout the four divisions, all either J14 or J15. This event's distance, although shorter than some head races, requires consistency, power and stamina.

Unlike the last head race on the River Dee, the weather was challenging and really tested our rowers' drive and determination, with winds reaching a point that made a trial out of simply carrying blades. However, all rowers performed exceptionally well and kept positive mindsets, despite the wet and windy conditions.

At this event, our rowers really embodied the club's team spirit by helping with each other's boats, equipment and motivationally supporting one another. This was a perfect demonstration of how this sport can bring people together while pushing yourself outside your comfort zone.

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

- **J114 1x:** Henry
- **WJ14 4x+:** Alice, Phoebe, Siyana, Eden with cox Louis





AUTUMN HEADS

4km Racing on the Dee

The return back to our own river in October saw us racing at the Grosvenor Rowing Club organized Dee Autumn Head. This event is a mere 4km, and we had 16 crews tackle the course. A very rainy start to the day meant spectators and rowers were apprehensive about the day ahead, but that didn't stop the festivities at the boathouse as our amazing catering staff provided barbeque, cakes and paella for the hungry masses.

Fantastic performances from all our crews, with special mention to the winners of their events.

- **WJ16 single:** Lily
- **WJ18 single:** Sienna

- **J15 quad:** Will, Sam, Apollo, Macey with Cox - Daisy
- **J16 double:** Dan & Finn
- **J15 double:** Apollo & Sam
- **J16 coxless four:** Harvey, Keir, Ned & Murphy

Rowing at Northwich

A favoured local event that is oversubscribed in days, is rowing at Northwich. The stress of having to row on the River Weaver which is lined with barges and other watercraft means it's a test for how well our crews can steer.

A beautiful Remembrance Day with the first division dedicated to singles, we had 10 of our rowers out on the water rowing the 2350m.

A lovely touch was that each boat had a picture of a poppy added instead of a racing number (which was added to the side of each boat).

It was terrific to see our Year 9 rowers taking to the singles.

Divisions 2 and 3 were for the larger boats, and we had many combinations of quads, doubles, fours and a pair competing.

Special mention to James and Murphy who had not been in their boat together until the competition, and still managed to bring home the medal!

Congratulations to our winners on the day:

- **J14 1x:** Apollo
- **Open Pair:** James & Murphy





BOAT NAMING

Last month we were finally able to officially name our coxed quad boat. We were very pleased to see 'Kayte P' on our newest boat which we raised funds for way back in 2019 in our Rowathon.

INTRACLUB FRIENDLIES

The last month has seen the club invited to participate in some friendly competitions with our neighbours on the Dee, as well as some other clubs in the region.

Our J14 – J15 rowers shared a full day of mixed racing and ergos hosted by The King's School with The Grange School from Northwich also joining the day. It was great to see so many rowers across the region on the water together.

As well, we have had two different time trial races organised by The King's School. The first for our senior crews only, with both our girls and boys racing in eights, with our boy's eight (James, Murphy, Ned, Dan, Finn, Harvey, Keir and Matt) having the fastest time across both distances (3km and 2km).

The second event saw all our crews competing in different sized boats, with a number of our crews winning their events. Amazing achievements and well done to all!



JOB OPPORTUNITIES



Are you interested in becoming an Exam Invigilator?

We are looking to recruit reliable and enthusiastic exam invigilators to work within our existing team to assist with the running of all internal and public examinations.

The role would suit applicants who prefer to work flexible daytime hours during term time. No experience is required as full training will be provided.

For more information, visit: www.qphs.co.uk or contact:

Mrs Moore;

Email: exams@qphs.co.uk



We are looking for a Network Manager?

An exciting opportunity is available for the right candidate to join our busy ICT team working across Queen's Park High School and Chester International School. The post holder will assist in providing a first-class service to all students and staff in the use of information technology, whilst helping to maintain ICT equipment and facilities.

For more information, visit: www.qphs.co.uk or contact:

Mrs Andrea Nancollas

Email: Recruitment@qphs.co.uk



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During school holidays

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All proceeds go to support extra-curricular
activities including rowing.



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