QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL INTERNATION

AUTUMN TERM OCTOBER 2017

BOYS FOOTBALL Shoot for victory

SCHOOL OF ROCK Auditions for next school musical

PRIMARY LINKS Summer Sports Camp Music Workshops Open Sessions

> NUMERACY NINJA KS3 Challenge

MARKETING 101

at University of Chester

GROUND-BREAKING GCSE ENGLISH RESULTS QPHS IN TOP 2% OF COUNTRY

HEGARTY MATHS Launch of learning tool for KS4 YEAR 7 CONWAY TRIP Transition Residential

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

WELCOME



Well, the 2017-18 academic year is already off to a flying start and this edition of the newsletter is a wonderful reminder of what a busy first half term it has been! Our new Year 7 students have settled in exceptionally well and are already soaking up the opportunities available to them, visibly growing in confidence by the day. As one year group settles in, the application process opens for current Year 6 children and we have been thrilled to welcome so many families into the school over the last few weeks, through our Open Evening and then for our tours during the school day. People have complemented us on the friendly, welcoming feel to the school as well as sensing the relentless drive that exists for Queen's Park 'to be the best that it can be' and the school of choice locally.

We are working hard this year to continue to improve students' learning experiences in the classroom with high expectations of their abilities. As examinations become linear once again, at both GCSE and A Level, we are working to ensure that students can build up their knowledge base, improve their memory retrieval and master key concepts. We have introduced Maths Mastery into Year 7, which builds on all of these skills and has been well received so far by students who certainly appear to be enjoying their learning!

Sixth Form Student Leadership Team.

Over the last couple of days, I have had the privilege of interviewing our Year 13 students, alongside Mrs Scanlon, for the roles of Head Boy and Girl and Deputy Head Boy and Girl. Once again, our students have done us proud, sharing their belief in themselves, the school and why they feel they can make a difference going forwards. They didn't make it easy for us, that's for certain, but I am delighted to introduce our new Sixth Form Student Leadership Team (pictured below).

Between them, they have a wealth of ideas to help enrich school life and to 'put something back' (as they describe it). One thing, that I can be certain of, is that they will be outstanding ambassadors for Queen's Park and will work hard to represent our student body.

Well done to them all!



Home-School Communication

Finally, you may remember back in July that I wrote to say that we would be looking to improve homeschool communication through a new system called Edulink One, which will be linked to our new VLE – Moodle. I have to apologise for the delay in the roll out of this new system, my over eagerness to get this up and running was thwarted by the complexities of the local authority's broadband service. I am delighted to say, that we have now parted company and have just switched to a new provider which will equally lead to a much better internet provision across the school as a whole.

We are now planning to introduce both Edulink One and Moodle over the next half term and will be writing to you again shortly with usernames and passwords to access the system.





Miss Watterson HEADTEACHER



GROUND-BREAKING RESULTS IN ENGLISH Year 7 Pioneers

The English Department at Queen's Park High School has enjoyed an exceptional start to the year. We were delighted to celebrate our best ever GCSE results in the summer: our students achieved more strong passes (Grade 5) than other students nationally, and 20% of our students were in the top 2% of the 500,000 who took the new GCSEs in the summer by scoring the coveted Grade 9 (which rates higher than the former A*grade). This is a phenomenal achievement for our students. Furthermore, we welcomed our new Year 7 students, who have made a fantastic start to their careers at Queen's Park High School. At the end of last year, we took the decision to increase the challenge in our Key Stage 3 English curriculum, this has been a process over a number of years, and we are now at a point where our students experience a curriculum rich in canonical texts, and have access to the very best that has been written across the ages. Our Year 7 students have this week completed their first assessed pieces, which is an extended critical essay in response to an unseen poem, Seamus Heaney's Digging. The quality and insight the students have shown in their responses, as well as their ability to grasp the conventions of traditional academic writing, has been most impressive. Year 7 have exemplified what the school is about: challenging learning experiences; the highest academic standards; and an unrelenting determination to be the very best that we can be.

WHAT AM I READING... Staff share their own book reviews

To enhance and enrich literacy in school and promote a love of reading, 'What I am Reading' is an initiative set up by the English department that gives students an insight into the reading world of their teachers. Staff were asked to write their own synopsis of 'what they are reading', share their own book reviews and rate out of 5 (5 being an excellent read)! Students have found the recommendations inspiring and have been broadening their reading horizons to try new genres and authors.

This new-found adventure is supported by the use of reading passports in some classes; students record genre, author, main characters, events and a synopsis plus a star review of the book. Congratulations to Adel, Reece and Sam in 7EDDW who have already 'travelled' through one book and completed the 'journey' in their passport!













SUMMER SPORTS CAMP 3 Days of competitive fun & challenge

During the Summer holidays, QPHS ran our first Summer Sports Camp for up to 40 Year 4 & 5 children from partner primary schools. It was a great opportunity for children to build their confidence and self-esteem, improve their fitness, co-ordination and communication skills whilst having fun and making new friends.

QPHS staff, Mr Bearcroft and Mrs Cutler, led a range of intensive physical based activities that included danish long ball, four corner football, athletics, diamond cricket, 'capture the flag', relay racing, bench ball, dodgeball, tag rugby and a rounders tournament that kept the group focused and engaged. They were really impressed with the children's sports skills, teamwork, positivity and fair-play. Each day the sporting events became a little more challenging but it didn't dampen the enthusiasm, efforts and energy from everyone. It was an amazing and thoroughly enjoyable three days that concluded with an awards presentation in school to celebrate the children's achievements and successes

Mrs Scanlon said, "It was a delight to meet such lovely, enthusiastic and eager young people. Every single one of the children gave their all in every activity and made a positive contribution to the camp. We look forward to working with all these children again in the near future."

PRIMARY LINKS Let your voices be heard

This year, we have an ambitious plan for developing further links with our feeder schools on a musical level. Teacher of Music at QPHS, Miss Stanners is currently busy running workshops with our local primaries, to encourage and promote a love of music and most importantly vocal confidence amongst the children.

Each school will receive 3-4 workshops, and begin working on finding their voices, before starting to learn vocal repertoire. The workshops will culminate in a concert, taking place in the Main Hall at QPHS in March 2018, with all of the primary schools involved and our own Year 7 students taking to the stage. The schools will each learn their share of a song as well as having an opportunity to perform a separate piece on their own. It will be a fantastic evening to showcase the amazing talents of our local primary school children together with our own Year 7!









MY FIRST HALF TERM Written by Libby-Anne Parsonage E7STA & Hannah Jones W7JOH

I have loved my first term here. Everything I have done has been great. I settled in really quickly and made lots of friends and all the teachers are so lovely. In English we are doing poems which I love: in Maths we are doing mental work and in Science we are doing cells. Here at Queen's Park we have lots of opportunities like being in School of Rock (our school show) and competitions. Everyone has been so lovely and I can twait until my second term Thank you Queen's Park, thank you! Libby-Anne Parsonage E7STA





My first week at high school went amazingly well and amazingly quick! The staff are so great! They are all over the school and every single one is very encouraging and inspiring. All of the lessons at Queen's Park are really fun. I have made new friends. I've found myself around the school quickly and I hope I have made a good first impression. Overall I love it here at Queen's Park

High School

Hannah Jones W7JOH

OPEN SESSIONS QPHS buzzing with visitors

Over the last month, QPHS have been busy showcasing the extensive opportunities that lie ahead for children when they join our school community, during a number of Open Mornings plus an Open Evening event.

Year 5 and 6 families were invited to come along to discover more about the school and experience 'life at QPHS' during a normal working day.

After an initial presentation by Headteacher, Miss Watterson, outlining the transition process, families were given a tour of the school by members of the Sixth Form. Children had the opportunity to get involved in the range of exciting activities taking place in each subject area; meet teachers and support staff; talk to QPHS students, check out displays of students' work and sample a variety of culinary delights from the canteen.

Those keen for a challenge tested their knowledge in a guiz about the school; booklovers entered a library competition and all got free entry into a prize draw to win a £50 Pizza Express voucher!

Over the last couple of weeks, Mrs Scanlon and Miss Morris have been presenting the lucky winners with their prizes during 'celebration' assemblies at each of the Primary Schools including Belgrave, Chester Blue Coat, Eccleston, Dodleston, Hoole, Lache and Overleigh St Mary's.

Congratulations to the winners and runner ups, in particular, Imogen Last (Chester Blue Coat) who was the overall winner for the prize draw, Sia Dicaprio (Belgrave) who won first prize in the quiz and Geraint Eunson (Belgrave) and Maddie Gandy (OSM) who were both winners in the Library competition.













CONWAY RESIDENTIAL

Year 7 Transition

On Wednesday 13th September our Year 7 group, fresh into high school, embarked on a three day transition residential to the Conway Centre in Anglesey. The purpose of the trip was to create solid foundations within the year group on which to build and progress.

Team building activities were the focus of the trip. Tutors took the lead with their groups, steering them through problem solving, orienteering and water-based activities, with, of course, a huge emphasis on having fun. The residential has now become part of a rolling programme to aid the process of transition for children from Primary School to Secondary School. Staff and students alike benefit from the three days away together, building friendships, trust and unity within their tutor group but also creating a sense of belonging to both their House team and the school.

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

So, congratulations to Dylan Canty in E7STA whose winning article can be read on the next page.









OCTOBER 2017 | QPHS NEWS

Dylar Canty 7ESTA MENAI JOURNAL 2017 WINNER

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NUMERACY CHALLENGE

Improving mental arithmetic in KS3

Ninjas is a numeracy intervention designed to fill gaps in students' basic mental calculation strategies and also to empower them with the numeracy skills and fluency required to fully access GCSE Maths concepts.

As part of the numeracy tutor time activities for Year 7 and 8, all students have a Ninja workbook and challenge themselves to improve their maths skills and attain grand master status.

Congratulations to our 'Top 5' 'Blackbelts' this half term in Year 7: Coby Douglas, Jason Chang, Reece Sharp, Keane Waters and Sam Owens and in Year 8: Callum Parkinson, Daniel Pritchard, Jack Smith, Chloe Read and Vladimira Terzieva. Well Done!

HEGARTY MATHS

KS4 cutting edge on-line resource



On the 29th of September we launched Hegarty Maths to our Year 11 students. We have set all the Year 11 a target of at least two hours a week to help with their revision for mock exams later this term and for the real thing next summer. Our 'Top 5' students have set their sights high and have all achieved well over four hours this week! Please help to support your child by logging on with them and checking their target times.

Our Top 5 'Mathletes' this term are; Alex Binns, Olivia Halewood, Chloe Greensmith, Gwilym Harris and Anusha Kommuru.

Find out more on their website www.hegartymaths.com



NUMERAC





ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME

KS3 initiative ready to launch after Half Term

After October half term, QPHS will be launching an exciting new opportunity for all KS3 students who strive to excel academically across all subjects and those who wish to improve their academic profile.

The Academic Excellence Programme aims to inspire, empower and define those students' academic achievements and develop life transferrable skills. This will be a bespoke programme for the students who are successfully accepted onto the excellence programme. The exciting opportunities will involve guest speakers, online courses, educational visits and subject challenges.

We look forward to the launch of the programme and are excited to work with our fantastic cohort of students.

For further information please speak to Miss Oliver or Miss Sutton.

MARKETING 101

Students get to business with lecturers at the University of Chester



On Tuesday 26th October, 25 Year 8 and 9 students took part in an innovative business and marketing workshop led by Julie Marshall and Jane Martin - lecturers at the University of Chester. Working in collaboration, both the school and the university wanted to offer students a taste of what university study is like and enable them to consider potential career pathways in Business, Marketing and Public Relations.

The session featured a look at marketing strategies that can be used to sell a product or service and students worked in teams to develop their own marketing strategies.

Julie Marshall commented that, *"the pupils were very engaging and exceptional contributors!"*

The session complimented the work the school is already doing in partnership with Enabling Enterprise - embedding enterprise education into our curriculum to support the development of core skills.



Thirst for a challenge, desire to succeed, strive to reach your full potential'

KS3 SINGERS Rehearsals underway

Queen's Park KS3 singers are already rehearsing in preparation for future engagements, including the school's annual Christmas Concert and carol singing at MBNA over the festive period.

The group is open to all students in Years 7 to 9 and is a great opportunity to have fun, whilst singing an excellent repertoire of music. The group decided during the first rehearsal that their first song would be '*A Thousand Years*' by Christina Perri and have set Miss Stanners the task of arranging a version with beautiful harmonies for them to sing!

Along side this, the singers will also start to prepare Christmas songs ready for the festivities after Half Term.

The group is growing in numbers each week and always welcomes new faces!



CVTSA School Direct Training



As part of our role as a strategic school in the Cheshire Vale Teaching School Alliance School Direct programme, Queen's Park High School delivered a whole day of professional development to the alliance's cohort of training teachers. The day's training focused around developing an understanding of 'Behaviour for Learning strategies', Special Educational Needs agenda and policies, along with forging an identity as a teacher. The sessions led by Clare Scanlon, Steve Wilson and Matt Yeoman were all very well received and Queen's Park, yet again, demonstrated it's commitment to the training of the next generation of teachers. We are continuing to work with the CVTSA

to deliver the School Direct Trainee Teacher Programme and in November, we will be hosting an Open Evening for anyone interested in training to be a teacher from September 2018.

CHESS CLUB Check in and Check mate

"Chess is everything: art, science and sport." Anatoly Karpov



A-LEVEL DRAMA EXAM

Sixth Formers perform to a full house

On Friday 22nd September our Year 13 Drama A-level students performed two outstanding devised pieces based on the theatrical styles of Konstantin Stanislavski and Bertholt Brecht.

The performances were incredibly moving and were thoroughly enjoyed by the packed audience of parents and friends who joined them to watch the shows. It goes without saying that the performances will lead to some very strong marks for this unit of the specification which serves as a testament to their creativity and performance talent.



Auditions underway for school musical

Over the past few Wednesdays, students from all year groups have been taking part in workshop auditions for roles in this year's school production, 'School of Rock'.

The audition process culminated at the beginning of October with individual and small group auditions in front of our panel of judges. An announcement will be made shortly listing the names of the final selection for lead roles, but it goes without saying that students have provided some real challenges in terms of casting - there are just too many talented students to choose from!

In the next few months, members of the final cast will be invited on a trip to the West End in London to see the show, take part in a residential weekend to develop the production plus a surprise session for them in December... watch this space!

The school production will be shown over four days from 13th-16th February 2018. Tickets available soon!



The Chess Club has been running since the start of term, attracting students from Year 8 to Year 13 from beginners to experts. You don't need to know how to play; just turn up and watch a game to see if you can pick up the rules. Students are welcome to bring their packed lunches to eat as they play.

For those with a competitive spirit, get ready for the house chess competition running later in the year! Come along and get involved, every Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime with Mr Johnson in M5.

CHESTER LONG DISTANCE SCULLS

QPHS Rowing Triumph

QPHS Rowing Club didn't have to travel far for their first head race of the new season as it was on the River Dee. The event, Chester Long Distance Sculls was a timed race over 5000m from Eccleston to the Meadows.

The Club had seven entries with students ranging from Year 8 to Year 12 taking part.

There were some great results: Zara and Kiera in Year 11 who continued their success with their first win at J16 in this race. Congratulations also to Henry and Morgan W in Year 12 for their first win in their J17 double and to Harrison in Year 12 and Gwilym in Year 11 who rowed with two boys from Northwich Rowing Club to take third overall fastest quad of the day.

Students, coaches, family and friends all volunteered to help out during the day to run the catering stalls, making cakes to sell and generally looking after the seven visiting clubs to our boathouse site, raising much needed funds to purchase new equipment.

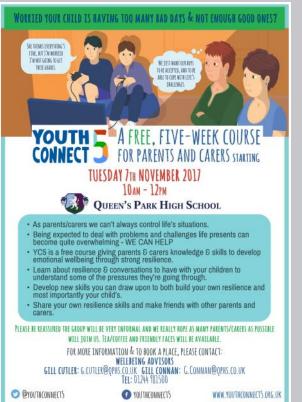




Off the back of some recent fantastic performances, Queen's Park Year 8 football team headed to Chester Catholic High School for what was always going to be a challenging fixture. The first half started off tight with QPHS midfield retaining the ball, but struggling to penetrate the Catholic High defensive line. Freddie Melia opened Queen's Park's scoring and Jonny Hancock added a second with a perfectly executed right foot volley into the top corner of the goal.

This was a sign of things to come from Mr Hancock, as soon after, he drove the ball low past the goalkeeper's left.

Into the second half, QPHS midfield continued to construct chances which paid off as Jonny scored again to complete his hat-trick, quickly followed by Barney Bowen's goal. The performance was topped off by Reece Hollinger (Y7) who scored on his debut performance for the year above. The team hopefully demonstrated a sign of things to come with their impending Cheshire Cup game fast approaching. Final score: QPHS 6-0 CCHS





QPHS VS CCHS Sunshine on a rainy day





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

QUIZ NIGHT

Come and test your knowledge

Please join us for this year's PTA guiz night. It's a quiz with something for everyone including questions on sport, 80's sweets & nostalgia, general knowledge etc. Plus a fun bonus round: match the little known fact to the teacher! It's a great opportunity to have a relaxed and entertaining evening with old and new friends.

Starts 7pm in the Theatre Bar at QPHS. Tickets £10 each (which includes a cheese board) and are on sale now from school reception or to reserve your place, contact: pta@gphs.co.uk Feel free to bring your own bottle! All proceeds will support QPHS students' extra-curricular activities.

We look forward to what promises to be a fun packed evenina!

200 CLUB

Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed to the school's 200 Club over the years. The 200 Club is a school lottery which helps support the students' extra-curricular activities including the school productions, school mini bus, Rowing Club and curriculum trips. It is a great opportunity to support these activities whilst also having a chance of winning a cash prize! Two thirds of the money raised goes towards the students with the remainder allocated as prize money. A winner is drawn every month. You can set up a standing order to the PTA for as little as £1 a month!

Congratulations to recent winners: Sharon Rowlands, Ruth Davidson, Andrew Firman, Sue Benson and Richard Cox.

We would love more people to join and it is very easy to do. If you are interested please contact Anne Williams via email: anne.williams101@gmail.com

Date	Event	Time	Date	Event	Time
23 October	Year 11 Geography Trip to Liverpool 1	All Day	20 November - 1 December	Year 11 Mocks	2 weeks
25 October	Review Evening	4.30pm - 7pm	22 November	Year 5 Curriculum Challenge Day (Dee Schools Partnership)	All Day
26 October	Review Day	All Day	25 November	Hampton School Small Boats Head Rowing Event TBC	
30 October - 3 November	AUTUMN HALF TERM		4 December	Citizenship Day 2	All Day
6 November	INSET DAY	All Day	6 December	Sixth Form Psychology Trip to London Freud Museum	All Day
7 November	School re-opens for all students	8.40am	6 December	Awards Evening	6.30pm - 8pm
9 November	Full Governing Body Meeting	5.00pm	13 December	Year 11 Parents' Evening	4.30pm - 7pm
12 November	Northwich Autumn Head Rowing Event		19 December	Christmas Concert	7pm - 9.30pm
15 November	Year 12 & 13 Parents' Evening	4.30pm - 7pm	25 December - 5 January	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	
17 November	Quiz Night	7pm - 9.30pm	8 January	School re-opens for all students	8.40am

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