



Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future

Friday 16 December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

End of Autumn Term 2022

The term is ending today and I wanted to write my usual letter, looking back at some of the events we have all enjoyed this term and also looking forward to next term and the new year.

Celebration of Excellence

On Thursday 8 September, we were delighted to host the Celebration of Excellence event, to celebrate students whose achievements during 2021 and 2022 were recognised as prize worthy. We were pleased to invite as guest speaker, Miss Hilda Wiredu, a past student, and current trainee solicitor at Clyde & Co. who gave an inspirational talk to our students and all guests present, balancing the poignancy of the news of the Queen's death just as our event was starting. We were honoured to have Gill Williams and Vivienne Bell with us as guests and Nick Jones, Barnet Society reporter, was particularly interested when I included their connection to the Queen in my address to everyone gathered. He wanted to hear more of their experience of the Queen's visit to the school, her first to a state school after her coronation, in 1957, when Gill and Vivienne were students at the school. They were featured in the next day's edition of Barnet Society and have become true celebrities as the BBC evening news producers organised a subsequent interview with them at school. The BBC even sourced some unseen footage of the Queen's visit from their archives which they shared with Gill and Vivienne, much to their surprise.



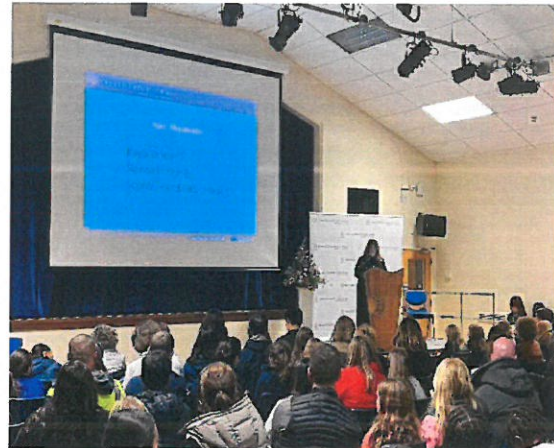
Open Evening

On 26 September, we welcomed prospective Year 6 students and their parents and carers to our Open Evening to tour the school, meet the teachers and attend one of three talks by the Headteacher. Each faculty showcased their subjects in various classroom workshops around the school to give the prospective students a flavour of that subject, to engage their interest and imaginations. The event was well attended with over 1500 people through the door and attending the talks.



Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future



Matilda Theatre Trip



On 5 October, the Matilda Jr cast and crew, this year's much anticipated musical production, travelled to the Cambridge Theatre to see the lauded production of Matilda the Musical. They returned to school brimming with great ideas and filled with inspiration to ensure our school show in November was utterly fabulous.

National Poetry Day



Year 7 students wrote a poem on the subject of the environment for National Poetry Day on the 6 October. Some chose to recite their poems at our poetry recital in the library. The poems are now on display in the library for all to enjoy.



Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future

We were all delighted when Nerys in Year 9 won a commendation in the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award, on 4 November, run by the Poetry Society. You can see her poem on the school website. Nerys' poem was one of 100 chosen from over 13,500 poems from across the world (15 winners and 85 commended). It was a remarkable achievement.

Cross Country

On 12 October, students took part in a Cross Country Event at Oakhill Park held for all Secondary Schools in Barnet. The students performed well at the trials and showed great determination and effort.

Two of the students placed in the top ten in the Borough and have been invited to represent the Barnet at the London Youth Games.

Bertha Earth

Bertha Earth is a company working with secondary schools to advocate and envisage a world where every child inherits a healthy, thriving planet.

Bertha Earth's mission is to grow a diverse network of young environmental leaders and change makers who reignite a love for our planet. Bertha Earth came into the school to deliver an exciting new programme to the year 7 cohort, focusing on activism, confidence and making an impact. The year 7's had a day off timetable exploring how amazing the planet can be through both practical and theory lessons.

One student wrote:

"I think it is really important to be curious because you should always ask questions about the earth and ask what you can do to help! I am curious to help and learn about the planet, and also how I can contribute to help as much as I can, whilst being closer to nature."

Below is a photo of our Nature Detectives, on the Bertha Earth launch day, exploring the vast school grounds and seeing the different textures which are right on their doorstep. These included acorns, flowers and dragonflies.

We look forward to choosing our Bertha Earth Ambassadors, roles which will allow students to explore and engage in their views on the environment through an exciting week-long residential visit to Jamie's Farm. The Bertha Earth Team will also deliver a weekly programme as part of the school's super curriculum programme.





Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future

Year 13 Geography Fieldtrip to Dorset

Year 13 geographers visited Dorset to complete a range of fieldwork activities in preparation for their NEA - non examined assessment. Students travelled to Dorset and started their fieldwork on coastal management in Swanage. The students conducted an experiment to test whether longshore drift was occurring at Swanage Bay by throwing an apple into the sea and calculating the speed and distance it travelled along the coastline. They then undertook a range of surveys to determine the effectiveness of each management strategy. They also interviewed members of the public to find their views.

The next day was spent working on the stunning beach at Studland. The students completed a transect measuring sand dune succession, using a range of equipment such as ranging poles, quadrats, clinometers and an infiltration metre. The day included some exploration of the area and observation of the human impact on the natural environment.

On day three students visited Boscombe, an area that has experienced recent regeneration. They strolled along the pier and the promenade collecting data on the quality of the environment and noise levels, drawing field sketches and assessing whether the regeneration of the sea front has been beneficial for Boscombe as a whole.

Finally before heading back to Barnet a stop was made at the charming area of Lulworth Cove on the Jurassic Coast. The students were able to walk up the high cliffs to experience the views across the bay.



Year 13 Clean Up

In contrast to the stunning views of Dorset, a welcome joint initiative between the schools of Queen Elizabeth the First in Barnet, called QE Together, saw groups of sixth form students scouring the Dollis Brook Valley for any objects that were not part of nature's plan for the area. They found traffic cones, shoes and a wheelbarrow, all of which they duly removed, earning themselves some lovely comments of thanks from members of the public.



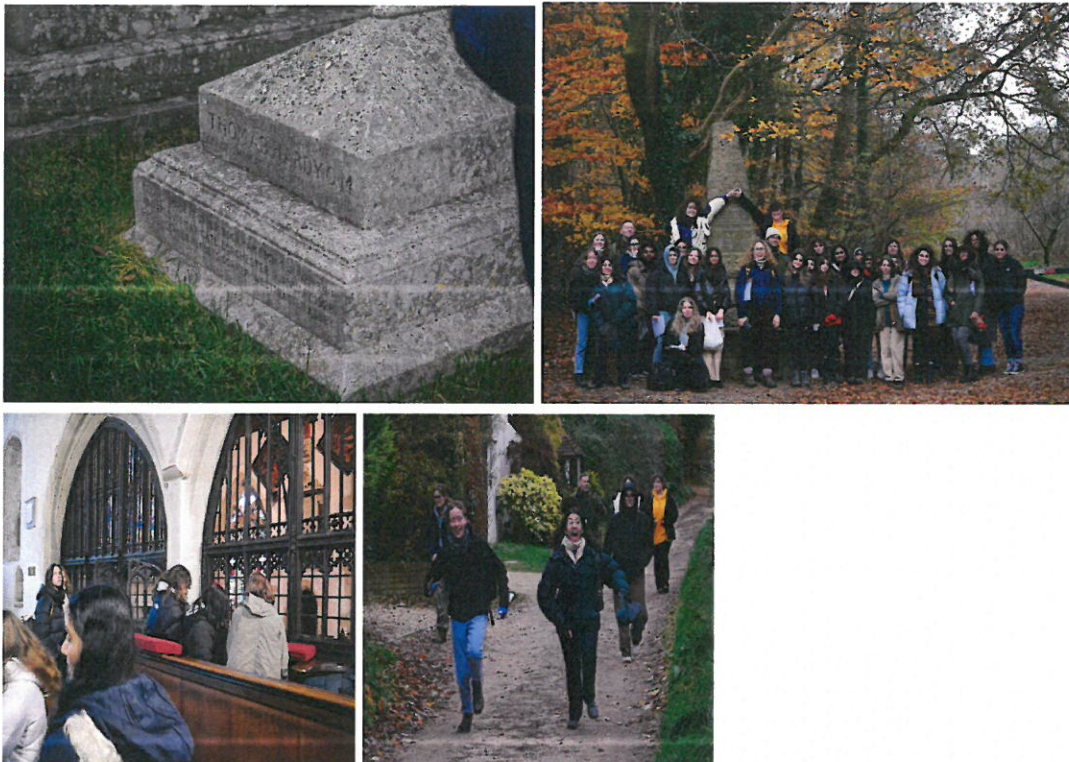


Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future

Sixth form English Literature Hardy Trip

This month the sixth form enjoyed the annual English Literature Fieldtrip to Dorset for immersion in Hardy's Dorset. I joined the students and staff and saw first hand just why students always enthuse about this particular event. The English department and Mr Fielder as the group's historical consultant, worked tirelessly to bring Hardy's plot scenes to life and unravel the social, historical, religious and political influences on society at the time the books are set.



Students across all key stages experienced off site education in various forms through a variety of visits, from visiting the cinema to visiting Bletchley Park to inspire their computer Science studies.

QEGSA

We are particularly pleased that QEGSA's (PTA) relaunch under the leadership of Mrs Sara Badvie as Chair, has been so successful with its first event, the Christmas Fair. Mrs Badvie ((Year 8 parent and former QEGS student) has written to all our families sharing the good news that the event raised £2350 towards projects being funded by QEGSA on behalf of the school and its students. If you have not already joined your form's QEGSA group under the leadership of your form representative please do so and take an active part in QEGSA's future events. I know everyone had a real sense of enjoyment both through planning and executing the plan! Students and staff came together with families to build relationships through a real sense of community and achieving together.



Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future

Arrangements for the start of next term

A reminder that school starts for all students on Thursday 5 January 2023 at 8.40am as usual. The weather has caused us to relax uniform rules this week but everyone will be expected to be aware of and keep all the school rules regarding uniform on return to school. Our uniform providers are fully stocked and the school has some pre-loved items still available.

Maintaining wellbeing during the holiday

The Anna Freud centre has lots of advice for teenagers on managing their wellbeing. The address is www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind as well as YoungMinds www.youngminds.org.uk.

If your daughter needs somebody to speak to over the holidays, Kooth www.kooth.com and the NSPCC www.nspcc.org.uk both have helplines.

The Anna Freud Centre for Parents and Carers www.annafreud.org/parents-and-carers has practical tips and advice for parents who are concerned about their child's mental health or wellbeing. The Dove self esteem project for parents www.dove.com/uk/dove-self-esteem-project/help-for-parents has suggestions for talking to your daughter about her self esteem.

Finally, thanks to all our students for their commitment to their learning, to all our staff for their commitment to our students and to all our families for your support throughout this term and all of 2022.

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to wish you and your families, happy holidays, a restorative break and a very happy new year.

Yours faithfully

Violet Walker
Headteacher