



Founded in 1888

Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future

October 2024

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The Tudor Rose

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



From the Headteacher

This issue of The Tudor Rose contains brief summaries of a selection of activities that have engaged our students and staff beyond the classroom during this first half of the autumn term. Student engagement with their learning and personal development, including attending over 40 extra curricular clubs available this term, indicates their purposeful start to the academic year and importantly, how much fun they have too.

I have been particularly pleased to meet so many of our families in school during these last eight weeks, attending information evenings, open evenings and open mornings for younger siblings, and at school celebration events. It is remarkable how many parents and carers have told me at these different events that they were past students here themselves; another indicator of our school being one that serves its community. I wonder how many of those parents and carers who are past students are aware that they can join The Guild - our alumna association which among other things, produces an informative newsletter about past students and staff. The Guild also arranges a wonderful reunion lunch at school on a Saturday each May to mark Commemoration Day. It is an opportunity to meet up with old friends and visit the school and grounds which are open for those attending on the day. The school archive goes on display in the Library and no doubt past students will find photos of themselves and other memorabilia to enjoy with their classmates! Please contact The Guild using this email address: qeguildebarnet@gmail.com It would be lovely to engage with you in this way too. On behalf of all the staff I wish you all our families a restful and enjoyable autumn term break.

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Celebration of Excellence

We proudly celebrated our students at the annual Celebration of Excellence event which took place on 11 September.

We welcomed guest speaker, Olivia Matthews, Alumna Class of 2016 who gave an inspirational talk to our students on her impressionable time at Queens Elizabeth's Girls' School and successful career path since.

This year as well as celebrating the achievements of our students by awarding them with various prizes, we also celebrated the long service of many of our staff. Over half of our support staff and almost half of our teaching staff worked here and contributed to our learning community for at least ten years; the longest serving members serving over 35 years.



To help in the celebrations we welcomed families of the students nominated, along with guests of the school, including the Mayor and Mayoress of Barnet, Councillor Tony Vourou and Mayoress Mrs Caroline Vourou, the Deputy Lieutenant for the Borough, the Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning, and other distinguished guests.

Congratulations to all of our award winners.

To view the article in The Barnet Society - click on:

<https://www.barnetsociety.org.uk/queen-elizabeth-s-girls-school-celebrates-its-community-strength-by-honouring-long-standing-teaching-staff>

TedX Talks 2024

Mrs Bunce, Literacy Coordinator

Irina and Anjana from year 11 excelled in last year's Jack Petchy Speak Out Challenge and were invited to take part in the TedX Talks 2024 this year. The theme was 'Youth: then, now and in the future' and the two students worked diligently on their speeches, rehearsing them in the hall to an eager audience of year 7 students. Finally, the day came when we walked to Queen Elizabeth's Boys' School, who were hosting the event, and they performed with confidence, style and impressed the audience with their carefully crafted and well delivered speeches. Look out for them on the TedX Talks videos!



Wings of Hope Achievement Awards



We proudly congratulate the 'Fuelling Futures' team who were winners at The Wings of Hope Achievement Awards, which took place on Friday 11 October at a ceremony in central London. Well done to 'The Three Musketeers' team who were also finalists.

Eve and Magda write:

Our team, Fuelling Futures, attended the Wings of Hope awards ceremony on Friday 11 October, where we received the top winning award for the 'Most Funds Raised' category and also Runner Up overall of the whole competition 2023/24!

Along our WOHAJ journey, we organised and carried out six fundraisers in total - a Sponsored 10K Swim with support from the David Lloyd Club, a Second-Hand Sale, a Bake Sale and a follow-up Bake Sale to implement improvements and learning strategies leading to a 20% increase in sales, a Door-to-Door sale and a Walk-a-thon. We also held two community actions, one of which was a Book Drive where we collected and donated 276 books to distribute amongst the community through the Children's Book Project to those with few books of their own.

As a team, we raised £3169.27 for The Wings of Hope Charity!



ICGS Student Leadership Symposium

Ms Sharma, Assistant Headteacher

Lucy from Year 12 writes:

On the 11th of October, myself and 9 other students in year 12 attended the ICGS (International Coalition of Girls Schools) UK Student Leadership Symposium at Chelmsford County High School for Girls. The coalition works with 24 girls schools around the globe and strives to close the gap in education and career opportunities for girls.

The day was full of great activities, including workshops, talks and lunch. There was also excellent

music and entertainment throughout the day from students at the school.



The talks were from different inspirational women from all different careers including tech, the arts and civil service. It was amazing because they were a demonstration of what women are capable of and what you can achieve when you put your mind to it, especially in terms of tackling the gender gap and how we can achieve gender equity, meaning fairness, for all.

The workshops I chose to do were 'The Future is Female' and 'Glass Ceiling; smashing it in a mans' world'. The first workshop was about how we can improve things in the workplace, whether it's extended maternity/paternity leave with

more flexible hours, pay rises or raising more awareness about mental health.



The second workshop was about helping girls break through invisible barriers, known as the 'glass ceiling', to reach their full potential. A barrier such as gender can hold people back, especially women, which is why the workshop was so important because it taught us to be bold, using negotiation and knowing our worth, to strive for the rights and rewards we deserve. It emphasised how important it is to know your worth and to not settle for less, especially in terms of pay, when women do

just as much of the work as anyone else, often more.

I came out of the workshop feeling more empowered and more confident to go into the world of work and also inspired to help join the campaign in closing the gap. We also got free merch and balloons at the end (who doesn't love a tote bag!). I would definitely recommend this opportunity to anyone who is offered it, it was a really good day.

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge

Mrs Khodabacus, Head of Maths

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 500,00 entries annually which makes it the most popular mathematical event across the country.

The results are in and our students have done phenomenally well. Many congratulations to all the students.

Lessons From Auschwitz Project

Ms Shah, Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form

Ella and Ingrid from Year 13 write:

We recently had the opportunity to visit the sites of the Auschwitz complex with the charity the Holocaust Educational Trust as part of their 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project. On the 8th of October, we embarked on our journey to Kraków in Poland, and our visit started with visiting a pre-Holocaust Jewish cemetery in Oświęcim. This helped us understand the culture and history of Jewish people in Poland as well as how this has been erased. We then went on to visit Auschwitz I, where an incredible guide taught us about the camp and the role it played in the Holocaust. Seeing people's possessions piled up in the displays was incredibly moving, and humanised the experiences of people there. After this, we travelled to the site of Auschwitz II-Birkenau,



where we were shocked by the overwhelming size of the camp and the sight of the destroyed gas chambers. At the end of the day, we participated in a ceremony commemorating the victims of the Holocaust and laid a candle on a memorial stone. It was a brilliant opportunity which we learnt a lot from and will stay with us forever.

Geography Trip to Dorset

Mrs Barney, Associate Assistant Headteacher

From Tuesday 17th September through to Friday 21st September Ms Deen and I took our Year 13 Geographers down to the Dorset coastline to conduct the fieldwork for their NEA.

Upon arrival we headed straight to Swanage to carry out fieldwork investigating coastal management. The students undertook a range of surveys to determine how effective each management strategy is. An example of this is when the students carried out an experiment to test whether longshore drift was occurring at Swanage Bay by throwing an apple into the sea and calculating the speed and distance it travelled along the coastline. Apart from a seagull, who swept and stole the first apple, the afternoon was a great success! We also managed to squeeze in an ice-cream for our efforts! Later we travelled the short distance to our accommodation, a beautiful cottage, in the Brenscombe Outdoor Centre. The students enjoyed the open space playing football and even going for a run!



On Wednesday, we spent the day on the stunning beach at Studland. The sun was shining and the beach was busy! Here, the students completed a transect measuring sand dune succession, using a range of equipment such as ranging poles, quadrats, clinometers and a PH indicator. We had lunch on the beach whilst taking in the beautiful scenery. After lunch we returned to Swanage, to further investigate the impact of coastal erosion on the coastline and see first hand the different measures put in place to protect this valuable stretch of coastline.



On Thursday, we spent the day in Boscombe, an urban area that has experienced recent regeneration. We took a stroll along the pier and the promenade collecting data on the quality of the environment, noise levels and drawing field sketches. We then walked towards the main high street, further inland, collecting data on observed changes to ultimately help assess whether the regeneration of the sea front has been beneficial for Boscombe as a whole.



On Friday, before heading back to school, we took a visit to the stunning Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door. The students were struck by the natural beauty of these features and took the opportunity to walk up and take it all in. A wonderful way to end our week.



Decorating the Lindani Hub

Mrs St Ledger, Mrs Matty, Ms Stewart

Year 13 students, including members of the Officer Team, helped to redecorate the Lindani classroom. Klejda ran a wellbeing club named Meliora for two years, supporting younger students to have a safe space to share their worries. She organised bake sales and other fundraising activities to raise money to create a hub where students can go when they feel overwhelmed or need a short break. Klejda used the money to buy plants, soft lighting and paint to create a calming environment. At the end of the Summer Term, a group of Year 13 students and staff members spent two days painting the room. When students returned in September it was a calm, welcoming space thanks to the efforts of our wonderful Y13 leavers.



Dr Szydlo Chemistry Lesson: As if by Magic

Mr. Bloor-Young, STEM Coordinator

On the 9th and 14th of October this year we were lucky enough to welcome Dr Andrew Szydlo to give a Chemistry Lesson from the Highgate School As if By Magic outreach team. Students from year 7, 8 and 10 received a one hour lesson from Dr. Szydlo, exploring aspects of the science curriculum and the history of Chemistry via exciting demonstrations involving colour changes,



liquid nitrogen and explosions! Staff and students alike enjoyed the lesson and learnt a lot. We are grateful to Dr. Szydlo for volunteering his time and hope to welcome him back next year to inspire and educate students again.



Open Evening for Prospective Year 7s

Mr Robson, Assistant Headteacher

On Monday 23 September, the school came together for one of the biggest events in the school calendar, the Open Evening for students and their families in Year 6 who are deciding on their school for next year.

An incredible 259 QEGS students, in addition to sixth form officers, volunteered to help staff run the event. Our wonderful students took families on tours of the school, and helped show off subjects in their areas.

In addition, Emily in Year 7, Nobuntu in Year 8 and our Head Girl, Vanshi, gave wonderful speeches to a packed hall.

Family Information Events

Mr Robson, Assistant Headteacher

Families of Year 7 ("Welcome to QE Girls"), Year 10 ("Starting GCSEs") and Year 11 ("The Final GCSE Year") were invited to Information Events in September and October.

In addition from meeting tutors, talks from subject leaders about courses, and ways to support students in learning and at home, a number of students volunteered to demonstrate on laptops how students can use the various online learning platforms available. Many other students also volunteered to help marshal the event.

Finally, the event would not have been possible without our wonderful musicians led by Ms Stepanyak: Keira (Y11), Cindy (Y10), Asha (Y8), Marika (Y8), Elyssa (Y8), Tia (Y8), Freya (Y8), Tianna (Y12), Lauren (Y11) and Victoria (Y13).

Sixth Form Open Evening

Ms Shah, Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form

Our sixth form recently hosted an open evening, inviting parents and students to directly experience the wealth of opportunities we offer. It was a fantastic evening where visitors had the chance to meet our passionate and highly skilled teachers, who are dedicated to nurturing each student's potential and supporting their aspirations. Our welcoming and inclusive environment ensures a smooth transition into sixth form, helping students feel comfortable and confident in their new surroundings. Beyond academics, we offer a diverse range of extracurricular activities, from sports teams and performing arts to specialised clubs and opportunities, allowing students to explore new interests, build connections, and develop leadership skills. Personal growth is at the heart of our sixth form experience, and we work closely with students to build resilience, champion independence, and encourage self-discovery. The open evening truly highlighted our commitment to creating a supportive community where students can excel academically and develop as well-rounded individuals, ready to take on the challenges ahead.

QEGSA Christmas Event

Please see the announcement below from the QEGSA Committee regarding the QEGSA Christmas Event:




**Pupils, parents, families and staff – join us for
Christmas in Covent Garden!
Saturday 23 November 2024**

Enjoy a slice of pizza, festive treats and hot chocolate before we head out to see the Christmas lights and Christmas market in Covent Garden. A great way to meet and socialise with your school community!

Meet us at 12 noon in the private hire section 'The Bookshop' of Seven Dials Market, Earham St, London WC2H 9LX
(nearest tube stations are Covent Garden / Leicester Square)

**Ticket price £22 each for adults and pupils
Under 11s £10 and under 2s free
Available to purchase only on Wisepay, between Monday 21 Oct and Thursday 21 Nov
Ticket price includes food, drink and lots of fun!**

Early Bird price £18 for the first 25 adult or pupil tickets

Please be aware that this event is organised by parents in the QEGSA PTA and is not a school trip
Pupils will need to travel independently or be accompanied by their responsible adult during this event

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>

Dates for your diary

- Parents' Evenings
 - Year 12 4.30-7pm (normal school day) Wednesday 13 November
 - Year 7 2pm-6pm (students finish at 12.20) Thursday 21 November
 - Year 11 2pm-6pm (students finish at 12.20) Wednesday 15 January
 - Year 9 2pm-6pm (students finish at 12.20) Thursday 30 January
 - Year 8 2pm-6pm (students finish at 12.20) Wednesday 26 February
 - Year 10 2pm-6pm (students finish at 12.20) Tuesday 25 March
- QEGSA Christmas Event Saturday 23 November
- Wellbeing Day (*note the school is closed for everyone*) Friday 29 November
- Christmas Service, St John the Baptist Church 7pm-8pm Monday 9 December
- Year 9 Options Evening Tuesday 11 February

Useful Support Lines

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>

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**READ MORE ON OUR
WEBSITE**



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