



Founded in 1888

# Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

*Educating Women of the Future*

May 2025

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## The Tudor Rose

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



### **From the Headteacher**

Today we wished our Year 11 students well as they ended formal lessons ahead of the main swell of their GCSE Examinations. We shared the revision sessions timetable to support them during the remainder of the exam series and celebrated how they have conducted themselves with calm purpose each time they have engaged with the public exam process in recent weeks. They are truly an inspiration and role models to our younger students.

On Wednesday 14 May I was invited by the Lord Chamberlain on behalf of the King to attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace hosted by King Charles III and Queen Camilla, to celebrate and recognise people working in Education and Skills. I felt highly honoured to be among the 8 leaders and members of Barnet's education and community skills providers who were invited. Colleagues also attending were the heads of Queen Elizabeth's (the boys' school), Woodhouse Sixth Form College, Barnet & Southgate College and St Martin's Primary school; the Vice Chancellor of Middlesex University, the Curator of Barnet Museum and a training representative of Hendon Police College. I was proud to represent the work and achievements of our school, its students and its staff.

Later that week on Friday 16 May I was delighted to join some of our parents and staff at the QEGSA Quiz Night event which proved to be competitive and hilarious in equal measure. We are all looking forward to the next event! The following day on Saturday 17 May, I attended the annual Guild event. The Guild, our alumna association, hosts a lunch and open Archives afternoon

at school for past students and staff. I was thrilled to meet many past students who are celebrating their 80th birthdays this year. Floreat QEGS!



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# Commemoration Day Service

Mrs Walker, Headteacher

The annual Commemoration Day is a celebration of the school's founding; on Friday 10 May, we followed the tradition of a church service at St John the Baptist Church, Chipping Barnet. This year we celebrate 137 years of the school's founding.

Following tradition which goes back to the early 1920's, I was very proud to lead the student procession to the Church which included Year 7, Year 8, representatives of other year groups and the Sixth Form Student Leaders body. I also read the Act of Commemoration, read by the Headteacher since the first Commemoration Day service over a hundred years ago.

Invited dignitaries included Martin Russell, Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London; The Worshipful, The Mayor and Mayoress; Cllr Tony Vourou and Mrs Caroline Vourou; Mrs Gill Williams, Secretary of The Guild; and Mrs Judith Wilson, Chair of The Guild.

Father Samuel Rossiter led the service and affirmations of Hindu and Islam faiths were read by students who are followers of those faiths, in celebration of the school's diverse and inclusive community. All students were given an opportunity to read an affirmation.

Under the musical director Gabrielle Wong, the congregation was treated to performances by the school orchestra, string quartet, piano quintet, chamber trio and a piano solo. The service ended with the final tradition of the event when The National Anthem was sung by all.



# Year 7 PGL Residential Trip

Mrs Doel, Head of Year 7

## My Wild and Wonderful PGL Adventure

On Friday 21st March Year 7 packed their bags, said goodbye to their cosy beds, and set off on the ultimate adventure – our residential PGL trip. Three days of mud, fresh air and moments of sheer terror (mostly me looking down from the top of the trapeze!)

We arrived at the PGL center and after unpacking our bags and eating dinner we participated in the not so silent disco! Imagine a room full of children dancing to songs only they can hear. It was enjoyable chaos, especially when our favourite songs were played.



On Saturday morning, I was ready to channel my inner Robin Hood. Unfortunately, my arrows had other plans. Most went flying in every direction except the target. One even hit the ground before it even reached the board, but at least I didn't shoot my instructor! This was followed by the giant swing, rifle shooting, and the zip wire.



In the evening we gathered around the campfire, roasted marshmallows, and sang songs. Nothing beats the taste of a slightly burnt marshmallow on a cold evening!

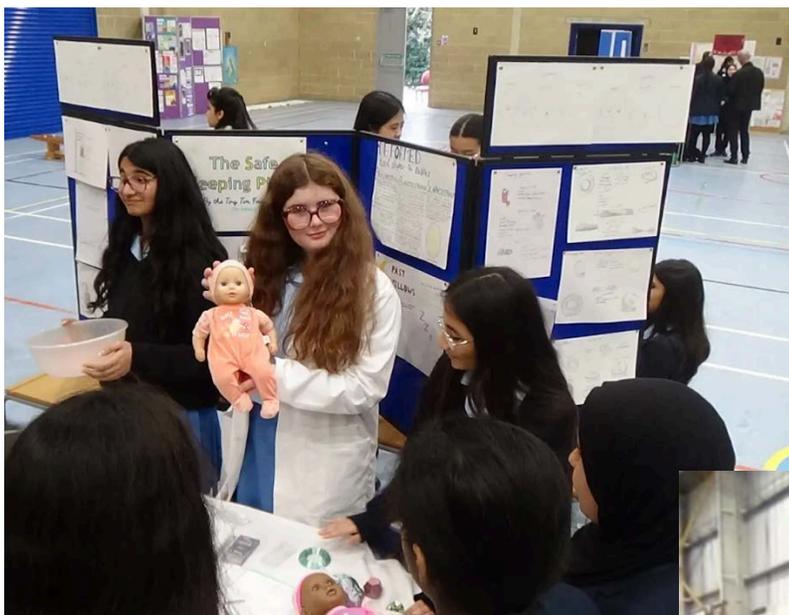
Sunday was my favourite day of activities where I learnt survival skills. We were taught how to make a fire using just flint and steel. After a couple of minutes, we got a tiny fire going. We were then given a sheet, pegs, hammer and rope to build a tent. There were lots of interesting creations of different types of shelter.

Ariana 7MSU

# QEGS STEM Fair 2025

Mr Young, Science Teacher and STEM Coordinator

On the 20th of March, we celebrated British Science week at QE with the annual QEGS STEM Fair 2025 . After working on them for 6 months, over one hundred Triple Science STEM students exhibited their STEM projects and we welcomed guest Ella O'Toole from the sustainable packaging company Notpla to judge them. Students and staff both enjoyed the displays on the day and we hope that some of the 34 projects entered into the national Big Bang Competition this year are successful.



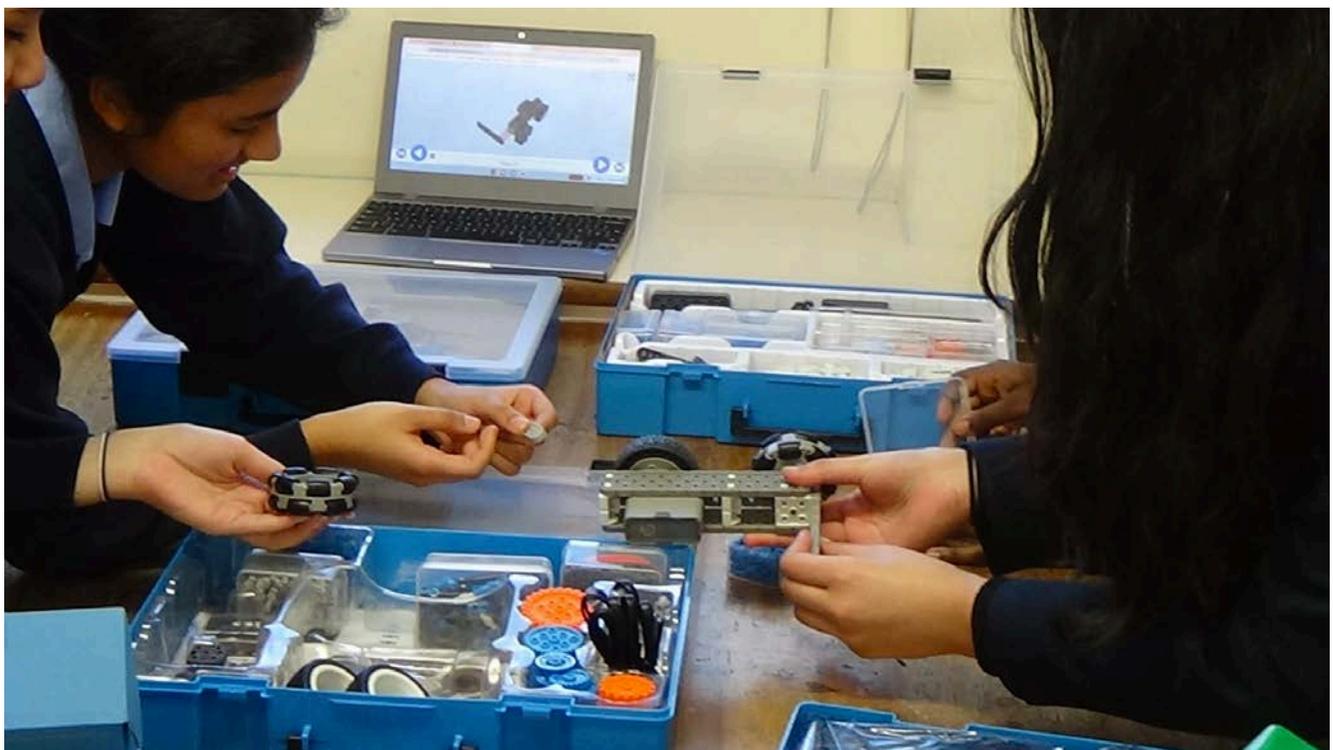
# QE Girls' School Robotics Club

Mr Young, Science Teacher and STEM Coordinator



This year was the inaugural year of the QEGS Robotics Club run in the Science department thanks to a generous equipment donation from Kingston Technologies.

It began on the 6th of February 2025 and the students worked tirelessly every Thursday after school to build and program their robots to showcase at this year's QEGS STEM Fair on the 20th March. We hope to compete competitively in the near future with QE Boys' school and enter the international VEX Robotics competition next year.



# Careers talk from Vision RT Robotics

Mr Young, Science Teacher and STEM Coordinator

Students of the QEGS Robotics club welcomed Muktida Vaghjiani, a risk management engineer and her guest who works for VisionRT, a local medical robotics company based near North Finchley. Students were treated to an engaging and inspiring talk involving a fun demonstration with lasers and learnt a lot about potential STEM careers.

# Psychology and RS Trip to the Freud Museum

Mrs St Ledger, Lead Teacher for Psychology

Year 13 Psychology and Religious Studies students visited the home of the famous psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud. Known as the Father of Psychology, Freud moved from Vienna to Maresfield Gardens in Hampstead, London, approximately a year before he passed away. He managed to get the majority of his belongings to London and these have been preserved in a museum dedicated to his life and work in the home he shared with his family. Students got a unique insight into Freud's



work and the work of his daughter Anna Freud, and had the opportunity to see his famous couch that he used during psychoanalysis sessions. Although the original couch is protected, a replica couch has been added to the museum in recent years, which students took the opportunity to sit on and imagine what a psychoanalysis session with Freud would have been like.

# Year 7 Sculpture Club

Mr Gumbrill, Art Teacher

Pupils have been exercising their creative minds by making 40 minute sculptures at Sculpture Club! The sculptures are made in accordance with the challenge or limitations set by Mr Gumbrill or sixth-form students.

At the end, all sculptures are photographed, then disassembled, ready to be made into something new the following week!



# 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.

This time saw our best results yet! Five students have achieved the Gold level and over fifteen students have achieved the Silver level. The achievement is commendable - many congratulations to all our participants.

A special mention to Olivia (8JRS) for her outstanding performance and achieving the Best in School Certificate.

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



United Kingdom  
Mathematics Trust

# ICGS Be Bold

Ms Myatt, Associate Assistant Headteacher



This year, we participated in a new event supported by Ms Myatt - the ICGS Be Bold Changemaker Challenge. This is an international competition that invites young women to pitch creative, practical solutions to global issues.

We collaborated with peers from the USA, at Columbus School for Girls, focusing on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of ending poverty. Our solutions included addressing a major root cause of poverty, unemployment, by promoting STEM education to provide desirable skills, ultimately increasing chances of employment. To combat the immediate effects of poverty, we suggested the introduction of 'Care Banks' and 'Street Kits', designed to provide basic necessities to those most in need or experiencing homelessness.

We were delighted to be invited to the Finals, where we delivered a live presentation at an international conference, followed by a Q&A session, which challenged us to communicate our ideas clearly and confidently under pressure.

This incredible project not only sharpened our skills but also ignited a passion for social impact and international collaboration, motivating us to continue driving positive change.

It was a phenomenal experience, and one that has inspired us to Be Bold!

*Eve Year 10 and Khadijah Year 10*

Two of our other students in Year 10, Abigail and Cindy, were also selected as finalists in this competition partnering with two USA students from the Academy of Notre Dame de Namur for girls. Their project and pitch focused on Access to Education.

I was impressed by the quality of work produced by both our teams. Its live presentation from all finalist teams was of an exceptionally high standard. The format of an online international final was an experience in itself. All our students were able to respond with sensitivity, thoughtfulness and from a position of researched knowledge to questions posed live by the Global judges of the competition. It is noteworthy that while a considerable number of UK girls' schools had taken part in the competition, it was only our students that reached the international final. We were also the only state school in the final. At the time of writing we are waiting to hear the results!

Mrs Walker, Headteacher

# Wake Up Wednesdays!

Ms Myatt, Associate Assistant Headteacher

Please look out for some information about staying safe online from 'Wake Up Wednesdays'. This is an e-bulletin which provides updates on online safety and wellbeing initiatives.

# QEGSA Summer Quiz Night

Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School Association

QEGSA ran a fantastic Quiz Night on Friday 16th May, at Barnet Rugby Club. Parents/carers and staff mingled (and competed!) and a profit of £715.50 was made towards the school, as part of QEGSA's fantastic fund-raising. Thank you to all of you who attended, and in particular thank you to Sarah McKenna and Aneka Grover for their hard work in organising it. We are all looking forward to next year already!



See below for a request of support for QEGSA next year.

## Your QEGSA PTA needs YOU!

Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School Association

*Calling all parents/carers: Your QEGSA PTA needs YOU!*

Since re-launching QEGSA in 2022, you have helped us to raise money to buy:

- picnic benches for all our pupils to use and enjoy
- library resources for our GCSE students
- supportive literature to help our Sixth formers with their university applications and EPQs
- fifteen computers as much-needed replacements in our IT suite.

We are so pleased to have been able to help the school and hope our donations lead to successful outcomes for our promising students.

We have also created something that money alone cannot buy – a supportive network for our parents, friendships and working partnerships with the school, leadership opportunities for our students, and fun events to gather our parents, staff and students in sociable settings.

In order to ensure the survival of our QEGSA PTA, we now need parents to come forward to replace our outgoing Committee members in many different roles. Please volunteer to join the Committee - either alone or in a shared role if that is preferable. Please email me to express your interest and to receive a list of available roles to choose from: [qegsa-pta@qegschool.org.uk](mailto:qegsa-pta@qegschool.org.uk) Without more parents rolling up their sleeves, the future of our PTA is unfortunately far from certain. Please don't assume that someone else will volunteer! Amongst other benefits, it's a great way to meet other parents at the school.

Dr Sara Badvie

Chair of QEGSA



Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School Association

# 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](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

**Kooth** is an online platform that has information and support for young people on how to manage their mental health <https://www.kooth.com/>

**Shout** is a 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. It's a place to go if you're struggling to cope and you need immediate help. Text 85258. Only available in mainland UK website <https://giveusashout.org/>

**NHS Mental health** services are free on the NHS.

To get **urgent medical help**, use the NHS 111 online service, or call 111 if you're unable to get help online. Only available in mainland UK.

For **life-threatening emergencies**, call 999 for an ambulance

**Safer Schools** for learners experiencing any form of abuse. It also provides a contact point for reporting burglaries, vandalism and other incidents that impact on efforts to ensure safe schools. The Call Centre's telephone number is 0800 45 46 47.

**CEOP** is here to help children stay safe online. If anybody acts inappropriately towards you or another child or young person online (such as sexual chat, or being asked to do something that makes you feel uncomfortable); you can report it here.  
<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre>

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**READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE**

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