



Founded in 1888

Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future

October 2025

The Tudor Rose

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



From the Headteacher

The first eight weeks of the academic year have flown by! I am most pleased that the school has already met with so many families at all the events scheduled to disseminate information and develop the home-school partnership that ensures the success of our students, from Year 7 up to Sixth Form. The autumn term started as it always does with our Celebration of Excellence event where we celebrate students' achievements and our long service staff. I am told by the Director of Education and Learning that it is the event he most enjoys attending each year. Please take a moment or two to watch the video on our website; the smiles all around give a flavour of school this half term. The selection of activities included in the Newsletter are indicative of the breadth of interests and opportunities that have engaged our students beyond the classroom. Our Sixth Form students have already submitted university applications that require early entry such as for courses on medicine and places at Oxford and Cambridge. We were delighted with the students' public examination performances at GCSE and A Level this summer, emblematic of their commitment and resilience, the teaching of our staff and our families' support at home. Our students starting their studies at university this term are reading a variety of STEM related courses, arts related courses and innovative courses that look to the future which will move to a reliance on AI and technology. In terms of AI, our work at school appropriately includes preparing our students to be critical discerners of false information, and to be cognisant of ethics surrounding its use. As with all innovation, there is advantage, and this should be exploited without detriment. Wishing everyone a restful and enjoyable half term break.

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Celebration of Excellence Event

The school came together on 10th September for our annual Celebration of Excellence, a truly special occasion where we proudly recognised the outstanding achievements of our students.

This year, the evening was enriched by an inspirational address from our guest speaker, Professor Emily Spearman, who shared insights and reflections on her journey since leaving QEGS, offering valuable perspectives to our current students.

The celebration was shared with the proud families of our nominated students and distinguished school guests, including the Mayor and Mayoress of Barnet, Councillor Danny Rich and Ms Laura Lassman, the Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning, Neil Marlow, Committee and members of The Guild, Trustees of the Endowment Fund, Headteacher of Queen Elizabeth's School, Neil Enright and other esteemed guests. Congratulations again to all award recipients!

Beyond celebrating our student award winners, we also paid tribute to the incredible commitment of our staff. We highlighted the remarkable longevity of service across our team: over half of our support staff and nearly half of our teaching staff have contributed to our learning community for at least ten years, with our longest-serving members dedicating over 35 years to the school.



Wings Of Hope Achievement Award Ceremony

I had the wonderful opportunity to perform at the Wings Of Hope Achievement Award Ceremony that celebrated the fantastic achievements of UK students who have run creative projects to fund and raise awareness for the education of underprivileged children in India and Malawi, where funds raised are used to create educational opportunities for children in need, giving them a chance to break the cycle of poverty.

The charity's signature initiative is the Wings of Hope Achievement Awards (WOHAA), a social enterprise program for UK students aged 13 to 18. Through WOHAA students in teams design and run their own creative fundraising projects. Thus empowering young people to become "enablers of positive change" by developing essential life skills such as communication, teamwork and entrepreneurship. The students are also able to put their skills to the test and compete for prestigious awards which recognize their efforts and creativity.



On arrival I was warmly welcomed by Smruti Sriram whose parents Mrs Rajni Sri Ram and Dr R Sri Ram founded the WOHAA programme. This year marks a significant milestone for the organisation as it celebrates its 20th anniversary since its founding in 2005. She is the CEO of Supreme Creations and its consumer-facing brand, Bags of Ethics. In January 2025, Smruti Sriram was awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours list for Services to Fashion in respect of her work on sustainable bags; she is an inspiration to many.

The Wings Of Hope Achievement Award Ceremony was more than just an awards ceremony, it was a true celebration of creativity and compassion. The atmosphere was vibrant with the energy of all the young people involved. The stage came alive with lively music and graceful dance performances showcasing the diverse talents of students from different schools.

One of the highlights of my evening was performing a flute solo. I found the experience particularly moving as it represented a true celebration of young people's talents. Sharing this music and contributing to such a meaningful event was an honour. The combination of all performances highlighted the remarkable abilities and dedication of every young person involved in WOHAA.

Tianna, Year 13

Cadets

On the evening of 23rd September 2025, I had the privilege to attend a commissioning ceremony at Hertford Castle to be given the position of Lord Lieutenant Cadet of Hertfordshire.

I was one of 6 cadets and I represented the Royal Air Force Air Cadets (RAFAC). Our cohort was made up of cadets from the Navy Cadet Corps, the Army Cadet Corps, St Johns Ambulance and the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) as well as RAFAC.

The evening consisted of the awards being given, photos and a meet and greet with the Lord Lieutenant and his team. We also got to meet someone who had held the post before to hear about what to expect in the upcoming 12 months.

This position gives us the opportunity to assist the Lord Lieutenant with his duties around Hertfordshire, including giving awards, visiting charities and even holding the door for members of the Royal Family! I am extremely honoured to be awarded this position and I look forward to the opportunities it will present.

I am excited to be able to share my experiences with everyone and transfer the skills gained into both school and cadet life.

Lucy, Head Girl



Inktober 2025

🎨 Inktober at the Art Department! 🖋️

This October, the Art Department joined the global creative challenge known as Inktober! Each day throughout the month, artists create an ink drawing inspired by a daily prompt. The goal is to build consistent creative habits, experiment with new ideas, and most importantly, have fun making art!

We suggested to students that whether they are a seasoned illustrator or just curious to try, Inktober is a great opportunity to sharpen skills, share work, and be part of a worldwide community of creators. To take part, students simply joined our Google Classroom with a code where they found daily prompts and shared their creations with others. Their imaginations ran wild!

Ms Stavrou, Music

Black History Month

After a nice evening out with my family, we were travelling back home. When boarding a Northern line train back to High Barnet I noticed someone that seemed familiar in one of the seats. Being a big Arsenal fan and follower of both the Men's and Women's teams I quickly deduced that it was Vivienne Lia, a young starlet from the Arsenal Women's team who was sitting in my carriage. I knew she was currently on loan at Nottingham Forest this season and could spy the logo on her luggage that may have been for that team. At first I couldn't believe it, someone I've watched play and admired just sitting there like any other traveller in such close proximity.



In my starstruck state I was still mindful that she may not appreciate a lot of attention on the train with so many people, and so took the gamble of waiting for the carriage to empty or for her to get off at my stop. Luckily she did travel all the way to the same stop and so my family and I introduced ourselves to her. Vivienne was very appreciative and polite when we approached her, we briefly talked about how I am a big fan and congratulated her on her 4-1 win for Nottingham Forest against Portsmouth earlier that day, clearly a long journey back!

This encounter made me think about Black History Month and the incredible role that Black women have played in shaping women's football. Vivienne is one of two prominent black members just starting out in the Arsenal squad along with England Lioness hero Michelle Agyemang. It's inspiring to have them setting a great example for others despite their young age. They are on a path to greatness hopefully for both Arsenal and England. Their success will open doors for future talent as their standing as young black players in the game will inspire future players and fans who look just like and resonate with them.

Doors have been opened for Vivienne and Michelle by past players, like Alex Scott who is the first Black British female football presenter and Mary Phillips who was the first black woman to captain England, that have broken barriers and inspired young girls of all backgrounds, showing that football is a sport for everyone. Women's football has been shaped by many incredible players who have fought for the sport to gain recognition and respect. While huge progress has been made there is still room for improvement particularly when it comes to achieving equal pay and opportunities compared to men's football.

Meeting Vivienne Lia reminded me that behind every success story there is dedication and perseverance; qualities that all students can learn from. It also showed me that role models don't just live on screens or in stadiums but sometimes they may be right there on the same train carriage heading in the same direction. We all strive to succeed and become the best version of ourselves, we may determine our own destiny, but to witness the journey of others who have achieved success through hard work and determination overcoming all kinds of hurdles and barriers, acts as a fuel to inspire us to head in that same direction too, no matter our background.

Tianna, Year 13

Bebras Computing Challenge 2025

We're excited to announce that the Bebras Computing Challenge is coming up soon!

All KS3 students and KS4 Computer Science students will be taking part during their computing lessons. The challenge tests computational thinking and problem-solving skills through fun, logic-based puzzles — no prior coding experience required!

Any KS4 or KS5 students who are not currently studying Computer Science but would like to take part are warmly encouraged to join.

Interested? Please see Mr. Ali or Mr. Laing to sign up.

Let's see how far we can go in this year's national leaderboard — good luck, everyone!



CyberFirst Girls' Competition

The CyberFirst Girls Competition is returning this year, giving students the chance to explore the world of cybersecurity through a series of exciting online challenges. The competition is designed to inspire and encourage girls to consider careers in technology and cybersecurity.

All Year 8 students will take part during lessons. The competition will begin on Monday 24 November and run for 10 days, ending on Wednesday 3 December.

Any students who are interested in taking part independently, or as a team (max 4), should speak to Mr. Ali or Mr. Laing for further information.



Form Captains' Welcome

Mrs Walker is inviting students from each year group to join her in her office during a breaktime to celebrate their appointments as Form Captains; she has already met with Year 7, 8 and 9. The newly appointed Form Captains enjoyed refreshments with the Headteacher, sharing conversations about leadership and ideas for expansion of their role.



Great Ormond Street Charity Run

During the week of 6th October students in Year 7 - 11 participated in a special event during their PE lessons: the RBC Race for the Kids at School. This challenge involved completing a 2k run to raise awareness and money for Great Ormond Street (GOSH). We would like to thank our QE families for their support and generous donations, as our contribution will go towards helping build the new Children's Cancer Centre at the hospital. At present we have raised an incredible £980! If you would like to donate, please follow the link: <https://race.gosh.org/fundraisers/hayleybarney>

During the week we had some stand out runners who gained the fastest 2k time within their year group. They also received 60 house points for their achievement. Congratulations to:

Ayla - Year 7 (Ginsburg House)

Kyra - Year 8 (Seacole House)

Lucie - Year 9 (Ginsburg House)

Ella - Year 10 (Hadid House)

Minnie - Year 11 (Naidu House)

Year 13 visit to Cambridge Open Day

Cambridge University holds a "Colleges Open Day" in September each year to help applicants decide on which of the 31 constituent colleges to apply to.

Colleges range in size, age, number of students, accommodation arrangements, facilities and more, so a school visit was run to support our students in making the best choice for them.

Despite some transport issues on the way to Cambridge, the trip was a great success and we wish all our applicants the best of luck with interviews and admissions tests next half term.

Mr Roberts



Careers Talk

Lola Walton, an ex-QE student came in to talk about her role as a TV Production Assistant. Lola attended QE Girls from 2014-2021 then went on to study Communication & Media at The University of Liverpool, graduating last year. During her time at QE, Lola arranged multiple work experience placements and through the connections she built, she was able to find a job at a production company once she graduated. She now makes adverts around the world. Lola gave valuable advice to our Media students and spent time answering their questions. She also gave a taste of what day-to-day life as a production assistant involves, as well as the career trajectory ahead of her.



Ms St Ledger

International Coalition of Girls' Schools Symposium

We met Ms St Ledger at Liverpool Street Station at 8:30 in the morning to get the 9 o'clock train which would take us to Chelmsford. Once we arrived at the station and had made our way to Chelmsford County High School for Girls, we received our schedule for the day including information on which tables we would be joining for the morning sessions. Shortly after all the schools had taken their seats, student leaders began introducing the speakers that would be talking for the morning.



The speakers were from a variety of different industries, including medicine, journalism and brand marketing; one of the speakers discussed working as a woman within male dominated fields. All

the women were really inspirational and gave engaging talks. Following lunch and a music recital from the host school, there was an opportunity to ask any questions not previously posed.

After lunch, we all went to pre-selected workshops run by representatives from a range of industries. Workshops were delivered by the RAF, degree apprenticeship organisations and representatives from the world of medicine and dentistry. Going to the degree apprenticeships workshop enlightened me on the benefits of those qualifications and the best chances of getting selected onto a course. Workshops lasted an hour and I was inspired to attend one on brand marketing. We were supported to write our own pitch for a brand worked on in groups. It was a great experience, sharing ideas on how to engage specific audiences. The positive feedback we all received was supportive and gave us an increased level of confidence by the end of the session.

Finally all the students who had joined the conference came together with their teachers for the final summing up before we left for home. All the talks and workshops were extremely helpful. The interactive workshops taught me about the industries and jobs I potentially want to pursue after higher education. Having this opportunity was really beneficial for my future.

Caitlin, Y12

Year 12 Work Experience Week

Year 12 took part in a week of work experience at the end of the Summer Term. Students went to a variety of placements, including within the NHS, Education, Media, Engineering, Finance, Law, Admin, Research and Customer Service.

Underhill Primary School

Headteacher Jennie Reed very kindly offered placements to eight of our Year 12 students. Two students, Elda and Nicole, describe their experiences below.

During my work experience week with a Year 1 class, I had an amazing time and enjoyed every moment. I loved getting to know the children and helping them with their activities, from reading and drawing to learning new things each day. It was such a warm and happy environment, and I felt proud to be able to support the teacher and the pupils. The experience was very special to me, and it made me appreciate how rewarding it can be to work with young children and gave me an idea of what I would like to do in the future.

During my work experience week with a Year 2 class, I had an amazing time and enjoyed every single moment with the children — it honestly felt like they were my own. I loved helping them with their drawing and writing, and getting them ready for their graduation. It gave me the chance to really interact with the children and create a positive, nurturing environment. I also felt proud to be able to support the teachers and pupils throughout the week and help them prepare for the next school year. This experience was very special to me because it made me realise that I want to pursue a career working with children. It felt so rewarding, and it's something I can definitely see myself doing in the future.



Chase Farm Hospital

Matt Sykes, Matron at Chase Farm Hospital, has offered placements to our students for a number of years. Leila, who has applied to study Medicine next year, completed her work experience there in the Summer.

My work experience at Chase Farm Hospital was truly eye-opening as I came to grips with the demanding yet deeply rewarding aspects of the clinical environment. A specific case that resonated with me was a young girl who was visibly anxious in the recovery unit after

getting her tonsils removed. Witnessing how the doctors consoled and supported her in providing reassurance and catering for her needs allowed me to appreciate how important it is to build meaningful connections with patients. Additionally, my own involvement in preparing gowns and taking weight and height readings of patients as part of the pre-operative assessment deepened my understanding of the profession. I recommend this invaluable work placement as I was able to develop my inter-personal skills whilst also observing first-hand how organisation, empathy and compassion are deeply woven into the fabrics of the NHS, which I am committed to being a part of.

Parliament

Both of our Deputy Head Girls, Tiffany and Olivia, completed work experience in the office of MP Dan Tomlinson. Tiffany describes their experience below.

During the last week of term, instead of celebrating it in school, all of Year 12 got to be out in the world of work! We had the privilege of attending work experience with our local MP Dan Tomlinson. We spent 3 days in Parliament where we attended meetings with ministers on pressing topics such as Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs but also more niche topics. We got to hear first hand about the issues which stem from the UK not having a member on the International Court of Justice and the 3 biggest forms of extremism facing the UK today.

We got to choose meetings which interest us - personally I got to attend one on how French and Spanish are the UK's most endangered subjects! We also got to do an independent research project on topics which were tailored to our own interest. Mine was about issues facing UK high streets and how we could solve these problems in our own high street to make it better for the whole community. We spent 2 days in Barnet where we read through and drafted responses to casework. We are so grateful for this opportunity and look forward to working with Dan in the future.



Well done to all of our Year 12 students on such a fantastic work experience week, and thank you to the organisations who generously hosted them.

Ms St Ledger and Mrs Douglas, Careers Team

Year 13 Twelfth Night Trip to The Globe

As part of the A-Level English Literature course, Year 13 students are studying Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. On Tuesday 21st October, the class was lucky enough to get to visit the Globe Theatre and watch a live performance of the play in its original setting. The adaptation brought us new perspectives on many of the themes and characters we've studied in class, making it invaluable to our learning. We also managed to get very close to the stage which made the experience even more immersive, with some students even getting to interact with the actors! We are all very grateful to Ms Kenney-Dwyer for organising this trip for us, and to Mr Johnson and Ms Madigan for taking us there.

Ela, Year 13



Open Evening for Prospective Year 7s

On Monday, September 22nd, the QEGS community came together for one of the most exciting dates in our school calendar: the annual Open Evening. We were delighted to welcome hundreds of Year 6 students and their families who are currently considering their secondary school options. The energy in the building was palpable, thanks largely to our amazing students. A huge cohort of over 300 QEGS students - along with our dedicated Sixth Form officers - volunteered their time. They served as fantastic school ambassadors, leading engaging tours and helping staff showcase the breadth of subjects and opportunities on offer. Well done in particular to Francine in Y7, Athena in Y8 and Lucy, our Head Girl, who gave great speeches to over 1000 people who made up three sets of audiences during the course of the evening.



Family Information Events

September and October marked the return of our important Family Information Events, which provide crucial advice for key academic milestones. We connected with families of Year 7, Year 10, and Year 11, focusing on helping their daughters succeed through their respective transitions. We also ensured the families of our Year 12 students were fully informed about the demands of A-Level study via an online session, which included invaluable insights directly from our current students Lucy and Kyle, as well as former student Nina, now studying Medicine at the University of Cambridge.

In addition to valuable discussions with tutors and subject-specific talks on curriculum and effective home support, the in-person events were significantly enhanced by our student volunteers. Beyond helping to manage the large number of attendees, many students stepped forward to give hands-on instruction. They used laptops to clearly demonstrate to parents exactly how students access and utilise our online learning resources - a brilliant example of students sharing their knowledge.

Sixth Form Open Evening

Thank you to all our wonderful Sixth Form students, who helped teachers show off the fantastic A-Level courses, and acted as tour guides for new prospective students from other schools. There was a great atmosphere in the evening. Well done to Xheni in Year 12 and Head Girl Lucy for their fantastic speeches in the hall to families.

Lamda



We, at Beyond the Lines, are delighted to announce our fantastic LAMDA Speech and Drama examination results! We are in our 11th Year at QE Girls' School and during the summer term we took 84 students through LAMDA examinations from Grade 2 to Bronze Medal Grade 6 in both Acting and Verse and Prose. The students achieved incredible results across the board, with the vast majority receiving Distinctions. The Medal grades (6,7,8) provide students with vital UCAS points for University. We are immensely proud of all the girls' achievements and their confidence, communication, and vocal ability improve year upon year. We look forward to another successful year!

A few spaces are still available if your daughter would like to join us. Details are: Marianne and Sam; Beyond the Lines; 07980 925 009; beyondthelines@outlook.com

Please note this is a paid-for activity, led by an outside organisation on our school site.

NEW SEASON, NEW MENU!

Innovate

WHAT'S COOKING AFTER HALF TERM?

There's lots to look forward to on the menu when students return after half term! Our caterers have refreshed the school restaurant offer to bring warm, hearty meals for the colder months, alongside fresh, lighter options – all designed to give students variety, balance, and great taste every day.

The new winter menu is full of comforting classics like roast Wednesdays and fish and chips Fridays, as well as tasty vegetarian and vegan dishes that make it easy to eat well.



MAKE IT A MEAL DEAL!

chill deal

For those who prefer something cold and easy, the Chill Deal is a great option – four items (such as a roll, yoghurt, fruit pot, or small home bake) all within the Free School Meal allowance.



OUR CONCEPTS AT LUNCHTIME

Our popular **StreetVibes** range brings a taste of the High Street to school with a build-your-own format. It's all about choice, flavour, and fun, encouraging students to create meals that suit their tastes. Each week, Tuesdays to Thursdays, a new concept will take centre stage, but the approach stays the same:

street
VIBES

CHOOSE IT!

Whether its rice, noodles or salad, we have a variety of bases to create the foundations of a delicious dish.

ADD IT!

Add proteins such as grilled chicken, savoury beef or plant based alternatives.

TOP IT!

Top it with some chilli or a cool mayo, whichever finishes the dish right for you.



There's even more to enjoy – grab a **PowerBites** snack pot at break, try the **Naturally** vegetarian and vegan options, or start the day with a **free porridge breakfast**.

For anyone concerned about food allergies, our **Allergen Buddies** (purple hat and apron) are around to help with safe choices. Just ask!

Visit the restaurant to find out more!

Dates for your diary: 2025-26

- Parents' Evenings
 - Year 7 2pm-6pm (students finish at 1.00pm) Wednesday 19 November
 - Year 8 2pm-6pm (students finish at 1.00pm) Wednesday 25 February
 - Year 9 2pm-6pm (students finish at 1.00pm) Thursday 29 January
 - Year 10 2pm-6pm (students finish at 1.00pm) Tuesday 24 March
 - Year 11 2pm-6pm (students finish at 1.00pm) Wednesday 14 January
 - Year 12 4.30-7pm (normal school day) Thursday 13 November
 - Year 13 4.30-7pm (normal school day) Tuesday 21 October
- School closed for Wellbeing Day Friday 28 November
- Year 9 Options Evening Tuesday 10 February

Road Safety Near Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Members of the QE community and local residents have raised concerns regarding dangerous and inconsiderate road use outside and near the school on the Meadway. In particular, we have received complaints about parents/carers who continue to park on the corners of the road over double yellow lines. Parking in this way on the pavement restricts access for pedestrians and wheelchair users and makes it more dangerous for our students when they are crossing the road.

In order to help prevent members of our community being injured as a result of thoughtless parking or dangerous driving, we ask that parents and carers adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Do not park on the double yellow lines on the Meadway or High Street, Barnet.
2. Do not park across driveways.
3. Do not make U-turns in either road when it is unsafe to do so.
4. Keep to the registered speed limit.
5. Consider if a journey by car to the school is completely necessary.
6. Take considerable care when dropping off students by the curbside

Staff members are present at the school gate at the beginning and the end of the school day, but they clearly do not have a traffic officer's jurisdiction on public highways. Therefore, a spirit of cooperation and consideration is essential to ensure students have a safe passage to and from school.

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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