Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future

Founded in 1888

February 2025

The Tudor Rose

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

From the Headteacher

This edition of the newsletter includes some of the opportunities organised for our students to develop academic skills and aspiration and to nurture critical thinking. I hope you will have heard about Lyfta from your children. This addition to our pastoral curriculum for years 7 - 13, supports the school to nurture curiosity in the world around us and its inhabitants. Lyfta does this through the medium of a 360 view and film which tells the stories of people, individuals or families, living in different contexts and of people living in completely different circumstances facing challenges related to their contexts. Through nurturing critical thinking, curiosity and importantly, compassion, we can work toward supporting our students to discern misinformation, disinformation and reality. These are important and powerful skills in a world which is increasingly embracing AI alongside the growing dependency of young people on social media and digital news feeds which perpetuate specific echo chambers.

Schools in Barnet have collaborated with the local authority to support a campaign which aspires to make Barnet primary and secondary schools smartphone free. You will be aware that our school banned smartphones in 2017. For further information please see the letter which accompanies this Tudor Rose edition.

On behalf of all the staff I wish you a restful half term break.

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ICGS Podcasts

International Coalition of Girls' Schools

As you will be aware, our Headteacher Mrs Walker is an ICGS Global Board Director. We want to share some of the organisations 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:

On Educating Girls Podcast – ICGS

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.*

Baking for Christmas!

Mrs Doel, Head of Year 7 and Food Tech Teacher

The Year 10 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition students were getting ready for Christmas by cooking Christmas biscuits, ginger biscuits and squidgy chocolate logs.

Abstract Advent 2024 Winners

Ms Beavis, Head of Art

It was great fun to see the entries appearing on the Slideshow each day during the Abstract Advent. Well done to everyone who took part with imagination, creativity and in some cases stamina. There were so many fantastic responses to the daily images, using such a wide range of approaches such as photography, drawing, painting and computer art that it took the department some time to pick the winners who are listed below. Congratulations and we look forward to doing it all again next year!

The form who accumulated the most achievement points = 9RDE

Best drawing = Polina (10CMP)

Best computer art = Arwen (10 MEN)

Best photo = Alexandra (9RDE)

A special prize goes to Elsie (9RDE) for completing all 24 days including Christmas day!

The winning images can be seen beside this article.

Year 8 Talk by Nicola Bonn

Mrs Walker, Headteacher

On 23 January, Year 8 were invited to a talk in the hall from Nicola Bonn, host and creator of podcast 'Outspoken Beauty'. Nicola is also a radio and TV presenter at Global Media & Entertainment Limited. Nicola spoke about social media and the importance of understanding that 'not all is what it seems'. She reminded students to look at social media through an objective and critical lens and used examples where certain social media influencers enhance their looks by using filters to look 'perfect' or promote branded footwear to purposely boost sales. She also spoke about 'what makes you amazing' and the importance of recognising and nurturing the values in ourselves. Students were very engaged in the talk and were encouraged in their personal time, to put aside their phones and gadgets to engage in other social activities such as going for a walk and talking to friends and family.

Visit to the Old Bailey

Mr Blyth, Lead Teacher for Sociology

On the sociology trip, I alongside my peers got to experience a real life court case at the Old Bailey Court, in Central London. It was such an amazing opportunity and the experience was captivating. Both Year 13 sociology classes got to watch several court cases including a murder trial, which was truly interesting. We sat in the gallery upstairs as we watched the judge carry the courtroom and we got to listen to witnesses on the stand. Before entering the building we had to go through strict security measures which really put into perspective and prepared us for what we were going to be watching.

We watched the barristers have legal disputes with one another which was very engaging and made the trial more interesting. In addition to visiting the court, we also had the opportunity to visit the London Dungeons which was informative and fun! We learnt about the history of crime and deviance in London while also being able to enjoy ourselves with jumpscares and light-hearted jokes along the way. Overall the trip was very enjoyable and insightful

Lila - Year 13

Year 12 Academic Writing Workshop

Mrs Bunce, Literacy Coordinator

The whole of year 12 were very fortunate to have five published authors from The Royal Literary Fund come into school on Thursday to deliver a workshop called Bridge. Bridge is a series of workshops that help senior pupils develop their writing, as well as prepare for the challenges of more academic or formal writing at university, college or work. Bridge Fellows help demystify the writing process and provide techniques to help pupils write clearly and confidently in all contexts and situations.

The authors were very complimentary about the positive attitude, respect and academic skills of our Year 12 students. Christina Hopkinson, who ran the sessions, stated, "The girls are smashing, they really are, a perfect mix of confidence and politeness. There's a buzz about the school". The students gained valuable experience in planning, researching and learning how to structure an academic essay of university standard; these skills are transferable to all subjects and disciplines. One of the students in her feedback wrote that she's gone from 'hopeless' to 'great' in her feelings about writing.

We look forward to welcoming the RLF back next year.

Parliament trip - Student Council EDI group

Ms Myatt, Associate Assistant Headteacher

On Tuesday 21 2025, the EDI committee (student council) and some Year 12/13 students studying Politics, visited the House of Parliament. On our way we saw many inspirational statues of historical figures like Nelson Mandela, Emmeline Pankhurst and Mahatma Gandhi. After arriving, we went through airport style security, it was slightly nerve-wracking but still quite fun. We then met our tour guide, Amy, who spoke to us about the history of Parliament. We were even lucky enough to visit the oldest part of parliament where Henry VIII lived!

Did you know that in that same room, trials were held to determine if people were guilty or innocent of their crimes? (usually treason). This wasn't the case for Charles I who was put to trial without a head! We had the chance to listen in on two debates. One from the House of Lords, explaining their thoughts on healthcare during the winter, another from the House of Commons, talking about the armed forces. Before travelling home, we participated in a workshop about petitions and how they are created. We even made our own!

Our favourite part was, listening to the MPs and how they construct their talks to be engaging, persuasive and still make their point. If you are interested in Politics, Law or Parliaments History we definitely recommend visiting Parliament.

By Dylan and Jessica Y8

Year 11 Oxbridge A Level Choices Workshop

Ms Myatt, Associate Assistant Headteacher

On January 28 Year 11 students were invited to a workshop led by a representative from Cambridge university. The focus of the workshop was selecting A level subjects to support progression onto a range of courses on offer at Oxford and Cambridge.

Students engaged really well in the workshop and had opportunities to ask questions and learn more about what they can do in Y11 and in their summer break to support their wider academic reading.

We look forward to these students progressing onto our KS5 Oxbridge programme as they continue their studies at QE.

Year 10 Visit to Gonvolle and Caius College Cambridge

Ms Myatt, Associate Assistant Headteacher

On 14 January some Year 10 students embarked on a visit to Gonville and Caius College Cambridge. The trip forms part of our KS4 QE Oxbridge programme where students begin to learn about how they can best prepare a successful application for Oxbridge. Students build on this when they stay with us at Key Stage 5 where they gain a deeper understanding of the interview process and admissions tests.

During the visit students had the opportunity to visit the library, lecture theatres and facilities on site. We also had a mini lecture of the application process. We were very fortunate to be shown around by Grace who is a QEGS alumni and currently studying at Gonville and Caius. She talked to the students about her experience of the application process and the wide variety of additional experiences which she has had since joining the college. It all sounded like a lot of fun! We were amazed by the range of opportunities and societies on offer!

After lunch in the refectory students had the opportunity to visit the Whipple museum. This visit demonstrated the importance of participating in the super curricular activities that students need to deepen their subject knowledge outside that of the taught curriculum.

A really great day was had by all and we are looking forward to our next Year 10 event taking place in March.

Number Poster House Competition

Mrs Taylor, Maths Key Stage 3 Coordinator

In December, during the autumn term, students took part in the Number Poster House Competition, where they were challenged to research and present interesting facts about a specific number in a fun and creative way. From artistic designs to fascinating numerical trivia, students impressed with their originality and effort!

A huge congratulations to the winners from each class:

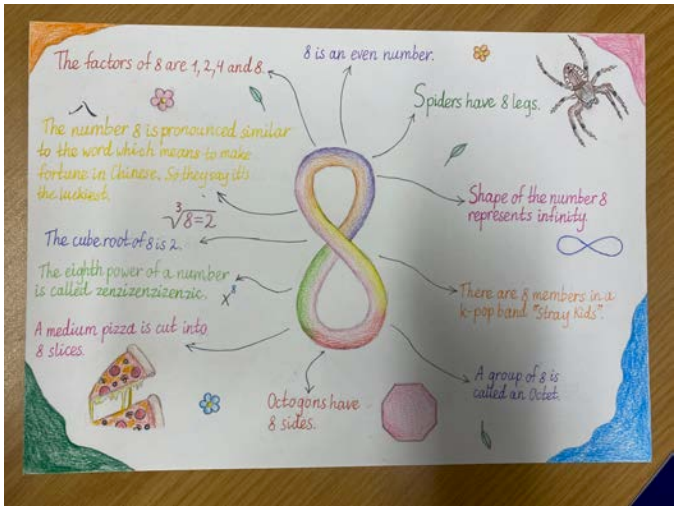
7Y1
🥇 Siyaan (7SGN)
🥇 Ella (7MBU)
🥇 Amber (7SGN)
🥇 Kyra (7MBU)

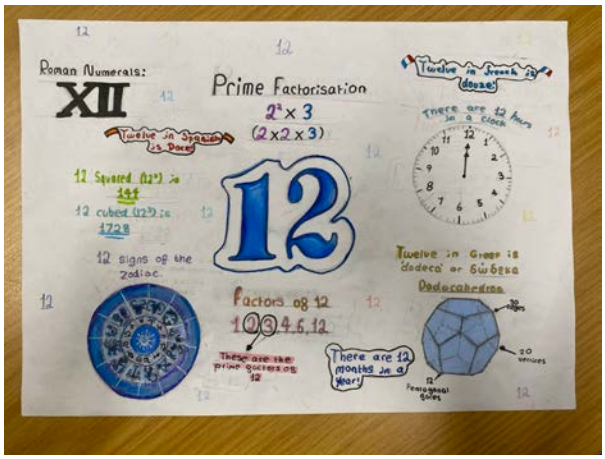
7Y2
🥇 Eloise (7KAI)

🥇 Sarah (7MBU)
🥇 Ran (7MBU)

7Y3
🥇 Veronika (7SGN)
🥇 Sakura (7MSU)
🥇 Akshita (7MSU)

7Y4
🥇 Alda (7MBU)
🥇 Charvi (7KAI)
🥇 Asli (7MSU)



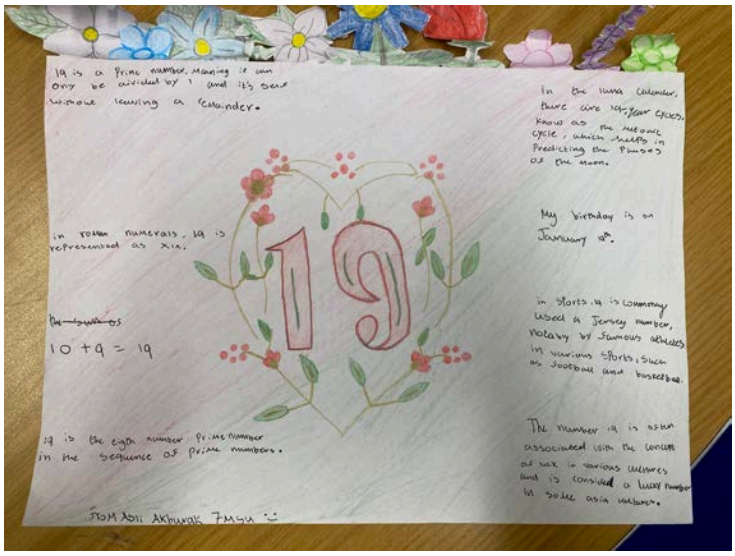


7X1
🥇 Zofia (7SMK)
🥇 Sophie (7DRS)
🥇 Anna (7DRS)

7X2
🥇 Emily (7SMK)
🥇 Seraphina (7DRS)
🥇 Annabel (7SNK)
🥇 Eliana (7KKZ)
🥇 Lola (7DRS)
🥇 Tesnim (7SMK)

7X3
🥇 Nicole (7KKZ)

Well done to all participants for their fantastic effort and creativity!



Football Fixtures

Miss Cheverton, PE Teacher

Over the past term our Year 7 football team have had various football fixtures against other schools in the borough. Despite not having trained together as a team, the Year 7s recorded the following results in their first season together, placing them third overall in the league.

3-1 win against Ashmole Academy

6-1 win against East Barnet School

4-1 loss against TTA

2-0 win against Ark Academy.

These results show the fantastic efforts of our Year 7s. The team has comprised of the following students on a rotation: Hannah D (captain), Emily L, Maya H-C, Lola H, Gracie M, Annabel W, Matilda C, Sofia E-S, Leyla A, Isabelle H, Kausar A, Evalyn R, Nicole N, Isabella U, Grace S, Lillianne A, Kyra P-C, Amber S and Imane E.

The PE Department is very proud of the students' efforts over the past term and wish them every success for the next year.

Over the past term, our Year 8/9 Football team have also been working hard in their league and cup games. They have recorded the following results which placed them fifth in the league:

7-0 win vs Ark Academy

3-0 loss to TTA

1-0 loss to East Barnet School

3-1 loss to Ashmole Academy

Whilst the team recorded one win across the group stage, this does not reflect the hard work and determination that the girls have put in over the past term. They have shown resilience, teamwork and some excellent playing. The following players are commended for their contributions:

Year 8: Noor B, Morayo B, Evie D, Amy D, Annabel G, Sophie H, Darcie I, Amelia J, Bea M, Lara N, Ava-Ray O, Holly P, Geethesri S, Neya V, Paradise W

Year 9: Isabella H, Elsie J, Annie J, Chichi O, Precious E, Ava S.

Young Leaders Coaching

Miss Cheverton, PE Teacher

On 11 December, a team of 9 Young Leaders attended a Winter coaching event at StoneX Stadium. The students planned and led a range of sports activities to Primary school children across the borough, including dance, tennis and athletics events across the day. The leaders involved have been working on the Young Leaders programme for around a year and enthusiastically lead across many events within the borough.

Our leaders were highly commended by staff from other schools, including "I have never seen leaders so confident and only in Y9" and "your girls were so fantastic and put a smile on all of our students' faces". The students did a brilliant job - so much so that they have already been requested back by multiple schools to assist in further activities!

Year 9: Mya A, Lissy D, Ava H, Amy J, Chrissy M, Evie M, Zoe M

Year 10: Abi A-S, Jessica L.

We look forward to many upcoming events. If your daughter is in Year 8/9 and is interested in getting involved in further coaching opportunities, she should speak to Miss Cheverton.

QE Student Represents England in Fencing!

Mr Short, English Teacher and Year 8 Tutor

Over the first weekend of February, QEGS Year 8 student, Philippa represented England as part of the National Under 14 Fencing Team at the famous Marathon Fleuret 2025 in Paris, France, one of the most prestigious foil fencing competitions in the world. Teams from countries across the world participated, and of the 131 competitors in the Under 14 Women's competition Philippa finished in 9th position, a resounding success.

"I've been fencing for the past three and a half years, and have always loved it. I really like the competitiveness of fencing and its exacting nature and how it inspires me with confidence in everything I do. To represent England internationally is an honour and to be in Paris with my teammates and fight in the Fleuret was amazingly exciting," Philippa told The Tudor Rose.

Philippa's form tutor Mr Short said: "It's always brilliant to find out all the exciting talents QE Girls have and all the things they do outside of school. It takes a lot of mental strength and specific skill to fence, and to keep your cool in an international tournament when you're representing your country is no small thing. Congratulations Philippa on an amazing success."

Tote Bags and Textiles Cushions

Mrs Ahluwalia, Technology Teacher

This week has been the end of rotation for Year 9 Design Technology students. Well done to students in my two Year 9 classes for having such creative ideas and making lovely Pop Art Tote Bags. This week has been the end of rotation for Year 8 Design Technology students. Everyone used Cultural Traditions to decorate their cushion with a transfer print and embellish it further. Well done for such creativity!

ICGS Changer Makers

Ms Myatt, Associate Assistant Headteacher

Be Bold Change Makers Programme

The Be Bold Change Makers Programme is a programme which is specifically designed to empower young people, specifically women to make a change in the world and close the gender gap. Our school is working with the International Coalition of Girls Schools and participates in online workshops where young changemakers can collaborate and brainstorm ideas. They also include training sessions which prepare us for our main goal. Our group consists of a mix of year 10's and year 9's and we have already participated in 4 workshops - my favourite activity has most definitely been the breakout rooms. This is essentially when everyone in the meeting is given a topic to discuss and are separated into "breakout rooms" within the call, one of the previous topics was "How can we aim to create equality in sports?". What my team and I discussed was giving women higher pay because despite performing the same work, women are paid substantially less than men.

Everything we are doing now such as the workshops and training are preparing us for our long-term goal and are also preparing us for our "Changemaker challenge" .Through participating in the workshops, we will improve our public speaking skills, organisational skills and presentation. Within our group, we will have to pair with another student and will be paired with another pair from another school. We work with schools from all around the world so we could be paired with a pair from Australia all the way to Hawaii. In our new groups, we will come up with a unique idea to close the gender gap and aim to bring our ideas to life. We will then have to pitch our ideas with confidence in front of the changemaker panel - 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will be rewarded with a certificate, badge and e-card which can either be donated to a women's rights organisation or can be used at a feminist charity shop. Our aim is to be bold for good!

By Khadijah 10ACN

UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge

Mrs Khodabacus, Head of Mathematics

Year 10 students have competed in the national UKMT Intermediate 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.

A number of students have achieved the Gold, Silver and Bronze level.

A special mention to Aoife (10JPR/10X1) for her outstanding performance and achieving the Best in School Certificate.

Many congratulations to all our participants.

All students will be receiving their certificates in the upcoming assembly.

Careers Talks

Mrs St Ledger, Careers Coordinator

Students have had the opportunity to sign up to various after school careers talks this term. We have had some amazing volunteers come in to speak to the students about their careers and to run workshops.

Jo Hambleton

Jo came in on two occasions to facilitate workshops with a small group of 6th form students. The first workshop focused on writing CVs, searching for relevant work experience and/or part time job roles, and how to effectively make use of networks. The second session built on this with a workshop on filling out application forms and writing cover letters.

Sophia in Year 12 attended both sessions and says:

Last month, we had an opportunity to attend a careers talk based around CVs and application forms. The event, led by Jo, was incredibly insightful and provided us all with valuable tips on how to stand out to potential employers. We learned how to apply CVs to each job role, highlighting relevant skills and experiences while keeping the format simple and easy to read. The talk also taught us how to effectively answer application form questions and how to use specific examples to demonstrate our skills and achievement. Overall, the careers talk was extremely effective, as it provided us with the tools and knowledge to improve applications and to increase chances in the future.

Jo is planning on coming in again for a third session on interview practice to give students the opportunity to have mock interviews for a fictional job they have prepared for. Thank you to Jo and we are looking forward to welcoming you into school again soon.

Aimee Corry

Ex-QE student Aimee came in to talk to students about her journey since leaving school. Violette in Year 11 was one of the students who attended the talk and says:

On November 20th, I had the opportunity to attend an insightful careers talk hosted by Aimee Corry who formerly attended Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School. The session offered valuable advice on how she became a successful entrepreneur and the importance of networking. Aimee discussed qualifications and skills needed to become a personal trainer.For example good communication skills and being positive and motivated for clients.

I really enjoyed her speech. It was a real eye opener to those considering a career in fitness or entrepreneurship.I personally would love to explore being an entrepreneur or working in that field so it is very empowering to watch a former student of QEGS to achieve my future aspirations.

Stefania Ruggeri

Brand design coach Stefania came in to share an inspirational talk on her career journey to date, including both academic and professional advice, as well as sharing personal reflections on embracing all opportunities, even when your career might not follow a linear path. Year 12 student Danni attended the talk and says:

On Thursday 6th February students from year 9-13 were fortunate to be given the opportunity to attend a careers talk delivered by Stefania Ruggeri, an Entrepreneur and Brand design coach.The talk was extremely insightful and informative through sharing her career journey, able to answer a variety of questions regarding marketing, the creative industry and becoming a successful entrepreneur. It was beneficial emphasising the different pathways across the marketing and creative industry, her journey reflecting the many possibilities of being able to make career changes at any stage.

Careers Assemblies

Mrs St Ledger & Mrs Douglas, Careers Team

This term, students have had careers assemblies linked to the current labour market. Year 7 and 8 received information about the labour market in Barnet, including which careers have seen the most growth and the skills most in demand from employers. Construction, Healthcare and Creative careers have seen the most growth recently, so students will have had the opportunity to hear speakers from these sectors over the course of the year. Students then looked at the top qualifications taken in Barnet, and the companies that employ the most people. All of this can be helpful to students when they are considering their future options and deciding on subjects to help them get into their chosen careers.

In light of the labour market information, Year 9 and 10 had an assembly from a provider of technical qualifications in the creative industry, Big Creative Education (BCE). They received information about the qualifications on offer, the entry requirements and some case studies of past students who have gone on to have successful careers in creative industries.

Year 10 and 12 had an assembly from a speaker representing the ASK Apprenticeships programme to give them an overview of the kinds of apprenticeships available in different sectors, where to find apprenticeships and alternative technical qualifications including T-Levels. Year 11 and 13 will be hearing from technical education providers after half term.

Careers Schemes

Mrs St Ledger & Mrs Douglas, Careers Team

Year 11 Careers Meetings

Every Year 11 student had the opportunity to meet with an independent career adviser to discuss their Post-16 options.

Education Development Trust Work Experience Scheme

This year, we have partnered with the Education Development Trust (EDT) to seek work experience placements for a small group of sixth form students. Students met with an EDT representative, who spoke with them about their interests and matched them with a suitable employer during the school holidays. One of our Year 13 students had a very successful week at Code Kids Robotics, helping children with coding and technology.

Career Accelerator Programme

The Career Accelerator Programme matches students with a mentor in an industry they would like to work in. Following a launch assembly on 27th January, eight Year 12 students applied and all were successful in securing a place on the programme. Students will now have the opportunity to meet with their mentors at various points throughout the year to gain tailored careers support.

Skills Builder Programme

This term, we launched the Skills Builder Programme across the entire school. Skills Builder Partnership is an organisation who believe there are core transferable skills which underpin success at every stage of life, and are essential tools that children should learn and develop.

They have developed the Skills Builder Programme to allow teachers to explicitly teach these skills once per week during form time. The programme is based on the premise that there are three levels of skill that we develop throughout our lives:

Basic skills are the ones we need in order to function in the world, e.g. motor skills, reading, writing, speaking, listening. We usually learn these in primary school.

Technical skills are the subject specific skills and knowledge that we need to do well in exams and to do specific jobs e.g. a doctor learning how to perform surgery.

Essential skills are the important skills we need for success in every aspect of life, such as teamwork and problem solving, but we are not usually taught these in the same way as basic and technical skills.

Learning the essential skills alongside academic subjects means that when students leave school, they will have both the skills and the qualifications needed to succeed in the world of work. Research shows that having essential skills halves the likelihood of being out of work, and increases earnings across a lifetime. We are pleased that every student at Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School will benefit from spending dedicated time each week developing these skills, increasing their career prospects and life chances.

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

Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School Association

Dates for your Diary

- Parents' Evening and Early Finish:
  - Year 8 2pm-6pm (students finish at 1.00pm) — Wednesday 26 February
  - Year 10 2pm-6pm (students finish at 1.00pm) — Tuesday 25 March
- Last day of term — Friday 4 April

Useful Support Lines

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

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