



Founded in 1888

Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future

December 2025

The Tudor Rose

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



From the Headteacher

As we come to the close of the autumn term, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our students, families, staff and friends of the School for the commitment, encouragement and partnership you bring to our school community. This term has been rich in both academic endeavour and personal growth. Our students have risen to challenges in their learning, demonstrated resilience and curiosity, and shown care and respect for one another—qualities that sit at the heart of our school values.

Beyond the classroom, we have seen achievements in the arts, sport, leadership and service, reminding us that education is about far more than results alone. As Helen Keller once said, "*Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.*" The successes highlighted in this newsletter are a reflection of that shared effort, and I am immensely proud of all that has been accomplished.

It is a time to reflect and celebrate. For those marking Christmas and Hannukah and for families celebrating other festivals and traditions at this time of year, I wish you a season filled with warmth, rest and connection. May the new year bring renewed hope, good health and fresh opportunities for every member of our community. We look forward to welcoming students back in the spring term, ready to continue learning and growing together.

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Life Drawing at The Wallace Collection

On the morning of October 23rd, the Year 12 and 13 art students along with Ms Beavis and Miss Stavrou took the London underground to the Wallace Collection art gallery. The aim of this trip was to develop our art skills and expand our knowledge and understanding of how to draw from pictures/paintings and also life drawing. As we entered the gallery we were struck by the magnificent paintings and sculptures that adorned the interior of the gallery, as we strolled through the gallery, the massive paintings that stretched floor to ceilings paired with the chandeliers that hung from every room the atmosphere left us all in awe. A brilliant resident teacher then introduced and guided us through new and interesting techniques, in an engaging and eye opening session that, although lasted a few hours, felt like mere minutes.



After a short lunch break where we were able to explore the galleries and admire the artwork, we took part in the final activity of the day, which was a life drawing session with a live model. Although the idea seemed intimidating at first, it ultimately turned out to be the most

enjoyable activity for the whole group. We applied newly learned and improved skills and techniques, through a variety of materials provided, to finally create some incredible pieces of work. After that eye opening and enjoyable experience we headed back to school, hoping to use our new found skills in our future work.



Dulmini and Alice Year 12

Inktober drawing challenge winners

This year's Inktober challenge was a huge success in our school! A total of 126 students joined the Inktober Google Classroom, with around 30 students regularly sharing their creative drawings throughout the month. The enthusiasm, creativity, and dedication shown by our young artists was truly inspiring.

Congratulations to our 12 winners for their outstanding work—and well done to everyone who took part in making Inktober such a fantastic celebration of art and imagination!



Winners:

1st place

Khadija Y9 - 31 days of drawings

Zakiya Y8 - 31 days of drawings

Sakura Y8 - 31 days of drawings

2nd place

Maria Y7 - 31 days of drawings

Yu-Zhen Y7 - 29 days of drawings

Ria Y9 - 13 days of drawings

3rd place

Maria Y7 - 25 days of drawings

Aadhya Y8 - 23 days of drawing

Elissa Y7- 10 days drawings

Best digital drawing

Abigail Y9 - 7 digital drawings

Best effort category

Lucy Y9 - 31 drawings

Ava Y9 - 20 drawings



A Christmas Carol - Old Vic Schools Club

The performance of "A Christmas Carol" at The Old Vic Theatre was truly magical and captured the joyful spirit of Christmas time. On Thursday 27th of November, all students that joined The Old Vic Schools Club had the incredible opportunity to go into London and see the play! It was beautiful as the theatre had a cozy, rustic atmosphere which perfectly fit with the story, it was amazing to watch in person. The costumes were carefully crafted, the set was perfectly designed with lanterns and christmas decorations, and each actor played their role inspiringly. It allowed us to feel like we were part of the story, as they interacted with the audience.

The following week we were all lucky enough to also have an in-school workshop with talented workers from The Old Vic. It was so enjoyable and exhilarating as we played games and discussed the use of costumes in the performance. We were even given our own shirts to design to fit the theme of A Christmas Carol, something from the Victorian era or with our own unique flair. All teams had the chance to model their shirts, showing off their hard work, we used different fabrics and materials to portray something they would've worn.

We all felt so privileged to have been able to learn about the performance, story and watch a professional production. We all learnt new skills and gained a sense of confidence in performance and theatre. The overall experience allowed us to become inspired by drama, use our creative skills, bond with students from different years and work together as a team! Students found the workshop and the performance engaging and extremely useful to develop our understanding of Drama and Theatre. In conclusion we are all grateful that QE offered us this opportunity as it was a memorable experience which will help us a lot in the future.

Cristina Y9



Creative Cushions

Mrs Doel, Head of Year 7

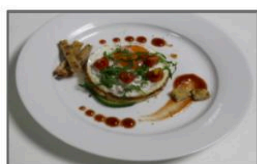
The Year 7's have been busy learning how to use the sewing machine, learning how to transfer print and how to create shibori designs. All of this has enabled them to develop 'creative cushions' based on a culture of their choice.



Egg Challenge

Mrs Doel, Head of Year 7

The Year 10 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition students have recently been learning about food styling. As part of their learning they were set the challenge of presenting an egg, slice of bread and a few salad items in a creative way!



Year 10 Egg Challenge



Breakfast with the Headteacher

Two students from each year group were invited to have breakfast with Mrs Walker, Heads of Year and Senior Leadership Team. The breakfast was in recognition of earning the highest number of achievement points, and zero poor behaviour points, in this term, in their respective year groups. This award is outlined in the Behaviour for Learning Policy under Rewarding Good Behaviour.

Well done and congratulations to all of the students involved.



GCSE Technology Textiles

Mrs Doel, Head of Year 7

The Year 10 GCSE Textiles students have been working diligently to create children's dresses. Throughout the project, they have developed a wide range of new skills, including adding fullness through pleating or gathering, making their own bias binding, and sewing elastic casings and hems.



Highgate Art Fair

Ms Beavis, Head of Art

Highgate Art fair offers an exciting, inspiring and diverse selection of art from established and emerging artists from around the world. The exhibition space is a beautiful Victorian Hall, the perfect backdrop for this celebration of art and creativity. This year introduced a new stand showcasing emerging young artists of exceptional talent and we were so proud that Carys (Y13) was selected to display three pieces of her coursework. The fair ran from 7th - 9th November 2025 and was a complete pleasure for everyone who attended.



HIGHGATE ART FAIR
7 - 9 NOVEMBER 2025
NORTH HILL, STOREY ROAD, N6 4ED

QEGS Choristers

Ms Cosima Rodriguez-Broadbent, Director of Music

This term, our new Chorister Programme launched with great excitement. Twenty-four talented students auditioned for just six places, demonstrating the remarkable depth of musical ability within our school. After a highly competitive process, places were awarded to the following pupils: Caitlin, Evelina, Saki, Rochelle, Sithmi and Silni. As part of the programme, the choristers receive a free professional choral education delivered by the world-class musicians at St John the Baptist Church, Chipping Barnet. They now sing weekly Evensong as part of the church's historic musical tradition on Sunday evenings, developing their skills and contributing beautifully to the life of the community.



Visit to the Gurdwara

Mrs Manolopoulou, Head of Religious Studies

Our students recently visited a local Gurdwara, giving them the opportunity to experience Sikh worship and community life first-hand. The visit brought their GCSE learning to life, allowing them to see key Sikh beliefs and practices in context. The students engaged thoughtfully throughout and gained a much deeper appreciation of the lived reality of the Sikh faith.



Squidgy Chocolate Logs

Mrs Doel, Head of Year 7

Year 10 students have been hard at work getting into the festive spirit, by crafting some truly delicious, squidgy chocolate logs.



Ethics Cup Tournament

Mrs Manolopoulou, Head of Religious Studies

A group of our students took part in the Ethics Cup tournament, where teams discuss and debate ethical issues affecting modern society. The students engaged in meaningful dialogue, demonstrated impressive critical thinking, and represented the school with maturity. They finished 4th out of 9 schools—a very promising result, especially as this was our first time entering the competition.



Carolling at The Spires

Ms Cosima Rodriguez-Broadbent, Director of Music

Early in December to kickstart Advent, ten members of the Chamber Choir, from Year 7, 8 and 9, walked to The Spires to take part in a carolling fundraiser in support of the local charity, Cherry Lodge Cancer Centre. Their beautiful singing quickly drew a large and enthusiastic crowd, creating a festive atmosphere for shoppers and passers-by. Thanks to their talent and dedication, the choir raised an impressive £121.54 in just 30 minutes, making the event a heart-warming success for a very worthy cause.



Christmas Carol Service

On Tuesday, 10th December, the School held its annual Christmas Carol Service at St John the Baptist Church, Chipping Barnet.

The traditional Nine Lessons and Carols Service was presided over by Father Samuel. The full congregation included the Mayor, Cllr Danny Rich, along with invited guests from the School's governance boards and the local community: Debbie Lane, Member of the Board of Trustees; Toyin Aderoju, Chair of the Board of Trustees; Martyn Bradish, Chair of the Endowment Fund Trustees; Vivienne Bell, School Archivist, Endowment Fund Observer and Committee Member of the Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School Guild (Alumna Association); Barbara Taylor, Chair of The Hyde Foundation and Yoshimi Gregory Yamaha Music . Also in attendance were other invited guests, parents and carers of our student performers and friends of the School, as well as members of the wider School community.

The traditional Nine Lessons were read by students from each year group, concluding with the Ninth Lesson read by the Headteacher, Mrs Walker.

Music and carols were enjoyed by all throughout the Service, featuring the Chamber Choir, School Choir, and School Orchestra. They were accompanied by the renowned organist and harpsichordist, Jonathan Gregory who is also the Founder and Music Director of the UK-Japan Music Society. The School was delighted to also have members of Borehamwood Brass contributing to the School's performance pieces. These included traditional and modern variations of carols such as *The Holly and the Ivy*, *Ding Dong Merrily on High*, and *Away in a Manger*.

The Service concluded on a festive note with the Orchestra performing *Sleigh Ride* by Leroy Anderson. Following the Service, refreshments and mince pies were enjoyed by all as a further welcome to the Festive Season!



Nine Lessons and Carols

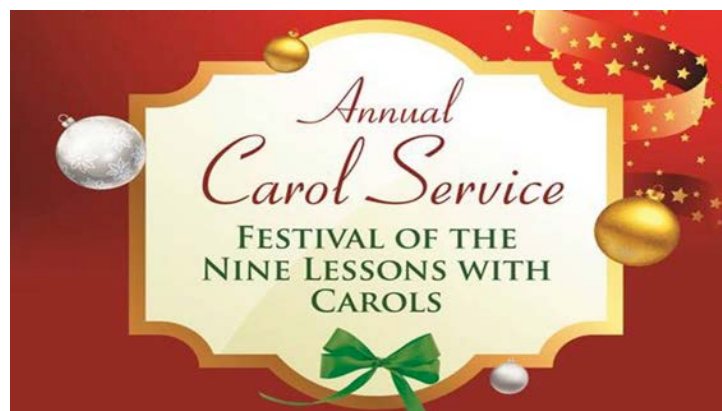
Ms Cosima Rodriguez- Broadbent, Director of Music

By sharing the service of Nine Lessons and Carols, the School, student performers and congregation participated in a cherished tradition with surprisingly humble beginnings that stretch back to Christmas Eve, 1880, at Truro Cathedral in Cornwall, just 8 years before our School was founded.

The service was devised by Edward White Benson, the first Bishop of Truro and later Archbishop of Canterbury, assisted by the Succentor, George Walpole. While the main cathedral was under construction, it was held in a temporary wooden building, the 'pro-cathedral. The Bishop's aim was partly pastoral: to offer a spiritual alternative to the boisterous, sometimes unruly, festive atmosphere of local Cornish pubs on Christmas Eve. He "arranged from ancient sources a little service for Christmas Eve – nine carols and nine tiny lessons." Readers ranged from a junior chorister up to the Bishop himself.

It was later adapted and popularised by King's College, Cambridge, in 1918, telling the story of salvation from the Fall of Man to the Nativity through readings interspersed with music.

The tradition continues at our school, connecting our local history to this global observance. The Church played a significant part in bringing the School to life based on the Charter granted by Queen Elizabeth the First in 1573. For many years, the Church has been the setting for key school events, including the annual Commemoration Day Service and, of course, the Christmas Carol Service. This long-standing link allows the School's celebrated choir and musicians to bring the Christmas story to life in the splendid setting of the Parish Church. This partnership is a beautiful example of how the *Nine Lessons and Carols* service has taken root in schools and communities across the country, building on Bishop Benson's original vision to unite people through the simple, powerful retelling of the Nativity.



When They Go Low - Drama Production

Ms Jennifer Ford - Head of Drama

On Thursday 12th December, our Drama Department brought to life the thought-provoking play *When They Go Low*, in a compelling production performed by our talented KS4 and KS5 students. The performance, held in the Drama Studio, drew an audience of families, staff and students, all eager to witness the hard work and creativity that had gone into this ambitious project.

'When They Go Low', written by Natalie Mitchell, explores themes of gender equality, social pressure and the importance of speaking up for what is right. Our cast embraced these themes with maturity and empathy, delivering a performance that was both emotionally charged and deeply reflective. The play's blend of humour and poignancy allowed each student to showcase their versatility, from powerful monologues to dynamic ensemble scenes.

We are incredibly proud of all the students involved. Their commitment, creativity and courage made this production a memorable highlight of the school year. Moments like this remind us of the power of the arts—not only to entertain, but to challenge, inspire and bring our school community together.



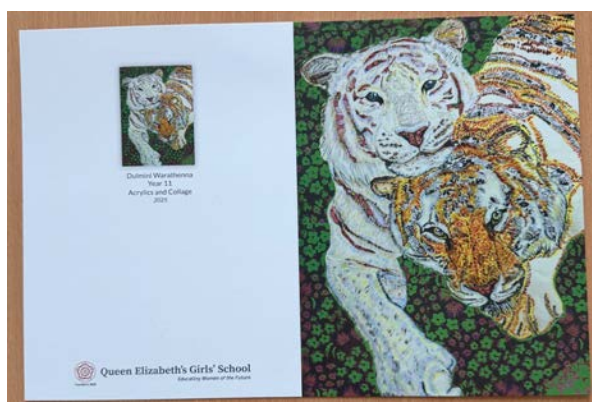
School Card for the Festive Winter Season

Since 2015 the school has worked with Medici, more recently Ganymed press, to produce a card for professionals and other colleagues and organisations who either work in partnership or support the school in other ways. The card always depicts a student's art work in celebration of their skills, creativity and talent. The School ensures the artwork and messaging is inclusive while being entirely appropriate for the season. Importantly it provides another vehicle for the School to support a charity. The chosen charity for this purpose is always Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. This year the School's card was celebrating the work of Dulmini, currently studying A Levels in our Year 12, including Art. Her tigers were created using acrylics and collage during her Year II GCSE Art course here. All the cards are framed and displayed in school near the Headteacher's office.

Our seasonal message says the following:

With all Good Wishes
for a restorative Winter Break
and throughout the Seasonal Festivities
from

All the Staff and Students at Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School



Winter Concert

On 15th December, a delightfully festive soiree was enjoyed by students, staff, parents and carers of our talented school choir, orchestra, band, soloists and various musical performance groups. The joyful evening succeeded in providing a harmonious and uplifting festive spirit for all of us present. Well done and thank you to all of our talented performers.



Dates for your diary: First Half of Spring Term 2026

- Parents' Evenings
 - 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 9 Options Evening Tuesday 10 February
- Inset Day Monday 5 January
- Students return to school Tuesday 6 January
- Spring Half Term 16-20 February



Please follow us on LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/20659538>

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>

**READ MORE ON OUR
WEBSITE**



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