



Founded in 1888

Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future

Friday 31 March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

For a few years now, the school has been a joint hub leader of a **National SCITT** to train maths and physics teachers in North London. In November the joint hub separated so that we and The Camden School for Girls, each led our own training hub. From September, The Camden School for Girls will no longer be part of the SCITT and I am proud and excited that the school will take on a wider role, training maths and physics teachers across the whole of North London and its environs, while Dulwich College services South London. Accreditation as part of the NATIONAL SCITT serves as an indicator of the outstanding quality of teaching in both our mathematics and science departments. In recent years we have recruited exceptionally high quality staff in both fields from our own trainee cohorts. This is reassuring in a climate where schools are reporting difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff in these shortage fields.



I am sharing in my letter, a flavour of some of the diverse events, activities and achievements that have supported the progress and development of our students throughout this term. These experiences ensure a broad learning and *super* curriculum and serve to support our students to develop their individual passions.

Chinese New Year and Chinese Language Club

Students in Year 7 and 8 enthusiastically planned and organised colourful displays, demonstrating their skills in origami, to celebrate Chinese New Year. The school is fortunate to have recruited a new Teacher of Economics, Ms Tsang who is from Hong Kong. She is offering Cantonese to our students. This is a popular extracurricular activity, not only with girls whose ethnic origins are Chinese but also with students from other backgrounds. A super learning experience for all.



Foreign Film Club

Ms Barral, Head of the MFL department, has created an after school 'Foreign Film Club' offering students the opportunity to watch foreign films in the original language with English subtitles. Students write reviews as an additional learning opportunity. The students have already watched films in Japanese, Spanish, French and Mandarin.

On Wednesday 23 February, students were treated to Little Big Master, in Cantonese with English subtitles. The film starred one of our Year 9 students! All of her friends came to watch it as well as her teachers. It was a very supportive atmosphere. Our student's performance was impressive and the film was well received.



The club enables the celebration of our students' diversity and is a ready way for others to experience cultural diversity and foster interest in the backgrounds of their fellow students. Of course it helps with language learning and development too.

Team Sports

Our students continue to enjoy success across a variety of sports. The most popular and competitive sports at school are currently football, netball and badminton. The girls are currently

high in the leagues and already champions in badminton and athletics.



UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge

Recently, students in Year 9, 10 and 11 took part in The Intermediate Mathematical Challenge, 60-minute, multiple-choice Challenge .

The challenge encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

The problems encountered on the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge are designed to make students think! 132 students were entered for the challenge.

On 23 April, Year 7 & 8 will take part in The Junior Mathematical Challenge.

Oxbridge Reading Group

The group meets once every three weeks. Invited students in Year 11 and 12 read a STEM text selected by The University of Cambridge. They consider their individual responses to questions and then the group discusses those responses using evidence and knowledge from wider reading. This is an important opportunity for students to develop critical thinking skills and further their passion for STEM.

Leadership Talks

The school continues to invite speakers on a wide range of topics. I am delighted that QEGSA is also working hard to approach excellent leaders to share their story with our students. Most recently the school was particularly pleased to host Amanda Sleight, Commercial Director of Web Services at Amazon UK. Amanda gave an engaging talk on her career journey with an insight into working in IT/technology. Amanda sought to inspire more girls into STEM careers and subsequent feedback from the students indicated her success in that aim.



History - The First World War Trench Museum Project

Students have been researching life in the trenches during the First World War and presenting their *museum exhibitions* depicting their research. The aim was to do this by detailing the experience of at least one soldier in the trenches.



Winning entry by Year 9 Student

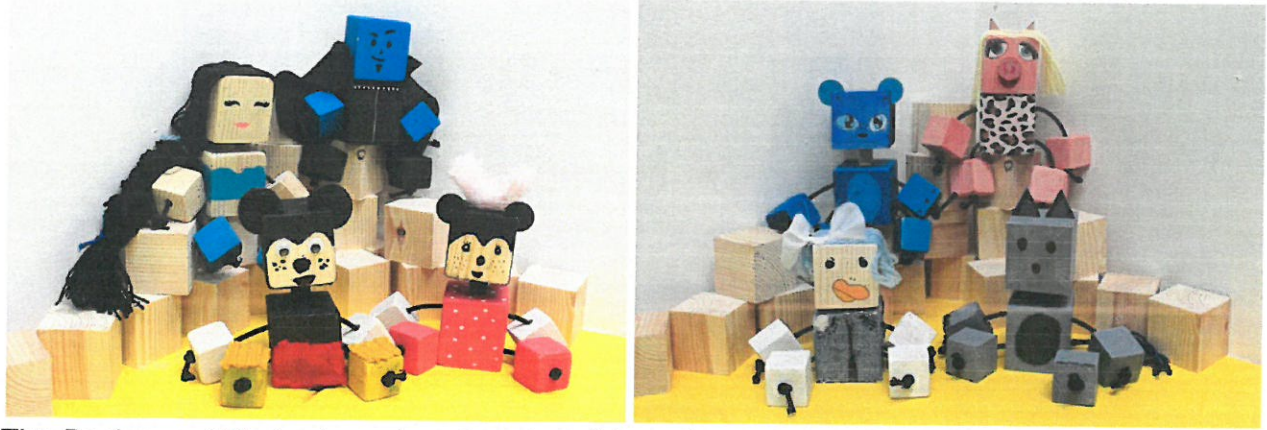
Congratulations to our Year 9 student Myeisha who won a global competition to design an inspirational flag for Antarctica Day "in the interests of all mankind". Her flag was taken to Antarctica and remains on display.



Meliora Club

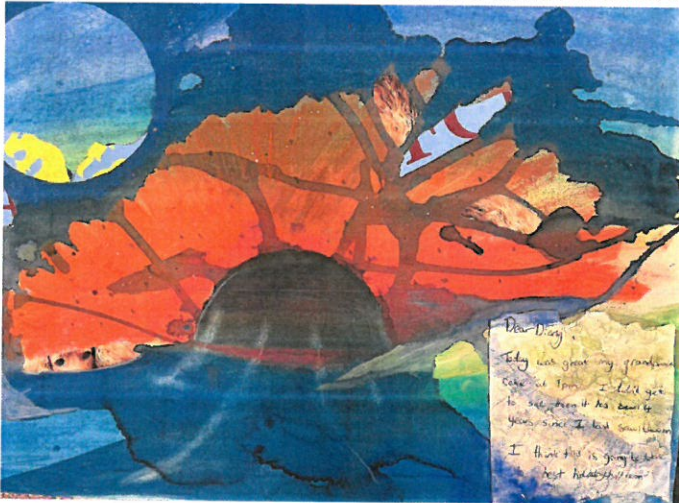
Sixth Form students run this wellbeing club at lunchtime. Students from KS3 can come along and discuss issues related to their wellbeing. The first sessions have been about getting to know one another and feeling comfortable with the Sixth Formers. Now that they know some friendly faces in the Sixth Form they can submit questions to an anonymous question box and discuss different aspects of wellbeing each session e.g. positive self talk. Year 7 have their own dedicated day so they can talk about the unique challenges of transitioning to secondary school.

Year 7 Blockbots



The Design and Technology department staff have been using the creation of blockbots to teach the correct use of tools and equipment in the workshop. Some of the designs are creative and finished to a high standard. The students have been enthused by the brief.

One of our Year 8 students has a beautiful piece of work for the **Young Artist Summer Show** at the Royal Academy. The Art department staff manage to support students to achieve RA entries every year without fail. The detail and mixed media serves to make it quite a poignant piece.



The **GCSE Geography Field trip** this month has no doubt supported the students to achieve their expected results and also taught them all the skills that can only be acquired from experience in the field.



I am pleased to share with you all that we have recruited two Interim Assistant Headteachers to support the work of the school. They will be with us until the end of the academic year with various responsibilities reflecting their strengths, developed in outstanding secondary school settings; they are Mr Danny Davies and Mr David Robson.

Please take the time to visit our school website where I hope you will enjoy our new style live news feed directly from our Twitter account. For direct access, click on *View our Twitter* underneath the News/Calendar button on the Homepage.

I should mention for our Year 9 families that we continue to be busy, working to arrange options subjects and look forward to confirming student choices in May.

I also ought to add that our sixth form transition team has been meeting with Year 11 students to finalise choices at A level and ensure our timetable blocking will enable everyone to study their current chosen courses.

A reminder that the summer term starts for all our students at the usual start time on Tuesday 18 April. We look forward to welcoming our students back on that day for their usual timetabled lessons for Week A.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff, I wish all our families well for the holidays and for any particular celebrations you may be looking forward to during the break such as Passover, Easter or Orthodox Easter. I know some of our families will also be preparing for Eid at the start of the new term and others may have recently celebrated Nowruz. Spring is a time of year for reflection on what has passed and what can be; new beginnings. There is still much to look forward to as we approach the summer term. For now, I wish you all a restful and restorative break with family and friends.

Yours faithfully



Violet Walker
Headteacher