



Founded in 1888

# Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

*Educating Women of the Future*

May 2024

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## The Tudor Rose

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



### **From the Headteacher**

I am particularly pleased to share this half term's newsletter with you; the whole school has been occupied in profitable activity! This newsletter captures the time in the school calendar when we celebrate the school's beginnings and when the school is providing ongoing support to its public examination year groups. Our Commemoration Day celebrations served to enable reflection on our school's values and purpose; the public examinations ground us in the knowledge that the school flourishes as our students thrive. This half term break gives promise of all the year-end activities planned for next half term. We will be welcoming to school the Year 6 students who will be joining us in September, enjoying Year 11 Prom, Year 13 Leavers' Dinner and celebrating our students' achievements. So much to look forward to!

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# Commemoration Day 2024

*Pupils of Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School celebrated the 136th anniversary of their school in the Church of England parish church St John the Baptist. The school was founded in 1888 and has carried on the tradition of the procession and commemorative service at the church which was instrumental in the school's founding.*

*The date was Friday 10th May when there was a procession from the school to the church led by Mrs Walker. Local dignitaries joined Mrs Walker in processing up the aisle. The students then sat down in the church and the service began. Everyone enjoyed singing the hymns accompanied by the organ. The school choir sang 'Amazing Grace' and there was a solo performance of 'Hallelujah'. The orchestra and piano soloists were pitch perfect and all was a credit to the musical direction of Ms Stepanyak. Mrs Walker read the Act of Commemoration, an annual event since 1923 and the head girl read from Corinthians. Representative students made affirmations of their own religion to celebrate the diversity of the school.*

*Father Sam, Vicar at St John's, gave a sermon whose message was to believe in yourself.*

Irini 8ATR











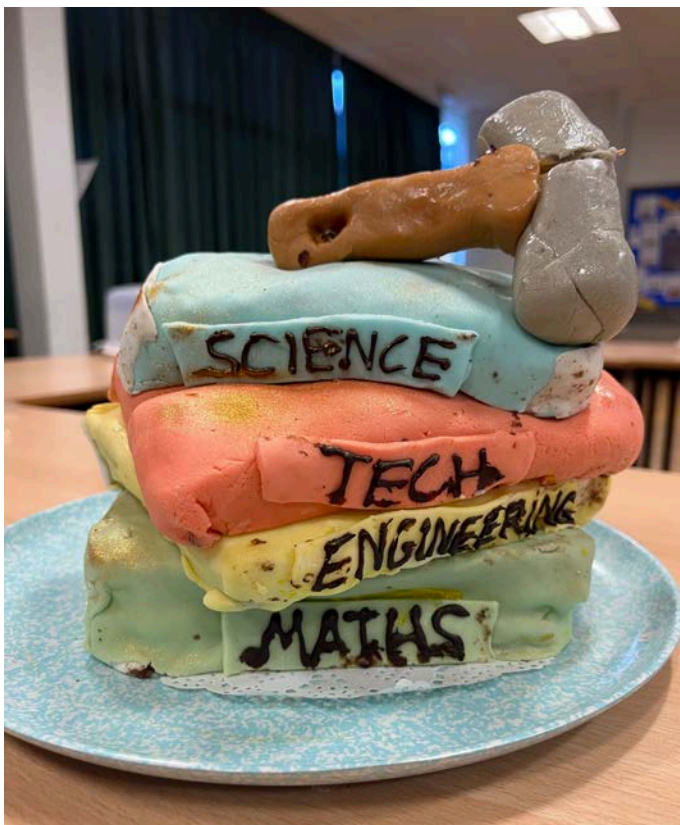


# Commemoration Day Cake Competition

This year's theme for the annual competition was *smashing stereotypes*. Mrs Walker and Mrs Doel judged the cakes as usual, cutting a slice to get an impression of baking skill as well as decorating skill. Of course they sampled a little of each cake to add the final dimension to the evaluation. There were many delicious and creative designs based on the theme but as is tradition, three were awarded prizes. First prize was awarded to Konomi in 9MEN for precision icing and exquisite sponge and lemon curd filling.

Second prize was awarded to Irina in 10JFD whose simple design had an important rationale; ambition will support you to achieve. Her carrot cake was perfection.

Third prize was awarded to Sadia, Elyssa, Vinishaa and Rachel in 7RPE for their decorated pile of STEM books made from a really good, moist sponge cake.



# QEGS' Got Talent!

Commemoration Day ended with this popular event arranged by Mr Williams and enjoyed by students, families and staff. The Year 11 hosts were enthusiastic and very entertaining throughout. The audience was treated to a variety of dance acts, gymnastics and vocals, sometimes all at the same time! One student played a piano solo and another sang and played guitar to her own composition. Every performer was enormously talented and cheered on by the impressed audience. The overall winner, voted for by the audience, was Freya in Year 7 who sang a favourite from Wicked; what a voice! Freya's performance was quite different from her cello playing in church earlier in the day; undeniably talented.



## QEGSA Summer Fair (Saturday 13th July)

Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School Association (QEGSA)

Saturday 13 July 2024

10.30am - 3.30pm

Make sure the Summer Fair date is in your diaries, all are welcome so let your friends, family and neighbours know too! Come along for a day of fun with stalls, games, food, tombolas, a raffle - and more - and raise some money to support the school.

Keep an eye out after half term for more information on ways you can help support the Fair.



# National Theatre Connections

Mrs Daulby, Behaviour Mentor

Directing 18 year 9 and 10 students in Alexis Zegerman's play "Shout" was an absolute pleasure. Witnessing their dedication and passion for the craft was truly inspiring. The opportunity for them to participate in a workshop with a director from the National Theatre was invaluable, enriching their understanding and enhancing their skills. Performing on stage at the Arts Depot, surrounded by their friends and family, was a moment of pride for all involved. Little did we imagine that Alexis Zegerman herself would be among the audience, watching her creation come to life. Her presence added a special layer of significance to the performance.



Afterward, her heartfelt words of praise and encouragement meant the world to the students. Learning that this was her first time seeing the play since she wrote it made the experience even more memorable. Her touching message was that her daughter is in year 5 and now having seen the QEGS performance she would like her to attend there too albeit not being in the catchment area. This was a testament to the girls' and the hard work they have all put in.



*Our journey with QEGS's chosen connections play, 'SHOUT', started when we attended our first meeting with everyone auditioning from years 9-10. After the auditions we were relieved to hear we were all accepted for roles and I was especially excited to hear I had the role of 'VIV', as she was the character I originally auditioned as. We met up every tuesday and thursday, all of us putting in as much effort as possible in the little time we had. Along the way we all became great friends and everyone looked forward to*



*our practices. Soon enough came the day of the house performance where all of our hard work paid off. I can safely say we were thoroughly terrified however absolutely thrilled with how our performance went, It was one of our best yet!*

*Soon after we had our trip to the Arts Depot on Monday 22nd April where we performed in front of the paying public, in one of their professional theatres! Even more terrified than before, we put on an even better performance and everyone loved it. Our only sadness was that our practices and shows had come to an end. We can only hope that our application to perform at the National theatre is as successful as our show, so we can make even more amazing memories!*



- Magda Clarkson 9ACN

## **UKMT Junior Maths Challenge**

**Mrs Khodabacus, Head of Mathematics**

Year 8 students have competed in the national UKMT Junior 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 Maths Challenge is a 60-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 500,00 entries annually which makes it the most popular mathematical event across the country.

One student has achieved the Gold level and a number of students have achieved the Silver level. Many congratulations to all our participants. Students will be receiving their certificates in the upcoming assembly.

# Class Charts

Mr Robson, Assistant Headteacher

Families of students in Years 7 to 10 have now been invited to begin using Class Charts.

Class Charts is an online system which teachers use to track achievement and behaviour throughout the school day. We believe in working closely with parents and carers, and one of the key benefits of using Class Charts is that we are able to securely share your child's achievements with you and to keep you up to date in real-time.



All parents and carers will have a unique access code for their child. Charts can be accessed via our website, or through the iOS and Android parent apps. Your unique access code will have been emailed to you using the contact details which the school currently holds. To add a student to your Class Charts account, you will need the code and student's date of birth. As anyone with both the code and date of birth can access the student's data, the date of birth will not be included in the email and it is important not to share the code with anyone.

If you have more than one child in the school, you can enter additional codes directly into your account and access Class Charts information from a single, centralised parent account.

Class Charts is already used by thousands of schools across the country. We hope you find this another useful tool in keeping track of your child's achievements in school.

# DofE Bronze - Training Expedition

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

On Saturday 4th May, a group of 50 year 9 students went out to the Chiltern Hills for their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Training Expedition. The girls walked routes of around 10km on the first day, developing their navigational skills and ability to be self-sufficient over a weekend. They camped overnight, cooking up evening meals and enjoying a device-free evening. On the second day the girls were remotely supervised, giving them a chance to show off their skills in preparation for their Qualifying Expedition at the end of May. 50/50 participants passed and will progress onto the Qualifier. Good luck to all!



# QE Together Quiz

Ms Knott, Deputy Head of Sixth Form

Year 12 students took part in a Sixth Form quiz at Queen Elizabeth's School. We got faster on the buzzer as the rounds progressed!

# QE Lecture Series

Ms Knott, Deputy Head of Sixth Form

Lecture by Peter Cunliffe-Jones academic and journalist on 'Fake News and what to do about it' Peter gave a lecture and Q and A to Year 12 students. He covered the following topics:

- Fake News
- What's the problem - A brief description of what people call "Information Disorder" that undermines public understanding (i.e. 'fake news'/misinformation and lack of access to information and bias in the accurate information we see)
- What's the impact it has? - i.e. what we do (& don't) understand about the effects of false information & why this matters for freedom of speech
- What are the solutions? Different approaches being taken to counter the problem
- Fact-checking (growing number of organisations - including the ones in the UK)
- 'Pre-bunking' (what this is and evidence it works)
- Media literacy
- Regulation & platform "moderation"

# Scholastic Book Fair

Ms Bridger, School Librarian

The Library hosted a Bake Sale (run by the student librarians) on May 14th to raise money for books from the Scholastic Book Fair, which was also available for students to purchase brand new books and fun stationary at discounted prices.



# 'Wings of Hope' Bake Sale

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

*On Friday, my friends and I had a bake sale at break and lunch to raise money for the Wings of Hope charity. They are a charity who raise money for children in India and Malawi to go to school and get a fundamental education. Our team name is 'The Three Musketeers'.*

Khadijah 9ACN



# Mental Health Awareness Week Assemblies

Ms Shah, Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form

A group of Y12 students planned and delivered assemblies to all Key Stages on the importance of looking after mental health. They shared tips of what has worked for them.

*The purpose of the assembly was to discuss mental health as it is not spoken about enough and to help the students with their own mental health. We also included a few personal things that we do to improve our mental health. Mental health awareness is really important as it allows students to recognise the ways mental illness can impact their lives. Additionally, many people are afraid to talk to someone about their mental health due to misconceptions surrounding mental health issues. Therefore, discussing it will allow students to feel more confident in expressing their feelings.*

- Marina 6MSR

*We conducted the assembly on mental health awareness, to shed light on this important topic, we discussed the importance of well-being and cultivating a positive mindset. By providing students with tips and resources, we empower them to take proactive steps towards maintaining their mental wellbeing. Our main aim was to create an environment where students could feel comfortable discussing their mental health and seeking support when needed. Throughout the presentation, I had the privilege of learning from my peers about various strategies and techniques that they have found helpful in prioritising their mental health. By encouraging self-care practices, we can foster a culture of resilience and mindfulness in our school community.*

- Aysel 6IBN



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## Year 11 Last Assembly ahead of exams

Ms Barney, Head of Year 11

On Friday 3rd we had our Year 11 Leavers assembly. The assembly was an opportunity to reflect and celebrate the last 5 years and all of the wonderful memories and achievements our Year 11 students have made. Students saw photographs - old and new and heard messages from staff giving them their top tips for their upcoming exams!

Students were then able to sign shirts as a memento of the last 5 years. We look forward to welcoming our students back to embark on a new challenge with us in our sixth form in the new term and wish them all the best in their GCSEs which they have now begun.

## Year 13 Last Assembly ahead of exams

The Sixth Form Team

We said goodbye to regular lessons with our current Y13 students on Friday 17 May. We had an assembly with messages from various staff members, photos from Y7 onwards and fun awards. We thanked the Officer Team for their generosity of time and their service to the school this past year, and a special thanks to the Head Girl and Deputies. We then moved to the grounds for shirt signing and a picnic in the sun. We wish our Y13s the very best for their A Level exams.

# 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  
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