



# Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

*Educating Women of the Future*

Friday 21 July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

This academic year has ended with the promise of a summer break and opportunity to refresh and recharge ahead of the next one. Students and staff have enjoyed many off site learning experiences this year. I am sharing some photographs of a number of the recent opportunities in my letter. This week alone, different year groups have engaged in work experience, an overseas visit to the French and Belgian battlefields, trips to Thorpe Park, London Zoo, Go Ape and the Natural History Museum.



Students have taken part in Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge and there was another Duke of Edinburgh Award Training Day at the weekend.



The previous week saw Sixth Form students exploring Paris, Year 9 visiting Shakespeare's Globe Theatre for a performance of Midsummer Night's Dream and the whole school relocated to the StoneX Stadium at Copthall, Barnet, for Sports Day. The experience of taking part in athletics and field events at a professional stadium is incredibly inspiring. Of course it was no surprise to anyone that the PE department won the staff Relay race.



Earlier this month our Sixth form Biologists enjoyed their field trip to Juniper hall including investigating secondary succession as ecologists on Mickleham Downs and the effect of trampling on calcareous grassland, and sampling the flora and abiotic factors of coppiced mature woodland.



Students from Year 7 up to Sixth Form, enjoyed visiting Wimbledon for the Men's and Women's Quarter Finals.





Hedi Argent, Holocaust Survivor, spoke to students about her story of escaping Nazi persecution in Austria and her journey to England; a remarkable experience, to hear first hand from someone in the same room as our students.



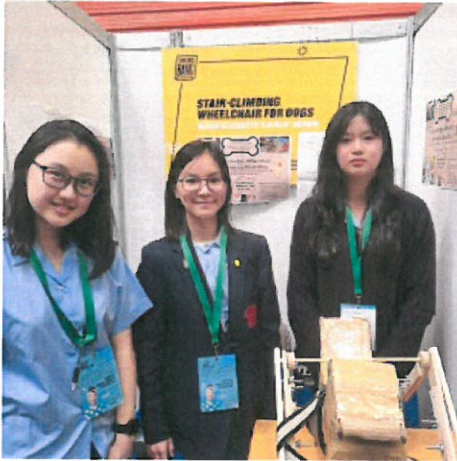
At the end of June we celebrated the school's 135th anniversary. We marked this milestone by moving the usual commemorative event in May, to the end of June so that it could happen the day before the School's summer fair. The annual cake baking and decorating competition according to a theme, took place the day before our traditional procession along the High Street to a service of thanks at St John the Baptist Church in Chipping Barnet. All of this made the commemoration and the weekend of 30 June/1 July truly memorable. The school is appreciative of the involvement of QEGSA, our PTA, in fundraising to support the school at a time when school budgets are heavily impacted by the Government's failure to fully fund their costs. Quite apart from that, the spirit and energy that working together brings, ahead of such events, while they are ongoing, and long afterwards, transports the relationship between families and school to a level that fosters belonging, an important element for members of any community.

Our inaugural Bertha Earth cohort of Year 7 students experienced their first residential visit to Jamie's Farm where they were able to enjoy working with chickens, cows, geese and ponies in a variety of habitats. Bertha Earth is an international organisation. Their work with the school supports students to develop a passion for the planet.





As well as experiential learning, important to both academic progress and personal development, students have excelled in many ways. Our tradition of students as finalists in the national Young Scientist and Young Engineer Award competition, The Big Bang, held annually at the Birmingham NEC, continued this year. We had three teams in the finals. One team was awarded the Energy Institute Climate Change Award 2023 and were Runners Up in the Intermediate age group Science Award, for their project which devised a way to successfully create hydrogen from scrap metal. Another team were Runners Up in the Intermediate age group Engineering Award, for their project which successfully innovated a stair-climbing wheelchair for dogs. Congratulations to all of our students who won awards, to our finalists and to our staff who have supported their learning. A special mention for Mr Bloor-Young, our STEM Coordinator, who won The Special Award For Practical Science 2023.



### **Building works**

Once again, this year the school has been successful in bidding for Government Condition Improvement Funding (CIF) to replace the oldest boilers. This will improve efficiency and support the school to make energy cost savings. The work will start during the summer holidays and is expected to be completed before we need to turn on the heating. Contingencies are planned if any unforeseen problems arise. Fingers crossed!

### **Staff Leavers**

We are saying farewell to a number of teaching staff and to our Finance Manager, Ms Shah who has served the school very well in the six years that she has been in post. Miss Southwell, Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form who started here as a newly qualified teacher, fifteen years ago is leaving to begin a new adventure outside of education. Nurse Gilding left earlier this month to take up a post focusing on school community nursing outreach work. We wish them all well. We are pleased to have recruited another paediatric nurse; Nurse Avworo. We have recruited specialist teachers to replace those leaving and we have changed the structure of our senior team as an agile response to enable the school to continue to be one of the highest performing comprehensive schools in England, able to best meet the current needs of our students and those projected for the future. There will be opportunities to meet new staff during the course of the autumn term at various events.

### **Canteen News: Change of Caterer**

Since May, we have been carefully planning new catering provision following the appointment of a different caterer, Innovate. During the summer break, Innovate is installing a much larger, brand

new catering pod in the upper courtyard area. The Sixth Form common room Cafe will be fully refurbished and updated. The main canteen will have new serving areas, a brand new till system and a cosmetic refresh. Students will have the option of contactless payment and a greater range of food options will be available in all outlets. Due to the upgraded IT systems in the canteen, students will be required to renew their biometric fingerprint in September. We look forward to sharing more detailed information in September. Please be aware that the cash loader is being removed from the canteen. Families will need to make online top ups via wisePAY.

### **Next Term Start Date**

Term starts for new Year 7 and new Year 12 students only, on Tuesday 5 September. Year 7 should arrive at the Meadway gate at 8.30am; Year 12 should arrive at 8.40am.

All other year groups return on Wednesday 6 September together with Year 7 and Year 12. Start times for Wednesday 6 September are staggered and are as follows:

### **Wednesday 6 September**

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Arrival time</b>
<b>7</b>	8:40am
<b>8</b>	8:40am
<b>9</b>	9:10am
<b>10</b>	9:40am
<b>11</b>	10:10am
<b>12</b>	8:40am
<b>13</b>	8:40am

### **Finally**

All our staff are looking ahead to next year, working in different ways and creating more opportunities to engage with our families. We are looking forward to the return of our students and to the arrival of our new students in September.

Until then on behalf of all our staff I wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable summer break from school.

Yours faithfully



Violet Walker  
Headteacher