



Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future

19 December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Term ended today. This autumn term has been packed with learning and teaching activity, with everyone focused on progress and development in their studies and for staff, in their areas of work.

Schools are communities and we involve ourselves in many things quite apart from learning and teaching. Increasingly we rightly focus on matters of wellbeing and there is much in the news to indicate the types of issues that our students experience and our staff manage on a daily basis. We will be launching a wellbeing survey for parents, students and staff in January and I will be writing to you again about all of that and how any findings might impact on school processes.

Another area of concern this term has been the financial crisis looming for schools of every phase in Barnet. Through the MP for Finchley, Finchley Heads were able to meet with Nick Gibb, the Minister of State for Education. During that meeting Mr Gibb was given the letter shared with Barnet families through their schools and he was also given information from individual schools noting the impact that funding cuts has had on their provision. The initiative for all Headteachers to send the same letter to their families and local MPs supported a debate on Education Funding in the House of Lords where Barnet schools' concerns were specifically raised. Please continue to send to Theresa Villiers, our local MP for Chipping Barnet, your responses to the letter I emailed home to you recently. Thank you to those of you who have already written to Ms Villiers and copied me in to the email. Her email address is theresa.villiers@parliament.uk

Words can be powerful, particularly when they are from a perspective of knowledge and experience. Coming together as one voice is supportive action which will no doubt continue the momentum started.

The school recently set up the North London Hub for the National SCITT for Physics and Mathematics teachers, with our joint partner, the Camden School for Girls. We will provide training for Mathematics and Physics trainee teachers to achieve QTS and a PGCE qualification. I will be able to give you more information on this in the New Year. It is an exciting development for the school and supports our vision for STEM education at the school both now and in the future.

Last week we were able to come together as a community of students, staff and families to enjoy music and readings at our Carol Service at St John's, Barnet. Music continues to play a prominent part in school life and our growing choirs are evidence of that prominence.

I do hope you enjoy reading the December Newsletter and latest edition of QE Girl, recently emailed to families. Your positive feedback on these publications is appreciated. Lastly, thank you for your good wishes and congratulations following publication of the school's progress results; your support is valuable and valued. On behalf of all the staff, I wish you and your families a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, good health and seasonal cheer.

Yours sincerely

Violet Walker
Headteacher