



Founded in 1888

# Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

*Educating Women of the Future*

March 2024

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## The Tudor Rose

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



### From the Headteacher

On 12 March, unusually, I was invited to a reception at 10 Downing Street. I enjoyed quite an experience and was honoured to be recognised as a Community Education Champion. As Headteacher of our successful girls' secondary school, it signifies that the work of the school is both seen and heard. This is not just important for our school and its wider community but also for girls' schools everywhere. You may know we are a founding member of the International Coalition of Girls' Schools "united in elevating women's leadership worldwide by educating and empowering our students to be ethical, globally minded changemakers." We are particularly proud to be involved at a time when girls' education is a fragile concept in many parts of the world.

To that end, I hope you enjoy the items in this end of spring term newsletter. They give you a flavour of the range of activities with which the girls have busied themselves to support both their learning and personal development. Extra curricular experiences further strengthen relationships between students and staff, so important to everyone's success and the development of our community. They also enable further opportunities for our students to grow as leaders.

I would also like to mention that I am particularly looking forward to the introduction of Lyfta to our curriculum next term. You will be hearing more about it all in due course. For now, please explore the website of this award winning innovative platform [here](#)

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# QEGSA Summer Fair

Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School Association (QEGSA)



Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School Association

QEGSA have announced the date of the annual summer fair: Saturday 13 July.

Please keep the day free! More information will follow in due course.

# QEGSA Coffee Morning

Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School Association (QEGSA)

QEGSA invite parents and carers to a coffee morning at the school on Friday 26 April, between 9.15 and 10.45. Please RSVP at [natalieassor@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:natalieassor@hotmail.co.uk)

Regular meetings and fund-raising activities continue with QEGSA. If you would like to get involved, please contact [qegsa-pta@qegschool.org.uk](mailto:qegsa-pta@qegschool.org.uk) or find more details on our website at <https://www.qegschool.org.uk/qegsa>

# ICGS Podcasts

International Coalition of Girls' Schools



As you will be aware, our headteacher Mrs Walker is on the ICGS UK Regional Advisory Council. We want to share some of their fantastic resources, and we recommend parents and carers listen to the ICGS Podcasts.

You will find them at this link: <https://girlsschools.org/advocacy/podcast/>

They include:

## **ON EDUCATING GIRLS – CREATING A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES:**

*Produced by the Coalition and hosted by Trudy Hall, On Educating Girls is a robust global conversation among experts who are passionate about the education and healthy development of girls.*

*What is good for girls is at the centre of each episode, as listeners are offered resources, language, tips, and programs for educating and empowering young women by those who educate, work with, and understand girls.*

## **THE CONNECTED GIRL:**

*The International Coalition of Girls' Schools is proud to present The Connected Girl, a compelling six-episode On Educating Girls podcast series that offers expert insights into important aspects of girls' healthy development in a world that can often feel disjointed.*

*Connection often begins with an invitation. The Connected Girl is an invitation to those who know, love, and believe in empowering girls to engage with the experts we have gathered to understand the power and possibility of the many connections in the lives of girls.*

## **PODCAST SHORTS:**

*Join us as we dive into the treasure trove of wisdom from our On Educating Girls vault!*

*Our Podcast Shorts feature curated content offered in informative episodes that give you actionable ideas and takeaways, all delivered in 10 minutes or less.*

# Year 10 'Planning for the Future' Morning

Mr Baxter, Head of Year 10

Year 10 took part in three workshops to support them with their future planning. One focused on study skills for GCSE, another focused on the various Post-16 options available to them. The last session involved delving into career options and looking at the different forms of employment. Sessions were mainly delivered by form tutors who know the students best so that they could have valuable discussions about their future.

## Year 9 Options Events

Mr Reay, Head of Year 9

It was a pleasure to welcome our Year 9 students and their families for our Year 9 Options Evening event on the 21st February. Families received a detailed presentation about the options process from Mrs Walker, Mr Jones and Mrs Abimbola. Students and families also got the opportunity to visit the Sports Hall where subject 'stalls' were set up to provide further information on what it would be like to study the subject at GCSE level.

As part of the options process Year 9 watched subject presentations delivered by Heads of Department to ascertain what subjects they would like to study at GCSE level. As well as this, students also had an opportunity to experience four 'taster' lessons in subjects of interest. This day helped provide an insight into what studying those subjects might be like come Year 10. Overall, it was an enjoyable morning and students feedback how the day supported them to make informed decisions.



Year 9 had an options morning where they had the opportunity to think about their strengths, the subjects they enjoy and what they might like to study for GCSE. They were informed about the various options pathways available at our school and given advice on planning for the future. Sessions were mainly delivered by form tutors who know the students best so that they could have valuable discussions about their future.

## Year 8 Valentine's Disco

Ms Knott, Deputy Head of Sixth Form Year 13 Officers arranged a Valentine's Disco for Year 8. In addition to the organised dance-off in the main hall, there were also lots of fun Valentine's related activities prepared.





# Bertha Earth: Tree planting

Ms Tejpal, Geography Teacher and Bertha Earth Coordinator

We had an amazing range of trees brought to the school and four girls within the Bertha Earth group took part in planting these trees near the grounds by the tennis court. The girls and staff really enjoyed themselves. This was a great way for the girls to give back to the community.



# UCAS Discovery Event

Ms Knott, Deputy Head of Sixth Form and Ms Shah, Assistant Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form

Students had the chance to meet universities, colleges, apprenticeship providers and employers. There were personal statement workshops, career taster sessions and Q&A sessions.



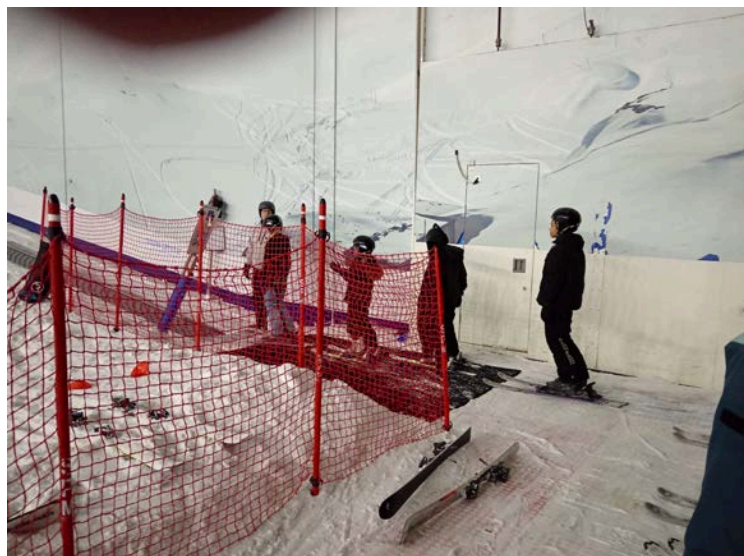
# Snowbility

Ms Stewart, Senior Learning Mentor

Students recently went on an eight week programme led by Snowbility at Hemel Hempstead Snow Centre. This is a targeted intervention to promote resilience and team building.

Here are a couple of comments from two of the participants.

*Snowbility has really helped with my mental health. I have really enjoyed going and learning to ski.*





*Snowbility has been a brilliant experience, I have been able to learn something I would probably never be able to do without going to the sessions.*

*It has also helped improve my bond with the friends I go with.*

## **'QE Together' Litter Pick**

**Ms Knott, Deputy Head of Sixth Form**

Students from our Sixth Form and Queen Elizabeth's School collected litter in Dollis Valley and worked with the 'Clean Up River Brent' group.





# PGL Trip

Mrs Doel, Head of Year 7

Year 7 went to PGL Marchants Hill, for team building and fun!

*PGL was really fun and the activities were amazing! We particularly enjoyed the Giant Swing - going to the top was something neither of us have ever experienced before. We enjoyed all of the activities, one that really stood out is the Jacob's ladder. PGL was amazing and fun - we would definitely do it again!*

Amelia 7RPE and Philippa 7ACH





# World Book Day

Ms Bridger, School Librarian

To celebrate World Book Day, we hosted a Literary themed quiz, a Percy Jackson Bingo, and a raffle for a range of prizes in the Library after school. Tokens for free books were distributed through form tutors. Students also helped create a Percy Jackson themed display in the library.



# Transition Group

Ms Stewart, Senior Learning Mentor

To celebrate the end of Spring term Transition group made decorations relating to :

- Ramadan, Purim , Easter and Spring
- Star and crescents
- Purim masks
- Easter or Spring wreaths.

Students will also notice the flowering of the bulbs planted in the sinks by the group last November.

Daffodils and crocuses with tulips to come.



# DofE Training Day

Ms Cheverton, Teacher of PE and Duke of Edinburgh Award Coordinator

To enable year 9 students to complete a training day for their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, girls had sessions in map reading, putting up and taking down tents, kit and packing, navigation.



# Year 7 Netball Roses Tournament

Ms Kantorowicz, Head of P.E.

Eight Year 7 pupils played in the Netball Roses tournament at Copthall school. They won two out of six matches. They showed great determination and skill.



# Careers Events

Ms Douglas, Careers Coordinator and Ms St Ledger, Head of Careers and PSHE

## ICT at No.10 Downing Street

Larissa Chase, Head of ICT at No. 10 Downing Street, gave a talk for our Year 8 students. Larissa's talk was moving, funny, informative and inspiring. Larissa is the first woman to hold the role of Head of ICT at No. 10 and she talked the students through her journey to her current role. Students were thoroughly engaged and asked lots of thought-provoking questions. Thank you to Larissa for sharing her time with us and showing our students how successful a woman can be in a male-dominated field.



## Career Accelerator Reflection Workshop

Students who participated in the Career Accelerator programme had the opportunity to reflect on their experience with their mentors. Jhanay Otto from Career Accelerator came into school and students discussed key benefits of taking part in the scheme and what they learned from being mentored by industry professionals.

## Royal Free Hospital Careers Insight Event

Twelve Year 12 students took part in a Careers Insight Event at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead

## Marsh Insurance

Jayne Stevens UK Technical Development Leader from Marsh Insurance spoke to students about apprenticeships opportunities within the insurance Business. Marsh are keen to encourage more diversity within the insurance industry. One of our students has been offered a work experience placement with Marsh in July.

## Civil Service and Ministry of Justice

Marina McCarthy is a Business Planner for HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS), which is responsible for the management administration of courts and tribunals across England



and Wales. Its purpose is to run an efficient and effective courts and tribunals system, enabling the rule of law to be upheld, and providing access to justice for all. HMCTS is an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and contributes to the delivery of the MoJ.

Marina delivered a talk on her role and her own apprenticeship journey within the Civil Service.

### **Berkeley Group - Apprenticeship talk**

Stav Aristokle-Hill, People Manager at Berkeley Group, came in with six apprentices to deliver a talk on routes into the property development and construction industry. The talk was inspirational and it gave our students a well rounded understanding of the wide range of job roles available, from HR to quantity surveying, to digital marketing and site supervision. Having six apprentices working within the company come and share their experiences was invaluable, and students were able to see how they could start their journey at any point - after their GCSEs with a Level 3 qualification, after A-Levels or even with a degree apprenticeship. Thank you very much to Mrs Aristokle-Hill and her team of bright young women!



### **Law Apprenticeships at Bolt Burdon Kemp**

Caroline Klage, Partner at Bolt Burdon Kemp, along with her colleagues Beci and Connor, gave a talk about routes into Law. Connor is a solicitor apprentice and he shared his experiences of the apprenticeship. The talk gave students an important insight into the alternative pathways into a career in Law. Thank you to Caroline, Beci and Connor for their time and expertise, and for answering the students' questions. Beci kindly shared Bolt Burdon Kemp's [Careers page](#) which students can explore, as well as a [podcast episode](#) sharing the various routes into Law.



### **Capel Manor College and Newham Sixth Form College Talk**

Year 11 had an assembly on the Post-16 options available to them once they have completed their GCSE exams. They were told about various routes including studying A Levels, technical qualifications such as T Levels, and vocational qualifications. Gabrielle

Walker from Capel Manor College came in to speak to our Year 11 students about industry facts and the Green Skills sector, before sharing Capel Manor's land-based and animal courses. Students then heard a talk by Newham Sixth Form College about T Levels, a new technical qualification that combines study with on the job training.

### **University of Hertfordshire Radiography talk**

Our Year 12 students heard an informative talk by Narjis Rizvi, a Radiography student at the University of Hertfordshire. Narjis explained the different types of radiography and talked through her career journey so far. She also gave students an insight into university life and answered questions about what it is like to attend the University of Hertfordshire.

## **Year 7 'Your Life You Choose' Day**

*Mrs Doel, Head of Year 7*

This was a day off timetable, showing students about choices in life. We had a number of speakers, including emergency service workers, those from the law including magistrates, and those who had made previous poor choices in life who were now working with others to mentor them.

*The Your Life You Choose event was a useful and very informative day. We found out through our peers that everyone enjoyed and learnt about different things throughout the day. We really liked it when Donna (ex convict) told us about her experience in prison, it was eye opening and very shocking. It was also really useful to learn how to properly do a 999 call, although it was a bit nerve wracking! Overall, we really liked how interactive and fun the day was and we learnt a lot!*

By Isabella 7SNG and Matilda 7SHN

## **Barnet Youth Ambassador and Youth Parliament Results Evening**

*Mrs Walker, Headteacher*

I was delighted to attend the results event for students at Barnet school and colleges who had put themselves forward to be elected as either members of the Youth Parliament or as Youth Ambassadors. I was accompanied by Mr Jones, Senior Deputy Headteacher and Ms Abimbola, Deputy Headteacher. We were all especially pleased to support our own students who had made a first step in joining a democratic process. 40 candidates stood across 12 schools with 17 schools taking part in the voting, casting 6,459 votes. We fielded five candidates, three standing for Youth Parliament: Vanshi Y12, Iona Y12, and Isabella Y7 and two standing to be elected as Youth Ambassadors: Selena Y7 and Vinishaa Y7. Two students were elected to serve a term of office in each category and all the other students are eligible to have their campaign manifesto debated at the youth parliament. Our students were not

elected this time but should remain proud of themselves to have taken that first step in a democratic process and have their voice heard. The evening was attended by Chris Munday, Executive Director of Children's Services in Barnet, Neil Marlow, Director for School Improvement and Traded Services, local councillors and The Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Nagus Narenthira who presented all candidates with a commemorative certificate. Congratulations to barnet's young people and particularly our own students!



## National Theatre Connections

**Mrs Daulby, Swimming Instructor and Behaviour Mentor**

Over the past few months, students in years 9 and 10 diligently prepared for their rendition of the play *Shout*, due to be performed for the prestigious National Theatre Connections Festival at the Arts Depot in April. Last night marked their home performance, where they showcased their talents to an audience comprising family, friends, staff, and a director from the National Theatre who provided expert feedback to them at the end of their performance. The students relished every moment and are eagerly anticipating their participation in the festival this April.



Connections is the National Theatre's annual, nationwide youth theatre festival. The programme has been established for 29 years with a celebrated history of championing the talent of young people from across the UK. Every year, the National Theatre commissions ten new plays for young people to perform, bringing together some of the UK's most exciting writers with the theatre-makers of tomorrow.



## **QEGS presents *Shout* by Alexis Zegerman.**

In a world full of words, how can Dana survive when she can't speak?

Dana has selective mutism, but that doesn't stop her vivid imagination. *Shout* is a funny, moving play about anxiety, celebrating difference, and finding your voice. A play that wonders what exactly it takes to overcome anxiety and mental health issues when you're a teenager. It's not just the noise you make, that makes you who you are.

## **Useful Support Lines Contact Details:**

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](mailto: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>

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**READ MORE ON OUR  
WEBSITE**



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