

WELCOME



I am delighted to welcome you to this term's newsletter, which showcases the many exciting and enriching activities that have taken place so far this year. It is always a joy to celebrate the

remarkable achievements of our students and staff, and this edition is no exception!

First and foremost, we are incredibly proud of Mrs Watts, who has been honoured with the prestigious Chamber of Commerce Careers Award. This recognition highlights her dedication to nurturing the career aspirations of our students, *inspiring individuals* to reach their full potential.

In addition to this, our own Mr Dawber entered and won the national Shed of the Year competition with his 'industrial ghost-town chic outhouse', what a talented man and a wonderful Art and Design Technology technician we have at OPHS!

Throughout the term, our students have been engaged in a range of fantastic activities. From brilliant homework projects that showcase their creativity and commitment, to visits to the Storyhouse in Chester, we have seen our students embracing every opportunity to learn and grow. Our festive season was filled with joy, as we came together to celebrate Christmas, with a series of heart-warming events that truly captured the spirit of the season.

It is particularly lovely reading about how well our year 7's have settled into life at QPHS. They have made an amazing start to their secondary education and I am sure this year group is set to achieve great things. In addition, we continue to celebrate our many sporting achievements, where our athletes have demonstrated resilience, teamwork, and sportsmanship, embodying our school values of *inspiring individuals*,

I hope you enjoy reading about these accomplishments and the positive impact they have on our school community. As always, we remain committed to providing an environment where every child can thrive and succeed.

empowering minds, and defining futures.

Mr Kearns, HEADTEACHER





We are thrilled to announce that Mrs Watts, Careers Lead at Queen's Park High School has been recognised for her outstanding contribution to careers provision and has won the prestigious Chamber of Commerce Careers Award.

On Friday 15th November, Chester Racecourse was buzzing with excitement as the West Cheshire & North Wales Chamber of Commerce hosted over 350 guests at their Annual Ball & Recognition Awards. This year's event, themed around Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and sponsored by Ellis & Co, brought Chamber members together for an evening of celebration, reflection, and recognition.

The evening kicked off with arrival drinks at the Champagne Bar, before guests made their way into the Pavilion to take their seats, where they were



warmly welcomed by Chamber CEO, Sarah Bailey. Returning as host, was journalist and broadcaster, Sian Lloyd, who introduced the event's chosen charity: The North West Air Ambulance Charity.

Sian then led the awards ceremony, featuring ten categories with over 100 entries. Finalists had been selected in advance, and the winners were announced on stage.

Mrs Watts was overjoyed to be presented with the Young Chamber of Commerce award for Careers provision.

In her acceptance speech Mrs Watts said, "We joined the Young Chamber of Commerce 6 years ago and since then we have worked in partnership to enhance careers provision for our students. As a forward thinking school, we follow our

school core value of inspiring individuals, empowering minds and defining futures. The Young Chamber have supported many events. The support we gain from the Young Chamber and you, as a wider network of employers, ensures our students access outstanding careers provision. On behalf of Queen's Park High School, I am delighted to accept this award. It recognises our continued commitment to work in partnership to enable our students to take positive next steps in their careers journey."

Following the awards, guests participated in a Wonka-themed raffle, purchasing specially crafted chocolates sponsored by KingKabs, with proceeds benefiting North West Air Ambulance. The lucky raffle winner took home a Melting Diamond necklace and bracelet set, generously donated by Lucy Quartermaine.

An auction followed, with additional prizes contributed by the local business community. In total, the evening raised £11,646 for North West Air Ambulance, whose life-saving services provide critical care to patients across the region.

The event continued late into the night with entertainment from local band Rhythm Train and a game of pass-the-parcel for a golden ticket prize: a bottle of champagne! Needless to say, Mrs Watts had the best night!





Bouncy balls, bat launchers, sleds and slime!

STEM Club started strong this year with over 40 students signing up! Students were split into two groups supported by volunteers from our Year 8 STEM Club and Sixth Form Leadership Team.

The majority of the STEM sessions are mostly centred around 'hands on' experiments linked to the real life application of STEM (Science, technology, engineering and maths). We kicked off the Autumn term with some messy fun making slime or 'Oobleck' for a more technical term! This enabled students and staff to discuss the question 'is it a solid or liquid?' and the movement of particles in liquids and solids. Students were challenged to consider why non-Newtonian fluids behave in such an unusual manner and what was happening to the particles in the Oobleck.

Other activities included an aviation themed experiment with paper aeroplanes and posing a polymer based problem - making bouncy balls!

We rounded off the first half term with a Halloween themed activity where students designed and built 'bat' launchers (no bats were harmed in this experiment!) where students were encouraged to design, test and improve their bats and launchers.

We returned after the half term break to a

forensic mystery where students created their own invisible inks and tried different techniques for writing and revealing secret messages. From there, we moved on to a more local theme - making bird feeders to support our local wildlife. Students could choose from a range of materials, to produce a bird feeder which would help support our winged friends during the winter months.

After this, students spent some time researching and preparing a presentation on their STEM heroes. Working with input from our Science and Computer Science teachers, students were encouraged to research and present their findings, with a particular focus on lesser known STEM heroes who have had a big impact. As a STEM Club team, we were really proud of how students conducted themselves, presenting their findings in front of their peers.

The last activity of the term had a festive theme with students learning about force, friction and speed by creating and racing balloon 'sleds'. Students first considered which balloon shape was most suitable then, upon launching, took measurements of distance and time to calculate whose balloon was the fastest! A very popular activity!

We're looking forward to more experiments and discovery in the new year!





As a STEM Club team, we were really proud of how students conducted themselves, presenting their findings in front of their peers.

Mr Watkins, Teacher of Science

TALKING AERODYNAMICS

Why planes are cool

As well as engaging *hands on* workshops led by Queen's Park High School science staff, Year 7 STEM Club students also had the exciting opportunity to work with former student, Tyler Gordon, who returned to Queen's Park to talk all things planes!

Tyler, also one of our Big Bang competition winners, is currently in his last year on an engineering degree apprenticeship at Airbus. During his visit Tyler shared his experience with students and discussed aeronautics.

Students were introduced to the basic theory of flight, mythbusters, why planes are cool and weird planes and fun facts, followed by a quiz where the winner got to design their own personalised keyring on a 3D printer!

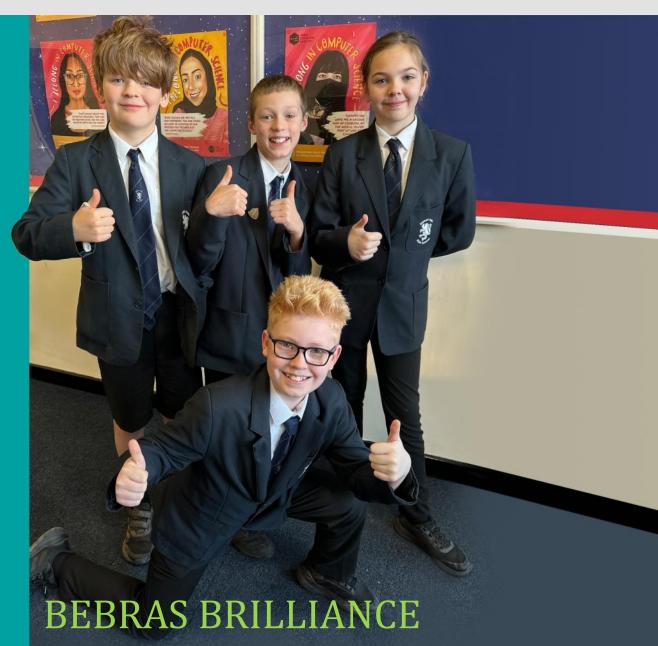
Did you know?

An A380 holds 280 metric tons of fuel!









Top of the Computing Class!

In November, a number of QPHS students took part in the UK Bebras Challenge. This is an international competition designed by the University of Oxford and the Raspberry Pi Foundation to develop and showcase computational thinking and problem-solving skills.

The majority of Key Stage 3 students participated, alongside Year 10 GCSE and Year 12 A Level Computer Science students. The competition encouraged students to practise their critical thinking but also gave them a taste of the broader world of computer science and problem-solving. The questions were then scored according to the level of difficulty for the age group and if the answers were correct!

We are thrilled to announce that the joint two top scorers in the school for their year group were both Year 7 students, Harry A and Maya W (7NEA), with each achieving an impressive score of 220! In addition to Harry and Maya, we would also like to congratulate the following students who received a Gold Award, placing them in the Top 10% nationally for their age group:

- Riley B (7NEA)
- Olly M (7NEA)
- Josh C (9JOM)
- Josh J (9JOM)
- Tom C (10NIX)
- Lydia S (10SUM)

These students have demonstrated exceptional ability in problem-solving, and their success is testament to their continued hard work and commitment to their studies.

The top 50% of the highest performers in the country will now be invited to a national coding competition run by Oxford University later next year. While we await national rankings to see where this places our students, their achievement is already a remarkable feat and we are delighted to celebrate their success.

The UK Bebras Challenge serves as an important opportunity to foster a love for computer science and inspire young minds to continue developing the skills they will need to succeed in a techdriven world.



I am so proud of all the students who participated in the UK Bebras Challenge! While we are celebrating the top scorers, every participant should be proud of their effort and achievement. It's not just about the score, but the skills and critical thinking they've developed along the way. Well done to everyone!

Miss Hazel.

Teacher of Computing





BRIGHT FUTURES

Unilever Inspire Programme

The Unilever Bright Future Inspire Programme is designed to engage students with STEM subjects by providing a behindthe-scenes look at activities in a global organisation's Research and Development site.

On Wednesday 27th November, a team of five Year 9 students participated in the Unilever Inspire workshops at Prenton Park, home of Tranmere Rovers. Joining teams from across Merseyside, Cheshire, and the wider North West, the students took part in interactive sessions covering key areas such as formulation, packaging, processing, digital technology, and consumer insights.

The workshops provided students with a deeper understanding of how products are developed across various functions, highlighting the roles and career pathways available within a global organisation like Unilever. Students also learned about the different entry routes into the industry, offering valuable insight into future career opportunities.

Following the workshops, students were challenged with a real-world project to work on back at school, applying the skills and knowledge they gained. This hands-on experience offers students the opportunity to explore STEM in action and see how their learning connects to future careers.



Unilower



My favourite workshop included experimenting with different chemicals to design a formulation and learn the science behind how our homecare products work. I also enjoyed consumer insights to see if we could open a bucket of sweets whilst wearing gloves to reduce our dexterity – we eventually got to eat the sweets!

Alexa, Year 9 student





OUR DANGEROUS PLANET

Impressive Natural Hazard Projects

Over the past six weeks, our Year 8 students have been putting their creative and research skills to the test in their Extended Learning Projects (ELP), focusing on the dynamic world of natural hazards.

As part of their 'Dangerous Planet' module, students chose a natural hazard - ranging from volcanoes and earthquakes to typhoons and tornadoes - and then studied it in depth as part of their independent research.

The task involved compiling an informative fact file about their chosen hazard and then translating their research into a final creative piece. The results have been truly outstanding, with students producing everything from detailed 3D models to vibrant collages, all demonstrating their deep understanding of the hazards they studied.

These impressive projects will be proudly displayed in the Geography classrooms next term, where students and staff can admire the hard work and creativity that went into each piece.

It's clear from their finished pieces that Year 8 have embraced this challenge with enthusiasm and determination. Their commitment to learning and their creativity is truly inspiring, so we look forward to seeing more fantastic work next term!













CLONE TOWN OR HOME TOWN

Exploring Chester's High Street

Our Year 12 geography students have been working on an exciting fieldwork investigation in Chester, taking a closer look at how globalisation is shaping the identity of local high streets. As part of their studies into human geography, the students have been conducting 'Clone Town' surveys, a method used to measure the extent to which chain stores are dominating high streets and potentially diminishing local diversity.

The students' task is to count and categorise the shops along Chester's main shopping streets, noting the number of chain stores versus independent businesses. This handson experience allows them to explore the role globalisation plays in the homogenisation of urban spaces, as

well as its impact on local culture and economy.

By comparing the data collected from the city centre with other areas, our geographers are gaining valuable insights into the balance between global brands and local shops, and how this dynamic influences the character of our towns and cities.

The findings will help to understand broader trends in human geography, including the forces of globalisation that shape the places we live. This practical exploration of real-world geography connects classroom theory with the lived experience of place, and offers students an invaluable opportunity to develop their analytical skills.



SUCULTURE

Marvellous myths & storytelling

How do stories spread across cultures? Why do myths and legends endure? Who crafted Thor's hammer, and just why are giants so troublesome? These are some of the questions that our students have been contemplating this autumn, thanks to our partnership with the University of Chester and their storytelling project.

In November, we welcomed ten student teachers from Linköping University in Sweden to share stories from Norse mythology and to introduce students to Swedish culture. Students in Year 7 and Year 9 learned the legend of Thor's hammer Mjölnir, asked questions about the master craftsmen the Sons of Ivaldi, and imagined some (quite terrifying!) punishments for the wicked shapeshifter Loki.

The Storytelling Project has been a truly delightful part of our autumn calendar for the past few years, and it is something that our students have really engaged with. Our students were fantastic ambassadors for the school, bringing curiosity and imagination to all of the sessions. I was all the more proud to hear our guest teachers praise our students' confidence in discussion and classroom debate. We are hugely appreciative of our guests' time and effort, and greatly look forward to running the project again in years to come.

Mrs Cogger, Curriculum Leader for English













Will their government thrive?

Over the course of 2 weeks, Year 9 English students have undertaken an Extended Learning Project related to their study of Animal Farm. This began with an understanding of how certain government systems can be ideal in theory but corrupt in function, as seen in the corruption of Animalism (Orwell's stand-in for Communism) in Animal Farm.

After spending most of the term studying the book, students spent 3 days researching different government systems before working in groups to form their own, including providing a budget for each minister, and a set of laws the government would follow. The final phase of the project involved

negotiations between governments, where students had to use everything they had learned to work together (or not!) to achieve a balanced population, economic budget, and food supply.

Each government began with a budget of £5,000. Every decision they made impacted how trade took place, and whether or not their population thrived.

Students took to the project with gusto, and formed a variety of governments, including federalist democracies and constitutional monarchies! Once formed, groups had to work on collaboration, strong communication skills, negotiation, and an integration of British Values in order to succeed.





The joy of reading continues with our beloved 'Reading With the Head' initiative! Once a week, during morning set up, students from Key Stage 3 gather together in their year group with Mr Kearns to share the opportunity to dive into the fascinating world of literature.

So far this year, Year 7 have embarked on an exciting journey through *Boy* 87 - a gripping tale that explores courage and resilience. Meanwhile, our Year 8 and 9 classes have delved into the thought-provoking world of Happy Head, a

dystopian thriller that tells the story of Seb, who finds himself at a radical retreat designed to solve the national crisis of teenage unhappiness!

At Queen's Park High School, we believe passionately that reading is not just a pastime; it's a passport to new ideas, cultures, and experiences! Literacy is a fundamental skill that opens doors across all subjects; whether you're exploring the intricacies of science, analysing brilliant pieces of literature, or grappling with mathematical concepts, being a confident reader

will empower your learning journey That's why we are committed to promoting a strong literacy drive across the entire curriculum.

We also want to celebrate the incredible submissions we've received for our Reading Challenge this term. The many beautiful entries truly highlights the passion for books that exists within this school. Keep an eye out for the next reading challenge coming soon - your opportunity to shine is just around the corner!











Novel inspired artwork

We have been absolutely blown away by the work of Beth Rasores-Perry in Year 8. As part of her Extended Learning Project for English, Beth chose to create a stunning piece of artwork inspired by the WW2 novel Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys.

Her striking image of the Wilhelm Gustloff – the historic ship whose tragic voyage is at the heart of the novel – perfectly captures the emotional intensity of the text. Sepetys' novel revolves around four characters, three of them refugees, whose lives intersect at the tail end of the war as they board the Gustloff. The ship was sunk in 1945 whilst

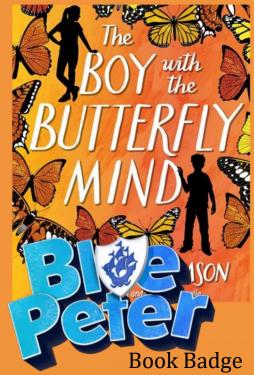
evacuating civilians from East Prussia and the German-occupied Baltic states, resulting in the largest loss of life in a single ship sinking.

We are not alone in our admiration of Beth's work. The painting, shared on the school's social media channels, also attracted the attention of Sepetys herself, who thanked Beth for using her skills to tell the story of the Wilhelm Gustloff and its passengers.

446 Beth! Wow! Thank you for sharing your artistic talents to give voice to the forgotten tragedy of the Wilhelm Gustloff and those who were involved.

So grateful to you!

Ruta Sepetys, Author



We're so proud of Ruby in Year 8 who has been awarded a BBC Blue Peter book badge for her book review and artwork of *The Boy with the Butterfly Mind* by Victoria Williamson.

This bespoke new style badge is made from recycled yoghurt pots & designed by one of the UK's best known illustrators, Sir Quentin Blake, for deserving Blue Peter viewers who have shared in the joy of reading.

When Ruby's achievement was shared on the school's social media channels, it immediately received the attention from the author herself who wrote a personal comment of congratulations to Ruby!

This is fantastic! Huge congratulations to Ruby and a very big thank you to her for choosing my book as a basis for her review and artwork!





BEST SELLING AUTHOR

Inspires a love of reading

On Friday 15th November, Year 7 students had the exciting opportunity to come together and participate in a virtual talk with bestselling British author Jacqueline Wilson. Known best for *The Story of Tracy Beaker*, *Hetty Feather* and more than 100 other books, Jacqueline spoke to students about her latest novel, *Star of the Show*, and what it was like for young children to perform in pantomimes during the Victorian era.

In preparation for the visit, students participated in a special English lesson where they were introduced to Jacqueline Wilson and the first chapter of her new book. They also had the chance to submit questions for Jacqueline, which she personally answered during the talk.

To further inspire our Year 7 students, Mrs Melhuish-Jones (our wonderful librarian) has set up a Jacqueline Wilson display, where students can explore more of her books and continue to fuel their love for reading!



IMAGINARY WORLDS

Author talk sparks creativity

In October, we were delighted to welcome local author Dee Benson into Queen's Park to ignite students' imaginations as she spoke about her journey to become a YA fiction writer to a selected audience of Year 8 students from Queen's Park and Blacon High School. Dee spoke about her thrilling new YA fantasy book Damien Ike and the Fallen House of Draven which explores fear, prejudice and hope. This book is perfect for fans of bestsellers, The Witcher and An Ember In The Ashes.

Book overview:

Damien Ike is fortunate. As the son of the most powerful mage in the land, he should have a bright future ahead of him. But as Damien approaches adulthood, he can't help but worry that there is no sign of his magic developing. And yet to survive beyond a few days old with no magic is unthinkable - the High Commission of Mages does not allow it. There's no way his father, their leader, would have a son who is a Nullborn.

Then Damien stumbles upon a secret his mother has kept from everyone - even him - and everything changes. Could it be that the fortune his future promised is not all it's cracked up to be? As Damien's world is turned upside down, he must discover how to keep their secret safe and get to the heart of the lies on which their world is founded...

Captivated by her overview of her new title, students were eager to learn more. Dee asked what magical super powers students would choose and challenged them to create their own fantasy world in a storytelling competition which sparked their imagination and creativity. They conjured up a range of ideas from powers linked to eye and hair colour and crystals.

This was followed by a Q & A session and book signing supported by Linghams Book shop of Heswall who were able to offer students the chance to get an autographed copy of Dee's new book.









Students'energy into the activities and tasks set, was infectious. They were all a real credit to their schools.





Shining a new light on Shakespeare's story

We were delighted to be the recipient of free tickets from the Storyhouse to see *Who the f-k is Shakespeare* by the 20 Stories High Theatre Group. The show was promoted as a 'retelling of the Shakespeare story, giving you all the gory details'!

Four of Shakespeare's (in)famous characters were eager to tell their side of the story as they broke the paper ceiling of Shakespeare's Complete Works to tell their own stories and repurpose old tales for the next generation.

Armed with punchy verses, punky attitudes, and a 'whole lotta wit' – this multi-art form show was set to raise the roof!

Our group of Year 10 students, accompanied by Mrs Domelow and Ms Melhuish-Jones, couldn't wait to hear the other side of the Shakespeare story and set off to the venue, looking forward to a refreshing view of the Great Bard himself

The show was a magical insight into the women in Shakespeare's plays and their thoughts and experiences. Students were treated to great speeches old and new from Ophelia, Cleopatra, Lady Macbeth and Viola which equipped them with lots of food for thought. They were newly inspired by Bard with a revitalised view of his works.

About 20 Stories High

20 Stories High believe that "everyone's got a story to tell... and their own way of telling it." They create bold, excellent theatre, music and art experiences with culturally diverse, working-class communities, emerging artists, and world-class professionals. They tell stories that bring joy, empower, and enable social change. They inhabit a wide variety of spaces: from theatres, community centres and schools to digital spaces, living rooms and busstops.

For further information about 20 Stories High, please visit: www.20storieshigh.org.uk





George The Poet Spoken word artist

As part of our ongoing relationship with Chester Storyhouse, this autumn we were able to secure free tickets for all of our A Level English Literature students to attend the Chester Literature Festival's most hotly-anticipated event: a poetry reading by George the Poet.

George the Poet is a London-born spoken word performer of Ugandan heritage. His innovative brand of musical poetry has won him critical acclaim, both as a recording artist and social commentator, which has seen his work broadcast to billions of people worldwide.

On a chilly November evening, 18 students gathered to listen to George the Poet discuss his inspirations, his process, his growing profile, and his thoughts about modern society. He talked about the importance of equal access to the arts and to poetry, the close-knit relationship between rap and spoken word, and the PhD he is currently working on, which focuses on the socio-economic potential of black music. Speaking in front of a transfixed audience, he also performed some of the spoken-word poetry for which he is known.

The event was followed by a Q&A session and a book signing, which offered a number of our students the chance to talk to George, to pose him some thought-provoking questions (What is his creative process? How does he feel about his work being studied?) and to share their memories of studying his poetry all the way back in Year 9!

Signed copies of George the Poet's books *Track Record* and *Part of a Story that Started Before Me* are now available to borrow from the school library.

ARTOF ACTION

Lights, Camera... ACTION!

As part of the BFI National Art of Action season at the Storyhouse, our Film and Media Studies Sixth Form students were treated to an exclusive 'An Audience With...' careers event led by stunt-performer-turned-director, Matt Routledge.

Matt has been working in film and television since the late 1990s as a stunt performer and co-ordinator, and now film director.

With a specialism in Martial Arts, Matt discussed his career path, from enthusiast to professional and his journey from making independent films to Hollywood block busters! This provided a valuable insight for our students on how to get involved in this area of film and TV.

Matt's talk was followed by an engaging Q & A session before students watched a screening of the action packed film, *Polite Society* which was filled with incredible stunts.

A big thank you to the Storyhouse for hosting our students at yet another great event.



We had a great afternoon at the Storyhouse and are very grateful for their ongoing support in providing our students and staff with access to exceptional cultural experiences right on our doorstep.

Ms Melhuish-Jones, Librarian





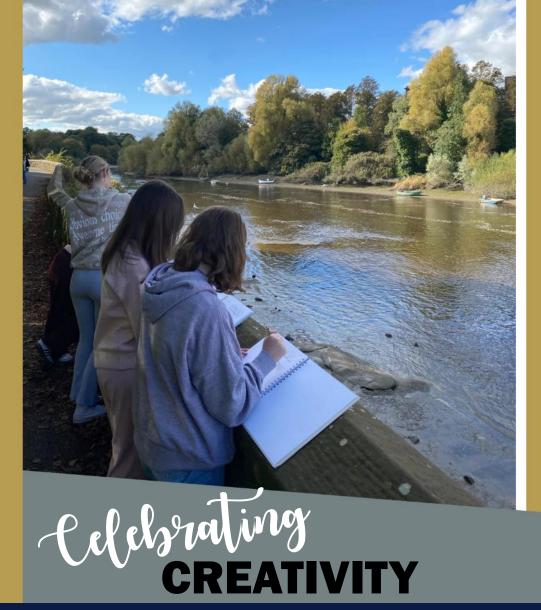


RIVERSIDE PAINTINGS

A creative journey along the river bank

This term, Year 12 Art and Design students have been immersing themselves in the river paintings of British artist Kurt Jackson.
Using the scenic River Dee as their inspiration, students have sketched, drawn, painted, and photographed the riverbank by the Old Dee Bridge, documenting their observations in their sketchbooks. In the art studio, they transformed these ideas into vibrant acrylic canvas paintings.

Students experimented with various techniques, including mapping out, colour washes, paint dragging, dry dragging, scratching back, and paint splattering to create texture and depth. This project challenged their ability to blend realism with abstract elements, such as colour, surface, and mark-making. The result you can see has been a highly rewarding creative journey. Congratulations to Year 12 for their exceptional work!



INSPIRING

Mural Masterpiece



Year 11 student Amy Hunt has been dedicating her lunchtimes and afterschool hours to painting a vibrant mural in the school's art corridor as part of her GCSE Art & Design coursework.



Drawing inspiration from the work of artist Yellana James, Amy has developed her own unique interpretation that is already transforming the space.

The mural showcases Amy's creativity and skill, adding a splash of colour to the corridor. She plans to finish the artwork by the New Year, and it promises to be a lasting addition to the school's artistic environment.

Re-Stor

EXHIBITION

I found the experience both intriguing and worthwhile as it showcased a diverse range of local talents. Highlights included masterpieces by Lucy Elizabeth Jones and Suze Schneider. We were inspired by the exhibition and also had the opportunity to create our own drawings!

Bolaji B Year 11 art student



The power of art to heal & inspire

Year 11 Art and Design students have been exploring the work of 11 local artists at the Re-Store exhibition showcased in the Chester Grosvenor Shopping Centre. The exhibition has been curated by Chester Visual Arts and features work by acclaimed artists from the North West, each of whom has channelled personal journeys of restoration and healing into stunning, thought-provoking art.

The exhibition showcases a diverse range of work in different media, including sculpture, textiles, and surface materials, with each piece

embodying a deeply personal story of renewal and reflection.

Students collected and gathered ideas from the wide range of artists on show for their current project entitled 'Fragments'. The gallery, a converted shop, has been transformed into a professional and contemporary art space with white walls and wooden floorboards that showed the work off to its very best.

After looking at the work, students were able to add their own creativity to the drawing wall in the gallery.

Some students who had never been to an exhibition before really engaged with what they saw and discussed their favourite pieces with a keen sense of wanting to learn and belonging. The space is open, welcoming and accessible to all. Surely Chester has a bright future within the contemporary northern art scene. I sincerely hope so.

Mr Parker,
Curriculum Leader for Visual Art & Design





Coming soon...

Rehearsals are well and truly underway for this year's school production Ghost The Musical. Based on the hit 1990 film Ghost, the musical, specially adapted for a school performance, has been selected as our production for 2025 and as always has attracted a huge amount of interest. Over 100 students are involved, both onstage and backstage, with choreography, musical numbers, and set design, all of which have been in development since September.

As part of the rehearsal process, we had the opportunity to take 45 students to see the touring production of the show and even meet the leads who play the roles of Sam and Molly!

We're very excited about what is sure to be a truly moving and powerful production.

The show takes place in the Main Hall over three nights from: Wednesday 12th - Friday 14th February. Tickets are priced at £8.50.

To book your tickets, please visit: https:// www.ticketsource.co.uk/Queens-Park-High-School/e-eymloy

We hope you can join us.





EQUUS ON STAGE

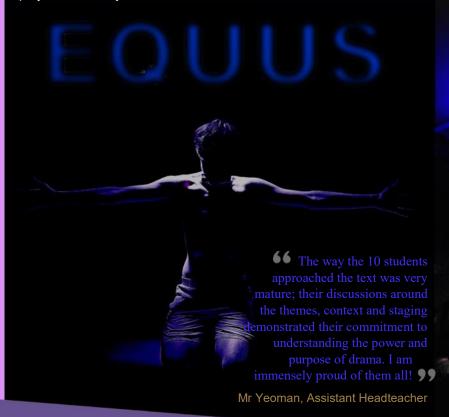
Students deliver powerful performance

One of the most challenging texts we have available to us in the A Level Drama curriculum is Peter Shaffer's Equus. The play, focusing on the psychotic obsessions of a teenage boy who has a pathological religious fascination with horses, opens up a myriad of challenging questions which relate to us even today: the brainwashing of the media, the role of religion and nature versus nurture. To get a strong understanding of the text ahead of their written examination in June of next year, the Year 12 Drama students working in partnership with Storyhouse, staged the play in its entirety in the Garret

Theatre on Monday 16th December.

The play was performed to a large audience and was met with a standing ovation at the end, not least because of the intensity and complexity of the language used. This was a fantastic example of practical application of theory to really consolidate understanding of a very complex play! The performance was exceptional with one parent stating,

"I've not seen my son develop in his confidence so much since being at this school; it was outstanding to watch."



STORYHOUSE

A TERM OF TALENT

Students shine in sell-out Christmas concert







It has been another busy term in the music department, with record numbers of students attending lunchtime music clubs and making full use of the rehearsal spaces.

In December, our QPHS Band and Radio Silence took to the road, performing at the Edsential Music Showcase at Upton High School.

Our annual festive Christmas Concert was a wonderful celebration of music and holiday cheer. Held at the beautiful St. Mary's Church in Handbridge, the concert was a sellout, featuring 26 outstanding performances.

A highlight was the Year 7 Singers' debut performance, with renditions of Last Christmas and Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree. Year 7 soloists also impressed with performances from Riley and Harrison, while Eliza F and Eliza S performed a vocal duet. Gruff, Leon, and Robert delivered a fantastic woodwind and

brass trio, and Sonny showcased his incredible bass guitar skills.

Instrumental highlights included Harvey's rendition of *Silent Night*, Jacob's performance of *Moonlight Sonata*, and the Year 10 GCSE music group's ensemble of *Somewhere Only We Know*.

Amazing effort by all students!

Coming up...

The V Factor - next term will see the return of this popular singing talent competition.

Music lessons are available at school through Music for Life.

QPHS Band - Tuesday lunchtimes in MU1 (all instruments very welcome). Year 7 Singing Club - Friday

lunchtimes in MU1.

Students may also book rehearsal spaces on other days, please see Mrs Landen in the music department.



LEST WE FORGET

Poignant tribute

On Monday 11th December, a moving tribute took place as some of our students, who serve in the cadets, laid a wreath at the base of our school's WWI memorial board. This ceremony recognised former students who, during the First World War, left school to serve their country.

The assembly was a reflective occasion, during which the school community honoured those who have fought, and continue to fight, to protect our British values and our nation.

At 11am, in the Main Courtyard, Annabel from Year 11 played the haunting *The Last Post* on her trombone, which resonated around the school at the end of a poignant two minute silence. She was joined by representatives from the Cadets and Sixth Form students from our Uniformed Protective Services course.











SUMMER SCHOOL

Getting a head start on the high school experience

Starting high school is an exciting time, but it can also feel overwhelming and daunting for some children. To ease this transition and prepare Year 6 for their journey ahead, Queen's Park High School hosted a tailored, 3 day Summer School during the Summer holidays.

This free initiative, designed to introduce our new Year 7 students to Queen's Park High School life and values, and help them become familiar with the school environment, has become a highlight for many families. It offers a valuable opportunity for students to build confidence, form friendships, and get a head start on the high school experience.

We had over 90 students sign up to attend the event during their summer holidays.

Over the course of the 3 days, our new recruits got involved in a range of exciting learning activities in science, English, computer science, history, languages plus teambuilding workshops.

These included being rocket scientists for the day: designing, building, testing and modifying their own stomp rockets to see which could travel the highest and soar to the sky!

Geographers made postcards related to their favourite places in the world. They also practised map skills and navigation, drawing maps of their local area and learning how to use the 8 points of the compass to give directions.

The team building activity required students to work in groups and create a piece of 'Trash' fashion. Using bin bags, newspaper, string and cardboard, they created innovative shoes, skirts, dresses and hats, before modelling on the catwalk to showcase their flamboyant creations.

Our Summer School not only bridges the gap between primary and secondary education but also sets the tone for a positive start in September.



YEAR 4 & 5 SPORTS CAMP

Smiling faces & boundless enthusiasm

This summer, Queen's Park High School proudly hosted its annual Sports Camp, an exciting and energetic event for Year 4 and Year 5 children from local primary schools. Running from Monday 19th August, for 3 action packed days, the camp welcomed over 100 enthusiastic children eager to take part in this free and muchanticipated opportunity - another highlight of our transition programme.

I am always astonished by the energy and enthusiasm Year 4 and 5 bring to QPHS during our annual sports camp. They arrive each morning raring to go and ready for the next action packed day. It is lovely to greet the Year 5 children we have met throughout the year at various transition events, whilst also getting to know the Year 4 students before they take the next step into Year 5 come September.

Mrs Bearcroft, Transition Lead

Now in its seventh year, this muchloved event once again received an overwhelming response!

Led by our PE department, we offered a dynamic variety of sports, including Danish longball, benchball, badminton, football, tag rugby, ping pong, tennis, indoor athletics, dodgeball, relay racing, rounders, capture the flag, and diamond cricket. The grand finale was an athletics relay tournament that added a competitive and celebratory touch to the last day.

The sessions focused on boosting confidence, teamwork, communication, and fitness, while also fostering friendships and, above all, fun! Children were challenged to step outside their comfort zones, develop new skills, and embrace the joys of physical activity and they didn't disappoint!

A huge well done to all the children who brought their energy, enthusiasm, and fantastic attitudes to make this year's Sports Camp a resounding success!











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Calming School I already know a bit about the school from siblings,

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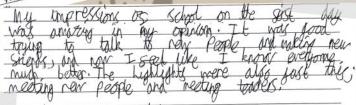
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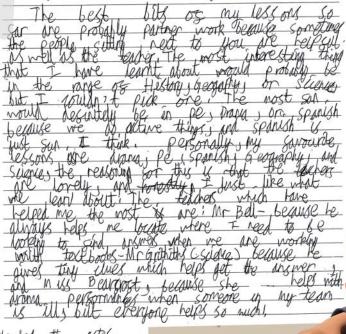
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Record numbers at Open Events

On 18th September, we opened our doors to welcome an influx of Year 5 and 6 children with their families to one of the school's biggest events of the year! Our annual Open Evening is a collaborative effort involving staff and students from all year groups, showcasing the exceptional opportunities awaiting those who join our school community.



Throughout the evening, our young visitors engaged in a variety of exciting activities across all subject areas with the hands on science sessions proving to be a particular highlight for future STEM enthusiasts!

Headteacher Mr Kearns and Transition Lead Mrs Bearcroft shared insights into the school and transition process during their presentations to parents. They were joined by Head Students and Year 7 students, who shared their experiences of life and learning at Queen's Park. Meanwhile, Sixth Form ambassadors provided guided tours of the school, offering families a closer look at our facilities and learning spaces.

Families had the chance to meet subject teachers, interact with Queen's Park students, and admire displays of students' work. They were also able to sample a selection of culinary treats prepared by our catering team and Food Technology students.

Those keen for a challenge tested their knowledge in a quiz about the school and all were given free entry into the prize draw to win a £50 dining gift card and runner up prizes! Mrs Bearcroft and Miss Morris have since surprised the lucky winners with their prizes at each of their primary schools which included: Hoole, Overleigh St Mary's, Belgrave, Chester Blue Coat, Dodleston, Lache, Newton, Grosvenor Park Academy and St Peter's Church in Wales.

Thank you to everyone who attended and made this year's Open Evening a tremendous success. We look forward to welcoming you into our Queen's Park family soon!





Prize Draw & Quiz Winners

Congratulations to all our Open Evening winners and runners up, we hope you enjoy spending your winnings!

Runners Up

















WAYNE WINS NATIONAL COMPETITION

Design Technician crowned Shed of the Year winner

We have a celebrity in our midst here at Queen's Park High School! We are absolutely thrilled for Wayne Dawber, our inhouse Art and Design technician, who having spent his summer creating an 'industrial, ghost -town chic' outhouse, has been crowned overall winner of Cuprinol's Shed of the Year competition!

Wayne also won the Unexpected/ Unique category in the annual awards through a vote by the general public.

The shed took two weeks to build and a further six to paint the murals, which is his favourite part of the structure.

Named Wrinkly, Rusty And Retro, the outhouse is made entirely from used and scrap materials including corrugated steel, and has vintage signage and murals.

Wayne, a practising artist and designer in his own right said,

"To have strangers deem me worthy means a lot to me as it means they actually like what I have made. Plus to come out on top of the 'Unexpected/ Unique' category suits the way I feel about my individuality too."

Addicted to old junk, everything in Wayne's build has been scavenged, from hard-to-come-by skip finds, junk shops, demolition sites or farms having a clear out! He had been collecting bits and pieces for quite a while and knew they would come together somehow at some point.

Wayne added that the use of corrugated steel, found objects and the vintage magazine advertising murals is what makes his shed unique.

He said the highlight of his shed was adding an 'old bell, tannoy and industrial light' to the front but he admits he wanted to add more murals.

Wayne made the shed for his wife Ruth, who wanted somewhere for her gardening tools and a quiet place to sit out of the elements to read and watch the garden, but then he got a bit carried away!

Wayne is the first Shed of the Year winner to receive an overnight nature stay as part of his prize and he will also be awarded £1,000 in cash and £250 worth of Cuprinol products.





Congratulations Wayne!

As we near the 20th anniversary of the competition, it's astonishing to see the incredible new heights our entrants have been reaching year-on-year. 'Wrinkly, Rusty And Retro' is a great representation of the most popular trends we saw this year, with ultimate artistic finesse





BBC BITESIZE COMES TO QPHS

Hosting flagship BBC roadshow event





Whether deciding what to study, planning a future career or just curious about the world of work, BBC Bitesize Careers Roadshow, now entering its 6th successive run, has become a flagship BBC event that supports secondary school students across the UK in their career endeavours.

On Tuesday 12th November 2024, we were delighted to be selected as one of the privileged secondary schools to host the BBC Bitesize Careers Roadshow. This highly acclaimed event brought together local professionals to share their own story and career journey with our students, covering topics such as: relevant qualifications, career progression, advice on work experience, and key soft skills for the workplace. It was an inspirational and insightful day filled with guidance and interaction, providing invaluable exposure to the world of work.

Held in our Main Hall, the event spanned the entire day with tailored sessions for Year 7 through to Year 10. Each session featured an engaging panel-style discussion, led by BBC radio broadcaster and TV presenter, Kathryn B Wilson who kept the energy high, students engaged and the conversation flowing.

Our panellists included:

Jamie McLoughlin, Assistant Producer BBC Bitesize Topical team, captivated students with insights into the media industry and the evolving role of creating online content and social media linked to careers.



Catherine Walker, freelance Assistant Producer, highlighted the significance of technical and soft skills required in her career alongside an informative discussion about her journey into the world of TV.

Emma Swinnerton, Senior Client Experience Manager, Entyce Creative shared her experiences in the marketing industry and the importance of creativity and problem solving in her career.

All sessions were interactive, allowing students from each year group, including our Sixth Form, the opportunity to ask questions directly to the panel.

This event really showcased the importance of connecting education with real-world careers, inspiring our students to think about their futures and the pathways available to them. We extend our thanks to the incredible BBC team, motivational guest speakers, and our staff who helped make the day such a success.

For more information, please visit:

The careers fair gave Year 10 students the opportunity to meet employers and education providers face to face and ask questions. It was fantastic to see so many of our students engaging with this and thinking about the next steps on their careers journey.

Mrs Watts, Careers Lead

CAREERS FAIR

Next steps & pathways to success

In October, Year 10 took part in the Chester Careers & Education Fair organised by The Pledge Partnership for Cheshire & Warrington.

This event enabled our students to make links with employers, explore Further and Higher Education options and find out about Independent Training Providers and voluntary organisations. Before the career fair, students planned who they were going to approach and what questions they were going to ask, so that they obtained meaningful information to help them make informed choices about their future options, pathways and careers. Over 50 employers, **Independent Training Providers** and Higher and Further Education organisations were at the event.

Year 9 Guided Choices / Careers Event: Thursday 30th January 2025

An opportunity for students to explore their options, make informed and guided choices about their options at KS4 and

Year 9 Post 16 live online talk

Friday 14th February 2025; P1 An opportunity for students to engage online with a wide range of employers and Further education providers about futures and next steps

Year 10 and Year 12 Work **Experience (WEX) week** w/c 14th July 2025

All Year 10 and 12 students will be taking part in work experience and should be in the process of securing their own



INTERVIEW INSIGHTS

Preparing for 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 conduct mock interviews with our Year 11 and 13 students. It was wonderful to see so many of our students smartly dressed and ready to engage in professional dialogue.

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

Thank you to WCNW Chamber of Commerce, The Pledge, Barclays, HSBC, DWP, Staffordshire University, The Chester Grosvenor Hotel, Wrexham University, Altimex Ltd, Atlas Copco IAS UK Ltd, Pinestar Ltd, Chester Racecourse, ALS, Complete Education Solutions, Storengy Ltd, CCSW and Cogent for supporting us on the day.

On the same day, a number of Year 13 students attended the Mock Assessment Centre at the University of Chester.

This valuable experience provided insight into how businesses use assessment centres to select candidates during interview. Students practised key skills, including delivering sales pitches, preparing presentations, and interview techniques.

One highlight of the day was a group task challenge, where students worked collaboratively to design a mechanism that kept a marble moving for the longest time.

The event was an excellent opportunity to develop teamwork and problem solving skills and to support our students own personal development.



During Year 10, I took part in Work
Experience at the Countess of Chester
Hospital where I had the opportunity
to find out more about careers within
the NHS. This year, taking part in the
mock interview, where I was
interviewed by Barclays, allowed me
the opportunity to practice my
interview technique. It gave me a
massive boost to be told that Barclays
would offer me an apprenticeship and
that I had been really successful at
interview.

Siyana M, Year 10 student





STEPS TO SUCCESS

Careers marketplace & exam tips

Making decisions about Post 16 options and pathways can be daunting but Queen's Park High School students are well on their way to making informed decisions about their futures! Designed to help support students and their families in the lead-up to GCSE and A Level examinations and as part of our whole school careers programme and commitment to CEIAG, Year 11 and 13 students and their parents were invited to our 'Steps to Success' event.

The event, held in October, provided the opportunity for students and parents to visit a careers marketplace where information, advice and guidance was available about options and pathways at Post 16 and beyond including apprenticeships and Higher and Further Education. With support from The Pledge and The Young Chamber, we welcomed Coleg Cambria and Cheshire College to talk about College courses. In addition, exhibitors from the NHS, Oliver & Co. Solicitors, Chester FC, WR Partners Chartered Accountants, Atlas Copco, Army, Spirit, Claire House, Live, HSBC, Chester Racecourse, Steven Gerrard Academy, Lancaster University and Wrexham University were represented.

The evening event provided families with essential information and practical advice to help students prepare for their GCSE and A Level exams, with sessions focusing on key strategies and advice, providing an insight on how to manage any stress and maintain a healthy balance during the exam period.

Queen's Park High School is a forward thinking school where Careers Education Information and Guidance is embedded throughout the Curriculum Intent. For more information please visit the Careers & Guidance section on our school website.









The Steps to Success event was a huge success with many students making connections and finding out more about the options and pathways open to them. The feedback from employers was very positive with many commenting on the way students had conducted themselves to engage with discussion.

Well done Year 11 and 13.

Mrs Watts, Careers Lead





As part of our Level 3 BTEC
Extended Diploma in Uniformed
Protective Services (UPS), we strive
to give our learners as many
experiences as possible. In
December, over 40 Sixth Form
students from Queen's Park High
School, The Mosslands and All Saints
Catholic High School visited the HMS
Prince of Wales aircraft carrier in
Liverpool. In addition to broadening
their knowledge of the Royal Navy,
this incredible visit offered them an
insight into the variety of career
options available in this crucial area
of the UK military.
Before stepping aboard, the group

Before stepping aboard, the group participated in a safety briefing. This essential introduction outlined the protocols for navigating the ship's complex environment. Students were instructed on appropriate conduct, emergency procedures, and the importance of respecting restricted areas. The safety briefing also highlighted the teamwork and discipline that are hallmarks of the Navy, setting an example of the

professionalism expected in uniformed protective services roles.

The day's high point was the ship's tour. Under the guidance of experienced Navy Officers, students investigated the flight deck, hangars, and crew quarters, among other areas of the aircraft carrier. The Navy's operating capabilities were vividly demonstrated by the astounding size and technological complexity of HMS Prince of Wales. The sophisticated technology utilised for air operations particularly fascinated students, highlighting the significance of accuracy and cooperation in preserving national security.

After the tour, students got involved with the interactive displays showcasing the variety of positions available in the Navy. Each stand included information on the duties and skill sets needed for various roles, ranging from engineering and logistics to communications and aviation. Students posed intelligent questions concerning Navy personnel

lifestyles, training, and career paths. The Royal Navy's emphasis on skill development, adaptability, and its vital role in protecting the country were highlighted at this section of the visit

There were lively conversations about the visit on the train ride back to Chester. Many students said they felt inspired to follow related career pathways and had a fresh respect for the Royal Navy and its operations. In addition to expanding their knowledge, this visit to HMS Prince of Wales strengthened important principles like self-control, perseverance, and teamwork qualities that are crucial for any future member of the uniformed protective forces.

This trip gave students an incredible insight into the working lives of those in the Royal Navy, giving learners the opportunity to see and ask questions regarding what life could be like if they chose a career in The Royal Navy.





FAITH & FUTURES

Inspirational Speaker

In November, Davindar Lotay, Managing Director of Altimex Ltd and a practising Sikh came to speak to a group of our Year 9 students. As he spoke about key aspects of his Faith as a Sikh, students had the opportunity to ask questions. They asked about his clothing, as he was wearing the *five K's* and the symbols of his faith and they also asked about the Sikh concept of *Sewa* (selfless service) and how it influences his thoughts and actions. He answered with honesty and engaged students throughout.

Davindar also spoke of his journey as a child in Kenya to a teenager in Nottingham and making a vital decision about the direction his life would go. His fascination with fibre optics led him to Sheffield Polytechnic and not the university path he had originally foreseen for himself.

Through further study and some adversity, he became a managing director of Altimex Ltd - an award winning fibre optics solutions company and industry acclaimed lighting specialists with over 25 years experience - and has recently completed a qualification as an expert driver! Davindar's faith and personal ethos is to strive to help others, improve himself and make the world a better place! What an inspirational visitor!



Year 9 were a credit to the school, well behaved and asked insightful and intelligent questions.

Mrs Merryweather, Curriculum Leader for Social Studies



GREAT BRITAIN

ALCOHOL AWARENESS

Interactive Theatre Performance

Queen's Park High School was one of 12 schools in Cheshire to host Smashed, an international educational theatre production which aims to educate students about the causes and consequences of drinking underage.

What can happen if you drink alcohol underage? Would you do anything differently? As part of the Smashed live tour, through a combination of live theatre performances and interactive workshops, Year 8 students faced these questions as they followed the lives of three teenagers and explored the decisions they made.

Following the characters Malik, Georgia and Freddie on their different paths through the story, students were provided with a powerful and interactive experience where they were able to make decisions and see where the characters' paths led. It encouraged students to ask what they would do, as the journey explores friendship, family, school, social dynamics, and peer pressure.



Learning about risk taking behaviour, including drugs and alcohol education, is part of our Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship (PSHCE) curriculum, designed to provide opportunities for students to explore risk and how to keep themselves safe.

Now in its 20th year, *Smashed* has delivered educational performances to students in 38 countries around the world.

To find out more, please visit: Smashed Online

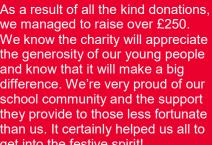




CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY Save the Children

Thursday 12th December was our annual Christmas/Seasonal jumper day with so many students and staff coming into school wearing their festive finest! This year, money donated through ParentMail for the privilege of wearing the jumper went towards Save The Children. a fantastic charity working with children all over the world to provide the very basics of life: education, food, medicine and the reunification of families.

As a result of all the kind donations. we managed to raise over £250. We know the charity will appreciate the generosity of our young people and know that it will make a big difference. We're very proud of our school community and the support they provide to those less fortunate than us. It certainly helped us all to get into the festive spirit!





In early December, Year 7 students Harry and Aimee visited the West Cheshire Foodbank warehouse at Stanney Mill Industrial Estate to discover a little more about why foodbanks are needed and how we can support in

As a result of their video report and interview with the Foodbank staff. donations came flooding into school to the point where our original plan to load up a car to take the food to the foodbank had to be changed to loading up a minibus!

Thanks to our Queen's Park High School community, we delivered a colossal 360Kg of food just in time for Christmas.

The true value of charity and generosity at Queen's Park should never be underestimated!

> T:0151 355 7730 info@westcheshire.foodbank.

www.westcheshire.fo



As part of the school Attendance Advent prize, a team of 10 Year 12 Food Science & Nutrition and Year 11 Hospitality & Catering students made a full Christmas Lunch for Mr Jones' winning Year 9 tutor group, working under catering kitchen conditions to ensure the front and back of house ran smoothly.

Dan K led Front of House festivities, directing other helpers with the decorations for the room to make sure it was bursting with festive feel.

Harvey B ran the end of sections within the back of house kitchen area, ensuring each work area ran smoothly and followed health, safety and

hygiene protocols. He oversaw the food probes to ensure the turkey was correctly cooked

and that foods in holding areas were within the correct temperature ranges.

Year 12 devised the menu, planned and prepared the ingredients as well as the timings and order of work. Year 11 ensured the correct procedures were followed for preparing vegetables, cooking and presentation.

Lucy L headed the dessert section, piping 28 buttercream swirls and decorating the Rudolph cupcakes, whilst Wayne added his flair in making non-dairy sweet treats.

It's fair to say this was not just any ordinary Christmas lunch, this was a Michelin star rated, meticulously planned, well executed and delicious QPHS Christmas lunch that certainly got 9JOS's stamp of approval!

66 It was a pleasure to see the team work confidently and autonomously. They showed the maturity and skill set needed to work in a real life catering setting, demonstrating pride in their work from beginning to end. They finished on time and ensured every student had a hot enjoyable meal delivered straight to their table. I am so proud of them.

Mrs Longsor Teacher of Food Technology





Skill, Teamwork & Determination Shine Through!

Queen's Park High School's basketball team has proven to be an unstoppable force, finishing the group stage of the regional tournament with a perfect record. The Year 10-11 team triumphed over Blacon, Catholic High, and King's School, showcasing their impressive teamwork, skill, and determination on the court.

The group stage was just the beginning. The team's hard work paid off as they advanced to the final against a formidable opponent, Tarporley High School. Tarporley, boasting a squad of tall, experienced players, had also breezed through their group stage undefeated, making them the perfect challengers. However, Queen's Park was undeterred. The final was a highly competitive battle, but the sheer resolve and talent of Queen's Park meant it was a close game, with the team narrowly missing out on victory 56 points to 48.

Special mentions go to Captain Murat and Vice-Captain Bruno, whose leadership and basketball skills were pivotal throughout the tournament. Murat's calm presence and strategic vision guided the team, while

Bruno's deadly lay-ups and set shots consistently put points on the board, keeping the pressure on their rivals.

Tom's knowledge of the game and quick thinking on the court ensured smooth transitions and dynamic plays, while his dazzling dribbling skills left defenders in the dust. Isaac and Will demonstrated boundless enthusiasm and energy, constantly motivating the team and delivering key moments of effort.

Matt, Oli, and Ephraim also made valuable contributions. Matt's precise passing and quick footwork allowed for smooth ball movement, while Oli's strong defense and quick reflexes disrupted Tarporley's attacks. Ephraim's quick thinking and impressive shooting made him a constant threat on the offense.

Thanks to their hard work, skill, and team spirit, Queen's Park High School's basketball team has proved themselves as worthy finalists. After Christmas, we have the Year 8 & 9 basketball league to look forward to, as well as the Year 7 basketball tournament.

Year 7









The boys were exceptional in their passion, leadership and teamwork, and represented the school fantastically well with some great memories to show for it. So proud!

Mr Emptage, Manager/Teacher of PE

RISING STARS

Our Teams Show Heart & Talent

Year 7

Our Year 7 team had a commendable run in the Cheshire Cup, putting in a stellar performance against Abbeygate. They managed to secure a victory and progress to the next round, showcasing their skill and teamwork. Unfortunately, their journey came to an end in a close match against Bishops, where they were narrowly defeated 3-2. Despite the loss, the boys should be proud of their resilience and effort in such a tight game.

In addition to their Cheshire Cup exploits, the Year 7s took part in a 6-a-side tournament held at Christleton. The team displayed great enthusiasm and tactical play, finishing third in their group. They came agonisingly close to qualifying for the semi-finals but just missed out by a small margin. Their performances throughout the tournament highlighted their potential and set a strong foundation for future success.

Year 8

The Year 8 team also participated in the 6-a-side tournament at Christleton and delivered an outstanding performance. They secured impressive victories over Christleton, Bishops, and Catholic High, demonstrating their ability to compete with some of the strongest teams in the area. In the semi-final, the team showed nerves of steel, beating Tarporley on penalties to secure a place in the final.

The final was a closely contested affair against Catholic High, and

despite their best efforts, the Year 8s finished as runners-up. The team's determination and skill were evident throughout the tournament, and their journey to the final is a testament to their hard work and dedication.

Year 9

Our Year 9 team faced a unique challenge in the futsal tournament held at Abbeygate. Without a dedicated goalkeeper, the team members took turns guarding the net, showcasing their versatility and team spirit. Despite the challenge, they fought hard in every game and managed to finish second in the tournament.

Their performance highlighted not only their football skills but also their resilience and adaptability under pressure. The Year 9 students' determination to persevere, even without a fixed goalkeeper, reflects their strong sense of teamwork and commitment.

Year 11

The Year 11 team has had a season filled with tough contests and impressive performances. In a Chester Cup match against Abbeygate, the team surged to a 3-1 lead. However, their opponents mounted a strong comeback, and Abbeygate ultimately secured the victory. Despite the setback, the Year 11s showcased great fighting spirit and teamwork.

There was heartbreak in both the National and Cheshire Cup to follow, with both matches going to penalties. Both were narrow defeats but stellar performances by our teams.



GIRLS' SPORTS SUCCESS

Lionesses show great promise





The first term of the school year has been a fantastic start for girls sport here at Queen's Park High School with numerous teams having impressive performances and showing a real growth in confidence across all year groups.

In Netball, Year 7 have made so much progress, improving game by game and securing multiple victories in their recent tournament at home against our local schools. Their growth in confidence has been really lovely to watch! Year 8 has had an amazing start to the season, with some outstanding performances at Chester Catholic High School earlier in October where they had an unbeaten streak.

Year 9, the largest turnout at Netball club, brought positive, and enthusiastic energy to every after school session practice and match fixtures. They also played exceptionally well alongside our strong Year 10 team in December against Chester Catholic High School.

Year 10 remain undefeated, dominating their league with a solid team bond. They are a team of strong sporting role models for the younger years who really look up to them!

Netball club numbers are still really high and has become one of the largest extra-curricular clubs here at school, with 60 plus members. What an incredible achievement for girls' sport!

On the football field, Year 7 have shown lots of promise, finishing 3rd in their recent tournament at Catholic High against 5 other Chester schools. The girls' team spirit has really started to flourish, resulting in securing a few amazing wins lately!

Year 8 girls have welcomed new players, adding fresh energy and talent to the squad, setting them up for continued success this season.

Year 9 have had some new faces to football showing great potential for the next year.



I am incredibly proud of each and every one of the girls for their hard work, unwavering commitment and most of all their passion for sport! Seeing students thrive in their sports is a highlight of my job. I'm excited to see even more success and memorable moments in the second half of the year!

Year 10 have had a promising start to the year with an impressive 5-1 victory against Blacon High School in the 1st round of the Chester & District Cup. Go girls!

Football Club on Wednesday lunchtimes continues to grow each week and we always welcome new members. Please see Miss Darroch for details.





A big thank you to CJ and Cheryl for leading the session and making National Fitness Day at QPHS a memorable one! We can't wait for more

fitness fun in the future!





Queen's Park Chester Rowing Club is incredibly proud of our coaches, who are all volunteers! We run all our programs with parents and coaches who are committed to provide rowing opportunities to children in the Chester area.

We are absolutely thrilled that our coaching teams who manage our J13 and J14 crews have won the British Rowing annual award for Coaching Team of the Year!

This is testament to the dedication and countless hours our volunteers invest in training the crews, and tremendous recognition of the excellence of our club and its coaching.

On Saturday 25th January, a representative group of our coaches will be in Birmingham at the annual dinner for British Rowing to receive this prestigious award.







PB'S & WINS

Celebrating Success

Congratulations to all our rowers who have represented the club at the following first term events, beating personal best times and tackling single races for the first time!

A special mention to the students listed below who were all winners in their events.

Fantastic achievements!

Chester Long Distance Sculls

- Bruno B J16 1x
- Isobel C, Alice N, Eden M, Libby M (CIS) – WJ16 4x-
- Millie & Phoebe W WJ15 2x
- Achilles A & Jacob AJ J16 2x

Dee Autumn Head

- Louis P, Henry H, Achilles A, Carlos VL – J16 4x-
- Isobel C & Alice N WJ16 2x
- Evie B & Phoebe W WJ15 2x
- Susannah K & Emily LJ WJ14 2x
- Hayden J & Ephraim W J15 2x
- Eden M, Siyana M, Amy H, Libby M (CIS) – WJ16 4x-

Northwich Autumn Head

Arthur D & Joshua H - J14 2x event

Agecroft Head

- Amelie H, Emily LJ WJ14 2x
- Arthur D, Marly AJ J14 2x

AWARDS EVENING STORYHOUSE

Storyhouse host rowing honours

Just after the start of first term, the Annual Awards Dinner for the Rowing Club was held at Storyhouse Chester. This annual event is a way to recognise the achievements of our rowers and the support of our rowing families with a fun evening filled with socialising, awards, karaoke and dancing.

This was the first year we have held our awards evening at Storyhouse, and the evening was a huge success! Thank you to our helpers who kitted out the venue, and made sure the evening ran smoothly. To the team at Storyhouse, we couldn't have asked for any more, you were amazing!

Award winners

- Bev Chuter Award for Excellence Dan H
- Cox of the Year Amy H
- Angie Mohan Most Helpful Rower Leigh D
- Leadership Award Sienna T
- Year 8 girls: Appreciation Alyssa D
 Overall Improvement Georgia S
- Year 8 boys: Outstanding Rower Julius K
 Most Improved Connor S
- Year 9 boys: Positive Attitude Henry M
- Year 9 girls: Engagement Millie Warren
- Year 10 girls: Dedication Amy H, Siyana M, Isobel C, Eden M, Alice N
- Year 10 boys: Positive Attitude Henry H, Jack M
- · Senior boys: Dedication Will Smith
- Senior girls: Commitment Elen P





LEARN TO ROW

Year 7 Programme

Soon to be announced – Year 7 Learn to Row!

The club will be providing Learn to Row for all current Year 7 students in early spring.

Keep your eyes and ears open to sign up when this is announced in tutor group time!

Years 8-10 rowing opportunity

Missed out on curriculum rowing in Year 7? Want to try it now you are a bit older?

We are taking expressions of interest to learn to row when the weather gets a bit warmer!

Register your interest to learn to row by following the link – the club will be in touch in the Spring with details!

Please scan the QR code below to register your interest.



GET INVOLVED

Calling all Sixth Form & Year 11 students

We are looking to bring together some Sixth Form crews to learn to row (or brush up on previous skills) and get experience in a crew boat prior to university.

Let us know if you are keen to be involved so we can challenge our local crews and look to compete at national school competitions.

Please scan the QR code to register your interest.



SPOT OUR ROWERS

Leading visibility on the river

We're excited to unveil our new training tops for all crews! These brightly coloured fitness tops ensure our rowers stand out on the River Dee during training sessions. Not only do our teams look fantastic, but the increased visibility also enhances safety by making us more visible to other river users.

This simple yet effective change helps reduce the risk of potential incidents on the water, ensuring a safer environment for everyone. We're proud to lead the way in both style and safety!







New Year, New Way to Make a Difference!

Did you know your online shopping can support QPHS PTA at no extra cost to you?

We've teamed up with easyfundraising, where over 8,000 retailers donate to our cause every time you shop. From your everyday essentials



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https://www.easyfundraising. org.uk/causes/queens-parkhigh-school-pta/



Let's make every shop count in 2025!

Thank you for your support





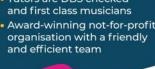
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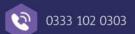
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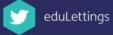
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