



Founded in 1888

Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future

December 2024

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The Tudor Rose

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



From the Headteacher

This last term of 2024 has seen our students working tirelessly on a number of national, and international projects through our membership of the International Coalition of Girls' Schools. Students have been involved with a number of competitions including sporting, chess, writing, poetry, art, mathematics, science and English competitions. They have been engaged in educational visits which have included events organised by the Computer Science, Science, English, Music, and Art departments. In this edition of the newsletter you will read about some of these activities and others, that give a flavour of how our students' experiences have been enriched beyond classroom teaching and learning. Our school concert last week was a joyous occasion where we could come together to celebrate our students' musical abilities and passions and begin to enter the spirit of the season. This year two religious festivals coincide when many families and staff within our community will be celebrating either Christmas or Hanukkah on the same day. These Christian and Jewish festivals have coincided on only four occasions in just over one hundred years; Orthodox Christmas follows in early January. Every good wish to those in our community who will be celebrating religious festivals.

Please note dates shared at the end of the newsletter; students return to school on Tuesday 7 January. Later in January we will be launching an opportunity for students in Years 8 and 9 to visit Morocco through partnership with World Challenge, an organisation providing adventure travel and experiential learning for schools.

Please also note information about support that may be necessary to some of our community while school is closed.

Finally as the calendar year ends, to everyone, on behalf of all the staff, I wish you a restful and enjoyable break with family and friends over the holiday period, and a very healthy and happy new year.

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Year 7 Halloween Disco

Ms Shah, Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form and Mrs Doel, Head of Year 7

To celebrate the Year Sevens' first half-term, the school's sixth form organised the annual Halloween Disco. Throughout the evening, students enjoyed a variety of activities, including glitter tattoos, a raffle, henna art, lucky dips, and more. The dance floor was filled with music, keeping the energy high all night long.

Sofia and the Sixth Form Team



Food Bank Drive

Ms Shah, Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form

Organising the food bank for the school to donate to, allows the school to help those in need by providing emergency food as well as emotional support reminding those who may need it that they are not alone. This food bank is a reminder to everyone that even little donations can make a big impact on someone's life. We are very grateful for our huge donations we received from everyone, with the winning form 7KAI who donated 408 items to the food bank. Dropping the food off at the food bank was an amazing experience and it felt so gratifying to know that we have done something good for the community and for people who need it. The volunteers were so grateful and we definitely think something like this should be organised again!

Isabella, Ella, Lila - Year 13 Officers



National Libraries Week

Ms Shah, Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form

In celebration of National Libraries Week from October 7th to 13th, our school librarian and library officers organised an impressive second-hand book collection to revitalise the library! This initiative was a tremendous success, bringing in over 400 books for our shelves. To recognise and award our top book donors, we held a raffle for every donated book, with winners announced on Monday, October 21st. We celebrated with exciting prizes and a festive Halloween-themed library decoration. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed, helping to make our library a more enjoyable place for all!

Janan, Camila, Sofia - Year 13 Officers



Bake Sale for Women's Aid

Ms Shah, Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form

Last week a bake sale took place in which money was raised towards the charity Women's Aid. Women's Aid supports victims of Abuse as well as helping to change legislation to improve lives. We managed to raise just under £100 and awareness over the importance of the still, taboo subject of domestic violence and abuse. This experience also allowed us to raise awareness to younger students who may have not already known about the charity, also allowing ourselves to become more educated about the subject. Overall, it was a great experience that inspired us to take part in future charity events!

Eliana and Marina in Year 13

Remembrance Sunday Service

On Sunday 10 November, Head Girl, Vanshi represented the school at the Remembrance Day service which took place at St John the Baptist Church, Chipping Barnet. A poppy wreath, from the school, was laid in honour of the men and women who fell in the service of their country. The service was presided by Father Sam who was joined by many in the community to pay their respects.

As Head Girl, I had the privilege of representing my school at St. John Baptist Church for Remembrance Sunday, where I placed a wreath to honour those who sacrificed for our freedom. Remembrance Day holds immense significance as it serves as a poignant reminder of the bravery and selflessness of those who fought in conflicts past and present. It is a time for communities to come together to reflect on the cost of war and to reaffirm our commitment to peace. Honouring the memory of those who served reminds us of the importance of protecting the freedoms and values they fought for, whilst also teaching future generations the lessons of history. Participating in the ceremony was a deeply humbling experience, reinforcing the need to remember the sacrifices of others and the unity that stems from collective gratitude and reflection. Lest we forget.

Vanshi - Head Girl



Your Life You Choose

Mrs Doel, Head of Year 7

On Thursday 24 October, the Year 7s spent the day attending various workshops around the theme of "Your Life You Choose". The workshops were run by the Police, Magistrates, an ex-offender, The Daniel Spargo Mabbs charity, Prevent and the London Ambulance Service.

The Police

The Police Department told us about youth knife crimes. I found out that there are so many children of my age who do this, it's horrible! We were also taught what actions we should take if someone offers money or gifts and lots of other situations. Overall the Police session was really fun and useful! By Anna 7DRS.

The Ambulance Talk

I really liked this talk as they told us about what happened in their job when talking about knife-crime. I found this fascinating as they were also talking about what would happen if you got stabbed in a particular area and what type of injury it may have caused that person. They also showed us a voice audio of what a NHS call about how someone reacted when a boy had a severe accident with knives. They also showed us a video of a boy that had a severe accident and what they did to help him. One last thing that they included was that they told us how that boy reacted to his injury. Overall, it was an interesting experience to have heard about. By Annie 7JFD



Pathways Talk, by an ex-offender

I really enjoyed the pathways activity because it was very interesting that someone came in and shared their experiences of being in prison with us. Donna was really fun and energetic. Some people got to go on stage and they pretended that they were in jail, getting patted down. Overall, it was an informative experience. By Astrid 7KAI

The Magistrates

My interest in law started from when I was in primary and has grown from my transition to secondary school. I liked the Magistrates' workshop because we were able to get to know what it's like to be in a real court case and about real life crime. My favourite aspect was when we talked about the different types of court and what level of crime would be to what level of court. I really enjoyed being a part of this workshop and I hope to be a part of more things like this in the future. By Siyaan 7SGN

QE Together

Ms Shah, Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form

On the 27 November myself and a few others from Year 12 went to Queen Elizabeth's School for the QE together programme. When we got there we were put into mixed groups to brainstorm some ideas to help out and get involved in the community. We worked together and problem solved to try coordinate events to raise money for charities and get the lower years from both schools involved. Potential events may be held in the following year such as a fete and a charity walk. It was amazing to see how many different ideas were made when we came together and we are excited to be working together in the future. We'll continue to update you in future editions of The Tudor Rose.

Uvasri, Year 12



CyberFirst Girls' Competition

Mr Ali, Head of Computing

For the first time, our Year 8 girls entered the prestigious CyberFirst competition, showcasing their skills in cybersecurity and problem-solving. This national event, designed to inspire young people into computing and technology careers, presented a series of challenges that tested their logical thinking, teamwork, and creativity.

The team approached every task with determination, demonstrating not only their developing technical skills but also their ability to collaborate and think innovatively under pressure. Their enthusiasm and perseverance were inspiring, with one student remarking, "It was so exciting to solve real-world problems and learn how cybersecurity protects everyone!"

While this was their first foray into the competition, the girls made us incredibly proud with their effort, resilience, and willingness to step out of their comfort zones. Their participation highlights the importance of encouraging more young women to explore computing and technology, breaking barriers and building confidence for the future.

TT Rockstars: England Rocks Competition

Mrs Taylor, Maths Key Stage 3 coordinator

The Year 8 and 7 students recently participated in the national TT Rockstars competition, England Rocks, held from November 12th to 14th. We are incredibly proud of the students' efforts, enthusiasm and achievements.

The result within the school was outstanding, with the following classes achieving top scores:

Highest Scoring Class: 7X2

Second Highest Scoring Class: 7X1

Third Highest Scoring Class: 8Y2

A special mention to Athena 7DRS who was the top scorer across all year groups.

A huge congratulations to all our students, and we look forward to even greater participation and success in future competitions!

Life drawing at The Wallace Collection

Ms Beavis, Head of Art

On Monday 2 December year 12 and 13 A Level Art students attended a workshop held at The Wallace collection in Manchester Square London. As usual, we were extremely proud of not only the level of focus and commitment shown by our students but also the exciting and vibrant work produced. Poppy (Y 12) wrote about the experiences shared which you can read below.

The sixth form art students visited the Wallace collection to attend a life drawing workshop where we were taught techniques and skills that enabled us to explore the different ways in which form, tone, light and story combine to create a visually interesting human form. Throughout the day, we were given a variety of thought provoking tasks which allowed us to become comfortable with a multitude of different mediums. Our instructor informed us about the history of numerous pieces in the gallery which got everyone fully immersed in the works. It was eye opening to uncover the ways in which artists through time have viewed the intricacies of the human body and the ways in which moral standards and beauty ideals have informed creation in different historical contexts. We were even given insight into different artistic movements as influences for more contemporary artistic icons, for example the way Vivienne Westwood drew inspiration from Rococo pieces to create her clothing collections. Westwood has called the Wallace collection 'The greatest art school in the country' and after our session, it's easy to understand why.

The morning focused on replicating pre-existing works in the form of quick sketches which helped us to get a feel for life drawing in a less daunting manner. The stunningly beautiful gallery provided the perfect working environment and we were able to view incredibly inspirational works at close range. The afternoon was an intense session with a live model. We focused on creating numerous pieces from different angles, each piece highlighting another element to figure drawing. At the end of the day we were able to give and receive feedback which was both useful and enjoyable because everyone had improved so much from the beginning of the experience. We can't wait to carry the lessons we learnt from the session through to pieces in our wider portfolios.



British Library - 'Research Matters' workshop for EPQ students

Mr Blyth, Sociology Lead Teacher

On 28 November the year 13 EPQ class attended a research methods workshop in the British Library. There, with the support of the research team we explored different methods of research and issues on validity we may face during our EPQ. We were given a tour of the reading room with the original Magna Carta, as well as a first edition of 'The Picture of Dorian Grey' by Oscar Wilde. The workshop was interactive, and we were able to discuss with one another the research we were being exposed to, as well as figuring out the best types of research we would be needing for our EPQ.

All in all, this workshop was really insightful into all the alternatives of research, and was a very productive day.

Isabella, Janan, Shannon - Year 13



Abstract Advent

Ms Beavis, Head of Art

Abstract Advent 2024 is already underway but it is not too late to join in. To participate students simply join the Google Classroom, wait for the daily 'advent symbol' which will arrive at 7.00am and create a response to the symbol they see in any media or format. Anything goes from dance to poetry, manga to sculpture and beyond.

This is a seasonal event intended to foster creativity and engagement simply for the fun of it.

Information about how to take part, where to load your responses and ideas to help you to get started are all in Google Classroom called *AbstractAdvent*. The code is on the display board in the corridor. Have Fun!

'BE BOLD' - ICGS Leadership

Ms Myatt, Associate Assistant Headteacher

A group of ten students across Y9 and 10 are participating in the ICGS pilot programme called 'Be Bold Changemakers'. The engaging workshops are delivered online and enable students to collaborate across the globe with other students on an innovation project to bring about social change. During each session students hear from an inspirational speaker and focus on a different aspect of leadership.

Cutting across continents students are working with other partnerships in the USA/ UK and Australia. See future newsletters for more exciting updates on the projects.

Netball results

Miss Kantorowicz and Mrs Daulby

Well done to all the netball teams who represented QEGS this term.
Year 7 have won all their games this term:

QEGS v Belmont Prep

Team 1 - Won 4-3 - Player of the match: Hannah

Farida
Hannah
Michaela
Morgan
Mathilda
Grace
Kayleigh

Team 2 - Won 8-0 - Player of the match: Imane

Leyaan
Mia
Imane
Isabel
Freja
Athena
Malia

QEGS v JCOSS

Won 4-3 - Player of the match: Morgan

Morgan
Hannah
Kayleigh
Farida
Athena
Michaela
Isabelle
Malia

Year 8 v JCOSS

Lost 14- 4 - Player of the match: Amy

Amy
Lyla
Holly
Geethesri
Selena
Lara
Paradise

Year 9 v Ashmole Won 26-6

Year 9 v East Barnet Lost 6-8

Christianna
Alexandra
Eliza
Ava
Marisa
Ava
Katie
Kayla

Year 11/Seniors v East Barnet Won 18-1

Year 11 v Ashmole Won 25-18

Charlotte
May
Anna
Poppy
Georgina
Hana
Abigail
Olivia
Zehra

I Belong Champion

Mr Ali, Head of Computing

We're thrilled to announce that our school has achieved the I Belong Champion status from the National Centre for Computing Education (NCCE).

This recognition highlights our commitment to narrowing the gender gap in computing and inspiring more girls to pursue computer science.

Despite being the fastest-growing STEM subject, computer science still sees a significant under-representation of girls, often due to stereotypes formed early in life. Through the I Belong programme, we're working to change this by fostering a more inclusive and supportive computing curriculum.

By empowering our teachers with evidence-informed strategies, curated resources, and impactful training, we aim to show girls that they truly belong in computing—both in the classroom and in future careers.



I Belong Computing Careers Event

Mr Ali, Head of Computing

On Wednesday, 11 December, 12 Year 8 students from Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School had the incredible opportunity to attend the 'Encouraging Girls into Computer Science - I Belong' event at the University of Hertfordshire's de Havilland campus. This inspiring day focused on empowering young women to explore exciting careers in STEM. The students took part in engaging conversations with Women in STEM, including ambassadors from ARM and university student mentors, who shared their experiences and insights into the tech industry. A highlight of the day was the hands-on micro:bit workshop, where the students



showcased their creativity and problem-solving skills.

The event was not only an eye-opening experience but also a memorable day of learning, teamwork, and inspiration for the future.

Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge

Mr Ali, Head of Computing

This year, our Year 9 students participated in the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge for the very first time. The competition, which introduces students to problem-solving and logical thinking through fun, interactive challenges, is held annually in over 50 countries and is a fantastic way to spark interest in computer science.

Our students embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and determination, tackling a variety of puzzles that tested their ability to think critically and strategically. Their impressive results reflect both their hard work and potential in computational thinking.

We're incredibly proud of their achievements and look forward to building on this success in future years. Well done, Year 9!

Attached is an example of the types of challenges that students completed.

Previous Next **Juice Carts** Review mode

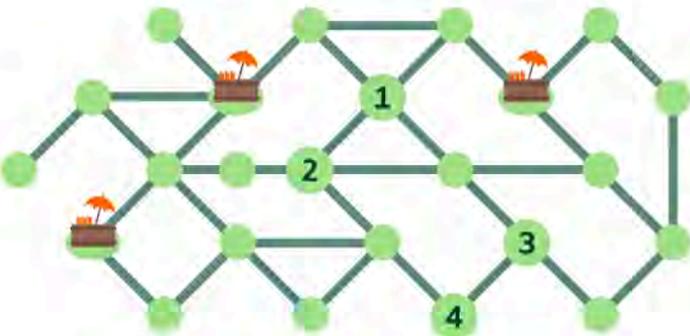
The image below shows a map of Bebravia City.

Key:

	street corners, where new juice bars could be built
	streets
	juice bars

Residents of Bebravia decided that they want it to be possible to get to a juice bar from any street corner by walking, at most, 2 streets. It was decided that a new juice bar should be built at one of the four numbered corners.

Task:
Click on one of the four numbered street corners, where you think the juice bar should be built, then press Save. Remember that it should be possible to reach a juice cart from any corner in the city by walking two streets at most.



Gift Donation for a Local Shelter

Ms Shah, Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form

During this Christmas period, we understand how important it is to care for others through giving and acts of generosity. As students in an all-girls school the need to assist struggling women in our local community is strongly acknowledged. In order to show our support, we organised a gift collection for the IKWRO women's rights organisation, so that the women in the shelter would receive a present during the festive season, in hope of bringing a smile to their faces. The work that the charity does closely resonates with our demographic, as they provide support to young, single women around our age who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing 'honour' based abuse, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, child marriage, domestic abuse and other forms of violence. Many gift items were kindly donated by students and teachers, which made up over 25 gift bags which were gratefully received by Nazira, the operational manager for IKWRO. We would like to thank Ms Shah for her support and help with the organisation of this project, along with everyone who donated.

<https://ikwro.org.uk/>

Sophia, Danni and Ela



English Stratford Trip

Ms Madigan, Joint Head of English

The trip to Stratford-upon-Avon was very fun and memorable. The performance of Twelfth Night at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre was outstanding, with a talented cast and what looked like a Thrust staging which allowed the actors to engage with the audience. For example, one of the actors started playing catch with the audience during the interval. It was so funny. Visiting Shakespeare's birthplace was fascinating as we got to learn about his early life and his influence. The town itself was quite calm and scenic. The Christmassy atmosphere with the lighting and decoration of the streets was beautiful.



I loved how we got a lot of free time allowing us to explore the town with our friends to take lots of pictures and just have a nice day out without restriction. The teachers were so nice and answered all our questions and just made the trip even more enjoyable #TeamEnglish4Life. In fact, my friends and I bought 3 frog plushies and named one Stratford, one Upon and one Avon in honour of this trip and to remember how fun it was.

Mahek, Year 11



Heads of House

Ms Barney, Associate Assistant Headteacher and Head of Key Stage 4

The main job of the Head of House is to lead our Houses through the year ahead. Working alongside the House Captains, they will demonstrate great pride and enthusiasm for their House and encourage members of their House to participate in House competitions.

To become a Head of House students had to complete an application telling us why they would be good in this role. They gave examples of when they have been positive role models, demonstrated leadership skills, and offered lots of exciting ideas for what they can bring to the team. Whilst decisions were difficult we believe we have appointed 7 brilliant role models and are excited for the year ahead.

The Heads of House for this academic year are:

- Nana - Head of Curie House
- Yashvi - Head of Curie House
- Sophia - Head of Hadid House
- Eloise - Head of Naidu House
- Danni - Head of Seacole House
- Kai - Head of Maathai House
- Tiffany - Head of Wollstonecraft House

Their first task was to assist in the delivery of assemblies this week to all year groups.

Each Head of House was tasked with talking about their House namesake and shared lots of important and interesting facts about them and ultimately why we have them as our House names.

Students should keep an eye out in the new year for information about upcoming competitions and how to earn points for their House!



House Christmas Competition

Ms Barney, Associate Assistant Headteacher and Head of Key Stage 4

For our first House Competition of the year, Year 7 and 8 were given the challenge to create a Seasonal Message to share with our QE Community. They were given the task to both create something artistic and something meaningful in the way of words.

Jerica won with her wonderful creation seen here. Her words that accompanied this are below and really capture our wishes for you all at this time of year.

To: QE School Community,

As we approach this joyous season, we would like to extend our warmest wishes to all students, staff, parents, and the wider school Community. May your loved ones receive peace, joy and happiness. Wishing families peace and hope at Christmas, and a new year full of better days. May everyone's families have health, happiness, peace and prosperity this Christmas and in the New year!

May our perfect school community and school welcome the new 2025 and remain joyful and encouraging. It is the people that work hard in the community to keep QE running (students, staff and leaders) that makes Christmas so special and meaningful!

With warmest regards,

Jerica 7MSU



Forest School

Ms Stewart, Senior Learning Mentor

If you were to go down to the Q.E. woods on a Monday P5 you would have had a surprise!!!”

A group of Year 7 students were involved in a Woodland Wellbeing group for six sessions in the Autumn term 2pm to 3:45pm.

They participated in a variety of activities which ranged from nature connection, nature crafts and skills development with bushcrafts.

Different types of fires were built and lit using flints. Sticks were whittled to points for use in cooking. Then each week different foods such as s’mores, home grown QE apples coated in sugar, honey and cinnamon. Popcorn and toasted sandwiches were cooked on the



open flames. Wooden spinner toys (sawing) and earth candles (melting wax) were produced. Knotting skills were used to make dragonflies and bracelets.

All the students involved demonstrated a real growth in confidence while learning and using the bushcraft skills.



Christmas Concert

Miss Stepanyak, Interim Director of Music

The Christmas Concert held in the Main Hall, was a heartwarming celebration of music and our community. We welcomed many guests, families and friends to watch our showcase of talent across all year groups. The voices of the choir echoed the sentiment of the lyrics - "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas", and the Orchestra's delightful performance of the Handelian version of "Joy to the World" had filled our hearts with the festive spirit.

An array of our dazzling ensembles, soloists, as well as teachers were among those performing during the evening. Each and every performer was truly outstanding, and I am so proud of them.

We would like to thank everyone who attended and to wish you a warm, festive and restful Christmas and New Year!

Photo from one of the rehearsals below:



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>



Upcoming Parents' Evenings

Mr Robson, Assistant Headteacher

Communications have gone out to families of Year 9 and Year 11 students regarding their upcoming Parents' Evenings. The appointment booking system, *SchoolCloud*, goes live for both events on Tuesday 7 January at midday. The link to the booking system, as listed on the recent letter, is: <https://queenelizabethsgirls.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Dates for your Diary

- First day back for students Tuesday 7 January
- Parents' Evening and Early Finish:
 - Year 11 2pm-6pm (students finish at 1.00pm) Wednesday 15 January
 - Year 9 2pm-6pm (students finish at 1.00pm) Thursday 30 January
 - Year 8 2pm-6pm (students finish at 1.00pm) Wednesday 26 February
 - Year 10 2pm-6pm (students finish at 1.00pm) Tuesday 25 March
- Year 9 Options Evening Tuesday 11 February

A Message before the Holidays

Ms Myint, Associate Assistant Headteacher

We recognise that Christmas time, while joyful for many, can be a challenging period for some young people and their families. At Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School, we are committed to supporting the well-being of all our students, especially during this time of year.

For support with mental health, please visit BICS website:

<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/children-and-families/support-parents-and-carers/bics-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-3>

They provide guidance, listening services, and strategies to help manage well-being during challenging times.

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
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