



Founded in 1888

Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future

October 2023

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The Tudor Rose

Your half-termly newsletter from Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School



From the Headteacher

Welcome to this first edition of the Tudor Rose, our QEGS newsletter, sharing with you some of the highlights of this half-term at Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School.

It has been another really exciting first half-term back at school after the summer break. We were privileged to host The Mayor and the Chief executive and Director of Education and Learning in Barnet along with other distinguished guests at our annual Celebration of Excellence evening. We also welcomed prospective students at our Open Evening and Sixth Form Open Evening, and were delighted to welcome so many families to our Parent Information Events for Years 7, 10 and 11, where parents and carers met staff and students and heard about how to support their child in the next stage of their education at QEGS.

A whole host of trips took place, including training for the Duke of Edinburgh Award, and a number of different in-school extra-curricular activities. These included the Bertha Earth Launch and UKMT Senior Maths Challenge. I am pleased to see so many clubs running - I encourage you to have conversations at home to ensure your child benefits from involvement in at least some of them.

If you are interested in being involved more with the school, details of the Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School Association (QEGSA) are below. They do a fantastic job fundraising for those helpful extras and we are very appreciative of their time and commitment to the school.

Please note that on Friday 24 November and Wednesday 6 December, the school will be closed to students to enable staff training. The last day of term is Wednesday 20 December when there will be a half day.

May I also draw your attention to the Parents' Evening dates at the end of this newsletter. The events for Year 7 to 11 will run from 2.00pm to 6.00pm, whether online or face-to-face, and all bookings will need to be made in advance using the SchoolCloud online system. There will be an early school closure of 1.20pm on each of these dates.

With warmest wishes for a restful and enjoyable break with family and friends

Violet Walker



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QEGSA

Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School Association



The Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School Association (QEGSA) is the parents' association leading a number of fantastic fundraising activities for the school. Most recently many families will have enjoyed their Summer Fete, full of a wide range of activities in the school grounds including baking and craft activities.

QEGSA meet half-termly to discuss the various ways in which they support their school, such as arranging external speakers and fundraising for ambitious projects in the school.

If you would like to get involved, please contact qegsa-pta@qegschool.org.uk or find more details on our website at <https://www.qegschool.org.uk/qegsa>



Celebration of Excellence Evening

Mr Jones, Senior Deputy Headteacher



We began the term with our prize awards evening, celebrating the achievements of our students in the academic year 2022-2023. The majority of prizes awarded are funded from the school's Endowment Fund and their value is increased by their connection to the

previous students and staff who made the initial bequest.

We were honoured to have the Mayor, the Director of Education and Learning in Barnet and the Headteacher of Queen Elizabeth's School, Neil Enright, along with the Endowment Fund trustees and school's own trustees,

This year we were delighted that one of Mrs Walker's contemporaries, Lady Alison Leahy, accepted our invitation to join us as guest speaker and to present the awards.



Open Evening

Mr Robson, Assistant Headteacher

On Monday 25th September, we carried out our annual celebration of all things fantastic about the school as we welcomed prospective Year 7 students along with their families.

The feedback from families has been extremely positive, and what stood out was the contributions from our students to the event. 258 students from Year 7 to 11 volunteered to help out on the evening, either as a tour guide showing groups of families around the school, or as a departmental helper being an expert in a particular subject area. All Sixth Formers were also involved in various ways, including adding support as guides and marshalls.

In addition, we had three wonderful speakers who spoke alongside Mrs Walker, our headteacher, at each of the three speeches. They were Nithya in Year 7, Evelyn in Year 8 and Aretha in Year 13 and their words were very warmly received.

We thank all students involved in the Open Evening for their positive contributions.

Parent Information Events

Mr Robson, Assistant Headteacher

Through late September and into early October, we held a series of Parent Information Events aimed at supporting parents and carers to support their own students. Year 7 families were invited to learn how to support their child as they begin their QEGS journey. Year 10 families came to learn more as their children begin their GCSE courses. Finally Year 11 families were invited, as their children begin their final year before the GCSE exams.

Before the presentations from a variety of staff on topics such as "How to revise", the events began with a "Meet the Tutors" section, where families had the opportunity for an informal chat with tutors, along with QEGSA and other staff depending on the year group, including core subjects. During this section, a number of Year 11 students used their computer stations to demonstrate the variety of online learning available to our students. Parental feedback on their eloquence in explaining this was fantastic and we are grateful to all these fantastic students, along with our wonderful Sixth Form helpers.

In addition, a selection of fantastic musicians performed at the front of the hall which was warmly received by guests: Cindy and Alicia at the Year 7 event; Keira at the Year 10 event; Lilly-Ella, Tianna, Avani, Wing Hei and Charlotte at the Year 11 event.

Hundreds of family members attended these events, and the presentation slides were shared for those who were unable to attend.

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Retrieval Practice

Making effort to recall detail about what has been explained without help.

In other words, getting the knowledge out of your head.

This is also called Active Recall

4 Methods of Retrieval Practice

Brain Dump
Write down in your own words a mind map on anything you have about a topic.
- List facts
- Draw a picture
- Multiple choice questions
- Short answer tests
- True or false
- Think, pair, share
- Ranking of cards
- Challenge your friend

Quizzing
Create practice questions on a topic. Use your questions with a partner or yourself.
- Questions about a text/topic?
- Multiple choice questions?
- Questions with a known answer?

Flashcards
Create your own (physical) questions on one side, answers on the other. Can you make links between the cards?
- Test on
- Test on
- Test on

Knowledge Organisers
Summarise a knowledge organiser template for key information about a topic.
- Summarise
- Summarise
- Summarise

After you have retrieved as much as you can, go back to your books to check what you've missed. Next time focus on that missing information.

www.qegschool.org.uk @qegsbarnet

Duke of Edinburgh trip

Ms Cheverton, PE Teacher and Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator



60 Year 10 students headed to the Chiltern Hills in late September to complete their Bronze DofE Training Expedition - walking, camping and cooking over an open fire. Their expedition was partly unaccompanied and helped to provide them with skills to complete their Qualifying expedition in October.

Quotes of the trip: "This experience has really humbled me!" (after walking for the day, putting up tents and cooking dinner) and "Miss I promise we are not lost, we just don't know where we are!"

All girls showed resilience, teamwork and a great sense of commitment to walk over 20km over the weekend.

Then over the weekend of 7th and 8th October, the Year 10 students successfully completed their Qualifying expedition. The girls navigated across the Chilterns unaccompanied carrying rucksacks weighing over 15kg. They carried tents, clothes and food to sustain them for the two day expedition and did so with humour, resilience and commitment to the cause. There were lots of lovely moments the girls shared, including s'mores being made by the stove and one group carrying a stick which they had acquired back on their training expedition (the stick became their honorary 8th team member). A successful trip for all.



Bertha Earth Launch day

Ms Tejpal, Geography Teacher and Bertha Earth Coordinator

Bertha Earth is an organisation which works with the young people, their aim is to create a diverse network of young environmental leaders, storytellers and change makers who are passionate about the planet we live in.

On Tuesday 10th October, girls in Year 7 were taken off the timetable to be a part of the Bertha Earth launch day. The Year 7s took part in story telling activity about the change which has taken place in our environment and how they felt





about this. The girls then completed a nature trail on the school grounds, thinking about how the environment is affected and how we can be more sustainable towards the environment.

A-Level Geography Field-Trip

Mrs Albrecht, Head of Geography

In late September, Year 13 students went on a 4 day residential trip to help develop the necessary skills to complete their non-examined assessments, staying in a picture perfect cottage near Corfe Castle. Visits include Studland Beach, Swanage, Boscombe and Lulworth Cove. At Swanage the students conducted an experiment to test whether longshore drift was occurring 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 how effective each management strategy is and interviewed members of the public to find their views.



Whilst at Studland, they spent the day on the stunning beach. The weather was glorious and there were even people swimming in the sea! Here, the students completed a transect measuring sand dune succession, using a range of equipment such as ranging poles, quadrats, clinometers and an infiltration metre. They enjoyed delicious ice cream and spent time exploring the area and observing the human impacts on this beautiful natural environment.

They also visited Boscombe, an area that has experienced recent regeneration, collecting data on the quality of the

environment, noise levels and drawing field sketches, to observe changes and assess whether the regeneration of the sea front has been beneficial for Boscombe as a whole.

Finally, they also managed to visit the charming area of Lulworth Cove on the Jurassic Coast. The students were able to walk up the high cliffs to take in the breathtaking views across the bay.



International Coalition of Girls' Schools Conference 2023

Ms Shah, Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form

The UK ICGS Educating Girls Symposium was hosted at Benenden on 27 and 28 September. The two-day event included a special opportunity for sixth form students from girls' schools to gather for learning and inspiration on Day 1.

Members of our Sixth Form attended the event, accompanied by Ms Shah, Head of Sixth Form. They commented on how inspired they were by the presentations from leading female global figures who spoke about their roles and what leadership looks like in practice. The speakers included HRH Princess Basma of Jordan, Amber Atherton, Baroness Manningham-Buller, and HRH Princess Royal.

Mrs Walker was then delighted to address UK girls' school leaders on the second day of the conference as part of her role on the UK regional advisory council of the International Coalition of Girls' Schools.



UKMT Senior Maths Challenge

Mrs Khodabacus, Head of Maths and Mr Williams, Key Stage 5 Maths Coordinator

Year 12 and 13 have competed in the national UKMT Senior Maths Challenge.

The Maths Challenge is an annual event that Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School is very proud to participate in as it is an enrichment opportunity for our students. The Senior Maths Challenge is a 90-minute, multiple-choice competition designed to make students think. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thoughts and fluency in using mathematical techniques to solve stimulating problems.

The UKMT has over 500,000 entries annually which makes it the most popular mathematical event across the country.

Students who achieve the Gold level have the opportunity to compete in the Kangaroo and the Olympiad follow-on rounds.

We are eagerly waiting for the results and wish our students the very best!

The National Theatre Connections project

Ms Ford, Head of Drama

A group of GCSE and A Level Drama students were selected to participate in a workshop run by The National Theatre. Last year these students took part in the National Theatre Connections project, which involved them staging a new play entitled 'Model Behaviour' at school and then at the Artsdepot.



The team were so impressed by our students' focus and maturity that when they needed support developing a new play for the project they got in touch. On Friday 6th October we had the absolute pleasure of hosting playwright Jane Bodie in school for the morning. This group of students had the privilege of exploring a new play she has written for The National Theatre Connections project 2024. The workshop was masterfully led by director Macadie Amoroso and supported by the NT Connections team.

During the workshop students offered detailed feedback on the play, which was greatly appreciated by the playwright who said it was extremely useful to her play's development process. Students were praised 'their observations were so perceptive and their suggestions positive, creative and delivered in such an open and empowering manner.'

Black History Month Bake-Off

Mrs Doel, Head of Year 7 and Teacher in Charge of Food and Nutrition

This year's Black History Month Bake-Off was in the theme of 'Saluting our Sisters'. Students from Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 paired up with a member of staff to create some fabulous cakes, they were judged on creativity and interpretation of the theme, quality of the cake and the assembly. I am delighted to say that the results are as follows:



1st Place - Gabriella 7SMN and Mr Reay (pictured)

2nd Place - Shenead 11HRS and Miss Richards

3rd Place - Kimberley 10KKZ and Ms Taylor

Food Tech: Filleting a Fish!

Mrs Doel, Head of Year 7 and Teacher in Charge of Food and Nutrition

Congratulations to the Year 10A Food Preparation and Nutrition class who have been learning the complex task of filleting a fish. They were all amazing and I am extremely proud of their achievements. The pupils then used the fillets to make a tasty pasta bake.



Careers

Ms St Ledger, Head of Careers and PSHE

Careers Accelerator Mentoring Scheme

21 Students who applied for the scheme were interviewed and successfully obtained a place on this 3 month mentoring programme. In addition two Year 11 students have been accepted onto the scheme.

Midwifery Taster Day

Four sixth form students attended a taster day at Barnet Hospital. The day involved learning about the role of a midwife, including antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal care. Students also received a talk from the University of Hertfordshire and information about clinical placements. There was also a skills training portion of the day where students were able to examine a placenta.

Law Career Talk

Sophia Burton visited the school to give a talk on her career as a lawyer. Sophia is a solicitor currently working for Debevoise, an international law firm, headquartered in New York. She has been working in the industry for over 14 years and has worked for a number of different leading law firms. Sophia specialises in commercial disputes in the UK as well as internationally. Sophia discussed her career in law, the qualifications needed as well as a typical day in the office. She went through the different paths into a law career and the specialisms that people can go into. Sophia took questions from the students.

Get Into Law Work Experience Day

Students interested in a Law career signed up to participate in this work experience day. Lila, Year 12, said that "It was very helpful and gave me an insight into how to apply to law school as well as how to sit the Lnat. They gave advice on how to write a good personal statement and what you can do in terms of extra curricular activities to make your personal statement stand out".

Allied Healthcare Virtual Work Experience

A number of our students signed up to participate in this work experience day. A Year 13 student, Franz, gave an account of how the work experience went:

The day was about the multiple careers in the NHS that all work together in order to help their patients. After each role is introduced, there are lessons which help to learn about the theoretical side of the condition the patient may have e.g bone healing stages, glycemic loads, types of insulin, how MRI scanners work, etc. I had to observe 2 patients - one who was pregnant with gestational diabetes, had mild learning difficulties and was not very fluent in English and the other was a man who had a bad fracture from playing football.

The woman with gestational diabetes had to meet with a midwife (informed her about pregnancy in general but also about her diabetes and the effects that can have on the baby), a speech and language therapist (performed tests to see her understanding of general things and also for her communication skills), a pharmacist (told patient the required dosage and frequency of intake of medication and possible side effects), a dietician (asked patient about their daily meals and informed them of substitutions to reduce glucose levels) and lastly an occupational therapist (visited patient's home and asked them what everyday tasks they may struggle with or do well in and gave them info regarding preparation for baby).

The second patient met with a paramedic (who was on scene, checked and reassured patient), a nurse (checked blood pressure and gave morphine via IV drip), a radiographer (took x rays and discussed details about operation), a physiotherapist (helped post - op in order for patient to recover and play again professionally). They also talked about orthotists who create prosthetics for amputees.

Overall I learnt just how vital communication skills are especially within the NHS and not only communication between patient and staff but also communication between the different roles which all contribute to the patient to getting better. I also gained more in depth knowledge about each role that was shown and about their daily activities that they carry out. It is a really good work experience especially for people who know that they want to work in the NHS but are not sure about what specific career or role they want to pursue.

Personal Statement Workshop

Year 13 spent an afternoon off timetable to attend a personal statement writing workshop. They then worked on the first draft of their own personal statements using the skills they had learned during the workshop.

Choir and Orchestra

Ms Coy, Director of Music

Calling all musicians!

Students who play an orchestral instrument are invited to join the orchestra. The orchestra rehearses a range of music and works towards live performances. Students in the choir are developing vocal skills as part of a group, working towards performances. Students should see their music teacher to join.

Clubs

A range of clubs have been in operation this half-term, including:

- Myths and Legends Craft Club (Ms Piper)
 - Based on a seasonal story or legend
- Chinese Club (Ms Tsang)
 - Social meeting for anyone interested in teaching and learning Chinese. This year we will expand it to learning Cantonese as well as Putonghua
- Baking Club (Mrs Doel)
 - Making a range of sweet and savoury dishes
- Year 7 Science Club (Mr Carpenter and Mr Bourbeau)
 - Fun practicals
- Accelerator Science Club (Mr Roberts and Mr Carpenter)
 - Students carrying out Advanced practical skills and associated theory
- Art Club (Mr Gumbrill)
 - Assortment of Art activities
- Knit and Crochet Club (Ms Beavis)
 - Knitting and crocheting squares for blankets for the homeless for charity, Craft Forward
- Music Composition Club (Ms Coy and Ms Stepanyak)
 - Composing music to fit with a brief
- Drama Club (Mr Contor)
 - Theatre games and script work leading to performance for the year group, later in the year.

Please see the website (<https://www.qegschool.org.uk/extracurricular>) for a full list of extracurricular activities.

Why do we do Assessments?

Mrs Parker, Assistant Headteacher and SENCO

We use assessments in school for many reasons, one of which is to check understanding. When a class does an assessment it allows teachers to check what has been understood or misunderstood. From this teachers can plan to revisit topics everybody has found difficult or to direct individuals and small groups to areas for improvement.

For students assessments allow them to see how their revision techniques are working. If a student finds they are spending hours revising but not achieving in assessments then they need to review how they are revising. Revision needs to be active, simply reading over classwork is not enough.

At QEG we use positive language around assessments to encourage students to see them as an opportunity.

In Years 10 and 11 students start to do assessments in the sports hall. It is important that they get used to doing this so that when they do their public exams the routine and space is familiar to them.

Early Closure for Parents' Evenings

Mr Robson, Assistant Headteacher

Parents' Evenings will take place between 2.00pm and 6.00pm on the following dates:

- Year 7 Wednesday 22 November 2023 (in person)
- Year 11 Thursday 11 January 2024 (online)
- Year 9 Thursday 1 February 2024 (in person)
- Year 8 Tuesday 27 February 2024 (in person)
- Year 10 Wednesday 13 March 2024 (online)

Please note that school will close to all students at **1.20pm** on each of the days listed above. Lunchtime will run from 12.15 to 12.45 and the canteen is open as normal.

Further information on how to book will be shared with you closer to each event.

All appointments, whether the event is online or in person, will be made in advance using the following link: <https://queenelizabethsgirls.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Please direct any queries to your child's Head of Year in the first instance.

Sixth Form Parents' Evenings

Ms Shah, Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form

Parents' Evenings for the Sixth Form will take place between 4.30pm and 7.00pm on the following dates:

- Year 13 Wednesday 1 November 2023 (online)
- Year 12 Tuesday 14 November 2023 (online)

Further information will be communicated to families separately. As with the Year 7 to 11 events, appointments will be made in advance using the following link: <https://queenelizabethsgirls.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

School will operate as normal and will not close early on both of these dates.

**READ MORE ON OUR
WEBSITE**



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