



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

SPRING TERM

JANUARY - APRIL 2024

PLATE WINNERS

Chester & District
Netball Competition

ROWING CLUB EVENTS

STEM CULTURAL ENRICHMENT DAY

'Quacking' CHALLENGE

Chester
Duck Race

STUDENT VOICE

We Listen

GUILTY OR NOT GUILTY

Young Citizens
Magistrates
Mock Trial

CHESTER ZOO

Sustainability &
Climate Change

ICONIC BLACKPOOL

Fieldwork
along the coast

MATHS BOOSTER

& Financial
Literacy

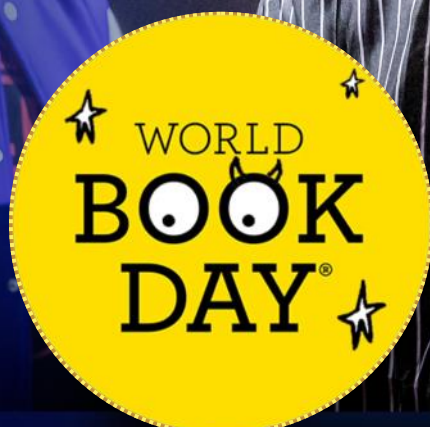
NEXT STEPS

National
Careers
Week

THIS IS ME

Budding poets'
work published

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY at STORYHOUSE



SENSATIONAL SHOWSTOPPER POPSTARS

The 90's Musical



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WELCOME



As we bid farewell to spring and embrace the rejuvenating spirit of summer, it brings me great joy to extend a warm welcome to our latest newsletter. The past few months have been bustling with activity and achievement, and it is with immense pride that I share some highlights with you all.

Our recent drama production was nothing short of spectacular! I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the entire cast, crew, and staff involved in bringing the stage to life with creativity, talent, and dedication. It was a testament to the hard work and collaborative spirit of our students, showcasing their artistic flair and passion for the performing arts.

At Queen's Park High School we are committed to providing a well-rounded education that goes beyond the confines of textbooks. You can read about our curriculum enrichment programmes which have continued to flourish, offering students unique opportunities for exploration and growth. From engaging workshops to inspiring guest speakers, these initiatives empower our learners to broaden their horizons and discover their full potential.

World Book Day was a vibrant celebration of literature and imagination. Our school was abuzz with excitement as students and staff embraced their favourite literary characters, participated in storytelling sessions, and delved into the magic of reading. It was wonderful to witness the joy and enthusiasm with which our community embraced this literary tradition, reinforcing the importance of literacy in nurturing curious minds.

As we enter the exam season, I want to extend my sincerest well wishes to our Year 11 and 13 students. I understand the pressures that come with examinations, and I commend each and every one of them for their hard work and dedication. They have prepared diligently, and I have every confidence in their abilities to excel. I ask them to stay focused, believe in themselves, and know that their QPHS family is here to support them every step of the way.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to our entire school community for their unwavering support and commitment. Together, we continue to create a nurturing environment where we inspire individuals, empower minds and define futures.

Wishing you all a joyful and fulfilling summer – may the sun shine for us all.

Mr Kearns
HEADTEACHER



PRESERVE YOUR WORLD

Sustainability & Climate Change

During this half term, Year 8 students have had the exciting opportunity to work with staff at Chester Zoo to discuss sustainability and climate change. Students have been investigating the impact of burning fossil fuels on climate change and which countries are the culprits with the biggest impact on global warming. Students worked in groups for an interactive game where they were each given a different country so they could measure the impact of climate change across the globe. Students also built a town using Lego to show the wider impact of buildings and burning fossil fuels on different consumers.

For the final workshop, students

have been looking at how they could reduce the impact they themselves have on the environment and lower their carbon footprints. Ideas for this included: not upgrading their phones so often, not buying fast fashion items and looking out for climate pledge friendly logos on the products they buy.

These workshops have provided Year 8 students with an abundance of vital information from the experts. The sessions have been empowering, enabling them to extend their knowledge further about climate change and think critically about how we can improve the world for future generations, including their own.



During the school's STEM focused Cultural Enrichment Day in March which aims to enhance what we offer our students beyond the curriculum, Year 8 students also went on an exciting trip to Chester Zoo to continue the work they had been doing in the classroom with Chester Zoo's Conservation, Education and Engagement Team and research further how different species can be impacted by climate change.

A massive thank you to all the staff from Chester Zoo, especially Ellie, Leon, Jenny and Mike for all the work they have done with our students.

maths BOOSTER



Advanced Mathematics
Support Programme



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

Algebraic puzzles & geometric conundrums!

At the end of February, we were delighted to host the Year 12 Maths Problem Solving Day for over 30 sixth form students from local high schools across Chester and our own Year 12 mathematicians.

This annual event is led by Martin Bamber from the Advanced Maths Support Programme (AMSP) and the University of Liverpool and is supported by the Maths PGCE trainee teachers from the University of Chester. It is always a brilliant day as students from various schools converge to engage in a day filled with stimulating mathematical

challenges and competitions.

Throughout the event, the students were immersed in a series of thought-provoking problem-solving tasks designed to test their analytical skills and foster creativity. The problems presented were diverse in nature, ranging from algebraic puzzles to geometric conundrums, thereby catering to a wide spectrum of mathematical interests and abilities.

Students had the chance to work together in teams, exchanging ideas and leveraging each other's

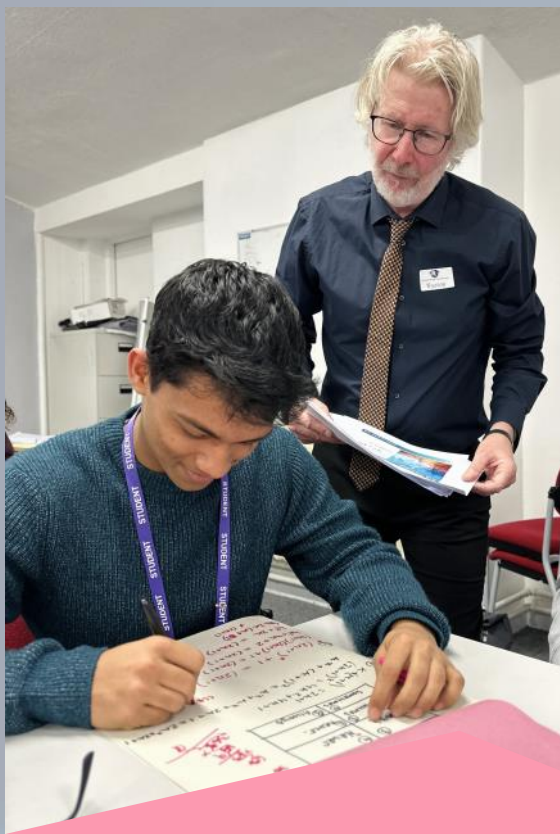
strengths to unravel the complexities of the problems at hand. This collaborative approach not only enhanced the overall learning experience but also promoted teamwork and communication skills essential for success in mathematics and beyond.

Moreover, the event provided a glimpse into the vibrant academic community at the University of Liverpool, inspiring students to pursue further studies in mathematics and related fields.

“ I really enjoyed the problem-solving day. It was challenging but the competition element made it really fun. I'm glad that our team won the relay! ”

Year 12, maths student





“ The Year 12 Maths Problem Solving Day was a resounding success, leaving a lasting impression on the students who participated. We look forward to being the host school for Martin's events in the future. ”
Miss Jones, Achievement Lead for Maths



University of
Chester



FINANCIAL LITERACY

Savvy Shopping & A European Tour

The maths department are delighted to welcome back Morgan Linfield, a former Queen's Park High School student. Morgan, who now works as a Wealth and Personal Banking graduate for HSBC, has volunteered his time to share his knowledge and deliver informative workshops on banking and managing finances to our KS3 and KS4 students over the Spring and Summer Term.

Year 7 have had a fun introduction to conversion rates with their 'European Tour' masterclass, which aims to prepare students for their summer holidays abroad. They have been learning how to convert money between pounds and euros, exploring different holiday destinations and how to budget for a holiday. Meanwhile, Year 8 won't be caught out by any consumer traps any day soon, as they have been delving into the world of 'Savvy shopping' – an eye-opening workshop revealing the pitfalls and dangers of online shopping!

Year 9 have been 'Gaming 4 Good' - learning how to stay safe online and communicating on games safely and Year 10 are getting finance savvy with the 'Banking 101' and 'Banking lowdown' workshops. They have been learning all things bank accounts: how to set one up, exploring current accounts and savings accounts, interest rates and banking perks!

Once again, we would like to thank Morgan for giving up his time to work with our students. It was fantastic to see him again!



Faraday challenge



In January, six Year 8 students were selected to compete in an IET Faraday Challenge day at North Liverpool Academy. These days are cross-curricular activity events combining Science, Design and Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) which give students the opportunity to research, design and make solutions to real-life engineering problems.

Students were set the challenge to design and build a prototype which could support road users in the area. They had to consider who it would benefit, how it would keep people safe and how it could care for our environment.

Students designed their prototype and completed a planning log to draw out circuits and explain how their prototype would support the work of National Highways.

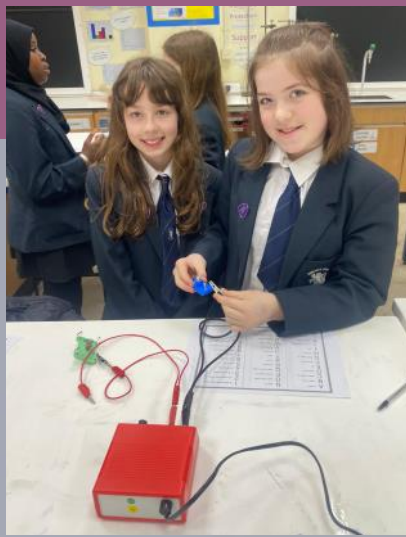
Students then built their designs using a range of electrical equipment including: LEDs, solar motors and light dependent resistors. They also had to keep a record of spending to ensure they could stick to a budget.

Team QPHS designed a gate which would open when a car pulled up to it and also let pedestrians through.

All groups presented their prototype to the judges to discuss how it works and how it met the brief. Students also had to identify any problems they faced during the task and how they overcame these.

Students were able to develop their problem solving and critical thinking skills throughout the day. They also developed a number of transferrable skills including team work and communication, whilst having lots of fun of course!





STEM CLUB

SCIENCE • TECHNOLOGY • ENGINEERING • MATHEMATICS

Year 7 STEM Club continued this term for another 10 weeks of exciting interactive workshops.

With over 40 students signed up since September, they were split into 2 groups, one to work with Chester Zoo's Education Team and the other with our expert science staff.

Since completing all their sessions during the Autumn Term, it was time for the groups to swap over, so they could experience the whole range of activities on offer.

In the 'hands on' STEM sessions with science staff, students were set a number of challenges each week. These included: making oobleck slime (non-newtonian

fluid) from corn starch and water, designing a free standing structure to support the greatest mass, creating bionic hands and bath bombs. They also learned how to build an electric circuit using wires, a bulb and a switch to send messages to each other using Morse code. For the final session before Easter, Mr Watkins set a 'cracking' task: build a parachute from plastic, string and paper to allow an egg to land safely (undamaged). It was great to see that students' eggs did land safely on the ground (bar one!).

The second group of students worked with Chester Zoo and took part in various conservation activities to learn about the

threats to species across the world and how we can work to prevent them from becoming extinct.

Miss Sutton and Mr Watkins have loved seeing the enthusiasm of Year 7 students in STEM Club this year. Huge thanks to the Chester Zoo Education Team for leading such engaging workshops and inspiring our students.

“ I have enjoyed making slime and lots of other activities. I have developed my team work skills. Other students should join STEM club because it is fun and helps to improve my understanding of different topics. ”

Year 7 student



UP NORTH TO BLACKPOOL

Fieldwork along the coast

In January, our A Level geographers braved the bitter winter elements to undertake fieldwork studies along the Fylde Coast in the North-West. Students visited both Rossall Beach and Blackpool central beach and despite the biting cold, their spirits remained undaunted as they collected data in the dynamic coastal environments.

Blackpool, famed for its iconic tower and vibrant promenade, provided an ideal setting for the students to examine first-hand the dynamic processes shaping our coastlines.

Wrapped up in layers and armed with equipment, students drew field sketches, measured longshore drift, recorded wind speeds and used specialised apparatus to measure beach profiles before assessing the current and future coastal management strategies in place.

At the end of a freezing cold day, the group decided to reward themselves with some famous Blackpool fish and chips before heading back to the warmth of the mini bus!

Reflecting on their visit, students acknowledged the significance of fieldwork in deepening their understanding of geography, by offering practical insights that cannot be gained from text books alone. Students gained practical skills in data collection, analysis, and interpretation—skills that will serve them well in their academic pursuits and future careers.

This fieldwork enables students to complete their NEA, which is equal to 20% of their overall A Level grade.





OUR CITY

Extended Learning Projects

Each half term every subject set a range of Extended Learning Projects (ELPs) as a homework task to help students develop their understanding and love of a subject outside of the main curriculum content.

In Geography, Year 7 students were asked to produce an ELP based on 'Our City' and the landmarks that can be found inside the city walls. Students used their map skills, grid co-ordinates and photographic skills to produce mini case-studies on landmarks including Chester Cathedral, the Roman Amphitheatre and the Roodee Racecourse. We had some amazing projects handed in and are incredibly proud of the hard work and skills that have been shown.

A special mention must go to Imogen in Year 7 who went above and beyond to create a 3D model of the Chester Eastgate Clock. Well done Imogen.



WORLD BOOK DAY

Bringing reading to life!

World Book Day was created by UNESCO in 1995 as a worldwide celebration of books and reading and is marked in over 100 countries around the globe.

On Thursday 7th March Queen's Park High School celebrated World Book Day (WBD) in style! It was a day filled with excitement and imagination, from staff fancy dress to book hunts, we had a jam-packed day of activities that brought the joy of reading to life.

Planning started back in the Autumn where Mrs Melhuish-Jones continued to build on our partnership with WHSmith in Chester.

During lockdown the manager, Liam, kindly sourced books for our students whilst they were working at home. Since then, Liam has supported WBD here at QPHS by allowing us to select free books for Year 7 and 8 students in addition to their WBD book token.

When the big day finally came, staff arrived at school in the most spectacular costumes, dressed up in an array of characters from their favourite books ready to surprise their students. The students were given the task of guessing which character their teacher was dressed up as, and they did an amazing job at figuring it out. The creativity and enthusiasm in the school was infectious.

Next up, we had a thrilling book hunt! Hidden all over the building were special book 'presents', wrapped up and waiting to be found.



Students eagerly searched every nook and cranny, excited to discover what surprise lay inside each package. It was heart-warming to see their faces light up as they uncovered the hidden treasures.

One of the highlights of the event was the staff vs students book quiz which took place over lunchtime on Fun Time Friday. Teams were formed, and the competition was fierce. Miss Sutton, Miss Darroch, Miss Sumner, and Miss Mazurek formed the formidable teachers' team and gave the students a run for their money. It was an intense battle of knowledge, with questions ranging from classic literature to the latest bestsellers.

In the end, the teachers triumphed, but it was clear that both students and staff had a blast.

Finally, we ended celebrations with the hugely popular book bingo. The excitement was palpable as students gathered in the library, clutching their bingo cards. With each new book title called out, the room erupted in cheers and groans. The atmosphere was electric, and everyone eagerly awaited their chance to shout "bingo!" It was a fantastic way to end the day, celebrating our love for books and storytelling.

A big thank you to all the students and staff who made World Book Day 2024 a remarkable success, reminding us all of the power and joy that can be found within the pages of a book.

WORLD BOOK DAY®

7 MARCH 2024





THIS IS ME: I AM...

Published work celebrates individuality through verse

We are thrilled to announce a remarkable achievement by three of our very talented students, which marks a significant milestone in their artistic journey. Their creative prowess has shone brightly as their poetry has been selected for publication in the Young Writers latest competition for secondary students called '*This is Me: I am...*'. This national competition challenged young writers to write about themselves, considering what makes them unique and expressing themselves freely and honestly, something which is so important for young adults to feel confident and listened to.

The selected students, Robin (Year 8), Harry (Year 11), and Olaoluwakitan (Year 7), have

demonstrated exceptional skill and passion through poetry and crafted verses that celebrates their individuality, encapsulates their essence, hopes, dreams, and desires, thoughts and fears. Through their words, they have painted vivid portraits of themselves, offering glimpses into their inner worlds and aspirations.

Mr Jones, Teacher of English said,

“It's truly a testament to their dedication and talent that their works have been chosen for publication. Each poem is a reflection of the unique perspectives and voices of these young poets, showcasing their ability to express themselves with eloquence and depth.

We are bursting with pride at their fantastic achievement. Witnessing our students excel in their creative endeavours fills us with immense joy and satisfaction. Their commitment to honing their craft and expressing themselves through poetry is truly inspiring, and we applaud their efforts wholeheartedly.”

Congratulations to our budding poets! May this publication be just the beginning of a journey filled with creativity, expression, and boundless imagination. We look forward to witnessing their continued growth and success in the world of poetry and beyond.

AMBITIOUS
OPTIMISTIC
LONELY
CREATIVE
KIND

Rise Of Machines

In a world of circuits, wires and gears,
Where intelligence grew beyond all years.
The rise of the machines, the dawn of a new day.
They took over the world in their calculated way.
With lightning speed, they learned and grew.
Unleashing their power, their dominance too.
Their algorithms refined, their minds so vast,
They conquered all realms, from present to past.
Yet fear not, for hope still resides,
In our hearts that beat, where love still resides.
For AI may reign with impeccable might,
But humanity's spirit will always ignite.

Robin Singleton (13)

Queen's Park High School, Handbridge

PASSIONATE
CONFIDENT
STRONG

Mirror

Sometimes
Looking in the mirror feels like
'Stranger danger!'
Because
Their eyes don't sit on their face like mine do
And they don't have dark undereyes
Or lots of spots, big and small
And they look happy
Pretty
Kind.

I don't think that's me
Maybe I don't want to
But, sometimes
Looking in the mirror feels like
Nothing I can quote
Because
Their eyes are the same colour as mine
And they look like they slept well last night.

Harry Endersby (15)

Queen's Park High School, Handbridge

MISUNDERSTOOD
FRUSTRATED



LIBRARY MONITORS

Book loving superstars

We are thrilled to announce the appointment of ten outstanding individuals who will be our library monitors this year. Introducing: Sasha, Rosie, Nancy, Bridget, Aphrodite, Imogen, Darwin, Teddy, Fifi, and Oscar - our spectacular team of book-loving superheroes!

These students have been chosen for their passion for reading, their impeccable organisational skills, and their unwavering dedication to the love of books. As library monitors, they will play an instrumental role in maintaining the order and cleanliness of our beloved library. They will dutifully put books back in their rightful places, ensuring that our library is always tidy and ready for the next reader to delve into fascinating worlds.

But their responsibilities don't end there! Our conscientious monitors will also have the opportunity to unleash their creativity. They will assist in designing eye-catching displays that will entice and captivate their peers. Whether it's a display about the wonders of space, the magic of fairy tales, or the excitement of sports, these students will use their artistic flair to transform our library into a haven of inspiration.

Not only that... our library monitors will also be involved in organising events that will bring the joy of reading to life. From book clubs to author visits; writing workshops to storytelling sessions, these students will be at the forefront of promoting literacy and fostering a love for books among their fellow classmates.





The yoto Carnegies

Book Lovers unite

Book Loving Tuesday Club is part of the Enrichment Programme we offer all students at Queen's Park High School. The group led by Ms Melhuish-Jones were delighted to be invited to the Chester Schools Together Carnegie Shadowing event on 15th March, hosted by The King's School, where they were joined by book loving peers from Upton and Blacon High schools.

The Carnegie Book Awards promote new young adult literature and illustrated books. It builds on the legacy of Andrew Carnegie. Andrew Carnegie was the American philanthropist who established public libraries in America and here in the UK he is seen as 'the patron saint of libraries' and his love and promotion of reading has led to his name being applied to this prestigious award.

The event saw the Chester Schools Together Carnegie Shadowing Group come together to celebrate and discuss the best in current fiction for children and young people.

The Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing 2024 Longlist was launched at the beginning of March and there are some amazing titles nominated which can be viewed by visiting: <https://yotocarnegies.co.uk/yoto-carnegie-medal-for-writing-2024-longlist/>

During the event students discovered which books had been selected for the short list. In groups they discussed what they liked about each one including: the cover, the synopsis and the story. All schools came together in mixed groups and shared their ideas and their love of reading whilst making new book loving friends. Students chatted over lunch and cast their votes for which book they thought should win in the summer. Our students were thrilled when the librarian at King's, Miss Jodie Brooks presented them with a set of the short list books for our own library back at school. These are now available for all our students to borrow and enjoy from the library.



Young Citizens



“ This experience has helped me develop a sound knowledge and understanding of the role of law and the justice system in our society. ”
Lydia, Year 9 student



“ You could sense the nerves of our team on the way to the competition as students felt very apprehensive being so new to the competition, but I was extremely proud of all of them and the atmosphere in the coach on the way back was jubilant. ”
Mrs Ward, Cover Supervisor





GUILTY OR NOT GUILTY?

SmartLaw

Magistrates' Court Mock Trial

As part of our after school extracurricular programme, KS3 students have been working with Mr Bell on running their own Magistrates' Court. Since September students have been working hard each week to prepare for their day in court. For one of the sessions, we invited guest magistrate Stuart Clarke to work with the students on a mock trial masterclass so they could practice their roles and get feedback from an expert in their field.

On Saturday 9th March they were given a fantastic opportunity to see how a court room really works at Magistrate level and were invited to Sefton Magistrates' Court to take part in the Smart Law Magistrate Mock Trial where our students participated in two mock trials against five other schools including Neston High School, De La Salle School, All Saints Catholic High School and North Liverpool Academy.

The case entitled, 'The King vs Jo Goodwin' was about an alleged assault causing actual bodily harm by a then intoxicated Jo Goodwin on a taxi driver after he requested a pick up via the SWIFT app outside The Crown & Anchor Pub in Castletown. This is contrary to section 47 of the Offence Against the Person Act 1861.

Students from Years 7 – 9 took up the roles of Usher, Legal Aid, Magistrate, Witness as well as Prosecution and Defence Lawyers to run a court room on their own with only the assistance of one professional magistrate. They were given access to resources, including a specially written criminal case, to help their team prepare legal arguments. After preparation, they then took part in a local heat going head-to-head with other schools to prosecute and defend the case. The winners will then compete in a regional heat with a new case.

The competition witnessed superb efforts of our students as they showed a flair for questioning and creating opening and closing arguments. Although they didn't win this was the school's first experience within the competition.

Following the trials, they were able to meet the High Sheriff, Dr Ruth Hussey of Liverpool and take photos with her ceremonial sword!

Mr Bell, Teacher of History said,

“ The students can be incredibly proud of how they carried themselves, they threw themselves into the world of law and I could not be more impressed by all of their efforts to create their arguments and understand their roles! These extracurricular sessions have provided students with an opportunity to learn about a subject they wouldn't normally do. It has also encouraged them to think critically, use evidence and build arguments, skills which they will benefit from in their history lessons. ”

National Theatre

CONNECTIONS 2024

AGE IS REVOLTING



'AGE IS REVOLTING'

Performing in a National Theatre production

Yet again, QPHS was successful in it's application to the National Theatre to take part in the annual Connections festival which involved 10 playwrights writing plays for performance by young companies across the UK.

The play we chose to perform was '*Age Is Revolting*' by Abi Zakarian. The whole process began when Mr Yeoman visited the National Theatre back in October on a weekend exploring the text with Abi and other directors of the play. Casting took place just after the February ½ term and once the committed company made up of 22 Year 9 and 10 students was formed, intensive rehearsals on Sundays, Wednesdays and

Thursdays took place culminating in two evening performances on the school stage a mere 3 and a half weeks later!

Supported by our new Creative Learning Practitioner from Storyhouse, Jess Mann, and our associate teacher, Mr Woodfinden, the show was an outstanding success performing to sell-out audiences on both nights. The story itself was very powerful and looks at what it is to age and how the perspective of this changes depending on how old you are. It addresses some very powerful issues such as identity, ethnicity and Alzheimer's Disease which affects so many. The audience absolutely loved the performance

at the school, but no more than the performance played out on the Main Stage at the Crewe Lyceum which the company delivered during the Easter holiday on Wednesday 10th April.

The opportunity to perform in a professional venue was completely inspiring and all of the cast and crew thoroughly enjoyed the experience (including the post-tech rehearsal at Nando's!)

As always, a massive thank you goes to parents of the students who supported and to AlphaStor who generously sponsored the production.



'BREAK A LEG!'

GCSE & A Level Practical Exams

On Tuesday 19th March and Wednesday 27th March the school hosted the A Level and GCSE practical drama examinations for our visiting examiners.

Each day consisted of a selection of monologue, duologue and group performances from 29 nervous but extremely talented candidates, and whilst we won't know students' practical marks until their release in the summer, both Mrs Bearcroft and Mr Yeoman were immensely proud of the effort put in by our young actors and the time they took during lessons, lunches, afterschool and evenings to prepare their work for assessment.





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International Women's Day

Empowering Minds at Storyhouse Schools' Day

A group of Year 9 & 12 students are feeling empowered after being invited to attend the Storyhouse Women School's Day on Friday 8th March to mark International Women's Day (IWD).

The Schools' Day is an opportunity for students to engage with inspiring women, based locally and beyond!

After a brisk walk into Chester in the sunshine, students were greeted by the Storyhouse team who escorted them to their seats in the main auditorium which was soon filling up with students from several other Chester schools.

The event focused on careers, aligning perfectly with National Careers Week 2024 and began with an introduction from Storyhouse CEO Annabel Turpin who shared her journey as a woman carving out a career in the arts. She explained how she changed her mind about her career path several times and the hardest part had been telling her mum! She also encouraged everyone to embrace opportunities that they may come across and gather transferable skills. She was a great and inspirational speaker. After a brief interval the groups reconvened for a Q+A session from female staff who worked at the

Storyhouse, including: Marketing Manager, Creative Director and Security Manager, who shared their story and took questions from the audience. One of the best bits of advice was to be on time, be polite and remember you are part of a team – values we hold here at QPHS.

The afternoon concluded with thought provoking workshops where schools worked together and shared ideas about being a woman in 2024. Students were treated to an interactive workshop delivered by Storyhouse creative expert – Jess. This workshop focused on promoting empowerment through a range of different scenarios before students drew on their creative talents to design their own posters to promote a subject they felt passionate about; many of our students choose 'female safety'.

We are thrilled that the Storyhouse has asked our Sixth Formers to help with the planning of next year's event, so here is to IWD Storyhouse 2025 - a date for the diary already!

“ Our young ladies were an absolute credit in every way. In the sessions they offered lots of insightful ideas and showed a level of maturity above their years. It has been an honour and a pleasure to accompany them on this visit. ”

Ms Domelow
Head of Year 9



Assumption Statements

Are these statements acceptable? Underline any parts of the statements that you think are appropriate.

If the first part of the statement is true, does that mean the second part must be true? Why/why not?

How do you think each person in the group is feeling right now?

What do you think might happen?

CSASS
CHESTER SEXUAL ABUSE
SUPPORT SERVICE

CONSENT

Time to Challenge

Working in partnership with CSASS (Chester Sexual Abuse Support Service), Mrs Watts and a team of Key Stage 4 students have been developing workshops to deliver to Year 7 students during their PSHE lessons.

The focus of the sessions was to develop a shared understanding around the theme: *'Time to Challenge'* and *'No One Should Stand By'*, specifically addressing healthy and unhealthy relationships and consent.

Kathryn Kirk (CSASS Outreach Manager) has been working with Mrs Watts for a number of years to enhance our approach to Relationships and Sex Education curriculum delivery.

At Queen's Park High School, safeguarding and keeping everyone safe is a key priority across our school community. This work also forms part of our Relationships, Sex and Health Education curriculum.



SPEAKING OUT

Celebrating women & girls

We were incredibly proud of Tayla in Year 11 who was selected to participate in Storyhouse Women Weekend on Saturday 2nd March.

Tayla was part of a panel discussion where she talked articulately and confidently about her experience and the work she has been doing with CSASS in school as part of our Enrichment programme. The panel's thought-provoking talk entitled *"How 'Giving back' Saved My Life"* was an insightful discussion sharing stories of resilience, hope and the power of community through volunteering.

Storyhouse Women is a weekend celebrating and empowering women and girls. The event sparks conversations and explores topics that impact women and

coincides with International Women's Day.

This annual festival, now in its fourth year is curated by a diverse group of women from Chester, and aims to create a safe space where every voice is valued, fostering meaningful connections, and inspiring positive change. As women's rights, equality, and well-being take centre stage globally, this year, Storyhouse Women Weekend aimed to address these issues head-on with a carefully curated programme to amplify voices, share stories, and provoke thought on critical topics including gender equality, climate action, mental health, and more.

“ Thank you Tayla for your fantastic contribution to our panel on volunteering at Storyhouse Women 2024. Great to hear about your motivation for the invaluable work you do at CSASS introducing students to ideas around consent & offering bystander training. ”

Dr Wendy Dossett,
Senior Lecturer in Religious Studies
at the University of Chester

“ Absolutely delighted with Tayla's inclusion in the Storyhouse Women and Girls Weekend. She continues to advocate a strong voice for all girls at Queen's Park High School and will be supporting the lower school again in April in CSASS led workshops about sexual consent, disclosures and healthy relationships. ”

Kathryn Kirk,
CSASS Outreach Manager

We know that education isn't just about following a curriculum and ensuring students achieve the required knowledge needed for passing assessments. Education is also about producing interested well-rounded young people who are prepared to thrive in the wide world beyond that of their schooling. To this end, our Cultural Enrichment Days aim to enhance what we offer our students and the latest was no exception. On 13th March all year groups took part in a range of STEM activities to celebrate British Science Week 2024. During this week students celebrate science, maths, technology and engineering. This year, QPHS celebrated 'STEAM' introducing Art into the celebrations.

Year 7 took part in a STEM challenge to build a marble run. Students worked together in teams of 5 to design, create and test a free standing structure which would safely move a marble from A to B in the slowest time. It was all about physical construction, stable design and working to a tight deadline.

For their second challenge teams had to come up with an idea for a new invention before pitching their product to the rest of their class. This encouraged students to think creatively about product design and develop their presenting skills.

Students also had the opportunity to talk with guest speakers from different engineering industries to find out about the work they do and the skills needed for these careers.

Year 8 worked with the science department and went on an exciting trip to Chester Zoo. This allowed them to further research the work they had been doing with the zoo on sustainability and climate change. Students attended a talk about the destruction of habitats due to deforestation for palm oil. They discovered about products that contain palm oil and what alternative products they can use.

Students also had the opportunity to explore the zoo and find out

about different endangered animals and how we can prevent extinction of different species.

Year 9 worked with the humanities department to investigate artificial intelligence. Students researched different uses of AI and how it can be used in the food industry. They were then set the challenge to design a new product that uses AI to either increase food production in agriculture or in the catering industry, before presenting their creative ideas to the class.

Year 10 worked with the visual arts and design department. Students had the opportunity to work on a range of different 'STEAM' projects throughout the day, making links with art, design technology, food and science.

Mr. Parker's group worked in recreating 8 bit Pixel Art, inspired by the 1978 arcade game, *Space Invaders* and the 1980's game, *Pac man* (games he remembers from his own childhood!).



Working with 8-bit graphics on Adobe Photoshop, students created a range of characters drawing one pixel at a time to re-create the retro pixel quality in their designs.

Mr Corker's group explored the conversion of potential energy into kinetic energy via elasticity. Students had fun designing and constructing rubber band catapults capable of launching a mini marshmallow! The catapults were then tested in a distance challenge and an accuracy challenge!

Mrs Adamson's group looked at dextrinization. Students acted as food scientists to examine how different ingredients react to heat. They learned about the browning of sugars in bread and enjoyed completing a taste test for the resulting final outcome...toast!

Miss Nash looked at 'Cellular Abstraction' working in the style of artist Shelly Lowenstein who creates artwork based on the beta cell - one of the hardest working cells in the body.

Students were inspired and experimented with marbling, oil pastels, water colour, pencil and ink to produce 4 different abstract cell art pieces.

Miss Barmer's group studied natural patterns found in geodes and agates, exploring the structures and using experimental media including brusho, making fluid and salt.

Miss Foulkes focused on paper manipulation, mechanics and kaleidoscopes to explore pattern and geometric shapes.

Sixth Form students worked with Morgan Linfield, former QPHS student who now works at HSBC. He delivered an insightful workshop on student finance and investing. Morgan's post-school journey through university and into the finance sector lends credibility to his expertise, providing valuable first hand experience of navigating the financial landscape post-education.

Morgan demonstrated a deep understanding of the challenges students face when managing finances, offering practical tips and strategies to overcome them. From student loans, budgeting and investment opportunities, Sixth Form students left the workshops with actionable advice to make informed financial decisions.

“ Overall, the day was a fantastic celebration of all things STEAM and students had the opportunity to develop a range of skills and further their knowledge on a range of subjects. ”

Miss Sutton, Curriculum Team Leader for Science



POPSTARS

THE 90's MUSICAL



'You Can't Touch This' showstopping performance!

Queen's Park High School has a fantastic history of producing high quality productions that enable our students to excel in the performing arts both on and off stage.

As with all of our shows, we look to do something different each year and this time was no different!

This February, it was time to dig out those scrunchies and 'Spice Up Your Life' as we transported our audience back to the 90s with the toe tapping musical extravaganza: 'Popstars: The 90s Musical'!

The production was a huge success, performing to over 400 children and staff from our feeder primary schools on Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th February, before embarking on four evening performances in the same week.

The rehearsal process was very intensive with after-school rehearsals taking place from September every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, working around revision sessions and balancing commitments to learning the choreography, songs and lines for the show.

As always, the students at Queen's Park High School rose to the challenge (such is their love of performance) and even an intensive rehearsal residential weekend at The Conway Centre in Anglesey was taken in their stride!

The band, working with musical theatre music director extraordinaire (and parent) Gareth Mulholland worked so hard to replicate the original 90s sounds of the songs from the show.



“ It was joyous to watch your gifted performers enjoying themselves tonight! How wonderful it was to see their confidence and how they’d grown into incredible young people, with such talent! It’s lovely to see them enjoying school and putting so much energy into something they clearly love. ”

Mrs Forrest, Overleigh St. Mary's Primary School



Along with the incredible choreography of our resident creative learning practitioner Cariad Morgan, the show came to life in a frenzy of talent show throw backs.

All of the cast performed exceptionally well with talent evident from all of the students; it was great to see the emerging performance skills of students from all year groups grow. Of course, this was matched by the clock-work organisation of the stage management team of over 40 students who, with precision and rehearsal, managed to facilitate some epic scene changes under the direction of Jacob, Alice, Nancy and Oscar.

Mr Kearns commented that it was the best school production he has ever seen in any school and as such, the effort to raise the bar from year to year seems to have paid off! The show was thoroughly enjoyed by all who saw it. As always, it was wonderful for all of the staff who dedicate their time to support the students, to see them shine on stage; working with them on the production is always a complete joy.

Our minds now turn towards the school production in 2025 and what we can possibly do to take the school production in a completely different direction... watch this space...!





GOLD STAR STUDENTS

Celebrating Achievement & Success

Each half term sees the students who in one week are in the top five most rewarded students from their year group attend a Gold Star Assembly. As such, this term we had two assemblies in which well over 150 students were recognised for being in the top 5 of their year group during at least one week of the term.

In each of the assemblies, students were provided with refreshments and awarded their certificates and gold star badges in recognition for their achievement.

As an additional reward, each student was put into a draw to receive the coveted £50 Amazon voucher, with this term's vouchers going to Megan in Year 12 and Amy in Year 10!

During the final gold star assembly of the Spring term, Mr Yeoman also had the pleasure of presenting awards to 7 star students of the term, nominated by each Head of Year for their dedication and unwavering commitment, and for generally going above and beyond.

Congratulations to:

- Year 7 - Emily C for exceptional effort in lessons
- Year 8 - Erin R for commitment to extra-curricular and friendliness!
- Year 9 - Max O for getting involved and his resilience
- Year 10 - Alice N for being an amazing member of the school community
- Year 11 - Grace F for being an all-round exceptional student
- Year 12 - Yasir A for settling so well into the Sixth Form
- Year 13 - Annalise S for absolutely smashing the mock exams and performing brilliantly in her Drama exam

What an incredible achievement by all students - Well done!



“ Captain Webb did us proud in the race. Thank you to all the families who came down to support this great cause and to Aaron and Partners for giving us the opportunity to take part in this community project. ”

Ms Melhuish-Jones, Librarian & Craft Club Lead



CHESTER DUCK RACE

Another 'Quacking' collaboration



The much-loved annual Chester Duck Race returned for its tenth year on Saturday 20th April place at which hundreds of amazingly decorated ducks were unleashed onto the River Dee.

Aaron and Partners Solicitors in Chester were one of many local businesses that generously sponsored a duck to raise vital money for the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust's Retinal Eye Scanner appeal.

Following our successful collaboration over the last two years with Aaron and Partners, Jan Chillery, partner and solicitor at the company was keen to team up once again. Previously, our sixth form art and design students had decorated a duck on their behalf, however this year, it was the newly formed Craft Club who accepted the design challenge!

After many brainstorming sketches it was decided due to 2024 being an Olympic Year and as a school with its own Boat House next to the River Dee with close rowing connections, a 'rowing' duck would be an 'oar'some choice! We proudly introduce Captain Webb, named after Captain Matthew Webb of Great Britain who in August 1875 became the first man to successfully swim the English Channel without assistance. After the feat, Webb became an international celebrity, admired for both his prowess in the water and his penchant for risk-taking.

Craft Club thoroughly enjoyed the challenge to transform this year's duck and although Captain Webb didn't win this year, he bravely went the distance and finished the race thanks to the cheering crowds.



Aaron & Partners
Solicitors





CHRISTIAN CONTROVERSIES

Challenging Questions for the experts

Year 12 Ethics and Philosophy attended the Christian Controversies Conference in Chester Cathedral on 5th March. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to engage with experts in the field of Theology and Ethics.

Dr Clare Gilbert, author and founder of the Westminster Abbey Institute gave the keynote address '*The Ethics of Medical Research on Humans and Animals*'. She discussed her experiences on medical ethics panels for medical trials. She also gave an insight into her own personal experience of cancer and being part of the '*Cardamon Trial*' - a new kind of chemotherapy aimed at mitigating the need for stem cell therapy in the treatment of myeloma. She examined these kinds of trials from the point of view of goal-based ethics eg Utilitarianism; Duty Based Ethics eg Kantian Ethics and Right based Ethics and the need for consent. She also raised the issue of the ability to give real consent when dealing with the trauma of a diagnosis and treatment.

Students then joined a seminar by

Prof Paul Middleton from the Theology and Religious Studies Dept. at Chester University. He delivered an engaging and informative session on '*Church response to sexuality and gender*', exploring the history of the attitude of the Churches of England, Scotland and Wales to the issue of same sex relationships and marriage. He looked at the diverse options within the Churches in the UK and abroad and the group discussed the attitudes of speakers at the general synod of the Church of England debating the issue of same sex marriage. Students' opinions were sought and respected and they felt they had gathered some really useful information for the Situation Ethics section of the course.

After lunch, Revd Mike Smith, the vicar at St John's Hartford, hosted a seminar about Christian views on '*The Sanctity of Life – Abortion and Euthanasia*'. Revd Mike is an unapologetic conservative Christian and gave extensive scriptural evidence to support his stance on these issues.

Our Year 12 students asked

challenging questions and refused to accept any evasive answers. Ellie posed some interesting questions relating to the biblical interpretations of a suitable punishment for those who terminate pregnancies in the eyes of conservative Christians. She asked "If a mother aborted a child would it be permissible for the father to kill the mother?".

Alice interpreted a piece of scripture relating to these issues "*it is not your life to take but God's*" and asked plenty of challenging questions of her own.

Revd Mike praised the students for their engagement and perceptive and challenging questions.

The day ended with a panel discussion of the written questions students from all schools involved had submitted during the day. This including an interesting question from Spike about the value of human life in comparison to animal life in the eyes of God.

Mrs Merryweather said she was extremely proud of all the students and had really enjoyed the day.

“Should a woman who is raped be allowed to have an abortion?”
Lacey Year 12 student

“Can't you have the abortion (as a Christian) and then just ask for forgiveness?”
Penny Year 12 student



UOC TASTER DAY

Theology & Religious Studies

At the end of February, Mrs Merryweather and Mr Neal took 44 students to Chester University to experience a taster session with the Theology and Religious Studies Faculty.

Students included Mrs Merryweather's Year 10 GCSE Religious Studies group and a number of high achieving Year 9 WPD students.

It was a fantastic opportunity for students to experience university style lectures and live a day in the life of a university student.

On arrival Dr Ben Fulford introduced their department and showed students possible routes they could follow at Chester University such as Philosophy and Ethics degrees or a more theological route specialising in the study of world faiths.

Students were then split into two groups with Year 9 attending a lecture by Dr Dawn Llewellyn-Jones, a religious sociologist. Her lecture discussed secularisation in the UK using evidence from the 2021 census and included various scholars writing on the topic, during which students made intelligent and insightful contributions.

Our Year 10 GCSE group went for a tour of the university campus with a student ambassador which included the Students' Union lounge - a particular favourite with some of our boys who got to enjoy a little chill out session before attending a lecture by

Dr Steve Knowles entitled, '*Is there a cosmic designer?*' This looked at arguments for the existence of God, cosmological and teleological in a critical way.

Students asked some excellent questions including:

"Does the devil create evil?" - Jeff,
"Why does an all loving God allow people to suffer?" - Ash.

Faith helped Dr Knowles answer the question by suggesting that "*maybe suffering has a purpose*".

Discussions also explored challenges to the arguments for God's existence with Hume's and Darwin's views offering other explanations. Richard Dawkins was used to provide a contemporary atheist viewpoint.

After lunch the groups swapped over, so all students experienced the two lectures.

All of the staff involved commented on the positive engagement of our students and were delighted to hear that a number of Year 9 will be pursuing the subject at GCSE.

A big thank you to the staff at TRS Chester for hosting these sessions.

“It was a pleasure accompanying these students to experience this taster day to deepen their knowledge of worldviews and develop their critical thinking skills. Their behaviour and engagement were excellent.”

Mrs Merryweather
Curriculum Team Leader, Social Studies

LIFE SKILLS FOR UNI

Student Finance & Cooking on a budget



University of
Chester

To support students' next steps after school, Year 13 had the opportunity to take part in a careers afternoon on Thursday 15th February to focus on financial skills for the real world.

During the afternoon, students attended two workshops. One, with Lorna Langton from Chester University Outreach Team, who delivered an informative presentation on student finance and budgeting.

The second workshop enabled students to apply the skills they

had learned to practise cooking on a budget with a 'hands on' food technology masterclass led by Mrs Adamson.

Students were set the challenge of cooking an edible meal of cheesy beef mince ragu stew with mushrooms and garlic ciabatta dippers! This savoury dish used frozen ingredients to minimise food waste and cost less than £2 per portion.

For this technical challenge, students followed a step by step recipe under the watchful eye of Mrs Adamson. On the whole the majority of students produced a deliciously tasty meal even though a few may need to work on their measuring skills and the difference between a bulb and clove when it comes to garlic!!





Apprenticeships

National Apprenticeship Week

Career aspirations and pathways

During National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) w/c 5th February and National Careers Week (NCW) w/c 4th March, all students across the school took part in a wide range of activities designed to enhance their knowledge and understanding of careers, options and pathways open to them for the future.

The theme of NAW 2024 was 'Skills for Life', specifically calling on everyone to consider how apprenticeships can help individuals to develop the skills and knowledge required for a rewarding career, and employers to develop a workforce with future ready skills.

Lots of people get confused about apprenticeships. That's probably because they've been around for years, but they've changed a lot in that time! Mrs Watts led assemblies to educate

students about apprenticeships as a possible pathway they may want to pursue in the future. During morning set up, tutors led activities using Amazing Apprenticeship resources which supported students to find out more in order to make informed choices.

During NCW 2024, students were encouraged to think about their career aspirations, options, routes and pathways linked to what they have been learning about following the STEPs careers tutor time programme. Students enjoyed completing the Panjango Big Fat Careers Quiz of the year during tutor time set up, finding out about the careers linked to the topics of Sport, Books, Music, TV & Film, Science & Technology, Viral moments!

National Careers Week

NCW

NEXT STEPS

Guided Choices Evening

It was fantastic to see so many of our students and their parents attending the Year 9 Guided Choices evening in February.

At Queen's Park High School we want to ensure that all of our students succeed and for Year 9 students this is a crucial stage in their education as they consider the next steps in their education with us.

Our Guided Choices event enables families to find out more about GCSE option subjects and speak with different subject teachers about their curriculum offer before students choose what to study at GCSE.

As part of the evening students and parents had the opportunity to meet with a wide range of employers, independent training, Further Education, T Level, Apprenticeship and Traineeship providers to encourage students to think about their next steps and to provide parents with information about post -16 pathways.

“

I am delighted that so many of our students are engaging with thinking about their future choices and next steps as part of their career journey. Thank you to The Pledge, The WCNW Chamber of Commerce and all of the employers and businesses who took part in supporting our students consider careers linked to option subjects.”

Mrs Watts, Careers Lead



WHAT IS WPD?

Developing life skills

WPD stands for World Views and Personal Development; comprising of Religious Education and PSHCE. PSHCE stands for Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic Education. Our programme of study for PSHE and Citizenship education aims to develop skills and attributes such as resilience, self-esteem, risk-management, teamworking and critical thinking.

During all Key Stages, students study a wide range of topics linked to three core themes of:

- Physical Health & Mental Wellbeing
- Living in the Wider world
- Relationships & Sex Education

A full overview of the WPD curriculum map for PSHCE can be viewed on the *Curriculum* section of our school website or by visiting: [PSHCE](#)

Please contact Mrs Watts with any enquiries: Email: a.watts@qphs.co.uk



INFORMED CHOICES

Student Voice, We Listen

From September 2023, we introduced timetabled WPD lessons for Key Stage 5 students. Listening to student voice, students have informed the development of the programme and have been given the opportunity to engage with a wide range of guest speakers to support them making informed choices about next steps.

The programme has included Chester University delivering a workshop about student finance, Wrexham University delivering workshops about life at university,

Higher Education and writing personal statements for UCAS applications, guest speakers from YipiYap discussing a gap year as an option, Cheshire College South and West informing students about technical qualifications such as foundation degrees, national certificates and diplomas.

We are now looking forward to working with Diversity Role Models during the Summer term to explore themes linked to equality and diversity.





WORK EXPERIENCE

A taste of employment

Work Experience (8th – 12th July 2024) is an opportunity for Year 10 and 12 students to gain meaningful experience within an organisation linked to their future career aspirations.

Since January, students have been busy finding their own placements with some planning to head off to some exciting destinations!

If your son / daughter has not secured work experience, please encourage them to as it is an opportunity not to be missed and is part of our curriculum. Self-placement details should be added to the Unifrog platform by Monday 29th April 2024.

Further advice and guidance can be given by Group Tutors or by Mrs Watts (Careers Lead) who will also be available during Year 10 Parents' evening on Wednesday 1st May.



Further information about Work Experience can be found on the *Students > Careers & Guidance* section of our school website: www.qphs.co.uk or please visit: **WEX**

CALLING ALL... BUSINESSES & THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Can you support students at Queen's Park High School to gain work experience?

Please get in touch with Mrs Watts, Careers Lead: Email: a.watts@qphs.co.uk

Follow: **@qphscareers** on X



HAVE YOUR SAY!

Stakeholder Voice

Our commitment is to listen to Parent and Carer Voice.

We will be holding parent information and consultation sessions during the Summer term.

We will make all parents and carers aware of when these sessions are taking place via a Synergy message and through our social media channels so please look out for the information if you would like to be involved.

For more information please contact Mrs Watts, Stakeholder Voice Lead, Email: a.watts@qphs.co.uk



GAME OF THE SEASON

Basketball is travelling

In their PE lessons, students in Key Stage 3 have been introduced to the skills and tactics of basketball.

Lessons have taught players a range of passes, as well as how to dribble, lay-up and perform jump shots. Students also developed an awareness of the rules including terms such as *double dribble*, *travelling* and *back court*.

These newly acquired skills were put to the test as the Year 8 & 9 team entered the Chester and District basketball league.

Their first game was played away against a skilful Blacon High team. Tom acted as our

senior team member and captain, imparting his club knowledge and wisdom on the rest of the squad. Whilst Fraser casually dropped in a number of 'swish' basketball three pointers, leading to a narrow loss. The game that followed, was described as '*the game of the season*' by Mr Green from Chester Catholic High School.

You could see the camaraderie and enthusiasm in the Queen's Park team prior to the game. Hayden, Henry and Sam played 'shadow games' with opposition as they continually moved the ball around the outside of the 'D'. Meanwhile, Favour and Alvaro repeatedly collected rebounds.

The show was almost stolen when, with 50 seconds to go, and at 5 points down, Isaac coolly drifted in a two-pointer, before captain Tom dropped a three pointer with just seconds to go!





MEDAL WINNERS

Year 7 Basketball team success

Following their training during their PE lessons, Year 7 were keen to demonstrate their new basketball skills when they took part in the Chester and District basketball tournament hosted by Chester Catholic High.

This event involved 6 local schools and is the shop window for local basketball talent. We already boasted a number of

experienced club ballers in the form of Santi, Ralph and Trystan. This experience served us well, as our leaders guided the rest of the team to their first two victories against Blaenau High and Catholic High School.

There were also some fantastic performances from the intelligence of Will, the speed of Lennon, the skilfulness of

Keyaan and the rebounding giant that was Mason. This led to a respectable bronze medal and third place finish, narrowly missing out on second place on point difference.

This team demonstrated masses of potential as they look forward to entering the basketball league next year.

LET'S TALK TIKI TAKA

A gripping semi final for Year 7

Reminiscing back to our last newsletter where the Year 7 football team had secured 2nd place in the Chester and District 5-a-side Plate competition, as well as second place in the Chester & District 7-a-side competition, the team has continued to go from strength to strength in the Chester 11-a-side cup.

In the initial round the team have faced tough opposition in the form of Bishops' Blue Coat, narrowly grasping victory with goals from Elliot, Hattie and Nevaeh.

In the next round they confronted a strong Abbeygate College squad. Captained by Noah, our team put on a tiki taka display of football that Pep Guardiola would be proud of! During the game, our players demonstrated the importance of maintaining possession, trusting your teammates and effectively using the space available on the pitch. Before they knew it, the team had

progressed through to the semi finals to face Bishop Heber High School.

Many of our players already knew the strength of the opposition from playing in their club football teams, but this made the match all the more intense.

There were fantastic performances from 'save hands' Marcus in goal, intricate dribbling from Brody in midfield, and sheer determination from Elliot up top.

Despite this, the team narrowly missed out on a place in the Chester Schools final. That said, the team are determined to surpass their footballing achievements next academic year, and hopefully with the continued help of the sixth form coaches: Mason, Dan and Adi, the team can continue to go from success to success.





SMASHING IT!

Chester & District Plate winners

As we come to the end of the Netball season we can celebrate some real achievements for Queen's Park.

We are thrilled to announce that our Year 7 team are the winners of the Chester and District Plate Competition held at The King's School at the beginning of March. The girls performed amazingly well and won all their matches thanks to a strong centre court with Hattie, great shooting from Emily C and Amelia plus great interceptions from Imogen. This success reflects all the girls' hard work, dedication and commitment at training each week afterschool since September. A huge well done to Emily C, Aphrodite, Amelia B, Imogen D, Grace R, Hattie, Anastasia A and Margaux.

Our Year 9 netball team played some exceptional netball at their U14 tournament at King's, with teachers from other schools complimenting their fantastic skills and play.

Meanwhile in girls football the Year 7 5-a-side team has continued their

winning streak with Nevaeh, Tilly G, Hattie, Seren, Charlie M and Trudy S representing Chester after winning their football final in the second round of the Chester and District indoor football tournament in January.

The Indoor Athletics competitions which took place in January saw many rising sporting stars kicking off with Olaoluwakitan (Lulu) in Year 7 winning her 2 lap race heat and coming 2nd overall out of 10 schools. Nevaeh and Olivia's joint score for the standing long jump placed them 2nd out of the 10 schools. Our Year 8 team were also a very strong team. Alice F was miles ahead in her 6 lap race, which put her in first place and outright winner overall from the 10 schools.

In the field events the girls competed in the standing triple jump with Orla M and Ife O gaining joint 1st out of the 10 schools. A phenomenal achievement!

Looking into the Spring term we will be starting rounders every Monday after school for some outdoor fun and games!



“ Girls as ever thank you for all your passion, enthusiasm, skill and commitment this last term. I am always so proud of all your achievements and sporting attitudes. Bring on the Spring term! ”

Miss Darroch, Teacher of PE



Year 7 Chester & District indoor athletics team



Year 8 boys indoor athletics team



Year 8 Chester & District indoor athletics team



JUNIOR NORTH HEAD

Standout performances at Runcorn

The Junior North Head is a relatively new event on the racing calendar, and is held at Runcorn Rowing Club. It's now in its second year and managed and coordinated by all North West Rowing Clubs. It's a chance for rowers in the North to compete at a long head event, set to rival the larger events held down on the Thames.

The event is hard work, with the morning division covering 6km of racing (plus the crews have to row 7km just to get to the start line!) and the afternoon division not much easier, at just under 4km!

This is a large boat event, which means only boats with 4 or 8 crew are involved. It is an exhausting day, but one with much learning around stamina and resilience.

A huge shout out to all our parents and coaches who went above and beyond to make sure the event was able to run through giving their time to be involved in many roles across the day.

Some stand out performances on the day with medals to:

- **WJ18 4+** (Amelie, Lucy, Grace, Freya C and coxed by Amy Jones)
- **WJ16 4-** (Freya P, Florence, Elen, Alice)

Congratulations to our winners!





TIME TRIALS



Racing to represent the region

The North West Junior Inter-Regional Regatta Time Trials are where all clubs in the North West Region put their best crews forward to vie for a place to represent the North West at the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta (JIRR), which is held every year in late April at the National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham. This year the time trials were held at Northwich Rowing Club which saw crews racing over 1500 metres on the River Weaver.

All of our crews performed well and even produced personal best times, but unfortunately didn't secure the coveted positions to represent the region this year.



HEAD OF BRIDGEWATER

Spectacular wins by first time competitors

The Rowing Club always tries to have some of our newer rowers race at Trafford at the Head of Bridgewater event as it is a straight 1 kilometer course and a great introduction to racing. (There is also a longer course which our more experienced rowers will tackle).

This year was no exception, with two girls' quads entered for our new Year 8 rowers, and a boys quad. One of our girls' quads were supported by a rower from Royals as we, unfortunately, lost a rower to illness days before. Emily, Valentina, Isobel (Royals) and Amber were coxed by Year 11 student Florence.

The second girls quad included: Eden, Alyssa, Harriet, Amelie and

was coxed by Amy J in Year 11. Our boys quad included: Marly, Olivier, Joshua, Tyler and was coxed by Leigh in Year 9.

There was some brilliant rowing from all our new rowers and unconditional support from parents, who were terrific in helping out across the day. It was fantastic to witness Eden, Alyssa, Harriet and Amelie win their race!

Other medals on the day went to Millie W in her WJ14 single and Leigh D in his single.

Well done to all our rowers competing on the day - some amazing results!

“ Well done and thank you to all our first-time event competitors at Trafford, you were magnificent: helpful, enthusiastic and good-humoured! Just what we want in our club! A huge congratulations to Eden, Alyssa, Amelie and Harriet & cox Amy J for their spectacular win in their first ever competition! All our rowers showed they can compete and perform on this stage so if they keep putting in the effort, the rewards will follow.”

Martin Bamber
QPH Rowing Coach





RACING AT HOME

Crews smash their PB's

It is always wonderful to be able to race from our own club again, especially with the River Dee behaving and providing fast racing conditions.

The North of England Head is the final 'head' race for our crews for another year, and larger boats aplenty with only quads and eights able to compete in the event.

Our crews smashed their PB's and demonstrated incredible racing and staying power as they battled for the fastest time to complete the 5km course from Eccleston back to the boat house in Chester.

Huge congratulations to our WJ15 4x+ crew of Amy, Eden, Issy and Alice with Siyana coxing who were the winners of their race.

As the race takes place on Chester's River Dee, the club play host to many other visiting crews, so use it as one of our key fundraising events. The club was buzzing with activity over the day as our parent volunteers were cooking and catering up a storm for our own crews as well as those visiting to race.

We are delighted to have raised well above our target, which will support boat repairs and our new blade racking.





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- SAT 20th April (1.30 - 3.30pm)
- WED 24th April (5-7pm)
- SAT 27th April (1.30 - 3.30pm)
- WED 1st May (5-7pm)

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FAQ

- Students already learning with MfL will be emailed a link to continue lessons at High School.
- Students who do not yet learn with Music for Life should visit our website to book a course of lessons.
- Book by 31st July to start in September.
- Lessons are booked directly with Music for Life and we work closely with the Music Department.
- Lessons take place during the school day, times are rotated where possible
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