



# QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

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JANUARY - APRIL 2026

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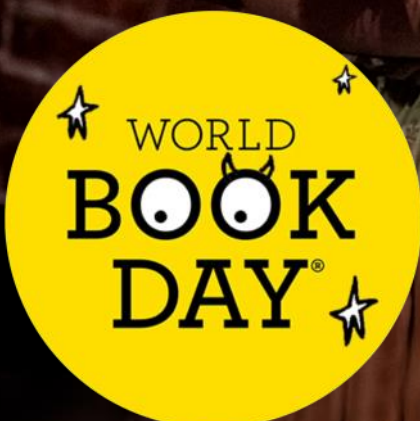
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# TOGETHER WE SHINE

Nurturing talent, celebrating individuality



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# WELCOME



As we move through the spring term and look ahead to the brighter months to come, this edition of our newsletter captures the energy, ambition and creativity that define Queen's Park High School at this time of year. It has

been a season full of opportunity, with performers stepping into the spotlight, thinkers asking bold questions and students showing, time and again, just what can be achieved when curiosity meets commitment.

Creative expression has taken centre stage this term, from our involvement in the National Theatre Connections Project 2026 to the electrifying trio performances from *Macbeth* for Years 10 and 11 at Storyhouse. Our production of *Oliver!* was a real highlight; a sell-out success that showcased talent so impressive it earned an invitation to perform at the Lord Mayor of Chester's Ball in May!

Across the curriculum, academic curiosity has continued to flourish. British Science Week encouraged students to ask 'What's your question?', while our Year 9 mathematicians impressed in the UKMT Maths Challenge. In Religious Studies, students thought big as they explored Christian controversies, debating faith, ethics and the relevance of Jesus in the modern world. Language workshops reminded us that multilingualism truly is a superpower, while politics came alive with an inspiring visit from MP Aphra Brandreth, reinforcing the importance of student voice.

Preparing students for life beyond the classroom remains a key focus for us. Careers week, mock interviews, CV writing, university visits to Cambridge, Sixth Form Taster Day and the launch of our Future Ready Programme at Chester Zoo have all helped students to think ambitiously about their next steps. Practical experiences have been just as valuable, from magistrates' mock trials and first aid training to unique work-related learning with the police, HMS Eaglet and Shrewsbury Prison.

We have also taken pride in celebrating success, through Homework Heroes, Gold Star awards and afternoon tea with the Headteacher, while our sporting teams brought home medals across basketball, netball, dodgeball and rowing.

As we support our Year 11 and 13 students in the final weeks before their exams, we wish them every success. Their determination, alongside the wide range of achievements shared here, makes us incredibly proud to lead such a remarkable school community.

Happy reading!

Mr Kearns  
HEADTEACHER



## TAKING THE STAGE!

### National Theatre Success



We're thrilled to announce that Queen's Park High School has once again been selected to take part in the *National Theatre: Connections* project, following the success of our latest bid.

This prestigious national programme brings together a select group of schools and youth theatre companies from across the UK with each invited to stage one of ten specially commissioned new plays.

This year, our Year 10 GCSE Drama students have been chosen to perform *Wildfire Road* by acclaimed playwright Eve Leigh.

# National Theatre

# CONNECTIONS 2026



“ Having a professional describe the production as ‘brilliant’ and ‘amazing’ is a real testament to the hard work, creativity and teamwork shown by everyone involved. We couldn’t be prouder.”

Mr Yeoman, Assistant Headteacher



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

Set aboard a plane flying to Tokyo as devastating fires rage below, the powerful play explores humanity, fear and connection at the end of the world - no small task for a young cast and crew to bring to life!

Following on from the school’s hugely successful run of *Oliver!* in February, over the last five intense weeks students have been working tirelessly both on and off stage. Rehearsals have taken place every Wednesday and Thursday after school, and even on Sundays, with students showing outstanding commitment while balancing other responsibilities. Their dedication though, has truly paid off!

On Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st March, *Wildfire Road* was performed

on the school’s Main Stage to an audience of up to 100 parents and family members. A visiting director from the National Theatre in London also attended to review the production and give professional feedback. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and it was wonderful to see such strong support for the 24 members of the cast and crew, who delivered both a gripping and confident performance.

On 28th April the play will transfer to the Lyceum Theatre in Crewe, where students will perform on its main stage as part of a fully produced, professional public performance.

One crew member said, “It’s a fantastic but scary project.

Getting to work alongside professional theatre staff in a real venue is amazing.”

A Year 10 student/actor added, “Interpreting Eve Leigh’s intentions was challenging, but it pushed us to step up and perform at our best.”

Mr Yeoman, praised the students’ efforts, noting that feedback from the visiting National Theatre director was extremely encouraging.

As well as developing performance skills, projects like Connections play a vital role in building confidence, leadership and teamwork and are a vibrant showcase of original theatre and young creative talent. Every student involved should be incredibly proud; they are a real credit to the school.



# WHAT'S YOUR QUESTION?

## Curiosity Unleashed!

British Science Week 2026 brought a real buzz to QPHS as students embraced this year's theme: *Curiosity*. Throughout the week, classrooms were filled with big questions, lively discussions, and plenty of 'lightbulb' moments. From wondering why the sky is blue, to debating how cats always seem to land on their feet, and even the mystery of why toast falls butter-side down. These simple but engaging questions helped launch a week filled with exploration and scientific thinking.

**Year 7** kicked things off by diving into the fascinating world of museums and conservation. They learned why museums are vital for protecting history and how conservators preserve fragile artefacts. After examining the condition of various objects, students designed their own display cases complete with UV protection, controlled temperature and humidity, and even pest-prevention strategies. They then presented their ideas, explaining how each element helped prevent deterioration.

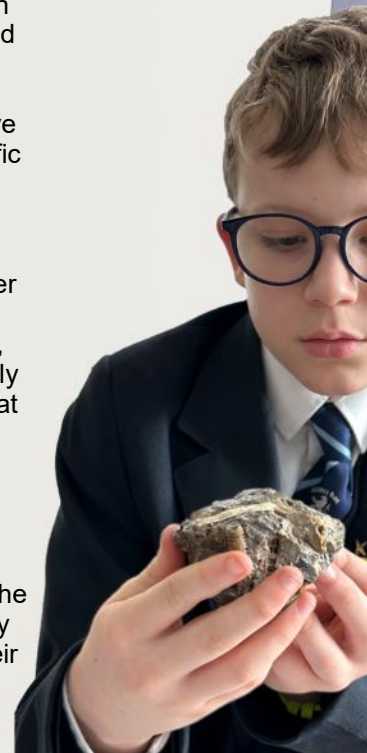
**Year 8** spent their week looking ahead to the future of medicine through the lens of metagenomics. Working with simulated patient samples, they used DNA sequences and the NCBI (National Centre for Biotechnology Information) database to identify diseases such as malaria, cholera and Zika virus. They then selected appropriate treatment plans based on their findings. Through this activity, students discovered how genetic sequencing can

rapidly detect infections and support personalised healthcare.

**Year 9** explored mutations and how genetic changes can benefit species. Using real examples and their own creativity, they engineered adapted organisms capable of surviving in new environments. Their final concepts were thoughtful, inventive and backed up with strong scientific reasoning as they presented their creations to the class.

Across all year groups, one thing connected every activity: the power of asking questions. Whether students were analysing artefacts, decoding DNA or imagining entirely new life forms, they discovered that curiosity is at the heart of every scientific breakthrough.

British Science Week not only encouraged students to think like scientists, it gave them space to explore, imagine and investigate the world around them, and judging by the enthusiasm in classrooms, their curiosity is only growing...





Unilever

# BRIGHT IDEAS

Designing for a greener future

Five talented Year 9 students from QPHS recently took part in the highly respected Unilever Inspire Programme, a national initiative that encourages young people to think creatively, solve real-world problems and explore the possibilities of STEM.

This year's challenge invited teams to design and pitch a product that helps reduce the impact of climate change and plastic waste and 'Team QPHS' rose to the task with enthusiasm and flair.

Our students developed an innovative range of pet-safe probiotic cleaning products, designed to create a healthier home environment while avoiding the risks traditional cleaning chemicals can pose to cats, dogs and other household pets. Their pitch explored everything from packaging design and formulation, to how social media could be used to promote the product to eco-conscious consumers.

Each student presented confidently to a panel of Unilever judges, showcasing not only their creativity but also their ability to communicate ideas clearly and professionally. As a result of their hard work, all members of the team achieved a Discovery CREST Award, a nationally recognised STEM achievement.

The programme was an inspiring experience for our Year 9 students, giving them the chance to think like real product designers, engage with industry professionals and tackle environmental challenges with fresh ideas. Their creativity and confidence shone throughout the day, and they represented QPHS brilliantly.

“ Students worked both independently and collaboratively to devise their presentation. I am really proud of the work they have done and how they represented QPHS to the panel. Students also had the opportunity to speak to numerous employers about how they use STEM in their roles with Unilever. ”

Miss Sutton,  
Curriculum Team Leader for Science



# WORLD BOOK DAY

## Characters, Creativity & Celebration

World Book Day at Queen's Park High School was nothing short of magical, as our whole school community came together to celebrate amazing stories and the joy of reading. The corridors burst into colour as students and staff arrived dressed as their favourite book characters. From classic heroes to modern icons, we had everything from Alice and the Mad Hatter to Matilda, Charlie Bucket, an Oompa-Loompa, Audrey Hepburn, Long John Silver, the Billionaire Boy, Sweeney Todd, Napoleon, the shepherd and sheep (from The Parable of the Lost Sheep in the Bible), and even an entire fellowship of Harry Potters in the Maths department!

The enthusiasm and effort from everyone was fantastic to see.

Miss Egden helped ensure the day ran smoothly and that students felt inspired to take part. Meanwhile, Ms MJ secured 600 free books thanks to the generosity of TG Jones in Chester, so every student in Key Stage 3 could take home a new book. This thoughtful gesture was met with huge excitement and reinforced the school's commitment to nurturing a genuine love of reading.

The school was buzzing with activity throughout the day as Ms MJ organised a series of book-themed challenges.



“ World Book Day was more than just a themed celebration; it was a joyful reminder of the importance of reading for pleasure. ”

Mr Jones, Literacy Coordinator





# MACBETH

## A bold twist on a Classic

On the 12th and 20th March, almost two hundred students visited Storyhouse, Chester to experience a bold and spectacular new production of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.

Accompanied by their Head of Year, and members of the English team, students enjoyed a thrilling interpretation of the Bard's iconic tragedy.

This inventive production, directed by Jamie Sophia Fletcher, stayed true to Shakespeare's original language while embracing neon, bright costumes, striking lighting and bursts of contemporary music. The result was a fresh, modern take that brought the familiar story of ambition, power and downfall to life in a vivid and unexpected way.

Instead of elaborate sets, the performance used projected imagery across the back wall to create atmosphere and a strong sense of place. This minimalist approach allowed the actors and their powerful delivery to take centre stage.

One Year 10 student summed it up perfectly: "The acting was incredible, the performance was inspiring, and in parts it was shocking!"

Year 11 students enjoyed the show the following week which was a well-earned treat after an intense two weeks of mock exams.

While students study *Macbeth* as part of GCSE English Literature, seeing it performed live offered a whole new depth of understanding. The production's dynamic style helped students connect themes, characters and ideas in ways only live theatre can.

It was certainly a memorable experience for all involved!

“ It was a bold and creative interpretation that balanced tradition with modern flair. Visually striking and brilliantly performed. A fantastic afternoon of theatre.”

Miss Egden, Literacy Coordinator



# STORYHOUSE

# 2026 Shortlist



## Page Turners Go All In!

This year marks the National Year of Reading, a nationwide celebration encouraging everyone to read more, discover new stories and truly 'Go All In!' Our Page Turners Book Club certainly rose to the challenge, joining students from Upton High School on an exciting trip to The King's School, Chester accompanied by Ms MJ.

The group is part of the Carnegie Book Awards Shadowing Scheme, where young readers take on the exciting task of reading and reviewing the shortlisted books throughout the spring term. Their mission? To choose their own winners ahead of the national results in the summer. Will their top choices match the official Carnegie winners?

The 2026 Carnegies shortlist features a powerful mix of stories exploring identity, belonging, relationships and the meaning of home. The awards aim to spark a lifelong love of reading by connecting young people with books that broaden horizons and inspire new perspectives.



# Homework Heroes



## Awards for outstanding effort & dedication

We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of 77 students who have been awarded our brand new Homework badges this half term.

These badges recognise outstanding commitment to independent study and a dedication to learning beyond the classroom. Students have earned their badges in one of two ways: by completing the top five highest number of Educake homework questions in English, Maths or Science, or by being nominated by their teachers for consistently excellent homework or completion of Extended Learning Projects (ELPs).

This is a fantastic accomplishment and reflects not only hard work, but also resilience, focus and pride in their studies.

At Queen's Park High School we strongly believe that developing independent study habits and a genuine love of learning are essential for long-term success. Regular homework helps students practise recall, secure key knowledge and identify gaps in understanding, which is an important part of effective revision and academic progress.

To support this, student homework timetables are available on the school website, including information about Extended Learning Projects for Key Stage 3. These projects, worth 20 house points, provide students with an exciting opportunity to explore their favourite subjects in greater depth and extend their learning beyond the curriculum. We also remind all students of the importance of reading for at least 30 minutes each day. Regular reading improves vocabulary, strengthens comprehension and develops the crucial academic skills needed for success across all subjects and for life beyond school.

Congratulations once again to all 77 badge recipients, we are incredibly proud of you!





# UK Maths Trust

# CALCULATIONS & CELEBRATIONS!

## Mathematicians take on the UKMT Challenge

Earlier this term 30 of our top performing Year 9 mathematicians took part in the UK Intermediate Maths Challenge, a national competition organised by the UK Maths Trust (UKMT). Designed to stretch young thinkers, the challenge encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluent problem-solving.

On 28th January, our students joined more than 650,000 students from across the UK and beyond as they tackled the renowned 60 minute challenge. For several of our competitors, this wasn't their first taste of UKMT success, some

had previously taken part in the Junior Challenge last year and were eager to step up to the next level. Once completed, answer sheets were sent off to UKMT for official marking.

We are incredibly proud of all our students who took part. A special congratulations goes to our top scorers: Dylan C, Olivia J, Eleanor S and Alexis G, who achieved the highest marks in their year, each earning an impressive Silver Certificate.

We're also delighted to celebrate our Bronze Certificate winners: Eva U, Ricky M, Rumen, Olivia H, Margaux, Ben M, Emily C and Elliot J, a fantastic achievement for every one of them. A huge well done as well to all students who proudly represented the school in this year's competition.

We are now looking ahead to our next competition at the end of April, when our younger students in Years 7 and 8 will take on the Junior Mathematical Challenge. Good Luck to all involved!

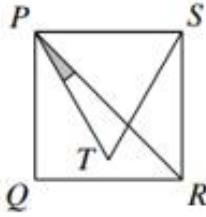


## Why not test your own skills?

Can you solve these 2 example questions from this year's challenge?

The diagram shows the square PQRS and the equilateral triangle PTS. What is the size of the angle RPT?

- A  $10^\circ$
- B  $12^\circ$
- C  $15^\circ$
- D  $22\frac{1}{2}^\circ$
- E  $30^\circ$



In March 2024, the British runner, Jasmin Paris became the first woman ever to finish the 100 mile 'Barkley Marathons' in Tennessee. Her finishing time of 59 hours, 58 minutes and 21 seconds meant that she narrowly beat the cut-off time of 60 hours for the event. By how many seconds did Jasmin beat this cut-off time?

- A 99
- B 109
- C 119
- D 129
- E 139



# QUEEN'S PARK GAMBIT

## A Checkmate Performance!

Following the overwhelming success of last year's event, this year's 'Chester Schools Together' Chess Tournament once again proved to be a standout moment in the school calendar. Held on Friday 13th February at Bishop's Blue Coat C of E High School, the competition saw our Year 8 students demonstrate impressive strategic skill alongside admirable composure throughout the day.

Competing against five other schools, the QPHS team, accompanied by Mr Evans, represented the school with focus, determination and exemplary sportsmanship from start to finish.

A particular highlight was the outstanding performance of Riley B, who secured a well-earned runner-up position after a series of strong matches. Riley progressed to the semi-finals, where he was narrowly defeated by the competitor who went on to win the tournament. His achievement is a testament to his talent, skill, and commitment to the game.

Congratulations to *The Queen's Park Gambit Team*: Olly M, Herbie M, Riley B, and Reuben T, for their hard work, resilience, and the positive, respectful manner in which they conducted themselves throughout the competition. Their success continues to strengthen QPHS's growing reputation for strategic excellence, both inside and beyond the classroom. Well done boys!

“ I was incredibly proud of the focus, sportsmanship and resilience shown by every member of our team. They represented QPHS superbly and should be very proud of their achievements. ”

Mr Evans, Teacher of Maths



# WHY Languages MATTER



BANK OF AMERICA

## Multilingualism is a superpower in today's world

*Did you know: Spanish is spoken in 21 countries and French in 19!?*

This half term, our Modern Foreign Languages department teamed up with Bank of America to help students discover just how valuable learning a language can be in today's global workplace.

On Tuesday 24th February, our Year 9 students took part in an inspiring session that highlighted the many advantages of speaking an additional language, from boosting employability to opening up exciting opportunities at university and across industries such as engineering and finance.

Our guest speakers: Nigel, Conah and Anya each shared their personal stories,

highlighting how languages have shaped their careers and enriched their lives. Students then had the chance to quiz these industry professionals on how multilingualism supports their daily work and the meaningful ways it has helped them connect, innovate and thrive.

They learned that speaking another language isn't just about vocabulary, it's about opportunity and standing out from the crowd. Employers are actively seeking multilingual candidates because they bring:

**Adaptability:** A flexible, agile mind ready to tackle problems and think creatively.

**Stronger Relationships:** The ability to build trust and communicate with colleagues

and clients across cultures.

**A Competitive Edge:** Stand-out skills that open doors to global careers and future success.

Many students reflected that they'd never realised how widely languages are used beyond traditional roles. The session gave them a fresh perspective and supported them in making informed decisions about their futures. Their feedback made it clear that multilingualism is a superpower in today's interconnected world.

A huge thank you to Nigel, Conah and Anya from Bank of America for delivering such an engaging and eye-opening session, and for showing our students the incredible places languages can take them!

# CULTURE EXPLOSION!

## Around the world in one school day

On Wednesday 11th February, QPHS came alive with colour, flavour and pride as we held our whole-school cultural event to celebrate the rich diversity within our community. After a recruitment drive with assemblies and letters, we welcomed Cultural Ambassadors from ten different countries, each helping to share traditions from their heritage.

Students enjoyed a fantastic selection of dishes and snacks from Hungary, Poland, Greece, The Netherlands and Zimbabwe, to name a few, while our catering team added to the excitement with a themed menu featuring Spanish and Eastern Asian cuisine for everyone to try.

The day also showcased cultural dress, games and history from countries including Hungary, Wales and Iran. Our corridors and canteen were beautifully decorated by our Student Leadership Team, creating a vibrant atmosphere that encouraged students to explore and learn from one another.

The event was a true reflection of the QPHS values of community, inclusion and respect.

We are incredibly proud of our ambassadors and all students who took part and look forward to building on this success next year.

“ It was wonderful to see so many learners getting involved, tasting new foods, asking questions and celebrating what makes each of us unique. ”

Mrs Brown, Deputy Headteacher



# CHRISTIAN CONTROVERSIES

## Faith, Ethics & Modern Issues

On Wednesday 17th March our Year 12 and Year 10 Religious Studies students had an inspiring and thought-provoking day at the Christian Controversies Conference hosted within the beautiful surroundings of Chester Cathedral. The event provided a valuable opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of complex theological and ethical issues while learning alongside experts in their fields.

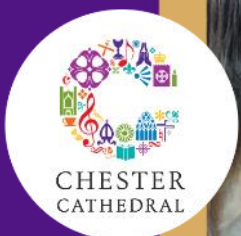
The day began with a warm welcome in the Cathedral Nave, followed by the keynote address delivered by The Venerable Dr Miranda Threlfall-Holmes. Her talk, *'Difference, Diversity and Deviance: What We Make of Difference'*, offered an engaging and insightful exploration into how societies perceive and respond to difference. Her ideas immediately sparked lively conversations among our students, who were encouraged to reflect on the themes and prepare thoughtful questions for later in the programme. Following the keynote, students were placed into mixed Year 10 and Year 12 groups and invited to choose from a range of specialist seminar workshops, which included:

- **Professor Paul Middleton** – *Church Responses to Sexuality and Gender*
- **Canon Rosie Woodall** – *The Status of Women in Religion*
- **The Revd James Doo** – *Sanctity of Life: Abortion & Euthanasia*
- **Jill Elson** – *Creation Care*

Each session challenged students to think deeply, question assumptions and engage respectfully with ideas that often provoke significant debate. Built-in reflection time allowed them to gather their thoughts, make notes and refine their questions in preparation for the final activity.

The afternoon session ended with a vibrant Q&A panel featuring Dr Threlfall-Holmes, Professor Middleton, Canon Woodall, and The Revd James Doo. Our students asked insightful and mature questions that demonstrated their curiosity, compassion and critical thinking.

“ It was a truly enriching day of learning outside the classroom, and we are incredibly proud of how our students represented the school. ”  
**Mrs Merryweather**  
Curriculum Team Leader for  
Social Studies



# GUEST LECTURE

## Debating Jesus

On Thursday 8th January, Year 12 A Level Ethics, Philosophy and Religious Studies students enjoyed an inspiring visit from Professor Paul Middleton of the University of Chester. As a specialist in New Testament studies, Professor Middleton introduced students to two influential modern scholars: Tom Wright and Marcus Borg, and their contrasting approaches to understanding one of history's most discussed figures: Jesus of Nazareth.

Professor Middleton explained Wright's "*Jesus of History*" perspective, which uses historical research to place Jesus in the social and political world of first century Judea. He then contrasted this with Borg's "*Jesus of Faith*" viewpoint, which focuses on the spiritual meaning and lasting impact of Jesus' teachings.

Students were encouraged to compare ideas, ask questions and think critically about how different interpretations shape modern religious understanding.

We are very grateful to Professor Middleton for sharing his expertise and inspiring our students to engage more deeply with some of the most important debates in religious studies today.



# THINKING BIG IN RS!

## A Level Revision Day

Our Year 13 Religious Studies, Ethics and Philosophy students took part in a fantastic revision day at Neston High School on Wednesday 18th March. They joined students from several schools for a full day of university style lectures and expert exam guidance to help them prepare for their A Level exams.

The day began with a warm welcome and an engaging Metaethics lecture from Lara Harris, who encouraged students to think deeply about ethical language and the theories behind their course. After a quick break, complete with the much loved 'Cakey Wednesday' treats, students moved on to an excellent session with Ben Fulford on Religious Language, which helped them consolidate some of the trickiest exam content.

In the afternoon, Emma Fletcher led a practical workshop on AO2 writing, supporting students with how to build strong arguments and evaluative responses. Ben Cox followed with targeted revision strategies, helping students reflect on how to structure notes, tackle past papers and manage their time effectively.

The day ended with thanks from Lara Harris, rounding off what had been an engaging and academically rewarding experience.

A huge thank you to Neston High School for hosting, and well done to our students for representing QPHS so brilliantly. They returned tired but motivated and full of confidence as they head into their final weeks of exam preparation.



“

The event was a wonderful opportunity for Year 13 to broaden their academic horizons, learn in a new environment and represent QPHS with maturity and enthusiasm, supported of course by the comforting presence of 'Cakey Wednesday on the road'.

”

Mrs Merryweather  
Curriculum Team Leader for  
Social Studies



# STORYHOUSE WOMEN



## Give to Gain

## TRAILBLAZERS AT STORYHOUSE

On Friday 6 March, an intrepid group of Year 9 students, accompanied by Ms MJ, headed into Chester to take part in the 2026 Storyhouse Women School's Day event. Much like a modern band of Suffragettes, they set off with purpose and pride ready to celebrate women and girls as part of this year's International Women's Day programme.

Now in its fourth year, the Storyhouse Women festival brings together a week of events focused on empowerment, connection and open conversation. Created in 2023 through collaboration with women's groups, young people and community voices across Chester, the festival continues to grow and inspire positive change.

On the walk into the city centre, our students passed Chester Town Hall, a landmark with its own powerful link to women's history. In 1912, Mary Phillips, a determined activist with the Women's Social and Political Union, was arrested here after protesting by throwing flour at Prime Minister Herbert

Asquith. Thanks to the support of a sympathetic local, she was later released. Stories like hers remind us of the courage that helped lead to milestones such as the 1918 Representation of the People Act, granting voting rights to women over 30.

Inspired by this moment from history, our students continued to Storyhouse, joining peers from Blacon High School and Winsford Academy. Everyone gathered in the Garret Theatre ready to dive into a busy and inspiring day celebrating what it means to be a woman today.

Students took part in a wide range of sessions designed to uplift and empower. One highlight was a lively dance workshop that encouraged self-expression through movement. As the visit coincided with National Careers Week, students also met Storyhouse's new Marketing Manager, who offered an inspiring glimpse into her role. Students then tried their hand at being 'marketing officers', planning how to promote a Storyhouse event while considering budgets, competition and the

organisation's ethos.

In the afternoon, they explored body-language skills in the Storyhouse Studio, learning how posture and presence can boost confidence in interviews and everyday life. A final Q&A session with workshop leaders offered honest insight into their career journeys, including the twists and turns along the way.

This year's International Women's Day theme, 'Give to Gain' was at the heart of the whole experience.

The students returned to school energised, inspired and full of new friendships, well on their way to becoming strong, independent young women.

“ By coming together at the Storyhouse events, our young women are helping to create a more supportive and interconnected world. ”

Ms Melhuish-Jones  
Independent Study Coordinator



# POLITICS IN ACTION

## The Power of Student Voice

We were delighted to welcome Aphra Brandreth MP to Queen's Park High School earlier this term for an engaging visit that offered students a real insight into public life. Aphra began her visit with a tour of the school led by Headteacher Mr Tom Kearns, where she saw a wide range of lessons in action before going on to meet Mr Darren Jones, CEO of The Learning Trust.

One of the highlight's of the tour was an energetic Year 8 instrumental carnival music lesson. Aphra was keen to join in and experience the rhythm, creativity and enthusiasm of the classroom first-hand!

The visit concluded with a thoughtful Q&A session, during which students raised issues that matter to them, including whether the age of consent for accessing social media should be increased to 16. Aphra later took these views to Parliament to share with the Education Minister.

We are incredibly proud of our students for the thoughtful and mature way they engaged in the discussion, and we are grateful to Aphra for taking the time to listen, respond and champion their views at a national level.

A fantastic example of student voice in action at QPHS!





## ORDER IN THE COURT

### Magistrates' Mock Trial

As part of our after-school extra-curricular programme, 13 students from Years 8 and 9 have been working closely with Mr Bell and Mrs Ward to run their own Magistrates' Court.

Since September, they've been attending after-school sessions each week, to build their confidence and prepare for their big day in court.

To help sharpen their skills, we welcomed former magistrate Stuart Clarke on 3rd March for a mock trial masterclass.

His expert advice and insider knowledge gave our students a valuable glimpse into the world of real-life courtroom proceedings and helped them refine their roles ahead of the competition.

On Saturday 7th March, the team were up bright and early, suited and booted, as they travelled to Sefton Magistrates' Court to take part in the Smart Law Magistrates' Mock Trial competition. Going head-to-head with four schools from across Liverpool, our students stepped into an authentic courtroom setting, an exciting but understandably nerve-wracking experience! It proved to be a brilliant opportunity to develop their public-speaking, teamwork, and critical-thinking skills in a truly professional environment.

This year's case, *The King vs Kim Hanley*, centred on a stolen mobile phone taken by a hooded cyclist. With the defendant pleading not guilty, the pressure was on as our students took on key courtroom roles including: usher, Legal Advisor, Magistrate, witnesses, and both prosecution and defence lawyers.

“ Being a lawyer for the day made me realise how much confidence I've gained. I'd definitely do it again next year. ”

Year 9 student



“ The level of professionalism the students showed was incredible. They took their roles seriously, supported each other throughout the day and what impressed me most was how they adapted under pressure. They’ve grown so much in their ability to think on their feet. ”

Mr Bell, Teacher of History



With only one professional magistrate overseeing the trial, it was up to our students to run the courtroom independently, and they rose to the challenge brilliantly.

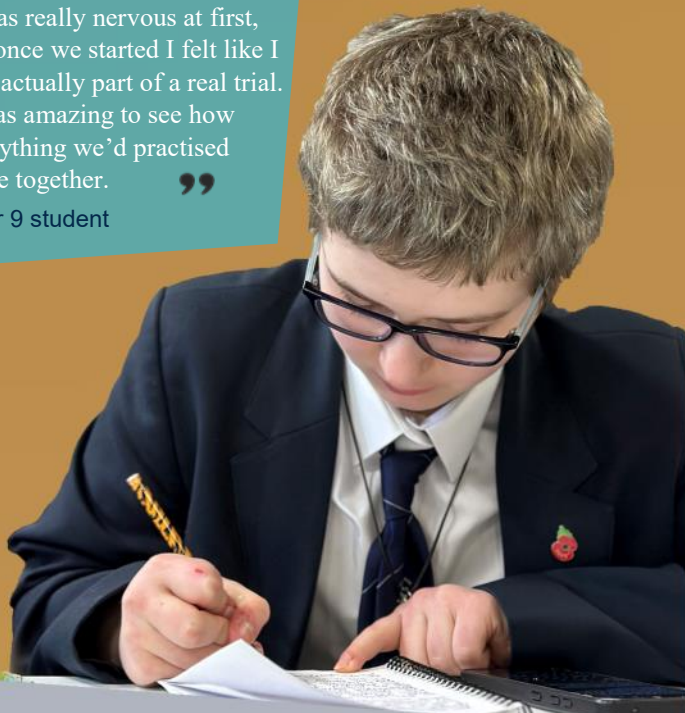
Although they didn't take home first place this time, their confidence, thoughtful questioning, strong legal arguments and impressive opening and closing statements shone throughout the day.

Both Mrs Ward and Mr Bell were incredibly proud of how our students represented Queen's Park; professional, composed and fully invested in the experience.

This marks our third year taking part in the competition, and once again it has been a fantastic opportunity for our students to immerse themselves in the world of law. Well done to all students involved!

“ I was really nervous at first, but once we started I felt like I was actually part of a real trial. It was amazing to see how everything we'd practised came together. ”

Year 9 student





# CARTOGRAPHIC CERAMICS

Putting art on the map!



Year 10 GCSE Art students have been working hard on an exciting project exploring the theme of cartography - the art of designing and creating maps.

To spark their ideas, students studied the work of a range of contemporary artists, including printmaker Derek Lerner, painter Emily Garfield and ceramic artist Craig Underhill.

Inspired by Underhill's simple yet striking abstract vessels, students have designed and constructed their own three dimensional ceramic forms using slab building techniques. Each piece reflects students' individual interpretations while showcasing their growing confidence, creativity, and willingness to experiment with new materials and techniques.

Next, students will bring their work to life using coloured slips, glazes, and oxides, adding depth, character and individuality to their finished pieces.

This project will make a strong and exciting addition to their GCSE portfolios.

Well done, Year 10!



**WOW**  
That's Amazing Work!





# 'WOW' WORTHY ART WORK

## Creativity in full colour

### *Where does the time go?*

It's been a busy start to the year in the Visual Art and Design department with GCSE and A Level Art, Photography and 3D Design students preparing ideas for their chosen exam questions ahead of final assessments shortly after Easter. All students have made a fantastic start, working with real focus and determination as they explore new materials, techniques and processes inspired by a wide range of artists, designers and photographers. Their commitment and imagination are shining through, and we wish them every

success as they head into this final stretch.

Meanwhile Year 7 and Year 8 students have been developing their painting skills. Year 7 have been exploring colour and abstract expression, responding to the work of British artist Howard Hodgkin. Using his ideas about memory, imagination and place, they've produced beautifully layered surfaces full of bold shapes, colour and texture on a made frame.

Year 8 have built on their previous skills to create expressive landscape paintings inspired by

Rachel Cassiani's simplified semi-abstract vivid colour work and the powerful expressive colour found in David Hockney's landscapes. Their responses show a growing understanding of composition, pattern and colour, resulting in eye-catching pieces.

And brighten the classroom they certainly have! The 'WOW Wall' is living up to its name! It has transformed Mr Parker's room into a burst of colour and creativity... a definite sign that summer is on the way!



# Celebrating CREATIVITY



# A TASTE OF PARADISE BAY

## Year 11 serve up seaside inspired flavours

Our Year 11 Hospitality and Catering students brought a taste of coastal street-food energy into the QPHS kitchen with their Paradise Bay Food Truck practical project. Tasked with designing dishes for a bustling beachside setting, they explored how local ingredients can be transformed into flavour-packed street food with optional global twists that made each plate their own.

The result was a mouth-watering collection of starters, mains and desserts designed to appeal to two very different audiences: hungry adult walkers refuelling after a scenic trail and energetic teenage surfers looking for something bold, fresh and fast.

Throughout the practical sessions, students demonstrated impressive technical skill, innovation and an eye for presentation. Starters ranged from crisp bite-sized tasters to vibrant bowls layered with colour and texture. Many dishes celebrated local produce, thoughtfully paired with influences from across the world, including

Asian glazes, Mediterranean herbs, and Latin American spices.

For the mains, students embraced the true spirit of street food: hearty, handheld and bursting with personality! From loaded flatbreads and gourmet burgers to spiced noodle boxes and creative seafood options, each dish aimed to balance convenience with big flavour, exactly what Paradise Bay's imagined customers would expect while enjoying ocean views.

Rounding off their menus, students produced sweet treats that captured the relaxed, beach day atmosphere, featuring fresh fruits, homemade sauces, and inventive twists on classic favourites.

“ Our Year 11 chefs demonstrated excellent preparation, knife skills, cooking techniques and presentation. I am incredibly proud of the high level of skill they showed in the kitchen. Well done! ”  
Miss Longson  
Teacher of Food & Nutrition

# RETHINK. REUSE. REDESIGN

## Eco-friendly innovation

This term, our Year 10 GCSE Design and Technology students have been getting hands-on with a creative challenge: turning old, unused materials into new, functional products.

With sustainability as a key focus, students have been exploring how everyday items (like cardboard packaging and other materials that might normally end up in the bin), can be given a new lease of life. The aim is to design products that are practical, while also reducing waste.

Students are currently developing prototypes of their ideas using simple materials such as cardboard to create model versions of their designs. These early models might not be the finished product, but they play a vital role in the design process.

Prototyping helps students test their ideas, identify what works and figure out what could be improved. It also encourages them to think carefully about size, structure, function and the practicalities of how their designs will be used. Making adjustments at this stage helps them refine their ideas and develop better designs before moving on.



## BATTLE OF THE BANDS

### QPHS rock bands compete at The Hive

The Nest Northwest in association with Devafest and The Love Music Trust hosted its first *'Battle of the Bands'* competition at The Hive in Winsford on Saturday 28th February. The event brought together student bands from across Cheshire for an exciting day of live music and performance.

QPHS was proudly represented by not one, but two fantastic bands. Our youngest competitors, Year 8 band *'The Echoes'*, featuring Rory, Sonny, and Eashan, impressed the audience with their confidence and enthusiasm. They were joined by Year 9 band *'Untitled Dark mp4'*, made up of Rohan, Oillie, Seren, and Aphra, who delivered a powerful and polished set.

“ It's been fantastic to see the range of ideas and how students are applying their problem-solving skills. As the project continues, they will build on these designs and develop them further. ”

Miss Chapple  
Teacher of Design Technology

Seren and Aphra shared their experience of the day:

“ At the Battle of the Bands competition, we had the amazing opportunity to compete against fourteen other bands. We performed two songs that we had been practising for two months, and it was a great chance to meet other like-minded young musicians. We learned a lot about performance skills, audience interaction, and managing ourselves on stage.

The sound and lighting teams were incredibly supportive and helped us with any issues during our performance. All the bands were amazing, and it was inspiring to see the level of talent on display. Although we were disappointed not to rank in the top three or secure a spot at Deva Fest, the winning bands, *'The Voke'*, *'Hune'*, and *'Days Late'*, fully deserved their success. ”

Both bands represented QPHS brilliantly, showing commitment, teamwork and above all musical talent. Well done to everyone involved for taking on the challenge and performing with such confidence and enthusiasm.



# A SPECIAL CELEBRATION

## Afternoon Tea with the Headteacher

As part of our ongoing culture of praise and recognition, a number of students were recently invited to enjoy a special afternoon tea with Mr Kearns.

Students with the highest number of house points were first to attend, celebrating their consistent effort and achievement.

This was followed by a second afternoon tea for students nominated by their Heads of Year, in recognition of their perseverance, attendance and positive attitude towards school.

Both events were a lovely opportunity to celebrate students' successes and, of course, to enjoy a generous selection of cakes and pastries! Alongside the celebrations, Mr Kearns took time to talk with students and listen to their ideas about how QPHS could become an even better place to learn and grow.

Students shared thoughtful and insightful feedback, which has been passed directly to the Senior Leadership Team and will help inform future school development planning.

It was a pleasure to celebrate with our students and hear their brilliant ideas for improving QPHS for all.



# GOLD STARS

## Awards & Rewards

There was lots to celebrate this term as we recognised our Gold Star winners. At the end of the first Spring half term, Mr Yeoman totaled up weekly house points to identify students who had consistently gone the extra mile.

During assemblies in early March, 130 students were awarded Gold Stars for their effort and commitment. Each student received a certificate to mark their achievement, while one lucky student from each year group was randomly selected to win an Amazon voucher in recognition of their hard work.

All Gold Star students were also entered into the grand prize draw, adding to the excitement in assemblies. The tension grew as the spinner finally landed on Year 12 securing the top prize. Huge congratulations go to Siyana, who walked away with the highly sought-after laptop!

Well done to all our gold star winners. We look forward to seeing which students drive their house points forward next half term as they aim for the next big win!



## GOING THE EXTRA MILE

### Fundraising that makes a real difference

We are always incredibly proud of students who go above and beyond to support others, showing kindness and compassion alongside their academic work. Acts like these reflect our belief that education is about developing the whole person, not just academic success.

On World Prematurity Day, Sophie in Year 11 raised an impressive £300 for the Neonatal Unit at Liverpool Women's Hospital through a charity bake sale. Sophie baked and sold an amazing 400+ cakes to students and staff, showing real determination and generosity.

The money raised has since been used to buy much needed items directly from the unit's wish list, ensuring a lasting impact. Sophie will soon deliver the gifts in person and we know the hospital staff will be just as proud of her as we are.



LIONEL BART'S

# Oliver!

Please, Sir... We Smashed It!

“ To be invited to perform in front of local authority leaders in business and enterprise is a real privilege for our students and a testament to their brilliance on and off the stage. We are incredibly proud of every single one of them and of the recognition they've received for their hard work. ”

Mr Yeoman, Assistant Headteacher

In the middle of the darkest months of the year, 110 QPHS students were hard at work preparing what would become one of the most impressive productions the school has ever staged. From the very beginning, the ambition and scale of the performance were clear, and everyone involved shared the same goal: to make it the very best it could be.

We were incredibly fortunate this year to have an outstanding cast of young people who showed total commitment to rehearsals. Working closely with the directors, and driven by their own motivation and preparation, characters truly came to life on stage. Our Year 13 cohort, in particular, delivered some unforgettable performances.

A huge part of the show's success was also down to the support and expertise of our Creative Learning Practitioner, Jess Mann. Choreography played a major role throughout the production, with complex numbers woven into the storytelling. To support this, rehearsals extended beyond the school day, with filmed choreography shared online so students could practise and refine routines at home ahead of performance week.

While rehearsals had been quietly ticking along since October, something far more visible was taking shape behind the scenes, an epic set, and likely the biggest the school has ever built. A dedicated team of backstage crew members gave up many Sundays to transform the school hall into the streets of London. (*Fun fact: over 3,000 screws were used in building the set!*)



Of course, the success of a school production isn't measured by its size, but by its impact. As the many photographs from the show illustrate, the joy, pride and commitment of our students truly shines through. Audience feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with one local resident writing in to describe it as, "the most extraordinary production a school has ever produced." Having joined us as a special guest on our VIP night, we were also incredibly honoured to be commissioned by the Lord Mayor, Cllr Sherin Akhtar, to perform extracts from the show at the Lord Mayor's Ball in May this year.

A production of this scale is only possible thanks to the goodwill, generosity and teamwork of so many people. While it isn't possible to name everyone who contributed, every student and staff member involved should be immensely proud of the impact they had.

We're already looking forward to next year's production and to seeing the next generation of talent step into the spotlight for another outstanding showcase of creativity, confidence, commitment and teamwork.

To view all photographs from the show, please visit our website: [Photo Gallery](#)



# WHAT IS WPD?

## Developing Life Skills

WPD stands for World Views and Personal Development and brings together Religious Education and PSHCE.

PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic Education) aims to equip students with the skills and attributes they need to thrive, both now and in the future. Our programme focuses on developing resilience, self-esteem, risk-management, teamwork and critical thinking.

Across all key stages, students study a wide range of topics organised around three core themes:

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

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

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Mrs Watts at:  
Email: [a.watts@qphs.co.uk](mailto:a.watts@qphs.co.uk)



## BETTER MONEY HABITS

### Financial Literacy Workshops

Since September 2023, timetabled WPD lessons have supported our Year 12 and 13 students in preparing for life beyond school. The sessions are designed to help students make informed decisions about their next steps, whether that's university, apprenticeships, higher technical qualifications or employment.

Shaped by student voice, the programme gives students the opportunity to hear from a wide range of guest speakers and explore different pathways Post-18.

Recent sessions have included Bank of America workshops on financial literacy, Wrexham University talks on Higher Education, university life and UCAS personal statements, and speakers from Cheshire College South and West discussing technical qualifications such as foundation degrees and national diplomas.

As part of their WPD lessons, Year 12 students took part in Bank of America's 'Better Money Habits' workshops.

“ I learnt about pensions, how much I would be taxed and how much of my salary I will actually get to keep. This will allow me to better plan in the future and manage my funds for retirement. ”

Year 12 Student

The sessions encouraged students to develop positive money habits, covering important real-life topics such as:

- The difference between wants and needs
- Loans and credit
- Tax, pay and understanding deductions
- Credit scores and pensions

Feedback was extremely positive, with students saying the sessions helped them better understand real-world finances and plan for the future.

“ I understand the difference between gross and net pay. I cannot believe how many deductions there are! ”

Year 12 student



University of  
Chester

# STUDENT FINANCE

## Cracking the cost of University

We were delighted to welcome Sean Williamson, Head of Outreach at the University of Chester to speak to our Year 13 students during their WPD lesson on 10th February 2026.

Sean provided clear, up to date information on tuition fees, student loans, maintenance loans, scholarships and bursaries for students entering university in 2026. The session helped demystify student finance and gave students a realistic picture of living costs while studying.

Students found the talk both eye-opening and reassuring.

Mrs Watts reminded students that applications for Student Finance opened in March and strongly encouraged all Year 13s to research their options and apply as soon as possible.

For more information, please visit: [www.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.gov.uk/studentfinance)

“ I was surprised that students across the UK spend an average of £1,104 per month, with nearly half going on rent. The talk really made me think about budgeting! ”  
Year 13 student



## NEXT STEPS

### Guided Choices Evening

It was fantastic to see so many of our Year 9 students and their families attend their Guided Choices evening in January.

At Queen's Park High School we are committed to ensuring every student succeeds. Year 9 is a particularly important stage, as students begin to consider the next steps in their education and the subjects they will continue to study with us.

The Guided Choices evening gave families the opportunity to learn more about GCSE option subjects and speak directly with subject teachers about what each course involves before students make their final choices.

In addition, students and parents were able to meet representatives from a wide range of employers, independent training providers, Further Education colleges, and T Level, Apprenticeship and Traineeship providers. These conversations encouraged students to think ahead and helped families better understand the many Post-16 pathways available.

“ It's fantastic to see so many students thinking carefully about their future pathways. Thank you to The Pledge, the WCNW Chamber of Commerce, and the employers and businesses who helped support our students as they explored careers linked to their option choices. ”

Mrs Watts, Careers Lead





# LEARNING FOR LIFE

## Personal development that informs, empowers & protects

As part of our whole-school Personal Development (PD) Programme, students attend weekly PD assemblies led by Mrs Watts. These assemblies support students' personal growth and help broaden their understanding of the world around them.

During the Spring Term, topics explored included: road safety, world religions, Holocaust Memorial Day, careers and apprenticeships, online safety, neurodiversity, science, literacy and equality.

These sessions encourage reflection, promote inclusion and reinforce key life skills.

### Road Safety

We were delighted to welcome Deborah Hunter from the CWAC Road Safety Team, who delivered engaging sessions to several year groups.

- **Year 7** focused on recognising distractions and their impact on safety.

- **Year 8** explored safe walking and cycling to school.
- **Year 10** learned about passenger safety as they become more likely to travel with newly qualified drivers.

### Safer Internet Day

This year's Safer Internet Day theme, '*Smart tech, safe choices*', encouraged students to reflect on their online behaviour and digital decision-making. Through a range of scenarios, students explored online safety, including the safe and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence.

These assemblies linked closely with both the WPD (PSHCE) and Computing curriculum, reinforcing key messages about staying safe online.

Parents and carers can find further guidance by visiting: [Top Tips for parents and carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

### Water Safety Workshop

We were also pleased to welcome James Carlin from Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service, who delivered an interactive Water Safety Workshop to Year 8 students as part of the Key Stage 3 Water Safety Education programme.

The workshop provided students with essential knowledge and practical advice to help them stay safe in water-related environments. Water safety remains a crucial issue for young people, with teenagers identified as one of the higher-risk groups for accidental drowning.

Through this workshop, alongside ongoing learning in WPD lessons linked to risk-taking behaviour, students are being equipped with the skills and awareness needed to keep themselves and others safe in a wide range of situations.

# MATERIAL WORLD

## National Education Roadshow

We were delighted to welcome the team from Altru Drama CIC to deliver an inspiring in-school theatre experience for our Year 7 students. Their production, *Material World: Engineering the Future*, brought science, engineering and imagination together in a fast-paced, interactive show the students absolutely loved.

The performance forms part of a long-running national partnership between BAE Systems, the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy, and is delivered by education engagement specialists Hi-impact and Altru. Now in its 21st year, the Education Roadshow continues to ignite curiosity and ambition in young people across Great Britain.

Through the lively and engaging storyline, students followed characters Alex, Jody and Harry as they produced a live TV show exploring the fascinating world of materials science. Along the way, Year 7 discovered how the materials we use every day link to cutting-edge technologies in aerospace, marine engineering, manufacturing and beyond.

The roadshow, established in 2005, aims to connect classroom learning with real-world applications, helping students see not only how STEM subjects work, but why they matter. This year's theme, brought STEM concepts to life through drama, hands-on interaction and storytelling that made complex ideas exciting and accessible.

“ It was a fantastic opportunity for Year 7 to experience STEM in a fresh, memorable way and we're thrilled to be part of the national celebration of the Roadshow's 21st year. ”

Mrs Watts, Careers Lead

**STEM**  
SCIENCE • TECHNOLOGY • ENGINEERING • MATHEMATICS



## KETAMINE Risk Taking Behaviour

There has been a significant rise in ketamine misuse among young people in the UK. A survey conducted for NHS England indicated that the percentage of 15-year olds offered ketamine has more than doubled over the past decade, from 0.4% in 2013 to 0.9% in 2023. This trend highlights the growing concern regarding the accessibility and risks associated with ketamine use among adolescents.

Ketamine is known for its dissociative effects and can lead to serious health issues, including addiction, memory loss and bladder damage. The NHS emphasizes the importance of educating young people about these risks and encouraging open discussions between parents and children regarding drug use.

As part of our WPD programme we welcomed guest speaker, Claire Evans, Community Urology Clinical Lead Nurse Specialist (CNS) into school to deliver an important session on Risk Taking Behaviour to all our Year 12 and 13. Claire shared expert insight into the risks of ketamine use, the serious health implications & the support available for anyone who may be affected. Her knowledge, honesty & encouragement gave our sixth formers the tools they need to make informed, confident decisions to keep themselves safe.

A huge thank you to Claire for such a valuable & impactful session.



# WHAT'S YOUR BRAND

## PART 1

Take a couple of minutes to think of 3 words you would use to describe yourself.

Share these words with the person next to you and explain why you have chosen them.

## PART 2

Take a couple of minutes to think of 3 words you would use to describe the person next to you

Share these words and explain why you have chosen them.



THE  
PLEDGE



BANK OF AMERICA



# CAREER FOCUS

## Real World Skills

As part of our WPD programme, Bank of America has been delivering a series of workshops designed to support Year 12 in making confident, well-informed decisions about their next steps beyond school.

Led by guest speaker Nigel Jones, one of the sessions explored the importance of personal branding: what it is, why it matters, how to begin building one and use it in real-world situations. Nigel explained that personal branding is not about creating a false or exaggerated image, it is about understanding who you are and communicating that clearly to others. A strong personal brand allows individuals to showcase their values, skills and experiences, helping them stand out, build credibility and form meaningful professional connections. Nigel reminded students of a quote by Jeff Bezos: *“Your brand is what people say about you when you’re not in the room.”* This message resonated strongly, encouraging students to think carefully about how they present themselves both online and in person.

Alongside this, students received practical guidance on managing their digital footprint, using LinkedIn effectively, and taking small but meaningful steps to build professional networks. The message was clear: in a competitive job market, personal branding is no longer optional.

Alongside this, students took part in a Human Resources masterclass, led by Nigel and James Pritchard Wood. This session explored important aspects of UK employment law, including the Equality Act 2010, protected characteristics, employment rights and workplace expectations. Students also discussed topics such as gender stereotypes and the responsibilities employers have to create fair, inclusive and safe working environments. This helped develop students’ understanding of their rights and responsibilities as future employees.

Finally, students developed essential CV and networking skills, learning how high-quality CVs support applications for UCAS, apprenticeships and employment, and how LinkedIn can act as a professional, digital CV.

These sessions have played a vital role in helping our Year 12 students develop confidence, awareness and essential employability skills. Students feel motivated, informed and increasingly future ready as they begin planning their next steps.



## FUTURE READY

### Opening eyes to future careers

‘Future Ready’ is an exciting long-term programme that will run over the next two and a half years, designed to help students explore the world of work and develop essential skills for the future. We’re delighted that fifteen QPHS Year 8 students, each bringing different experiences and perspectives, have been selected to take part.

On 9th March, students attended the Future Ready launch event at Chester Zoo. They took part in lively workshops and interactive sessions led by a range of employers, including Vinci, Airbus, Altimex, 1st Enable, Chester Zoo and Bank

of America. The sessions encouraged students to think differently about future careers and discover the wide variety of opportunities available across Cheshire and Warrington.

The next phase of the programme will take place in school, with workshops led by Mrs Watts, followed by an exciting work experience day on 3rd June. Students will visit three different employers and take part in modern, relevant workplace experiences that reflect the skills young people need to be successful in the future.





“ Having completed work experience in Year 10, taking part in a mock interview with Barclays this year was a fantastic opportunity to practise my interview skills. Being told that I had performed really well was a huge confidence boost.”

Year 11 Student

# INTERVIEW READY

## Stepping Into the World of Work

As part of our commitment to provide outstanding Careers Education Information and Guidance (CEIAG) we were delighted to welcome over 27 employers from a wide range of organisations to support our Year 11 and Year 13 mock interview day.

It was wonderful to see so many students arriving smartly dressed, confident and ready to engage in professional discussions.

Over the course of the day, each student took part in a realistic interview with a local employer, giving them a clear insight into

what to expect as they transition from education into the working world.

In addition to gaining valuable interview experience, students received personalised feedback on both their interview performance and CVs. This meant they left the day not only better prepared, but also with clear guidance on how to improve for future jobs, college or university interviews.

We are extremely grateful to the WCNW Chamber of Commerce, The Pledge and our many employer partners, including

Altimex Ltd, universities, colleges, banks and local businesses for supporting us.

On the previous day, a number of Year 13 students attended the Mock Assessment Centre at Chester Town Hall where they practised key workplace skills such as teamwork, problem solving, presentations and interview techniques.

These experiences provide invaluable preparation for life beyond school and support students' personal and professional development.



“ The feedback from employers was fantastic. I am so proud of how our students conducted themselves. This valuable mock experience ensures our students are prepared for future interviews.”

Mrs Watts, Careers Lead



West Cheshire & North Wales Chamber of Commerce

Together, We're Well Connected.



# CAREERS FAIR

## Planning for the Future

Making decisions about Post-16 options can feel daunting, but our Year 11 students are well on their way to making confident, informed choices about their futures.

As part of our whole-school careers programme and commitment to CEIAG, students attended a careers marketplace event, giving them the chance to explore a wide range of future pathways. Through high quality information, advice and guidance, students learned more about further education, apprenticeships, training and employment, helping them feel informed, confident and excited about the choices ahead.

With the support of the WCNW Chamber of Commerce and The Pledge, we were delighted to welcome a variety of employers and training providers. Exhibitors included representatives from the Ministry of Defence, Leonardo Hotels, Wrexham University, the Department for Work and Pensions, HSBC, Cheshire College South & West, Steven Gerrard Academy, Coleg Cambria and Airbus.

The event was a huge success, with students making valuable connections and gaining a clearer understanding of the opportunities available to them. Employers were extremely positive about students' engagement and professionalism throughout the day.

## INSPIRING PATHWAYS

### Apprenticeship Insights

As part of National Apprenticeship Week (9th - 15th February), we celebrated apprenticeships and the many benefits they offer to both young people and employers. Apprenticeships provide an exciting route into the world of work, combining practical experience with recognised qualifications and helping individuals build rewarding careers while developing future-ready skills for employers.

Although apprenticeships have existed for many years, they are sometimes misunderstood. To help students better understand the wide range of opportunities now available, Mrs Watts led assemblies throughout the week, highlighting apprenticeships as a valuable Post-16 pathway alongside more traditional routes.

To enhance the week further, we were delighted to welcome Sally Catton, a Payroll Apprentice at We Contract and daughter of our Year 9 Pastoral Manager, Mrs Catton. Sally spoke to all Year 9 students about her own apprenticeship journey, explaining how she explored her Post-16 options before deciding that an apprenticeship was the right fit for her skills and ambitions. She shared honest insights into the application process, balancing work with study, and the real-world skills she is now developing. Her enthusiasm gave students a genuine insight into life as an apprentice and the opportunities it can lead to. Sally's message was clear: apprenticeships offer a fantastic route into employment, combining practical experience with professional training.

We are extremely grateful to Sally and We Contract for inspiring our students and supporting National Apprenticeship Week.

For more information about current apprenticeship vacancies, students and families can visit:

[Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)



“ We were extremely proud to welcome back QPHS alumni Freddie and Tyler, who represented Airbus and shared their career journeys with our Year 11 students. ”

Mrs Watts, Careers Lead

National Careers Week

# NCW

## Own YOUR Future

This year's National Careers Week focused on the theme *Own YOUR Future*, encouraging students to reflect on where their learning could take them next.

Throughout the week, students explored their career aspirations and the different routes and pathways available to them. These discussions were closely linked to the STEPs careers programme delivered during tutor time, helping students make meaningful connections between their current studies and future ambitions.

Activities prompted students to think carefully about the skills they are developing and how these can support their long-term goals. It was fantastic to see students engaging thoughtfully with the programme and speaking confidently about their futures.

“ It was great to hear so many of our students talking about aspirations such as becoming the next generation of engineers, doctors, motor mechanics and firefighters, to name just a few. ”  
Mrs Watts, Careers Lead

Headline Sponsor:



2ND-7TH MARCH 2026  
#NCW2026

Own YOUR  
**future**

START  
MAKING  
CHOICES  
THAT WORK  
FOR YOU.

NATIONAL CAREERS  
WEEK 2026

# Chester Business School

Inspiring and developing business professionals  
in a world-class learning environment



## VISION TO IMPACT

### Careers Leaders Annual Conference

The Careers Leaders Annual Conference 2026 brought together educators, leaders and system partners to explore how careers education can drive aspiration, strengthen school outcomes and support regional and national skills needs. This year's theme, *From Vision to Impact: Careers Education as the Engine of Change*, set the tone for a dynamic and inspiring event.

The Queen's Park High School Year 12 Leadership Team were delighted to be invited to work alongside The Pledge and Careers Hub to help manage the conference, held on Tuesday 3rd February at the University of Chester's Queen's Park Campus.

Students played a key role throughout the day, setting up rooms for interactive sessions, welcoming delegates, serving refreshments and leading on photography and videography. They also had valuable opportunities to speak with a wide range of professionals and share their experiences of careers education at Queen's Park High School.

chool

professionals  
ment



“ I really enjoyed the day and the work experience it provided, especially learning about event management and the careers work happening across the region. ”  
Year 12 Student

“ As a guest at the conference, I was extremely proud to see how our students conducted themselves. They were a credit to the school, demonstrating excellent leadership skills, the ability to work under pressure and to work confidently alongside adults. Well done! ”  
Mrs Watts, Careers & PSHE Lead



# WORK EXPERIENCE

## Invest in Future Talent

Work Experience (13th - 17th July 2026) 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 yet secured work experience, please encourage them to do so as it is an invaluable opportunity and is part of our curriculum.

Self-placement details should have been added to the Unifrog platform by 27th April 2026. Further advice and guidance can be given by Group Tutors or Mrs Watts (Careers Lead).

Information about Work Experience can be found on our website. Please visit: [QPHS Work Experience](#)

## CALLING ALL BUSINESSES AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY

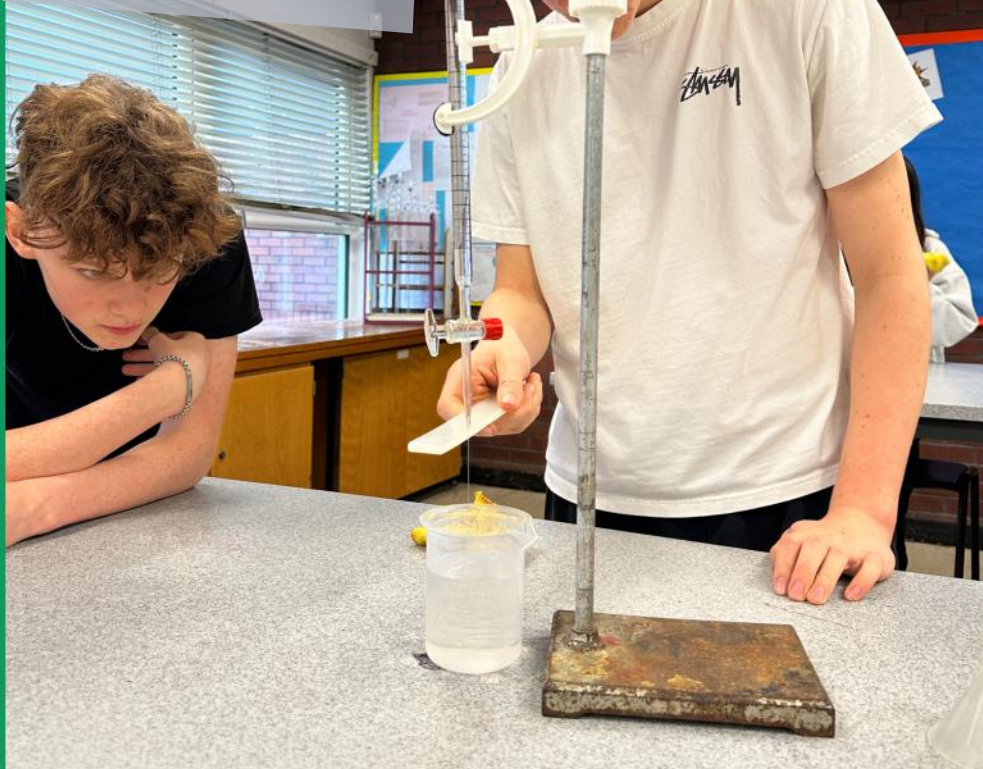
*Could you help shape the future of a young person?*  
We're looking for local businesses and professionals to support students at Queen's Park High School by offering valuable work experience opportunities.

If you can help, we'd love to hear from you!  
Please get in contact with:

 **Mrs Watts – Careers Lead**  
[A.Watts@qphs.co.uk](mailto:A.Watts@qphs.co.uk)  
 Follow [@QPHSCAREERS](#)



“ The Sixth Form Taster Day is an extremely important event in the school calendar. It allows Year 11 students to confirm their option choices, ready for them to start their studies in September. ”  
Mrs Prydden, Head of Sixth Form



# SIXTH FORM TASTER DAY

## A sneak peek into life beyond Year 11

On Tuesday 4th February, our Year 11 students had the chance to look ahead and imagine themselves as future Sixth Formers at our Sixth Form Taster Day. We were also delighted to welcome visitors from Blacon High and Chester International School, who joined us as part of our extended QPHS community.

The Taster Day allowed students to explore a broad range of subjects and gain a clear understanding of how Sixth Form study differs from their current GCSE courses. Many took the chance to try out completely new subjects such as Psychology, Film Studies, Criminology and UPS (Uniformed Protective Services), broadening their horizons and discovering potential pathways for the future.

Beyond the classroom, students enjoyed spending time in our Sixth Form spaces, including the dedicated common room and 'The Beach' café (always popular with our Year 12 and 13 students). They also experienced periods of independent study time, offering a realistic insight into the increased autonomy and responsibility that sixth form life brings.

The day provided plenty of opportunities for students to meet our specialist Sixth Form teachers, ask questions and soak up the atmosphere that makes our Sixth Form such a supportive and vibrant place to learn.

We were delighted by the enthusiasm and positivity shown by all the students who took part, and can't wait to welcome these students back in September as they take the next step towards their futures and achieving their goals.



# CHESTER TO CAMBRIDGE

Exploring life at one of the world's top universities



A group of Sixth Form students, accompanied by Ms MJ, recently took part in the Chester Schools Together trip to Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge. The invitation was warmly received, even if it meant meeting at 5:45am! Our students were joined by fellow peers from King's, Chester Catholic High, Christleton and Upton High schools as they travelled together by coach, ready for a packed day of discovery.

While Cambridge is often pictured as a collection of Hogwarts-style buildings, Fitzwilliam College offers a refreshing contrast. Built in the 1960s, the college is modern, bright and welcoming, showcasing the variety of architecture found across the university.

During the visit, students were introduced to some of Cambridge's unique traditions and terminology.

They learned about *Matriculation* - the formal ceremony that marks a student's official entry into university life; the '*plodge*' (Porters' Lodge) - where students collect keys, parcels and find support and *Bumps* - the lively rowing races on the River Cam, a tradition some of our own rowers already knew. The group also visited the Formal Hall, where students dine in gowns, and the Buttery, the college's social hub and canteen.

A current undergraduate led a tour of the college and gardens giving honest insight into student life. This was followed by workshops focused on writing strong personal statements and standing out in the university application process. Students were encouraged to explore books, podcasts, articles

and documentaries related to their chosen subjects and to record their enrichment activities on Unifrog. Group discussion tasks gave students a chance to experience interview-style conversations similar to those used by universities.

The day concluded with a Q&A session, where current Cambridge students shared their experiences of academic life, settling in and managing the challenges of university.



“ It was a long day, but an incredibly worthwhile one, offering students valuable insight into university life and new confidence in their future ambitions. ”

Ms MJ  
Independent Study Coordinator



# LEARNING TO SAVE LIVES

ROYAL  
LIFE SAVING  
SOCIETY UK

## Students gain vital First Aid Qualification

As part of our ongoing Chester Schools Together partnership, we were thrilled to offer a group of Sixth Form students the opportunity to complete a full-day Paediatric First Aid qualification. This is a vital life-saving certification that equips young people with the confidence and skills to act in a child medical emergency.

The training was expertly delivered by Yvonne Parry from Brio Leisure, who led an engaging, hands-on session packed with practical scenarios and essential first aid techniques. Six QPHS students were eager to get involved, including: Chloe, Lilly, Bolaji, Nabila, Phoebe and Roza, alongside students from Catholic High School and The Bishop's Blue Coat C of E High School.

Throughout the day, students practised key first aid techniques such as responding to choking, assessing casualties, performing CPR, and managing common childhood injuries.



Yvonne's hands-on approach ensured the group not only understood the theory but felt prepared to use these skills in real-world situations.

Thanks to funding secured through the partnership, this crucial qualification was offered at no cost, giving students an invaluable boost to their personal development and future career pathways.

We are incredibly proud of our students' commitment and the life-saving knowledge they now carry forward.

Well done Year 12!



# A DAY BEHIND BARS!

## Exploring Crime & Consequence

This term, our Year 10 Religious Studies, Year 12 Uniformed Protective Services (UPS) and Year 13 Criminology students visited Shrewsbury Prison for a fascinating and eye-opening experience. The visit brought learning to life, offering powerful insight into crime, punishment, justice and rehabilitation within a truly unforgettable setting.

After a tour of the prison, students met drug-detection pups in training, spent time inside the cells & even visited the execution room!

Throughout the day, the group heard real stories about former inmates, how prisons were run in previous decades and how approaches to justice and rehabilitation have changed over time. These conversations encouraged students to think about the purpose of punishment, the challenges of rehabilitation and the wider impact of the justice system on individuals and communities.

Evan, Year 13 UPS student shares his account of the visit:

“ Our trip to Shrewsbury Prison was one of the most interesting we've been on. Walking through the large metal gates felt serious

and a bit intimidating. Seeing the prison in person helped me imagine what life was really like for prisoners. The cells were very small and cold, which showed how tough the conditions could be.

We learned that the prison had been open for more than 200 years before closing in 2013, and seeing the execution area was quite shocking. It helped me understand how strict prison life once was and how important it was for staff to keep order and safety.

The visit linked closely with our UPS course because prisons play a major part in protecting the public. Officers have a challenging job, they need to manage conflict, prevent violence and also support prisoners to rehabilitate. The trip helped me see that prisons are not just about punishment but about giving people a chance to change. I came away with a much clearer understanding of how the system works and the responsibilities of those who work within it. ”

Overall, it was a powerful and engaging experience that linked directly to students' studies and gave them a much deeper, more human understanding of life inside the prison system.



Our Uniformed Protective Services (UPS) students recently spent the day at HMS Eaglet in Liverpool for a hands-on look at careers in the Royal Navy. The visit gave them a good mix of practical activity and straightforward, honest information about what service life involves. Students took part in a functional fitness session, explored the range of career paths within the Navy and heard directly from serving personnel about their own experiences. The trip helped students develop a clearer understanding of the physical demands, personal commitment and opportunities connected to the Armed Forces.

Year 13 student, Will, shares his experience of the visit:

“ The trip gave us the chance to see both the physical and educational sides of naval life. We started the day with a functional fitness test designed to show some of the physical demands faced by service personnel. We had to lift and carry heavy equipment within a set time limit, which tested our strength, endurance and teamwork. It was challenging but useful, as it showed the level of fitness needed in the forces.

After the fitness session, we attended a presentation about the different roles and responsibilities within the Royal Navy. This helped us understand the variety of career paths available, including operational roles at sea and technical or support roles on land. It was helpful to learn how many different jobs there are and how each one contributes to the wider organisation.

Towards the end of the visit, we spoke with a Royal Marine who shared his experience of training and what everyday life is like in the Marines. Hearing his personal story gave us a realistic insight into the commitment and resilience required for that career.

Overall, the visit gave me a much better understanding of what a career in the Royal Navy or Royal Marines could involve, both physically and mentally, and the opportunities available within the Armed Forces. ”

The trip gave students a fascinating insight into the day-to-day realities of the Royal Navy, allowing them to explore potential career pathways and ask questions about what life in the service could be like.



“ It was a really positive experience that built students’ confidence, widened their perspective, and gave them a clearer idea of potential future pathways within the Uniformed Protective Services. ”

Jamie Denyer, UPS Lead



MERSEYSIDE  
**POLICE**

## A week inside the Force

UPS students recently enjoyed an invaluable work experience placement with Merseyside Police, offering a real insight into life behind the badge.

They learned about the wide range of roles within the force and how officers work together to keep communities safe.

They also had the chance to chat with serving officers and staff, who shared honest stories about the challenges and rewards of the job. Through exploring areas such as response policing, investigations, and community engagement, students gained a clearer picture of the skills and qualities needed for a future career in the police.

Jakub, Year 13 student recounts his experience:

“ During my week with Merseyside Police, I got a real taste of what life on the front line is like and the many responsibilities officers manage each day.

On Monday, I worked in the Hydra Suites at Lee Green, making decisions in simulated emergency scenarios. This really improved my decision-making and showed me how officers prioritise incidents based on risk, threat and harm.

Tuesday took me to Mather Avenue, where I learned how the police handle reports of abuse and support victims. I also toured a police interceptor vehicle and took part in a field sobriety test while learning about drink and drug driving.

On Wednesday, I took part in team-building activities, visited the Mounted Section and completed a Counter Terrorism qualification - an amazing opportunity!

Thursday involved observing riot training, building-clearance exercises, and taking part in a simulated protest which gave me a clearer understanding of public-order policing.

On Friday, we heard from the Drugs Unit and Cybercrime Unit and sat in on a scrutiny panel reviewing body-worn camera footage, highlighting the importance of accountability.

Overall, the week strengthened my communication, teamwork and decision-making skills, and gave me a much clearer understanding of what a career in policing involves. ”



## INSTINCT TO ACTION

### Linking Psychology and Protection

Georgia R, Year 13 UPS student shares her account of the visit:

“ This term, UPS students went on a trip to Chester Zoo, which was both interesting and helped me better understand psychology and how it links to the Uniformed Protective Services. While we were there, we attended a psychology talk with Lucy that focused on orangutans and other primate species, exploring how they have evolved and how their behaviour helps them survive.

Lucy explained that orangutans and other primates are highly intelligent and have developed key behaviours such as communication, teamwork, leadership and problem-solving. These animals live in social groups and rely on one another for protection, learning and survival. This was linked to the Uniformed Protective Services, as police officers, firefighters and paramedics also rely on teamwork, trust and clear communication to handle dangerous and unpredictable situations.

The talk also explored how animals respond to stress and threats, including making quick decisions and staying calm under pressure. This helped me understand how similar this is to emergency responders who often have to make fast decisions in high-risk situations while controlling their emotions. Lucy explained that training in the Uniformed Protective Services is important because it helps manage natural stress responses, in the same way that animals rely on instinct and learned behaviour to stay safe.

Another important link to the Uniformed Protective Services was leadership and structure. Lucy explained that primate groups often have leaders who guide the group and make decisions to keep them safe. This is similar to command structures within the police, fire service and ambulance service, where clear leadership is essential to manage incidents effectively and avoid confusion.

Overall, the visit to Chester Zoo helped me understand how psychology and evolution play a vital role in both animal and human behaviour. It showed that many of the skills needed in the Uniformed Protective Services, such as teamwork, communication, leadership, adaptability and staying calm under pressure, are behaviours that have developed over time and remain essential in today's world. ”



## BASKETBALL SUCCESS

### Year 7 claim third place in Chester & District Tournament

Over the Spring Term, Queen's Park High School hosted six schools for the Chester and District Year 7 Basketball Tournament, and our Year 7 team proudly rose to the challenge. After weeks of dedicated training every Tuesday after school, the squad arrived confident, focused and ready to compete.

Under the expert guidance of our student coaches, Murat (Sixth Form) and Tom (Year 11), the team displayed impressive development across all areas of the game. Their leadership not only sharpened the team's technical skills but also helped build a strong sense of teamwork and resilience.

Team QPHS started the tournament strongly, securing well-earned victories against Blacon and Abbeygate. Rolien showed excellent defensive anticipation, reading the game superbly to break down attacking plays. Oliver impressed with his ball-handling under pressure, navigating tight spaces with control and composure.

Finn delivered standout rebounding performances, repeatedly winning possession for the team, while Saman's quick transitions sparked several fast-break opportunities.

In a tightly fought battle against King's, Team QPHS fell just short, but not without demonstrating determination and grit. Mauro's accurate passing and Owain's confident mid-range shooting kept the game alive throughout. Against Upton (who would go on to be the overall winners) our players pushed themselves to the limit in what became a true test of fitness. Alfie and Taghg both showed tireless energy, contributing crucial defensive stops and supporting play across the court.

After a day of high-quality competition, Queen's Park finished in a very respectable third place, a fantastic achievement and a testament to the team's commitment and hard work. Well done, Year 7!

# A TEAM TO WATCH!

## Year 8 & 9 impress in Chester Basketball League



The combined Year 8 and 9 basketball squad delivered an exciting and determined performance throughout this year's Chester Basketball League, showcasing teamwork, passion and growing talent across every fixture.

The team opened their group stage matches with a confident victory over Blacon, demonstrating sharp offensive play and a strong defensive unit. 'Three-Pointer Freddie' lived up to his nickname early on, sinking a long-range shot that set the tone for the match. Ralph played a crucial role in maintaining the team's rhythm, showing excellent movement off the ball and helping to link

defence to attack seamlessly.

Their next challenge came against King's, one of the strongest sides in the league and eventual finalists. Despite the intensity of the game, Team QPHS pushed them throughout. Robin delivered outstanding defensive pressure, repeatedly disrupting King's fast breaks, while Santi impressed with quick transitions and clever positioning. Although the team narrowly missed out on a win, their performance secured them a well deserved runners-up place in the group.

This progression led them into the third place playoff against Tarporley, which proved to

be one of the most exciting fixtures of the tournament. Casper showcased excellent ball-handling, weaving through defensive traffic, and Hamid brought impressive strength on the boards, securing vital rebounds at both ends of the court. Alex rounded out the team effort with composed passing and smart decision-making under pressure.

In a thrilling end to end contest, Team QPHS narrowly missed out to a strong Tarporley side, but the team's resilience, skill and unity were clear for all to see.

A fantastic run and a team to watch next season!



# GIRLS LEAD THE WAY!



## Silver Medals, Super Goals & Standout Saves!



Year 8 Team



U15 Football Team

This term has been an exciting and action-packed season for Girls' PE at Queen's Park High School. Netball has taken centre stage from February through to Easter, giving our girls the chance to showcase their teamwork, determination and skill!

The major highlight of this season was the Chester and District Plate competitions for Year 7, 8 and 9 which took place at The King's School.

**Year 7** enjoyed a superb first season, showing impressive progress for such a new group of players. Daria and Betty were excellent in attack, scoring with accuracy and composure, while Emilia delivered an outstanding performance as Goal Defence (GD), reading the game brilliantly.

**Year 8** faced a demanding line-up of opponents including Queens, Catholic High, Upton, Abbey Gate, Bishops' Blue Coat and King's. Despite the challenge, they approached every match with positivity and spirit. Jessie and Victoria netted some brilliant goals, while Holly and Alys remained consistently strong in defence.

**Year 9** rounded off the term in outstanding style, delivering a superb

performance to secure second place and bring home silver medals in the Plate competition against strong local Chester schools. Amelia and Emily were unstoppable with their goal scoring, while new players Aneesa and Seren made an immediate impact adding skill, energy and depth to an already impressive team effort.

Alongside our players, our Year 12 Sports Leaders have been exceptional, providing coaching, encouragement and support throughout lessons and tournaments. Their leadership and enthusiasm make them wonderful role models for our younger students.

A special shoutout goes to our U15 Football team for reaching Round 3 of the ESFA Cup! Seren was outstanding in goal, pulling off some incredible saves, Trudy led confidently as captain and Santi and Erin scored some unbelievable goals. A brilliant achievement all round!

As we look ahead, Rounders season begins after Easter, with sessions taking place on Mondays after school from 3 - 4pm. We can't wait to see you there!



# DODGE, DIVE & DOMINATE

## Year 7 finish 2nd & 3rd at inter-school tournament

This term, our Year 7s competed in their first inter-school dodgeball tournament against teams from Blacon High School and Abbey Gate College, and they rose to the occasion superbly. With two teams representing each school, the event was fast-paced and full of energy from the very first whistle.

Across a series of exciting matches, our players showed great determination and teamwork, using clever throws and well-timed dodges to turn games in their favour. Their efforts were rewarded with a superb second and third place overall, an impressive

achievement in their first tournament.

Packed with dramatic catches, quick reactions and strong teamwork throughout, the afternoon was a great showcase of skill and spirit. A brilliant result and a fantastic experience for our Year 7s - well done!

“ The effort and attitude shown by all the girls this term has been exceptional. It’s been a pleasure to see them develop, compete and enjoy their sport together. ”

Miss Darroch, Teacher of PE

“ I was really proud of how our Year 7s competed. They showed great skill and enthusiasm, but just as importantly, they supported each other brilliantly and displayed excellent sportsmanship throughout the tournament. ”

Mr Morris, Teacher of PE





## JUNIOR (NORTH) HEAD

### Racing the rain on the Mersey

The Junior (North) Head returned to Runcorn Rowing Club in January for another exciting day of head racing on the Mersey. Now a well-established fixture in the junior calendar, the event attracts clubs from across the country.

Head racing is a time trial format where crews set off at intervals and race against the clock over a set course, this event offered both a long (7km) and short course. This year's entry included crews from as far afield as Windsor and Dulwich, making it a competitive outing for all our rowers. Unfortunately, for the rowers, it was a miserable day with relentless rain!

For the longer morning division

Queen's Park Chester had two crews in action and both performed well in testing conditions. Our Women's J17 4x- (quad) recorded a time of 24:19.7 to finish 5th in a competitive field that included Notts CRA (winners, 22:04.3), Nottingham & Union and St Peter's School. A fine effort from the crew who showed real determination over the long course.

In the afternoon division, our second Women's J17 4x- crew delivered an excellent performance to finish 1st in their division with a time of 14:34.5; a fantastic result! Our Mixed J18 4x- also raced well in Division 2, finishing 3rd out of five crews with a time of 13:22.1.



# NW TIME TRIALS

## Racing for the region- Singles

The Junior Inter-Regional Regatta (JIRR) North West Time Trials for singles took place at Agecroft Rowing Club in Salford on 25th January. These time trials serve as the selection process for the North West region squad ahead of the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta later in the season, so the stakes are high and the standard is consistently strong.

Single sculling is one of the most demanding disciplines in the sport. Racing solo over the course with no crew to share the load requires real mental as well as physical toughness, and our rowers rose to the challenge.

Queen's Park Chester sent a healthy contingent of scullers and produced some impressive results. While we weren't successful to gain a place, the racing was competitive and the experience of single sculling at this level is invaluable preparation for the season ahead.

## Podium finishes & regional selection

The second leg of the JIRR North West selection process took place at Northwich Rowing Club in early March, with crew boat events contested over a sprint time trial course. This is always a lively event. Seeing the variety of boats from doubles and pairs to quads racing flat out on the Weaver makes for a terrific day of racing.

Queen's Park Chester produced some excellent results across several categories. Our Women's J16 2x finished 3rd (6:13.6) in a closely contested five-boat field, just behind Trafford (1st, 6:07.0) and Grange School (2nd, 6:07.1) - a real photo finish for the top spots! Our Women's J15 2x also performed well, taking 3rd (6:23.0) behind Royal Chester and Grange School.

In the Women's J14 2x, our crew crossed the line in 2nd place (6:48.1), a superb result for Ava and Margaux. Our Women's J15 4x+ came home 4th (6:11.5) and Phoebe and Millie rowing in WJ16 2- took 1st place (6:29.1), winning their event outright - a brilliant performance! They are going on to represent the region in April. Our Boys' J14 2x finished 4th (6:16.0) in a competitive six-boat field.

Congratulations to all crews who raced, and well done to those selected to represent the North West region at the JIRR in April.

Our J15 crews were also out in force. The Boys' J15 4x+ Band 3 finished 4th (16:22.2) in a strong field, and we had two Boys' J14 4x+ boats on the water, finishing 4th (17:26.4) and 5th (17:42.9) respectively. The Girls' J15 4x+ crews gave strong accounts of themselves too, with three crews competing across Bands 1 and 2, including finishes of 4th, 5th and 6th. Our Girls' J14 4x+ boats finished 3rd (17:37.8) and 6th (20:30.3).

Congratulations to all who raced, and a special thank you to the volunteer marshals and officials from clubs across the region. Events like this can only happen thanks to the collective effort and support of the rowing community.



# TRAFFORD HEAD

## Crews deliver across the board

The Trafford Head of the Bridgewater is a firm favourite in the early season calendar, run by Trafford Rowing Club along the historic Bridgewater Canal. The event offers both long and short course options, giving rowers of all ages and abilities a chance to get competitive racing under their belts during what can be a quiet time of year.

Queen's Park Chester had a busy day on the water with crews and scullers across multiple categories.

Highlights included our Women's J14 4x+ (short course) winning their Band 1 event outright with a time of 4:54.7 - a superb result for the crew of Oillie (cox), Margaux, Ava, Aphrodite and Charlie.

Our Boys' J14 2x had two crews on the water for the short course event, finishing 2nd (4:45.4) and 3rd (4:48.0), while our Boys' J14 4x+ (short course) finished 3rd (4:39.7) - all brilliant achievements! Our mixed J13 4x+ had their first races and did tremendously well too.

On the Women's side, our J14 2x short course entries finished 2nd (4:46.9) and 3rd (4:49.2), and the Girls' J14 4x+ finished as Band 1 winners.

Overall, a well-rounded day of racing for the club with some excellent podium finishes from our younger crews, a real sign of the strength and depth coming through the club.



## DOUBLE GOLD

### J17 quads dominate race

The North of England Head of the River Race is one of the region's most prestigious events and a true highlight of the spring calendar.

The race takes place over a challenging multi-kilometre course and attracts university and club crews from across the North alongside our junior contingent.

For Queen's Park Chester, it is a home event in spirit and our rowers always relish the opportunity to race at this level.





This year the club had five crews in action across the junior categories, producing some outstanding results. Pride of place goes to our Boys' J17 4x- who won their event outright with a time of 18:21.9, finishing comfortably ahead of Royal Chester (2nd, 19:01.5) and Mersey (3rd, 20:56.3). A dominant performance from the quad (Leigh, Carlos, Achilles, Henry) and a well-deserved victory.

Our Women's J17 4x- (Eden, Issy, Phoebe and Millie) also delivered an impressive result, winning their event with a time of 19:44.3, beating King's School Chester (2nd, 20:10.5) and York City (3rd, 21:00.6).

Two event wins for the club from the J17 quads is a wonderful achievement and reflects months of hard work on the water.

In the J15 category, our Boys' J15 4x+ 'A' crew finished 3rd (10:53.6) in a competitive field headed by King's School Chester, and our 'B' crew rounded out the event in 6th (11:37.2). Our Girls' J15 4x+ 'A' crew took 2nd place (11:37.2) in the Band 1 event which was another excellent result, and our 'B' crew finished 4th (12:49.6) in Band 2.

Another fantastic day for the club. Huge congratulations to all who raced, and a big thank you to everyone who volunteered, supported and cheered on the day.



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