



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

SUMMER TERM
JULY 2017

**'Without
The Walls'
ARTS
FESTIVAL**

UCAS RESIDENTIAL

Sixth Formers live
life as a University
student

MATHS MASTERY

with Year 5 & University
of Chester students

STAFF vs PARENTS

Dragon
Boat Race

SUMMER SPORTS CAMP

Free for Year 4&5
children

YEAR 5

Curriculum
Challenge Day 3

MISS WATTERSON WINS HEADTEACHER of the YEAR AWARD

ENRICHMENT & ENTERPRISE

An Action Packed Week of Activities



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

WELCOME

As another academic year draws to a close, it's that time when as a school, we celebrate our achievements and reflect upon our learning to help shape 2017-18.

Once again, we have had an incredibly busy term as reflected by the wonderful articles within this newsletter. We recently held our first Enrichment Week with students in Years 7-9 focusing upon the development of their enterprise skills through a variety of different activities. Year 10 and Year 12 also had the opportunity to go out on work experience, which I know many found to be incredibly purposeful and enlightening, giving them a taste of the 'real world'.

Last week we opened our doors over two days to ten other school communities as we celebrated the Arts by hosting an Arts Festival in conjunction with Edsential. It was a fantastic event with performances from over 600 children from Reception class all the way through to the Sixth Form. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank all the Headteachers from the schools involved: Overleigh St. Mary's, Belgrave, Lache, Eccleston, Dodleston, St. Clare's, St. Werburgh's & St. Columba's, St. Mary's Nursery, the Catholic High School and Christleton High School, for their enthusiasm and commitment to such a collaborative project. It was delightful to see the breadth of talent which was on display!

This week we focus our celebrations on the achievements of our own students with our Awards Evening, Art Exhibition, Rewards trips and Final Celebration Assembly on the last day! Over recent weeks, I have been endlessly impressed with the increased sense of pride our students have both for their own achievements and also for their school. Every time we ask students to step up, to take responsibility and to show their leadership, they grasp this with both hands and do themselves proud. We have received so many positive comments from visitors to the school who are impressed by their willingness to engage and interact and are frequently described as 'a credit to the school' – what more could we ask for?

And finally....some goodbyes!

We are sad to be saying goodbye to the following teaching staff at the end of this academic year:

Mr Morley – taking 'early' retirement to explore other things and have the opportunity to slow down a little!

Mrs Thomas – off to teach maths at Abbey Gate School.

Miss Frawley – returning back to her homeland, off back to Ireland.

Mrs Wheeler (Miss Testi) – off to teach at The Hammond.

Mr Clubb – taking up a secondment as 'Head of PE' at Christleton High School. As we are currently overstaffed in our PE team, this is a fantastic opportunity for Mr Clubb to work in one of our Trust schools and hopefully develop links between our PE departments going forwards.

We will miss them all but we wish them every success in their adventures ahead!

Finally, I would just like to wish you all a lovely summer break, hopefully with some sunshine too for good measure! We look forward to seeing our Year 11 and Year 13 students on the results days in August and for everyone else, we will see you back again for the start of an exciting new term on Tuesday 5th September.

Miss Watterson
HEADTEACHER

TRINITY MIRROR

Cheshire Schools Awards

We are so proud to announce that Queen's Park High School Headteacher, Miss Watterson has been awarded Secondary School Headteacher of the Year at the Cheshire School Awards held at the Queen Hotel in June.

The Schools Awards are a celebration of the hard work, dedication and achievements of schools throughout the county, the children who attend them and the staff who inspire them.

Miss Watterson had successfully been shortlisted as one of the three finalists in the NCS Secondary School Headteacher of the Year award category and Mr Richardson (Assistant Headteacher) for 'Howard Worth's Inspirational Teacher of the Year'. Both were invited, along with staff and students from schools across



Cheshire, to attend the celebratory event which was sponsored by Excell Supply Limited and hosted by TV presenter Dianne Oxberry.

QPHS Chair of Governors, Kayte Parlevliet said,

"If you could bottle passion, enthusiasm, a relentless pursuit of outstanding education for all, mentoring, leadership, consistency, vision, execution and humility, then Queen's Park High School hit the jackpot in January 2015 when Lyndsay Watterson started as Headteacher. Anyone who meets her, will within seconds detect the humility she brings to the role, which promotes her as an outstanding leader, her motivation is for education, and not for her personal promotion. If we look quite intimately, Lyndsay struggles with having the spotlight pointed at her, as her first and foremost drive is to ensure all children receive the education that is their right."

Trinity Mirror said that every year the judging of this popular competition gets tougher and tougher as the number and quality of entries consistently increases. Jon Overall, main sponsor of Excell Supply and also one of the judges said *"The standard of entries was extremely high which made judging extremely difficult"*, so we were thrilled when it was revealed Miss Watterson had received this accolade which was so richly deserved.



HEADTEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Winner - Miss L Watterson

We wanted to share the heart-warming testimonial below which was written by our Head Boy and Head Girl (as to why, under Miss Watterson's leadership, they believed they could), and clearly expresses why Miss Watterson has been named Cheshire Secondary School Headteacher of 2017! We hope you think so too!

"We don't wish to dwell on the past but those that have been here to experience the arrival of Miss Watterson instantly express the feeling of change she brought with her. They say it's difficult to explain. It's difficult to put into words. But it's a feeling that's felt around the school now, a feeling that's been missing for a long time. A feeling of community: of optimism, of control, of laughter, of well-being and of family. But without this incredible woman none of this would have been possible. She's not only improved the quality of education but completely changed the students' emotional attachment to both the teachers and the school itself. Whether it is a simple smile and "Hello" in the corridor or performing in an appropriately unpredictable murder mysteries night, she radiates laughter and joy and that passes through every part of the school.

Living in a modern world in which we are constantly developing and evolving, we need to come up with new and innovative ways we educate others and no one is surer of this than Miss Watterson. She has a vision that's seen and shared by all within the school. She has always said that the students are the most fundamental part of any successful school and as the voice of our students this mutual respect and engagement with us is really felt throughout. There is finally a real identity and sense of belonging at Queen's Park High with many seeing Miss Watterson as a true role model.

She's truly unique and we can't express enough how completely unaware she is of her own greatness. Winning this award would mean so much for our school as it would finally show those who still believe us to be "failing" that in fact we're far from it. But above all, it would give one of the most frustratingly gracious and kind hearted ladies we've ever met the same feeling of happiness that she has so selflessly given to every single student and member of staff at Queen's Park High herself over the past two years."

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Students pass Bronze Award

Congratulations to the 22 Duke of Edinburgh participants who have all successfully completed and passed both the assessed training expedition and qualifying expedition for the DofE Bronze Award.

The training over the year has covered rucksack packing, menu planning, route cards and route planning, map reading and navigation, first aid, emergencies, hazards and risks, teamwork and, not least, the 20 conditions!

The expeditions were over two days and students were both mentally and physically challenged. They learnt how to work as a team to achieve a set aim and to navigate through forestry, fields, footpaths and towns to show their understanding of map reading and orienteering skills.

During the overnight camps students were challenged to set up tents, cook an evening meal and breakfast on a camp stove before navigating to Kelsall carrying with them all their belongings in their huge rucksacks! Students were also tasked to film their experiences for a presentation which would form the final part of the expedition section.

The students' spirits were never dampened by the tasks and challenges they faced and they showed great team work, camp craft and navigation skills throughout. DofE award. Well done to all involved!



MICHAEL ORD AWARD

Presented to Sixth Form Student



Congratulations to Year 13 student, Ben Newell, who received the much sought after Michael Ord Award this year for his outstanding contribution to Sport and continued support with the PE Department. Ben is also a very active member of Queen's Park High School Rowing Club and continues to dedicate considerable hours to coach and safeguard rowers in his role as launch boat operative.

Ben was presented with the prestigious memorial trophy by Stuart Ord who set it up in honour and memory of his son Michael. Michael, a former Queen's Park High School student and keen sportsman sadly died of meningitis in 1993, aged 14.



ARTS FESTIVAL

A celebration of Arts
Education

Perhaps the highlight of the Art Calendar has to have been the incredible Arts Festival, 'Without the Walls' hosted at our school on Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th July. Over nearly 8 months, the artistic talents of students from schools across the Dee Partnership were challenged, developed and showcased in front of a combined audience of over 1200 people. Performances and work ranged from dance, music, poetry, drama plus amazing artwork.

The artwork was created during specialist workshops in collaboration with each school and was presented in an exhibition at QPHS Gallery running in conjunction with the children's performances on stage in the Main Hall. It included digital imaging, print making, textiles and ceramics. Our local primary schools also contributed their own work which was produced in their schools.

Mr Yeoman, Lead Practitioner for Teaching & Learning said, *"It was inspirational to see how far and wide the culture of Chester is embedded in the city and how confident and proud the students of all 11 participating schools were when presenting their creativity."*

Over the two days there were four discrete programmes of events opened by The Lord Mayor of Chester, Councillor Razia Daniels, Mark Parkinson, Head of Education for CWAC, Chris Matheson MP for Chester and Hilary Berry, Head of Cheshire West Association of Primary Headteachers (CWAPH). Each of the programmes was compered by Gavin Cross who delighted the audience with his anecdotes and quirky reflections. It was a joy to see hundreds of smiling faces over the course of the two days and we are confident that this event will have a lasting impact on the lives of all involved.





ENRICHMENT WEEK

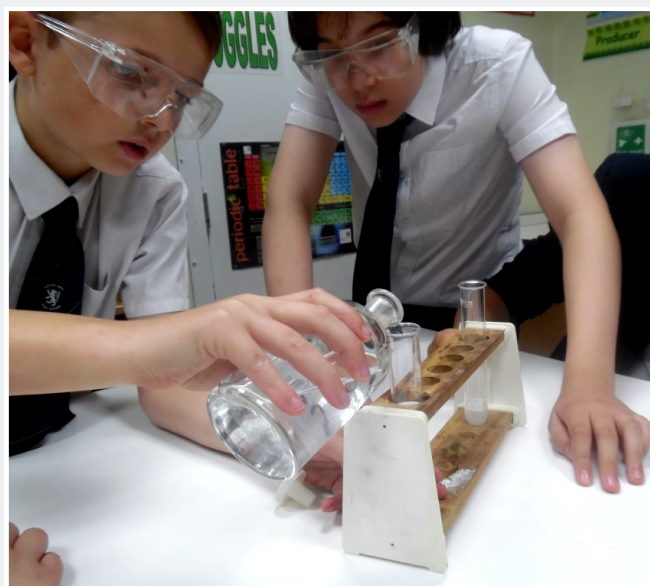
An Amazing week of Activities & Enterprise

Whilst Years 10 and 12 were developing their skill base on work experience, Years 7-9 were extending their studies beyond the curriculum and learning new skills during a fun and action packed Enrichment Week here at QPHS.

Kick starting Monday with 'Business in a Day', 'Enabling Enterprise' challenged students to become entrepreneurs for a day focusing on real life project briefs that explored branding, product design, budgeting and marketing. Students competed in teams to collect the highest points.

Teamwork, leadership, listening and understanding, positivity, problem solving, imagination, presenting and aiming high were all key skills students needed to develop in order to win the points and be successful.

Tuesday and Friday were filled with an eclectic mix of enrichment activities that included astronomy, Native American arts and crafts, creating medieval weapons, living literacy, navigation, camping & cooking, Harry Potter Science, tropical juice making, rowing on the River Dee, photography and working on a devised piece of Drama ready to perform at Storyhouse in Chester at the end of the week.



Enabling Enterprise were back in school on Wednesday inspiring students with another challenge, 'Operation Moonbase'. Students worked in their houses in mixed year group teams with the task of establishing a new society on the moon, whilst faced with solving the problems relating to global overpopulation and climate change.

Students were kept active on Thursday during one of our favourite annual events - Sports Day. With the theme, 'Community Spirit' students battled it out in their House teams to become champions in both track and field events.

There was certainly a competitive edge to the week which culminated on Friday night when QPHS staff and parents, eager to jump on the week's competitive 'band wagon' (or rather 'Dragon Boat') went head to head for the annual staff vs parents Dragon Boat 'grudge' match on the River Dee. Read on to find out who were crowned the victors!

All in all a very busy, yet absolutely fantastic week and the outcomes for our students have been significant.



STORYHOUSE PERFORMANCE

'When The Walls Are Too High'

Over the past few days of Enrichment Week a group of 20 KS3 students have been working on a devised drama piece entitled, 'When The Walls Are Too High'.

The project focused around the plight of Syrian refugees and built on research conducted by the charity, Save The Children.

It has been quite an emotional yet informative journey for all involved. The students made their debut performance on stage at the Garret Theatre in the new STORYHOUSE and can be proud not only of the work they created but that they have also been the first school group to perform at the impressive venue!

Mr Yeoman said;

"One of the most exciting aspects of the performance experience was the way the students engaged so positively with a professional performance environment. The students were reflective performers who refined their work over the course of the day to ensure their performance for the audience in the evening was as strong as it could be. It was a pleasure to work with and offer the opportunity to such a committed and talented group of students."



DRAGON BOAT RACE

Staff vs Parents Grudge Match



As Dragon Boat champions, Queen's Park High School staff were faced with defending their winners' title in yet another river boat challenge by parents, in the PTA's annual Staff vs Parents Dragon Boat race.

With rivalry rife, there was a tense atmosphere at Queen's Park High School Boathouse as both squads lined up alongside the River Dee. The parents, also known as 'RiverRats', donned Spartan like blue bandanas and war painted faces in an attempt to psych out their opposition. As they took to the water, their warrior chants of 'one-two', 'one-two' synchronised their oars and they slickly cut through the Dee in front of the 'oar'struck on-looking staff. With Mr Clubb's anchor man missing, a paddling technique that cried out for unity and Mr Yeoman's splashing frenzy, it didn't bode well for the staff.

Fortunately it was the best out of three and the staff dignified themselves winning one of the races and graciously offered their congratulations to the Zulu warriors as they steamed to victory for the first time.

The teams retired back to the Boathouse for a well-earned BBQ and the River Rats were crowned champions.

The event raised just over £500 – an achievement for all involved!

During the celebrations Sixth Former Ben Newall received a fantastic honour from QPHS Rowing Club, when they named a boat after him for his commitment to the club over the years. We would also like to say a huge thank you to Mr Mike Benson for his dedication, hard work and support for our school, as he retires this Summer from the position of Chairman of the PTA.



MATHS MASTERY

Year 5 MART Challenge Day

At the end of June, 120 Year 5 children from Overleigh St. Mary's and Chester Blue Coat Primary Schools, joined us at QPHS for a day of MART led by Dr Sally Bamber and PGCE students from the University of Chester. 'MART' is the combination of Mathematics and Art.

Leading up to the day children had been focusing on primes, factors and multiples and then transferred that learning into art. They were asked to paint without numbers and had to use their own interpretation of showing the different multiples on a grid from 1 to 100. Children used different colours, textures and patterns to represent different numbers. This is a form of Maths Mastery where the learning is embedded in symbols, experience, language and pictures in order to develop a deeper understanding.

Many of the children also worked on 'big art' using large canvases which were on display in our Gallery during the Arts Festival and now can be seen around the school. As the day came to a close, groups presented their work and gave a detailed description of everything they had discovered. The children were fascinated that they could work in Maths without using any numbers and thoroughly enjoyed their day at QPHS.



SCIENCE SUCCESS

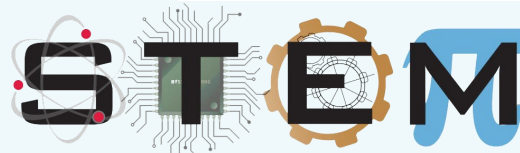
Rory's Rockets make Big Bang finals

On 4th July, 13 KS3 students went to the Big Bang Fair in Liverpool, where they presented the Science projects they had been working on in Science Club. This year's projects included fireproof materials, chemical rockets, tooth whitening products, scalextric forces and reaction times.

All groups presented their ideas to a group of judges and viewed the exhibition to learn about STEM careers and grab some freebies. Kiara in Year 8 enjoyed the different activities at the event and particularly enjoyed speaking to the judges about her fireproof materials project. James and Tyler also in Year 8 enjoyed watching the Big Bang shows on explosions and developing their communication skills.

Emi in Year 7 said "My favourite part was looking at the other Science stalls and I enjoyed working as a team."

We have to give a special mention to Rory Jones in Year 8 who worked on one of the ten projects that were selected to represent the region in the national Big Bang finals held in Birmingham in March 2018. Rory said, "It was a really exciting moment when we found out that I got through to the national finals. All my hard work in Science Club had paid off." Congratulations Rory!



YEAR 5 ACTIVITY DAY

Students take on Curriculum Challenge



On Wednesday 14th June over 200 Year 5 children from seven primary schools in the Dee Schools Partnership, which included Belgrave, Ecclestone, Dodleston, Lache, Overleigh St Marys, St Clares, St Werburgh's & St Columba's, joined Queen's Park High School for their third Curriculum Challenge Day. The children got to experience secondary school life and were challenged in Science, Sports, and Ebacc curriculum areas. Our Year 9 students were fantastic ambassadors supporting this day, taking part in activities and caring for our younger visitors!



The day was based on our new school vision 'Inspiring Individuals, Empowering Minds, Defining Futures'. When organising the activities, teachers were asked to think about what underpins our vision and how we could allow our visitors to experience this.

In Science discussions were centred around *"Who or what inspired Albert Einstein to become a scientist?"*; *"How does Science help people to become empowered in their lives?"* and *"How can Science define the future?"* Year 5 looked at 'Water Science' and water in chromatography and its use to separate mixtures, as a forensic team may use at a crime scene. They investigated how a cruise ship could float on water and then designed and tested their own small scale boats.



During the sports sessions, a few chosen children were enrolled into a tag rugby master class with Mr Taylor. After quickly picking up the rules, they began to demonstrate some inspiring feats of athleticism, working as a team; passing the ball, dodging tackles and supporting play. There were also some individual moments of brilliance, most notably, when Erin Johnson of St Werburgh's & St. Colomba's evaded numerous tackles before grounding the ball for an unbelievable try, demonstrating herself to be a potential player to look out for in the future.

In the Ebacc subject areas, Year 5 explored the history and meaning behind coats of arms considering the colours, symbols and animals used in the various designs. The children then created and constructed a design of their own using symbols that represented themselves and their character traits.

In Spanish children learned how to say a whole rainbow of colours in Spanish using the work and life of Pablo Picasso as inspiration.



Over the day, children were 'inspired' by a range of Science experiments, sporting activities and opportunities to learn a new language. We hope we 'empowered' them by encouraging teamwork and dedication, and making new friends. We hope that when the time comes to make decisions in Year 6, that Queen's Park High School will 'define' their future!

LONDON THEATRE TRIP

Star struck students meet 'School of Rock' Dewey

On Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th June, students from all years had the incredible opportunity to watch 'School of Rock' and 'Dreamgirls' in London. But, topping off the experience, was the private meeting arranged for them with Joel Montague. Joel is one of the actors from School of Rock who shares the lead role of 'Dewey' made famous by Jack Black. The meet and greet gave our students the chance to ask him about the show, the business and what it was like to audition in front of Andrew Lloyd Webber. It was a brilliant way to find out about careers in the industry and just how successful the students can be if they work hard towards their goals - every student was slightly star-struck too!

Since the trip we have been secretly planning our next school production and can now reveal it will be 'School of Rock'! Let the auditions commence!



UCAS RESIDENTIAL

Sixth Form students get a taste of University life

Back at the beginning of term Mrs Skeoch-Londono took a handful of Year 12 students on a UCAS Timeline Residential held at the University of Chester. The two day event was aimed at those students who are starting to take the university application process more seriously, yet are unsure as to what that process may be. Our QPHS students went along to see what it was all about and were true ambassadors for the school, listening attentively to the information being presented and asking timely and relevant questions.

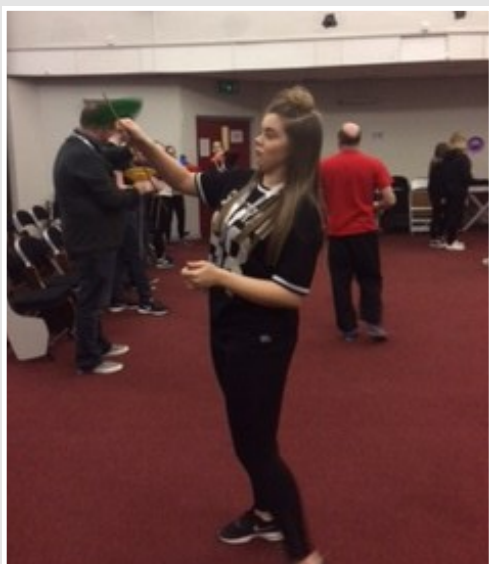
Mrs Skeoch-Londono said,

"The highlight of the event, and what really made me smile and reminded me why I was drinking flat Coke in a smelly and sticky-floored Student Union bar at 9pm on a Thursday night, was the confidence which had blossomed in these young adults in such a short period of time. A few months ago one of the students in the group wouldn't answer a question in public, yet she was now presenting with clarity and determination to a group of thirty strangers. Another student initially wouldn't stand to get herself a cup of water, yet as time went by, had acquired enough skills to hula hoop, spin plates on her fingers and throw diabolos up into the air."

Our students not only learnt important dates for UCAS, key features of the UCAS application form and buzz words to avoid when writing personal statements, but perhaps more importantly, also experienced for themselves the value of essential skills such as team work, communication and life experiences!

Daniel Francis Sixth Form Student said,

"Our trip to Chester Uni gave us a valuable insight on the number of courses available. We learned about finance, personal statements and what it is like to live as a student. I highly recommend future students to go on the same residential."



READY TO LAUNCH INTO THE NEW SEASON

New Strip; New Goals



It is with great pride that Queen's Park High School launches its new football kit for 2017/18. The strips are a new design from Nike that offers style, comfort and bold colours that will inspire the teams as they prepare for the challenges ahead. Mr Clubb, who is Curriculum Leader for Physical and Performing Arts, said *"This has been a very exciting process for the school, and I am very grateful to Queensferry Sports for their total support with the design of the shirts and shorts."* He added *"We have got a lot of football fixtures in the new academic year and want to stamp our authority from the start. I am sure that students will feel confident and proud when they are playing."* Liam Shell who is part of the Year 8 football team said *"These new kits are brilliant! We have been desperate for some new kit and as a team we are very grateful that the PTA has supported the PE Department in purchasing these items. I know that the team will put these kits on in the new year with positivity and wear the badge with pride."*

ROWING VICTORY

Medal Haul for QPHS Rowers

It was an early start for Queen's Park High students to travel to Runcorn Rowing Club ready to compete in the Ball Cup North over their 300m sprint course.

This event is for Junior rowers aged 13-15 years and we can proudly say all students were adorned with a coloured medal by the end of the day, with the club coming third place overall, just three points short of second place - an amazing achievement!

First place and gold medals went to Ben Baker and Dan Williams in the J14 double, James Cox and Dylan Howard in the J13 double, Iestyn Burke in the J13 single, Louise Coleman and Olivia Halewood in the J15 double.

Second place and silver medals went to Josh Halewood and Joe Bamber in the J13 singles; Josh Williamson and Tyler Gordon in the J13 doubles; the J14 quad and J15 girls quad and to Bethan Curtis and Charlotte Carswell in the J15 double.

The J13 quad did incredibly well too, with Joe Bamber, Tyler Gordon, Josh Halewood, Josh Williamson and cox Dylan Howard all receiving bronze medals.

It was a fantastic day for the club and students, showing how much they have all improved over the last year.

The club will now look forward to the next competition for our experienced rowers at the National Championships in Nottingham.

At the end of the summer holidays we'll be back on the water at Ross-on-Wye Regatta for a weekend of camping, fun and racing!





QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Free SUMMER SPORTS CAMP 2017

21ST - 23RD AUGUST

available for
Year 4 & 5 children
10.00am - 3.00pm each day

This summer give your child the opportunity to build their confidence and self-esteem, improve their fitness, co-ordination and communication skills, whilst having fun and making new friends.

Places are limited, so to secure a place please contact
Mrs Scanlon on:
Telephone: **01244 981500**
Email: **c.scanlon@qphs.co.uk**
Closing date: **Friday 21st July 2017**
Further details will be sent out to those successful applicants

inspiration vision passion action



BIG HERITAGE

Students selected for Film Project

On the 1st June, four of our incredibly talented performing arts and drama students spent the day filming around the city of Chester with a professional film crew.

The film was commissioned by Big Heritage and is centered around the story of a teenage girl growing up in Chester in the late 20th century whilst coming to terms with her own sexuality.

Our students took part in an audition workshop last half term and the director commented on how talented all of the auditionees were and how difficult it was making a decision on the final four.

The film will be premiered at Chester Pride on 19th August in front of hundreds of spectators.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event	Time
17 July	Open Morning for Year 5 Parents	9.15-12pm
17 July	Awards Evening	
18 July	Filming with Big Heritage	9-12pm
18 July	Meet the Head for Year 4 & 5 Parents/Carers	4.30pm
18 July	Art & Design Summer Exhibition	6.00-7.30pm
20 July	House Rewards Trips All Years	All Day
21 July	Summer Holidays School closes for students	12.20pm
24-25 July	INSET	All Day
17 August	A Level Results Year 13 Year 12	9.00am 9.30am
24 August	GCSE Results Year 11 Other Years	9.30am 10.00am
22-23 August	SUMMER SPORTS CAMP Years 4 & 5	10 - 3pm
5 September	School re-opens for all students	8.40am
21 September	OPEN EVENING	6-9pm
22 September	Open Morning Year 5/6 Parents	9.15-12pm
25 September	Open Morning Year 5/6 Parents	9.15-12pm

MFL NEWS

New Spanish & French GCSE

MFL are going through some exciting times at the moment. This year we have welcomed Chinese students into our lessons and learnt from each other through team work and presentations. We have seen the introduction of a new GCSE in Spanish and French and are working hard to create challenging, relevant and up-to-date schemes of work, which will prepare our students as confident and motivated linguists.

As of September we are starting off the term with an exciting celebration of European Languages Day and throughout the year will have the opportunity to meet students of similar age from our local language school as well as take part in a Spelling Bee.

LOTTERY WIN

Congratulations to all the recent winners of the 200 club lottery - Alli Hancock, A Dixon, Peter Burke, J Harrison, G Yalarakis, M Heath, S Rowlands, A Moreton and Martin Degg.