



Founded in 1888

Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future

December 2023

.....

The Tudor Rose

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



From the Headteacher

Welcome to this second edition of the Tudor Rose, our QEGS newsletter where we joyfully share with you some of the highlights of the half-term at Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School. Its publication also coincides with the end of the autumn term and the end of this calendar year at school. We have been busy, students and staff alike. I know you may have heard much of this news, although perhaps not all of it, knowing how adolescents like to keep to themselves, some areas of their world away from home. I am also taking the opportunity to signpost to you a reminder of the school's Inclement Weather protocol in case we need to put it into action sooner rather than later. Of course as always and especially at this time of year I want to sign post you to links from our safeguarding lead, Ms Parker, with respect to support available during the holiday period. I am mindful that through all the usual excitement of this season there are some people who, for a variety of reasons, dread this time of year and may miss the opportunity for comfort that daily routines such as school, with all the support available, can bring.

Particularly at the moment when we are all thinking about experiences of our own families and of others' connected with the impact of conflict around the world. With our diverse community, it is no surprise that some students, staff and their families and friends are impacted. Everyone is in our thoughts and we all hope for a better and settled world in 2024.

I want to end by thanking everyone for their support of the school this term and also to thank those of you who have sent personal wishes of goodwill; they are much appreciated by all our staff and students, I send you every good wish for a restful, enjoyable and restorative break during the holiday period.

Violet Walker



CONTENTS

[QEGSA](#)

[Christmas Carol Service](#)

[Christmas Concert](#)

[Celebration of Singing Trip](#)

[The Big Bang at Parliament](#)

[Article in New Energy World](#)

[Girl Powered Robotics](#)

[Sports at QEGS](#)

[National Grid Career Hub competition](#)

[Career Accelerator Kick Off Meeting](#)

[Peer Listening Scheme Launch](#)

[Law Talk](#)

[Clinical Psychology Research](#)

[Physics / STEM trip to the Diamond Light Synchrotron, Oxfordshire](#)

[QE Together meeting](#)

[Bertha Earth Year 8 Lunch](#)

[Women and Wellness Conference](#)

[Physics / STEM trip to the JET Fusion reactor, Oxfordshire](#)

[Clubs](#)

[Residential trip to Stratford Upon Avon](#)

[Praise Postcards Competition](#)

[Links to useful Safeguarding contact numbers](#)

QEGSA

Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School Association

Regular meetings and fund-raising activities continue with QEGSA. 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>

Christmas Carol Service

Ms Coy, Director of Music



Thank you to everyone who joined us at the Christmas Carol Service. It is always one of the highlights in the school's calendar. The students who take part, reading, singing and playing in the orchestra and ensembles, shine a light through the window of what our school is all about. The students' dedication, joy in what they do and the character they reflect in the way they do it, is everything we strive for in preparing our students for the next steps in their education and for their future lives.

Among the wonderful musicians were Jessica Damiean (Year 7), Saniah-Rae McClymont (Year 11) and Sophie Freegard (Year 11) who filled the church with their glorious vocal solos, accompanied by various choirs and orchestras. Keira Wang (Year 10) also accompanied many ensembles with her fantastic mastery on the piano.

Students really enjoyed performing in such an extravagant venue as the acoustics of the church brought the carols to life, joined by the organ, choir and congregation. Sasha Liddar, Year 12, said "Participating in the Carol Concert was really enjoyable, fun and a great opportunity to meet and mentor students from the younger years, working together musically to perform in such a lovely event."

The Mayor, councillor Nagus Narenthira, and Trustees of the Endowment Fund of the schools of Queen Elizabeth the First in Barnet all attended, among other invited guests. They all extended their congratulations to everyone involved.

This event was also reported by the Barnet Society. Its article can be read at:

<https://www.barnetsociety.org.uk/christmas-carol-service-by-choir-and-orchestra-of-queen-elizabeth-s-girls-school-a-festive-season-highlight>



Christmas Concert

Ms Coy, Director of Music

The Christmas Concert was held in the school hall on Thursday 7th December. It was a fantastic showcase of musical items from talented students ranging from year 7 - 13 who have been working hard all term in preparation for the event.



The concert opened with the orchestra playing 'Walking in the Air' by Howard Blake, which was performed beautifully and received an enthusiastic response from the audience. This was followed by a program of talented musicians performing solos on a range of instruments including clarinet, cello, violin, guitar, piano and voice. The Junior Choir arrangement of 'When you Believe' from the Prince of Egypt created a magical atmosphere.

Students in the Sixth Form developed valuable leadership and performance skills preparing and rehearsing small ensembles: Sana Ahmed and Izabella Radley led the flute choir performance of, 'I See the Light' from Tangled and the Chamber Group was led by Victoria Forbes, performing 'The Waltz' from Sleeping Beauty.

Sophie Freegard (the featured vocal soloist), along with the Senior Vocal Group, Junior Choir and Chamber Orchestra performed a festive finale of, 'When a Child is Born' by Fred Jacobson and Zacar that captured the festive atmosphere of the concert and was a fitting finale to a wonderful evening of our student's musicality.

Celebration of Singing Trip

Ms Coy, Director of Music

Choir students from Years 7 and 8 participated in 'A Celebration of Singing' event held by BEAT at Ark Pioneer Academy on Tuesday 17th October. Students enjoyed developing their vocal skills through creating wonderful harmonies as part of a mass choir with other secondary schools. One of the highlights of the day involved a Hip-hop and R&B workshop where students learned new vocal techniques in order to create a mash-up of songs!

The final afternoon performance showcased three pieces- 'A Million Dreams' from the Greatest Showman, 'On Children' by Kahlil Gibran, as well as a full disco arrangement of 'September' by Earth Wind and Fire.



The Big Bang at Parliament

Mr Bloor-Young, Science Teacher and STEM Coordinator

Nine Year 11 QEGS students attended the Big Bang at Parliament event hosted by Stephen Metcalfe MP and The Parliamentary and Scientific Committee with EngineeringUK sponsored by Siemens on the Terrace Pavilion at the House of Commons.



Article in *New Energy World*

Mr Bloor-Young, Science Teacher and STEM Coordinator

This year a group of QE students won two prizes at the Big Bang Competition with their project: "Making hydrogen fuel from scrap metal". They won both Runner-up Intermediate Science 2023 (£200) and The Energy Institute Climate Change Special Award 2023 (£500). As part of the later prize there was a chance to publish a summary of their work in the online magazine New Energy World which you can see below.

The students were: Kayra Hutchison, Anabelle Cox and Isabelle Assor. Here is their article:

Winners of this year's Energy Institute Climate Change Award*, part of the Big Bang Competition 2023, Kayra Hutchison, Anabelle Cox and Isabelle Assor from Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School, describe their innovative concept.

We wanted to create a project that involved an environmentally friendly way of making fuel, so we came up with an idea that would produce hydrogen gas through the reaction of liquid gallium, scraps of waste aluminium foil and water using the Grotthuss



Mechanism. This type of fuel production has the potential to be used on a global scale as it is affordable, has very few waste products, and uses resources which are easy to access and would have otherwise been thrown away, potentially entering our oceans and destroying or otherwise detrimentally affecting habitats.

Many different types of hydrogen fuels are currently being made industrially, such as pink and green hydrogen (primarily electrolysis-based reactions). However, these are expensive to produce and pose risks of explosion during transportation. Others, such as blue, grey and brown hydrogen require fossil fuels and result in more greenhouse gas emissions. They can also leave behind many extra, unwanted products – some of which may be radioactive and therefore harmful to humans and animals.

The reactions give a lower yield and cause a lot of unnecessary waste. Eventually these factors would help to create an extremely unsustainable field of fuel production.

Thinking green

Now more than ever, in our world's current state of rapidly declining climate stability, we thought that it was exceedingly important that we took the initiative to produce a project that could have numerous benefits to our environment. When we were first introduced to the idea of creating a STEM-based project, our team decided that it was our foremost incentive to ensure that our idea would benefit the environment as well as consumers.

Therefore, it was essential that the fuel produced in our experiments had little to no waste products, was non-toxic, cheap and readily available to be put into place on a mass-production scale in order to protect our environment.

After searching online and racking our brains for ideas, our group decided on a project that would both continue to provide goods and services to the general population while also decreasing environmental cost regarding fuel for vehicles. Minimal environmental costs in fuels pointed to one method in particular – hydrogen production, which led to further research into fuel production.

When we were first introduced to the idea of creating a STEM-based project, our team decided that it was our foremost incentive to ensure that our idea would benefit the environment as well as consumers.

The project and results

After taking measurements and recording the data from our experiments, we observed and came to the conclusion that gallium would perform as a catalyst in the reaction. From testing and trialling this project several times, we saw that it had the potential to be used on a much larger scale.

Our results were mainly positive and matched our expectations; by using boiling water during intervals in the experiment, we discovered that procuring

the reusable gallium was a much more efficient and simpler task. The outcome of our project was incredibly beneficial, as it had positive impacts both on the environment and lives of people. Moreover, our method of hydrogen production did not produce greenhouse gases or toxic fumes – a significant positive factor, as these lead to global problems, including climate change and acid rain.

The main, significant benefit of using the specific resources that we used in our project is that the gallium would act as a catalyst in the reaction, meaning that it

would not be used up and could be treated and used indefinitely. This is noteworthy as gallium is currently more expensive than aluminium, so minimising the amount we used helped to lower the total cost.

In addition, hydrogen produced in this way could be fed directly to an engine, unlike other forms of hydrogen gas, for example for use in lawn mowers. On a larger scale with more technology, the aim is to reduce costs enough to replace gasoline for cars and heavy vehicles. This means that it would eradicate the chance of hydrogen exploding during transportation to fuel stations.

Furthermore, the aluminium required for the project can be taken directly from landfills as there is so much available in waste dumps. This would help contribute to a much more sustainable and eco-friendly method of producing fuel for everyday use.

We hope that this project will have a positive impact on future generations and become applicable in an increasing number of scenarios.

**The Energy Institute Climate Change Special Award recognises projects developed by young people aged 11–18 that aim to bring about a lasting reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to the UK's goal of net zero by 2050.*

Girl Powered Robotics

Mr Bloor-Young, Science Teacher and STEM Coordinator and Mr Petrie, Head of Technology

20 Year 8 and Year 9 students were off timetable all day to walk to QE Boys school to take part in a VEX Robotics taster day and listen to two women from the Medtronic Surgical robotics company talk about their work.

Sports at QEGS

Ms Cheverton, Ms Kantorowicz, Ms Khemchand and Ms Daulby

13 students attended the Barnet Schools Cross Country race at Stone X, Barnet Copthall Fields. The distances were 1.5k for the Year 7s, 2.25k for the Year 8 & 9s and 3k for the Year 10s and above. They ran exceptionally well especially the Year 7s who had never taken part in such a big competition. The older students showed great leadership and support to the younger ones. 12 Cross Country runners competed in the 2nd Cross Country event at Stone X. They again ran brilliantly especially in the cold, windy and rainy weather.

Our Year 8/9 football team won 3-0 in their match against St James Catholic High. Goals from Isabella H (2) and Chichi O (1). This puts them into the quarter finals of the cup! Well done all. Year 7 also won their cup football match in a hard-fought game against Ashmole, narrowly taking a 1-0 win. They played their Quarter Finals game against Mill Hill County on 13th December, narrowly coming out with a 3-2 win after a great battle. Goals from Annabel G, Noor B and Ava-Ray O. We now progress into the Semi Finals, to be played after Christmas.

The Year 7s played a great Netball match against Ark Pioneer. Even though they lost 5-2, they are showing great improvements and keeping positivity throughout. Goals were scored by Lyla. Player of the match was Selena. Players are also learning a variety of positions. The Y8s also played a great match and won 8-3 against Ark Pioneer. Their teamwork and communication was fantastic. The goals were scored by Sasha and Ava. The player of the match was Ava.

The Year 8 & Year 10 netball teams are currently undefeated in the league. Well done to the following pupils who have received POM Abigail Rowell 10CMY, Marisa Ellis-Bell 8AKD, Anna Hepworth 10DRS, Ava Harris 8JCR, Katie Hepworth 8AKD

The Year 7 & Year 9 netball team have been working hard to develop their skills and game play. Well done to the POM so far this term, Lysha Sseguya 8DSK, Annabel Georgiou 7SMN, Selina Crawford 7SHN, Daisy Kambo-Sarratt 9MIT.

National Grid Career Hub competition

Mr Bloor-Young, Science Teacher and STEM Coordinator

A student in Year 11 won a £10 Amazon gift voucher for being one of the first 20 in the country to sign up to the National Grid Careers platform, engage with one module and speak to a digital mentor.

Career Accelerator Kick Off Meeting

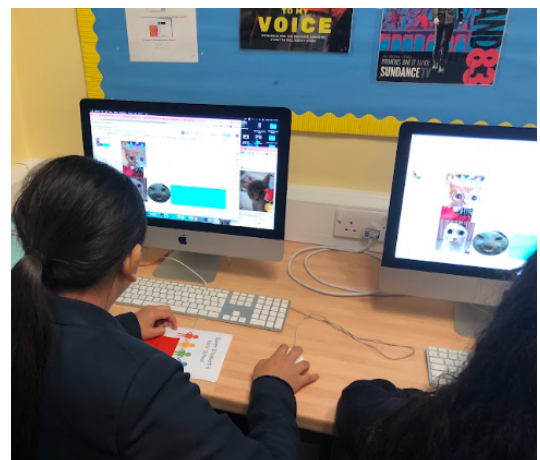
Ms Douglas, Careers Coordinator

Jhanay Otto from Careers Accelerator delivered a workshop to 20 Year 10 students on how to gain the most from the mentoring scheme. Students learned about setting SMART objectives and how to prepare for mentoring meetings. Since the meeting students have been matched and virtually introduced to their mentors.

Peer Listening Scheme Launch

Ms St Ledger, Head of Careers and PSHE

A set of selected Year 9 students were matched to Year 7 form groups. The peer listeners lead form time activities once a fortnight, giving the Year 7 students a chance to get to know them and develop a relationship with them throughout the year. This means that they have familiar, friendly faces in the older year groups that they can go to if they need support with secondary school life. Year 9s also have mentors in Year 10 who were peer listeners last year. Students in sixth form (including the wellbeing officer) are Lead



Peer Listeners. The scheme ensures that there are layers of support for all students involved. Peer listeners have half termly meetings with Ms St Ledger to check in.

Peer listeners attended a training session at the start of November to prepare them for their roles. They had an opportunity to work in groups, supported by their Year 10 mentors, to plan their form time activities for use with Year 7. They have been leading fortnightly form time sessions since the 8th November and feedback from students and staff has been excellent. Well done to our peer listening team!

Law Talk

Ms St Ledger, Head of Careers and PSHE

Caroline Klage, a former QE Girls student and Partner in Bolt Burton Kemp (BBK), came into school to deliver a talk to our students interested in a law career. BBK is a solicitor firm for serious injury claims. Caroline shared her experience as a child brain injury solicitor as well as more generally what they do at BBK. The event went so well that we are arranging for one of BBK's apprentices to deliver a talk in January about the apprenticeship route into law.

Marina, a Year 12 student who attended the talk said "The law talk that I attended was extremely intriguing. Let me just begin with emphasising how incredibly friendly and kind the lawyer was. I found the talk very interesting as she was discussing a sector in law that I had never heard of before. She works with children that suffer from brain injury. It was intriguing learning about this type of law as it's not very known. Overall, It was very enjoyable."

Clinical Psychology Research

Ms St Ledger, Head of Careers and PSHE. Teacher in Charge of Psychology.

Annie Bird, a trainee Clinical Psychologist from Royal Holloway University came into school for a workshop with our A Level Psychology students.

She gave an inspiring talk about her clinical psychology training, including both academic and clinical experience. She told the students about the various settings she has worked in, from prisons to hospitals.

Students were enthusiastic and asked many insightful questions. Following the talk, students had the opportunity to participate in Annie's thesis research to get a real understanding of the research process from the perspective of a participant, cementing the learning they had done in the Research Methods section of their A Level Psychology course.



Physics / STEM trip to the Diamond Light Synchrotron, Oxfordshire

Mr Roberts, Science Teacher & NMAPS lead and Ms Myrtle, Head of Science

Some Year 11 Triple Science students along with the Year 12 and Year 13 Physics A level students visited the Diamond Light Synchrotron.

"Diamond Light Source is the UK's national synchrotron science facility, located at the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus in Oxfordshire"

The students listened to a very informative talk about the work of the synchrotron and how it operated. This was followed by a tour led by two of the people who worked there and an opportunity to speak to a scientist who was working on X Ray crystallography. She was very enthusiastic about the work and students were able to ask questions to understand not only the science behind her work but also about the career opportunities on the site.

QE Together meeting

Ms Knott, Deputy Head of Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form students met with Sixth Formers from Queen Elizabeth's School to come up with this year's community projects. These projects are jointly run across both schools and include activities such as a community litter pick and concerts at care homes. We are looking forward to working together this year. Exciting upcoming events include a charity badminton tournament in the new year.

Bertha Earth Year 8 Lunch

Ms Tejpal, Geography Teacher and Bertha Earth Coordinator

Girls in Year 8 have been coming to Bertha earth every Thursday Lunch time to talk about and start creating a space between 218 and 217 grass area, for students to access during their lunch and break to get some time alone.

Girls in Year 7 have been coming to Bertha earth after school on Thursday to show their connectivity, curiosity and commitment to the environment and to express how they could get people to be more in touch with our environment.

Women and Wellness Conference

Ms Shah, Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form

Five Year 12 students attended a conference at Benenden School. We heard from Davina McCall who spoke about the importance of increasing awareness about the menopause. Anna Lane, the Founder of the Wisdom Council spoke knowledgeably about the financial blueprints of young women including pension disparities.

Physics / STEM trip to the JET Fusion reactor, Oxfordshire

Mr Roberts, Science Teacher /NMAPS lead, Mr Bloor-Young, Science Teacher and STEM Coordinator and Mr Carpenter, Teacher of Physics and KS4 Physics Coordinator

Twenty Year 10-12 physics students took a day trip with DBG and JCR to see the JET (Joint European Torus) Fusion Reactor at Culham Centre for Fusion Energy in Oxfordshire.



The students listened to a talk on fusion energy by a scientist working at the facility and were given a guided tour by robotics engineers that maintain reactors to inspire further Physics study.

Clubs

New clubs include:

- Scrabble Club (Ms Bunce, Literacy Coordinator)
 - A range of literacy based games; Scrabble, Boggle etc for students to play and enjoy at Friday lunchtimes

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

Residential trip to Stratford Upon Avon

Ms Madigan, Joint Head of English, Ms Richards, Second in English and Ms Knott, Deputy Head of Sixth Form

The English Department took a group of wonderful students from Year 12 and 13 to a weekend in Shakespeare's birthplace Stratford upon Avon. We visited his birthplace and grave. The students had the opportunity to participate in a Hamlet workshop with actors from the Royal Shakespeare Company. We visited a wonderful exhibition with authentic costumes from actual productions and got to see the first folio!

As ever, the girls of QE did us proud!



Praise Postcards Competition

Ms Abimbola, Deputy Headteacher

Please can parents and carers encourage their children to enter the competition to design a praise postcard based on a school value. The top three winning entries will be selected and used to communicate students' achievement with families.

Upcoming Parents' Evenings

Mr Robson, Assistant Headteacher

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

- 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 early on these days but the canteen is open as normal.

Useful Support Lines Contact Details:

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.

If you or your child needs support with their mental health over the holidays the following organisations are here to help:

Childline is a free, private and confidential service that you can access online and on the phone. They can provide help and support for people up to their 19th birthday.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/> telephone 0800 1111

Samaritans provide free confidential emotional support at any time either by calling 116 123 or emailing jo@samaritans.org

Kooth is an online platform that has information and support for young people on how to manage their mental health <https://www.kooth.com/>

Shout is a 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. It's a place to go if you're struggling to cope and you need immediate help. Text 85258. Only available in mainland UK website <https://giveusashout.org/>

NHS Mental health services are free on the NHS.

To get urgent medical help, use the NHS 111 online service, or call 111 if you're unable to get help online. Only available in mainland UK.

For life-threatening emergencies, call 999 for an ambulance

Safer Schools For learners experiencing any form of abuse, it also provides a contact point for reporting burglaries, vandalism and other incidents that impact on efforts to ensure safe schools. The Call Centre's telephone number is 0800 45 46 47.

CEOP is here to help children stay safe online. If anybody acts inappropriately towards you or another child or young person online (such as sexual chat, or being asked to do something that makes you feel uncomfortable); you can report it here.

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre>

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School
High Street, Barnet, Herts, EN5 5RR
T: 020 8449 2984
F: 020 8441 2322
E: office@qegschool.org.uk