



Founded in 1888

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March

Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School In The News *ITN*



Welcome to our final spring term Newsletter. March has been another month filled with activity and opportunity for all of our students and staff. We hope you enjoy reading about some of these events, captured here as reflections or narrative.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families and friends of the school, a restful and enjoyable spring break. For those of our community who will be celebrating particular religious festivals and events such as Easter or Pesach, we wish you well with those and look forward to hearing all about them from students and staff on return to school on 23rd April.

KS3 Art

This term Year 7 students have been learning about colour theory and how to use different painting techniques such as sgraffito, scumbling, impasto and dry brushing. They have worked hard to scale up observational drawings of fish to A3 size and they have been applying their technical knowledge to a final piece. The examples below are of work in progress by *Isabella and Tamsin in 7HSA*. The next stage is to add in further details, carefully using a fine paint brush and black paint.



Year 8 have been working on self-portraits inspired by the Fauvist use of bright, bold colours. They experimented with different colour combinations and a range of painting techniques and were challenged to work on a much larger scale.

Fauvism is the style of *les Fauves* (French for "the wild beasts"), a group of early twentieth-century artists whose works emphasised strong colour and paint techniques over the representational or realistic values retained by Impressionism. Year 8 researched this Art movement, producing informative research pages focusing on the leaders of the movement, Andre Derain and [Henri Matisse](#).

Portraits by Winona and Eloise in 8ABL



Year 9 have been working their way through a series of workshops this year exploring contemporary artists and learning new techniques in preparation for GCSE. The most recent workshop has introduced them to the work of The Chapman Brothers, whose series of etchings entitled 'Exquisite Corpse' were based on a game, developed by the [Surrealists](#) from the traditional game of Consequences. Year 9 have explored the technique of collage and created their own weird and wonderful Exquisite Corpses which they then turned into mono prints. Over the next few lessons they will then collage back into their mono prints to add further patterns and textures, as well as use paints, chalk and charcoal to add tone.

Mono prints by Madison and Phoebe in 9RPE



Science Week

This year to celebrate British Science Week, the science department ran a fun packed afternoon filled with activities which proved to be very popular.

Activities included:

- A poster competition for which students submitted and presented their scientific research on the theme 'Journey'
- Interactive practicals where students explored the adaptations of a cuttlefish and learned about exothermic reactions and conducted flame tests on various metals
- Opportunities to learn about the non-Newtonian nature of Oobleck (named after the green substance mentioned in the Dr Seuss book, "Bartholomew and the Oobleck"). Oobleck is neither a solid nor a liquid; students explored its behaviour
- Science games to test knowledge of the periodic table, specialised cells and atomic structure
- Model making of DNA, to understand complementary base pairing

Students across all key stages were able to hear talks from guest speakers. These were Imperial College, London University INSPIRE students who are completing their post graduate certificates of education to qualify as teachers. As part of the INSPIRE programme, Imperial College ran interactive sessions on 'The chemistry of perfumery' and 'Investigating density'.





Ms Ramazanoglulari, Teacher of Chemistry

Year 10 Geography Fieldtrip to Epping Forest

On Monday 18th March all of the Year 10 Geographers participated in a day's physical fieldwork at Epping Forest FSC Centre. Fieldwork is a compulsory aspect of the Geography GCSE as students are assessed on it in their Paper 2 exam. The purpose of this field trip, was for students to undertake fieldwork to investigate how and why drainage basin characteristics and channel characteristics influence flood risk for people and property along Debden Brook, Loughton.

The day started with students developing their knowledge of the local area in which they were investigating, including a short walk from the FSC Centre in to Epping Forest, to understand how the river develops from its source in the forest as a result of the underlying impermeable rock; many students were surprised that the 'mud' that was dug up from the forest floor was in fact clay and very similar to the clay that they have used in Art!

After an early lunch, it was time to visit the river. Once at Debden Brook each class visited two different sites along the river's course to complete their fieldwork. Using a range of equipment including a tape measure, metre stick, 30cm ruler, cork and stopwatch, students had to carry out fieldwork to measure the rivers' width, depth, velocity, as well as sediment size and shape. After some initial reluctance, students embraced the task, got in the river and completed their fieldwork! In addition, other fieldwork techniques used included drawing field sketches of each site to identify the different drainage basin characteristics, as well as completing a 'risk rating' to assess the flood risk at each site.

Despite some very wet feet (where some learnt the hard way their wellies had holes in them, or weren't tall enough!) the field trip was a success, with students developing their fieldwork skills and collecting data which will now be presented, analysed and evaluated, ensuring that they are well prepared for the physical fieldwork aspect of their exam.



Ms Beavis, Head of Humanities

International Women's Day Events in school



This year we welcomed two visitors to school, Louise Hosking and Michelle Muxworthy, Vice Presidents of IOSH. This is a Health and Safety body, traditionally a male oriented domain. Louise works as our Health and Safety Consultant; all schools are obliged to employ an external consultant as well as have someone on their staff with full NEBOSH qualifications. We are proud that when Mr Laing completed the NEBOSH course and sat the examinations, he achieved the full qualification with Distinction at first sitting. A rare occurrence in the field.

Louise and Michelle shared their personal journey from school to career during assembly and also gave a bespoke talk to sixth form students of Health and Social Care.



Year 8 students held a fund-raising cake sale and the sixth form collected sanitary products which were delivered to the local food and supplies bank. Kirstie's account of this follows below.



Period Poverty is one of the greatest taboo subjects in modern society. A woman's menstrual cycle has always carried a terribly negative stigma, with women in Nepal being forced to move out of their homes whilst on their period, a practice known as *chhaupadi*, insinuating that a woman is somehow unclean when she is bleeding. In Nepal and other countries such as India, many women have no access to sanitary products. However, period poverty is not just restricted to the developing world. In the UK, it is estimated that one in ten girls are unable to afford sanitary products, and around 40% of women have had to at some point use toilet roll because they could not afford the necessary menstrual products. Such products are called sanitary products for a reason – using alternatives such as cloth, socks, and toilet roll is actually very dangerous, as it is unsanitary and can lead to severe health problems. Therefore it is imperative for all girls to have access to an adequate quality and quantity of sanitary products.

Yet, period poverty is spoken about so little that even I did not truly consider it as a possibility until a few years ago, even when I was campaigning for other women's issues. The statistics are harrowing. In the UK, the average lifetime cost of having a period is £4,800, and very possibly much more for many women. 137,700 British children have reportedly missed school as a result

of period poverty, with 68% reporting that it negatively affected their ability to focus in school. If a female student missed school every time they had their period, they would be about 145 days behind their male peers. Therefore, it came to my great delight when Ms Ward announced that there would be one-off donation of sanitary products and toiletries to the local food bank!

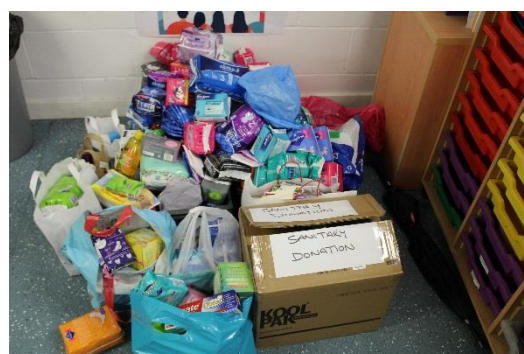
Thus, the rush began. A group of dedicated and eager volunteers in Year 12 comprised of Martyna Smolinska, Chloe Goes, Emily Siu, and myself had a week to create and smother the corridors of the school in posters; go into forms and assemblies to spread the message; find and put out boxes and make a collection point; and create a display outside the library, which involved nervously trying to tame the staple gun, and wrestling for at least an hour to get the background paper into place. At the same time, Ms Knott and her form organised a cake sale in order to purchase more sanitary products and toiletries for the collection, which was extremely successful!

In the end, our collection was more successful than any of us could have ever anticipated. The donations kept coming until the next week! It received such an incredible response from the girls, and on International Women's Day we had collected at least a dozen boxes, crates, and bags filled to the brim with everything from pads and tampons to toothpaste and moisturiser, which all went to the local food bank earlier this week. I firmly believe that this helped to greatly improve the girls' social consciousness, and spark new conversations within the school.

A few days after our collection, entitled the 'Battling Period Poverty' campaign, Phillip Hammond announced that from September a budget would be allocated to fund free sanitary products for children in schools. Furthermore, the NHS announced that female patients would receive free products for their period whilst in hospitals. Previously, women in hospitals had no access to menstrual products, even though men were entitled to razors. Without a doubt, these new policies are extremely overdue, and also a huge step in the right direction. However, many women both in the UK and around the world will still be deprived of safe and affordable period products, which is why collections such as ours are so important.

For more information on period poverty, I highly recommend researching the incredible charity Bloody Good Period, which provides sanitary products for homeless women and asylum seekers in the UK; Free Periods; and the Academy Award-winning Netflix documentary 'Period. End of Sentence'.

Kirstie Harrison Dunne, Year 12 student



Music Department visit to the Theatre

On the 20th of March the pupils in Years 10 and 11 who are studying GCSE music, went to the Victoria Apollo Theatre, to watch the performance of the musical Wicked. This show features the song Defying Gravity, performed by Alice Fearn, who plays Elphaba. This is one of the set works that we study as part of our course. Therefore seeing it live was really helpful to us to understand the way the piece is performed and delivered, and its importance to the drama of the show. This will help us immensely when studying the piece more critically in the future through getting to know the way it is structured. The whole show was incredible and I think everyone that went would say they had a terrific time. Even the tube ride there was fun! Everyone had an amazing time singing along and watching a wonderful score come alive!

Sophie Bingham, Year 10



National Modern Foreign Languages Competition



From 7th - 9th March, girls studying French and Spanish in KS4 took part in an online national competition with thisislanguage.com. This website enables girls to revise vocabulary, practice grammar and respond to authentic videos about key topics. Over the weekend, students competed against each other in fast-paced vocabulary games, working up to Level 15 to qualify for the final, with 8% of 13,000 students qualifying.

Congratulations to all who took part, in particular Catie Davis, Martha Green, Temi Akinyemi and Prabashini Rajapakse (Y10 French) for their fantastic performances and to Catie for being the highest ranking QE girl reaching Level 25. Félicitations!

Ms Brett, Teacher of French

*"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>

April

4

- Year 11 Progress Evening

5

- Last day of Spring Term

7

- KS4 French students visit to Nice, returning April 12

23

- First day of Summer Term

25

- Year 11 Drama Students theatre visit to see Woman in Black

26

- Year 12 Biology Field Trip to Dorking, returning April 29

May

2

- Year 10 Parents' Evening

3

- Year 10 Careers Day

8

- Year 12 English Literature students theatre visit to see All My Sons

9

- Year 8 HPV vaccinations

10

- Commemoration Day

21

- International Cultural Diversity Day at school

27

- **Half Term Week**

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

Follow us on Twitter @qegsbarnet and @VioletWalker13

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