



Founded in 1888

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November and  
December

# Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School In The News

## *ITN*



This has been a particularly busy second half of term. The Newsletter includes a flavour of all the activities with which the students have busied themselves. I hope you enjoy reading their accounts and those of the staff.

Our final school event of the year was shared with families and friends of the school who joined students and staff at our annual Carol Service. The celebrations of the season and musical performances from our students were a fitting end to the term. The students' performances were impressive and the programme prepared by Mr Verma was especially enjoyable.

All good wishes to you for a joyous, festive season and a good year ahead.

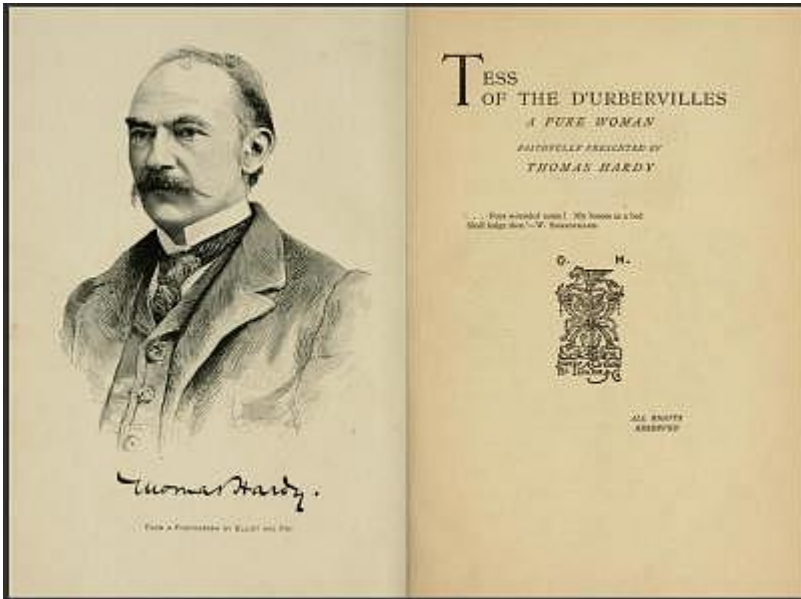
***Reminder that the spring term starts on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020. School gates open at 11.00am for a prompt start at 11.20am with Period 3 lesson, Week 2 of the Timetable.***



School singers entertaining the Dementia Café visitors at Barnet Hospital. Appearance requested by popular demand! The students' performance programme included Christmas songs and carols and they raised over £100 for the charity supporting Dementia research.

"We had a very nice time at Barnet Hospital. Not only did we sing to the positive, smiling patients and staff, but we were also able to raise money for the hospital. Everyone was very supportive and it was an honour to sing there. I thank Barnet Hospital for the great and enjoyable time there." *Akua, Year 9*

## Hardy Trip 2019



After a scrumptious breakfast at the Premier inn, we boarded the coach and headed off towards Dorchester, known in Hardy's novels as Casterbridge. Upon arriving in the picturesque and bustling town, we picked up Alastair, our eccentric and knowledgeable guide, who amused us all on the journey to Higher Bockhampton in Stinsford, with his witty sense of humour and engrossing facts about Hardy and the surrounding area. Upon arriving in Higher Bockhampton, the place where Thomas Hardy was born, we took a trip through the woods in which Hardy would have played in as a child and no doubt inspired some of his poems, one of which Alastair read aloud to us in the woodland. We then walked to the small heath near Hardy's birthplace, which he named Egdon Heath. We read the extract of Tess of the D'Urbervilles in which Tess crosses the Heath on

her way to Talbothays Dairy, looking out over Hardy's Vale of Great Dairy's, or Frome Valley. We then made our way to Hardy's home in which he was born, overlooking the quaint cottage and gardens whilst Alastair read an extract from Under the Greenwood Tree. The cottage in the story resembles that of the cottage just in front of us. After looking at a monument dedicated to Hardy, just outside his home and erected by some of his American admirers, we head back on the coach and make our way to the house that Hardy likely used to inspire the creation of Talbothays Dairy. Whilst beginning to read an extract from Tess of the D'Urbervilles in which Angel Clare is playing the harp in the garden of Talbothays, and Tess hears him and is captivated by the music, we receive a surprise that hasn't yet happened on the English Literature Hardy trip. While usually, the extract is read outside the house in the yard, this time, we were invited inside to see Tess' bedroom! It was amazing to be able to go up to the attic and imagine Tess' story taking place up there and even better when we got to stand in the garden in the same place where Angel Clare stood playing his harp, whilst we read the scene itself! After that fantastic experience, we got back on the coach and headed towards the place where Hardy's heart is buried. Yes, that's right - his heart. Whilst Thomas Hardy's ashes are scattered in Poets corner in Westminster Abbey in London, his heart (and possibly a very hungry cat!) is buried in St Michaels Churchyard in Stinsford, right next to the church that Hardy attended in his youth. After reading a couple of poems by Hardy's grave, which were based predominantly upon Hardy's fascination with ghosts, we headed inside the church and filed into the pews. It was incredible to see the name Angel Grey carved onto a plaque high upon the walls of the church and learn that it was likely the place in which Hardy got his inspiration for his character, Angel Clare's, name. The fact that Thomas Hardy's eyes gazed upon the same things that we did whilst in the church does not fail to astound me. After that, we took a trip to Max Gate, Thomas Hardy's house that he built himself in 1885 and lived there first with his first wife Emma, and then with his second wife, Florence, until his death in 1928. We read a poem that Thomas Hardy wrote about his late pet cat and then visited the pet cemetery that stood in the copse next to the front of the house. Exhausted but full of enjoyable memories, we got back on the coach and returned to Dorchester. We bade farewell to Alastair and set off to explore Thomas Hardy's historic and beautiful Casterbridge.

*Charlotte, Year 13 student*

## Barnet Partnership for School Sport



This term Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School played host to a number of Barnet Partnership for School Sport (BPSS) events, including;

- Year 5&6 Sportshall Athletics Qualifiers
- Year 5&6 Sportshall Athletics Finals
- Year 7&8 Boys Sportshall Athletics
- Year 7&8 Girls Sportshall Athletics
- KS3 Boys Badminton
- KS4 Boys Badminton
- KS3 Girls Badminton
- KS4 Girls Badminton

In total just over one thousand young people from across 39 schools in the London Borough of Barnet participated in these events. A big thank you to the school for their fantastic hospitality in accommodating such substantial numbers of visitors, in particular the PE department, reception staff and caretakers.

We were grateful to the brilliant young leaders from 9JPR who dedicated 10 hours towards helping deliver both the qualifiers and final of the Year 5&6 Sportshall Athletics events. They were a credit to themselves and the school, without their help these events would not have been possible. We look forward to working with young leaders from the school at future events.

Lastly, well done to all those students who have represented the school this term at various fixtures and events. Congratulations to the KS3 Badminton team, Bella Radley, Sara Chong, Shaamalai Senthuran and Urmi Bhambhani, who won Bronze at the KS3 Girls' Badminton tournament.

We look forward to seeing our students representing the school at fixtures and events in the Spring Term.

*Mr Betts - School Games Organiser, BPSS*

## QEGS Athletics Team



The QEGS athletics team took part in their first event together competing against many other great teams in Barnet. We took part in a wide range of events placing differently each time, we had not had a lot of time to practice so considering that I think we did very well. We have many other events that we are going to have the opportunity to take part in throughout the school year so hopefully now that we know each other better and will have practiced more we can become even better. Overall it was a really fun experience and it was great to represent our school for the first time!

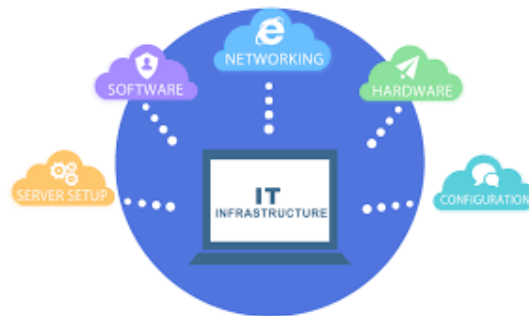
*Daisy, Year 7*

## IT Infrastructure Works

You may be aware from previous communications that we are currently undertaking a large scale IT infrastructure project to update our aging school IT network. As part of this project, we are recabling, adding wireless access points and also improving access speeds. The project is progressing well and we have further works scheduled for the Christmas holiday period as well.

I am also pleased to share that we have recently taken receipt of some new computers for our school library and Sixth Form Study Centre. This is part of a donation from an Endowment fund that exists for the schools of Queen Elizabeth the First in Barnet. I am sure that this will help all students with their studies, already the computers have been very well received.

*Mr Laing, Assistant Headteacher*



## Computer Club Outreach with AgeUK

For over a decade, the school has provided Computing sessions for local residents aged over 55 years old. For a period of 6 weeks this term, a group of older learners were buddied with members of our Sixth Form who tutored them on topics such as how to use a mobile phone, sending emails and an introduction to social media. The sessions were incredibly successful and there was a fantastic atmosphere in the class. In addition to learning IT, it was wonderful to hear our Sixth Form students interacting with our older learners and hearing of their life experiences. Such a unique and interesting experience for our Sixth Form students.



## Year 11 Computing Students Visit the National Museum of Computing

To support their studies of Computer Architecture, our GCSE Computer Scientists visited the National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park. The museum is cited as one of England's top 100 'irreplaceable places' due to the vast array of functioning computer equipment that is housed there, with some computers being over 80 years old. The class learned about code breaking during World War II and were fortunate enough to see an Enigma machine in action (even though it was due to be closed for maintenance on the day we visited). A particular highlight of the day was the opportunity to use the BBC Micro Computer suite (the largest in the world) in order to code the retro 'Snake' game. Needless to say, it was very challenging adapting to a text based environment without all of the time saving features a modern computer offers! Another exciting element of the trip was the opportunity to use a variety of old computers including the Apple Mac Classic, the Sinclair Spectrum and an array of games consoles such as the Sega Megadrive and the Nintendo Entertainment System. Overall, the day was both enjoyable and very informative, including many opportunities to consolidate the learning that has been taking place in class.



*Mr Laing, Assistant Headteacher*

## House System



This term the school has been preparing to introduce a new House System. Through tutor time activities and assemblies, students have learnt about the impact that a House System can have in developing a stronger school community across all year groups, in establishing a sense of belonging and identity as well as connecting students and staff through healthy competition and collaboration. All students have also voted for their favourite house theme and have been placed into one of the seven houses being introduced.

The House System has allowed us to introduce new leadership roles to Year 12 students in the form of Head of House and Deputy Head of House. The competition for selection was extremely difficult but we are pleased to congratulate the following students on their successful applications.

Head of House	Deputy Head of House
Amy Jamieson	Abi Welsh
Ella Murphy	Aderinola Elegbede
Eva de Souza	Emma Abdi
Lola McElarney	Khouria Bruce-Acolatse
Natasha Kadri	Louisa Kyprianou
Phoebe Radley	Matylida Orlovic
Sienna Siu	Nadia Ziad

We are very excited to begin our first set of events and competitions following the Christmas holiday, whereby students can win points for their house to attain the title of 'House of the Year'.

*Ms Campbell, Head of Year*

## Year 9 Charity Work

### Year 9 Reverse Advent calendar

9CBS have been organising a reverse advent calendar throughout December which all Year 9 forms have contributed to. A reverse advent calendar is a simple way to make a big difference to your local community at Christmas time. A variety of items ranging from tins of beans, to biscuits, to shower gel have kindly been donated, which will be taken to the local food bank. A big thank you to all of those who have donated this year!

*Ms Beavis, Head of Humanities*



## Christmas Cards to Care Homes

As a form we have used our lunch times to write Christmas cards to send to various Care Homes in the UK. We hope that we can spread a little joy this holiday and make somebody feel thought off and not lonely this holiday.

9CHY



## REMINDERS

### Inclement Weather

A reminder that sometimes we might have cause to close the school or to make alternative access arrangements in response to inclement weather. In such circumstances, we will post a scrolling message on our school website ([www.qegschool.org.uk](http://www.qegschool.org.uk)) by 7am. We will also endeavour to send a text message and/or email at this time though please be aware that sometimes there can be delays in bulk messages being delivered by our provider. It is always our intention to keep the school open whenever possible however if access is unsafe or conditions are unfit, we sometimes have no choice in the matter.

### Safeguarding is everybody's business



### Start of next term!

Spring Term starts on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The gates will be open from 11.00am for a prompt start to Period 3 lessons at 11.20am. It will be Week 2 of the Timetable.

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

*Josephine de La Baume*

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## 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>

### January

6

- **Spring Term Starts**

8

- Duke of Edinburgh Scheme Participant Evening 3.30 – 4.30pm

9

- Geography Iceland Trip Briefing 6.00 – 6.30pm

10

- Sixth Form Experience Day for Y11

13

- Duke of Edinburgh Parent Information Evening 6.00 – 7.30pm

15

- UCAS Application Submission Deadline

16

- Year 11 Parents' Evening

17

- Sixth Form Deadline for Year 11 transition forms to be received

18 – 19

- *Film Skool* Editing Weekend

20

- Year 11 meetings re sixth form choices

22

- Pastoral Rolling Programme for all year groups

23

- MFL French Trip to Nice meeting

30

- Year 2 and Y13 Progress Evening - invited students only
- Year 7 Your Life You Choose Event

## February

3

- Year 10 GCSE Art visit to Tring Natural History Museum 9.30am – 3.30pm

4

- Pastoral Rolling Programme for all year groups
- Early Closure for Staff Continuing Professional Development

6

- Key Stage 3 Poetry Workshop 1.30pm – 3.15pm
- Year 9 Parents' Evening

11

- KS5 Spanish Play performance – La Casa Da Bernarda Alba 1.00 – 5.30pm

12

- Year 7 Parents' Evening

13

- KS5 Sociology trip to the Old Bailey and London Dungeons 8.00am – 7.00pm

14 – 18

- Years 10 and 11 Geography GCSE Trip to Iceland

17 – 21

- Spring Half Term Break

24

- Year 9 Options Evening 6.00 – 8.00pm

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)

Follow us on Twitter @qegsbarnet and @VioletWalker13

Contact the school via [office@qegschool.org.uk](mailto:office@qegschool.org.uk)