



Founded in 1888

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January

# Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School In The News

## ITN



Welcome to the new calendar year and the school spring term. January's edition of ITN reports on a number of sixth form opportunities including a new speaker programme and off site visits to enhance curriculum study and personal development. January always offers the time frame to initiate new after school activities appropriate to the season and final planning for Booster classes and Masterclasses following the Mock examinations that have pre-occupied students and staff in the early part of this month. The themes for assemblies this month have reflected school values. They have included Leadership and Responsibility and also Courage. The school commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day with the assembly theme for the week, "Torn from Home".



**MYRIAD**  
My resilience in adolescence

**We are working on a research project at the University of Oxford called MYRIAD.**

MYRIAD stands for **My Resilience In Adolescence**. Resilience is the ability to adapt in the face of difficulties. We are interested in how schools promote young people's wellbeing and resilience.



## The Myriad Project

Our work to support the research of the University of Oxford's Psychiatry department continues. Feedback from students remains positive and the university's School Liaison Co-ordinator, Jem Shackleford remains highly enthused with our level of participation. Jem's most recent feedback to the Headteacher states

"You have so many factors now in place to help this land well and for the next few years, myself and all the team in Oxford will be alongside you, your staff, pupils and parents to offer any support we can. We want to help you support your staff and pupils during the project as well as leaving behind a legacy and something sustainable for you long after it has ended."

*Mrs Parker, Assistant Headteacher, School Leader for Myriad Project*

## Sixth Form Politics and History Guest, Chipping Barnet MP Theresa Villiers

Mr Hilton, Teacher of Politics, invited our local MP Theresa Villiers to give a talk and lead a Question and Answer session with our sixth form Politics students on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January. Mr Clarkson, Head of History joined the group along with his History sixth form students, Ms Southwell, Assistant Headteacher (Head of Sixth Form), Mrs Walker and other interested and available staff.



Ms Villiers spoke to the audience about her own education up until she completed university and professional qualifications, to become a lawyer. Ms Villiers also spoke about the opportunities and experiences that had supported her to take on various roles in Party Politics including her Cabinet position. Our students then enjoyed a Q&A session where they posed a series of questions on both local and national issues. Of course Brexit loomed large. Ms Villiers took time to answer the students' questions and then to reflect them back to hear the students' own views too. The staff present commented on the articulate construction of questions that one might consider to be quite challenging for our local MP at this present time. There were the makings of a healthy debate and Ms Villiers said she would be pleased to visit again.

Mr Hilton is organising a series of speakers representing diverse political views and groups.

*Sixth Form Politics students' editorial*

## 'I'm not running' – Politics Theatre Visit – Year 12

On the 23rd January 2019 nine politics students, including me, visited the National Theatre in London to spectate the new play 'I'm Not Running' by fascinating director David Hare. We all felt very fortunate to visit the extremely prestigious National Theatre which added to our



excitement around the trip. The context of 'I'm Not Running' involves a junior doctor named Pauline Gibson, who becomes the face of a campaign to save her local hospital. The play is her story of her journey from being thrust from angel of the NHS, to becoming an independent MP. Originally, our collective thoughts surrounding what we would learn from the political play were that we would purely develop our knowledge of the history of the Labour Party and how political campaigns are run. While our awareness about those topics, which we study in politics, were greatly advanced through the help of the production and learning from the play, in addition, the astounding production helped humanise politicians in a world where many view politicians as 'sleazy' and 'corrupt'. This was particularly made evident when the character of Pauline Gibson crossed paths with her university boyfriend, Jack

Gould, a stalwart Labour loyalist who is climbing the ranks of the party. As the play progresses there are flashbacks into her past life of struggle to look after her gravely ill alcoholic mother, conflicted with her desire to retain her position in university along with her supportive boyfriend. David Hare's explosive new play portrays personal choices and their public consequences, through a twenty year intimate friendship. This portrayal really enabled the audience, especially us politics students, to place politicians in the category of humans, who experience personal issues, along with political problems and scandals. The latter published for public scrutiny without taking account of the individual as a human being thereby perhaps enabling empathy. This ideology is evident as during 'I'm Not Running', media and public pressure mounts on Pauline to run for leadership of the Labour party which puts her in the difficult position of ruining her twenty-year long personal relationship, or losing her newly respected opinion within the Houses of Parliament. As a result, the

audience's insight into Pauline Gibson's political journey helped educate us on multiple levels across all our topics of study. Firstly, it enabled us to develop our knowledge of the Labour Party and its history, further, it facilitated our understanding of campaigns and how politicians rise through the ranks and lastly, it deeply advanced our empathy towards politicians and humanised them to help us see them in a different light. This will add a new dimension to our work within political studies.

*Lillie Finney, Sixth Form Student*

## **Women of the future - Networking with Aviva's inclusion and diversity team.**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2019, I was fortunate enough to be chosen as one of 40 students nationally (5 from QEGS) to go on a trip to the Aviva London head-quarters to network with women who have worked their way up in different areas of the insurance company, the largest general insurance provider in the UK.

Although I had previously not considered a career in insurance or anything corporate, I was intrigued to see the possibilities and the different ways that people, especially young women, can build and fortify their careers whilst constantly working against the societal standard and stereo-typical projections of women. For instance, a lady who works with the diversity and inclusion team at Aviva had previously gained a degree in primary education before venturing else-where.

A woman that was particularly inspiring for me and the other girls was Mimi Otohwo, Deputy MLRO and Senior Manager of Financial Crime at Aviva investors. Mimi detailed how she had initially studied law at university but found that she was able to venture into other career paths using soft skills such as enthusiasm, initiative and kindness which would propel her to do well regardless of the working environment. As a female of colour who managed to balance a constantly progressing career whilst raising a family, she showed that constant hard-work, self-reflection and a desire for satisfaction will result in you being able to 'have it all' regardless of how the odds may be stacked against you.

On a final note, Caroline Prendergast, Interim Chief People officer at Aviva, noted she had thought she was incompetent regarding certain opportunities that were offered to her. Despite sometimes doubting herself, she was insistent on 'always saying yes' and 'giving everything a go' meaning that she could find out her inner strengths and enhance skills that she may not have thought she had.

Being a young ambitious female with lots of dreams and aspirations, it is easy to be doubtful about the prospect of all my visions coming to fruition, however those two quotes from the women with whom I spoke, in addition to seeing all the other inspirational women at the event, will stick with me every day that I am faced with new challenges and scenarios where I may question my suitability. I am encouraged to give everything a go and see where life may take me!

*Jessica Mtemeri, , Sixth Form Student*



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*"You can really only enjoy  
life when you're  
extremely busy."*

*Josephine de La Baume*

## Dates for Your Diary

For further details of all events, please visit our website and use the following link to the school calendar pages:

<https://www.qegschool.org.uk/calendar/?calid=2&pid=6&viewid=1>

### February

7

- Year 9 Parents' Evening

12

- Half day closure for Staff Professional Development

15

- Year 11 Spanish trip to Cantabria and Basque Country for cultural enrichment linked with the Year 11 curriculum

18

- Half Term Holiday Week Begins

25

- Year 9 Options Evening

### March

7

- Year 7 Parents' Evening

15

- Year 12 Psychology Students attend Phobias Workshop at London Zoo

18

- Year 10 Geography Epping Forrest Field Trip to gain experience of fieldwork

20

- Year 12 Post 18 Information Evening

21

- Year 8 Parents' Evening

The school calendar, news and events items, letters from school, statutory policies, curriculum, governance, exam performance data, inspection reports and other information, the school and the sixth form prospectus are all available on the school website

[www.qegschool.org.uk](http://www.qegschool.org.uk)

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