



Founded in 1888

Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future

May 2026

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The Tudor Rose

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



From the Headteacher

This edition of our newsletter celebrates a vibrant and successful period in the life of the school, marked by achievement, reflection and community spirit. We begin by sharing the School's commemoration of its rich heritage through the annual Commemoration Day service and cake competition, before highlighting the many ways our students continue to thrive—whether through leadership programmes, academic challenges, educational visits or enrichment opportunities. From outstanding successes in the UKMT Maths Challenge to inspiring trips, fundraising and creative competitions, our students have demonstrated resilience, curiosity and compassion. Alongside these narratives, as usual we also share important updates, upcoming events and ways in which our wider community can continue to support the school.

Last week we celebrated our Year 13 students as they started a period of study leave to navigate remaining examinations on their A Level timetables. Today we celebrated our Year 11 students as they embark on their own period of study leave to manage their time in revision ahead of their final GCSE examinations. This morning I looked around the hall and I did not see the nervous eleven-year-olds who walked through our gates five years ago. I saw focused, capable, and fiercely independent young women. All the teachers are expecting to continue to support all our students ahead of each remaining exam. The whole school community wishes them well. They have worked incredibly hard to reach this point. Now, the finish line is in sight.

On behalf of all the staff, I wish you a restful and energising summer term break.

CONTENTS

Commemoration Day Service	3
Commemoration Day Cake Competition	5
Lean In Girls Leadership Programme	8
History Year 13 trip to Trent Park	9
Headteacher's Award Breakfast	10
UKMT Junior Maths Challenge	11
QE Together Fundraising - Sponsored Walk	11
QEGS Ultimate Book Sell-Off Competition	12
Post-18 Cooking Class	13
Scholastic Book Fair	14
Trip to Debate at the Oxford Union	15
School Canteen - Food Hygiene Inspection	15
Please Support Our School Library	16
Squishy Toys	17
Dates for your diary	17
LinkedIn	17
Useful Support Lines	18

Commemoration Day Service



On Friday 15 May, our students took part in the annual Commemoration Day service, an event that celebrates the founding of our school in 1888. Following a tradition that stretches back to the 1920s, a large student procession including all of Year 7 and 8, made its way to St John the Baptist Church, Chipping Barnet.

Students were joined by dignitaries including Martin Russell, Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London; The Worshipful, The Mayor, Cllr Dan Rich; Dame Theresa Villiers; MP Dan Tomlinson; Mr Neil Marlow, Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning; Mrs Gill Williams, Secretary of The Guild; and Mr Neil Enright, Headmaster, Queen Elizabeth's School.

As is customary, Mrs Walker read out 'The Act of Commemoration', as first read by the headteacher over a century ago. Reverend Cindy Kent MBE led the service, and in celebration of our diverse and inclusive community, students representing Judaism, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism read affirmations of their respective faiths.

Director of Music Ms Rodriguez-Broadbent coordinated a range of exceptional performances, including from our Junior Strings and the Chamber Choir, alongside individual renditions such as a Piano Solo by Kayla 10PDN, and a song by Jessica 9SNG and Georgia 10RDE.

This year's service also saw the return of the school song, 'Ever in the presence of God', which had not been heard for several decades. The song was proudly dedicated to Mrs Walker who, as Rev Cindy told the congregation, was: *"responsible for reinstating the Commemoration Day service in 2016. Mrs Walker retires this summer, and while she will be greatly missed, the school community is profoundly grateful for her years of dedication."*

The service concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.





Commemoration Day Cake Competition

As is tradition, Commemoration Day also featured our annual cake competition. This year the theme was "Give to Gain" which is the theme of International Women's Day 2026. The standard of cakes was phenomenal - thank you to all students and families who contributed. After some tense judging which included tasting the cakes, students then returned to their tutor groups with their cakes in order to enjoy them together. See below for the winners and a selection of other entrants.

Winner Key Stage 3 overall: Ava and Tanisha 9JRS



Winner Key Stage 4 overall: Abi 11PKI



Y7 Winner: Tiya 7JJN



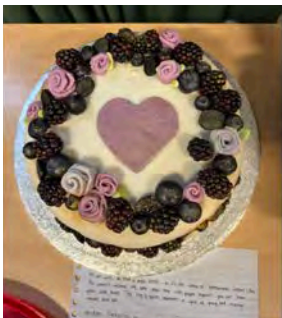
Y8 Winner: Evalyn 8JPR



Y9 Winner: Anusha 9SNG



Selected other entrants:





Lean In Girls Leadership Programme

This academic year I have had the privilege of working closely with Year 7 students engaged in an extra-curricular activity which I have run after school. The Year 7 Lean In Girls programme, inspired by the work of Sheryl Sandberg and developed through Lean In Girls, is a leadership and personal development programme designed specifically for girls aged 11–15. Delivered in a supportive and age-appropriate environment, the programme helps students build confidence, resilience, self-awareness and positive leadership skills at a key stage in their transition toward KS4 at secondary school.

Through interactive discussions, group activities and reflection exercises, students explore themes such as recognising their strengths, managing setbacks, challenging stereotypes, taking positive risks, setting healthy goals and supporting one another as allies and teammates. The programme encourages girls to see leadership in broad and inclusive ways — not simply as being “in charge,” but as showing courage, kindness, initiative and integrity in everyday life.

For Year 7 students, the programme is particularly valuable as it supports the development of confidence and belonging during the early years of secondary education. Sessions are designed to strengthen students’ ability to speak up, contribute positively in class and activities, navigate friendships and social pressures, and develop a healthy mindset around challenge and failure.

Research underpinning the programme suggests that girls who view themselves as leaders are more engaged in school and more willing to participate, try new experiences and take on responsibility. Schools using the programme have reported increased confidence, stronger peer support and improved student participation. Our students' knowledge, comments, experiences shared, questions and reflections impressed me throughout. The programme is in four parts and students completed a combination of some or all sections

Overall, the Lean In Girls programme aims to equip students with the confidence, voice and resilience to flourish both academically and personally, while fostering a culture of empathy, inclusion and positive leadership within the school community.



Mrs Walker, Headteacher

History Year 13 trip to Trent Park

Our visit to Trent Park House was a truly riveting and eye-opening experience for us all, bringing history to life in such a way that was both engaging and memorable. We started off the day by visiting a live construction site where we had the opportunity to meet the team and observe their great efforts to preserve its history and legacy. We then delved into the story of Philip Sassoon, the former owner, whose influence shaped much of its history. Sassoon was pivotal in both the art and culture there, as he transformed it into an elegant retreat, hosting notable guests including members of the royal family and influential figures of the time such as Winston Churchill and Charlie Chaplin.



Perhaps the most compelling part of our visit was discovering the role of Trent Park House during the Second World War as a centre for secret intelligence operations. We were able to visit the basement intelligence rooms, where we had the privilege of being in the room where it all happened which felt truly surreal.

We also took part in a code-breaking activity, which gave us a small insight into the challenges faced by intelligence officers at the

time. Particularly impactful for us as a Girls' school, was learning about the role of women in these intelligence efforts. Figures such as Catherine Townsend highlighted how women were not merely supporting the war from the sidelines, but were actively involved in espionage and intelligence work.

Overall, our visit to Trent Park House was both historically enriching and unforgettable, and we are incredibly appreciative of the opportunity, as it inspired us to reflect on the past with a deeper sense of curiosity and understanding.

Leila 6IBN



Headteacher's Award Breakfast

In recognition of outstanding achievement and dedication throughout the term, the following students were invited to have breakfast with Mrs Walker.

Year 7 - Maria and Mei

Year 8 - Scarlett and Lucia

Year 9 - Zuri and Tanisha

Year 10 - Chi Chi and Georgia

Year 11 - Intisaar and Olivia

Year 12 - Xheni and Caitlin

Year 13 - Kyle and Eloise



UKMT Junior Maths Challenge

Year 8 students have competed in the national UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. The competition 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.



United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust

Our students worked incredibly hard and achieved an outstanding set of results this year. An incredible eight students achieved the Gold level and have qualified for the next round - A record breaking achievement for our school! We are incredibly proud of all students who took part and represented the school so positively.

A special mention to Eliana S (8DRS) for her outstanding performance in achieving the Best in School Certificate. All students will be receiving their certificates in the upcoming assembly.

Mrs Khodabacus, Head of Mathematics

QE Together Fundraising - Sponsored Walk

We are raising money for Home-Start Barnet as a joint effort between Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School and Queen Elizabeth's School because we believe no family should have to face difficult times alone. As part of this, we are a group of seven students from both schools taking on an approximately 17-mile walk across London Bridge to raise money and awareness for the charity. Home-Start Barnet helps parents who may be struggling with things like their mental health, feeling isolated, or the pressures of raising young children without enough support. As students, we feel it is important to give back to our community and support families who may not have the same stability or support systems as others. Every donation, no matter the size, will help Home-Start Barnet continue supporting families who really need it and remind them that they are not alone.

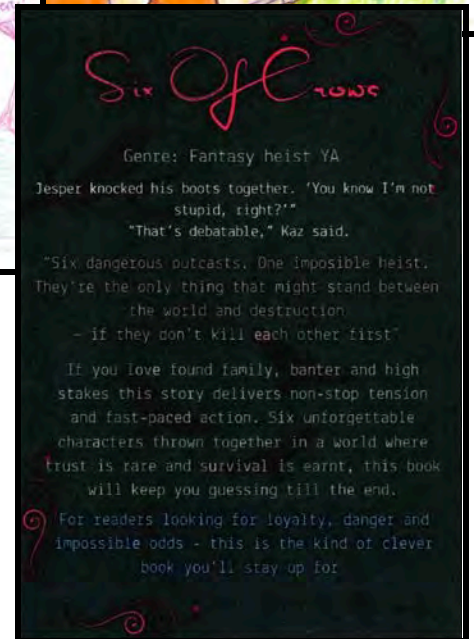
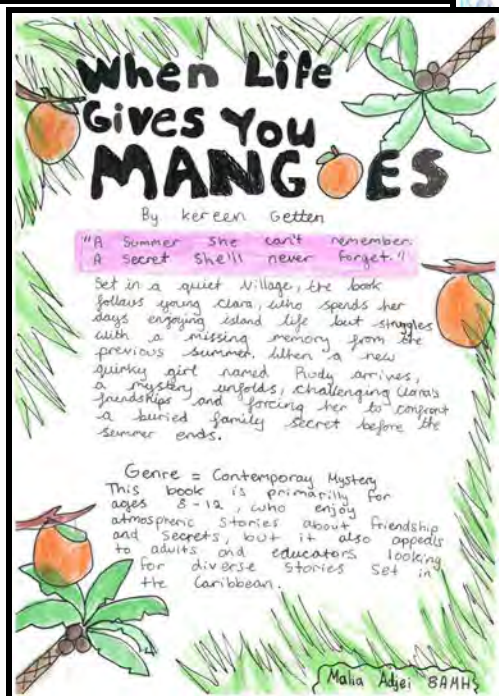
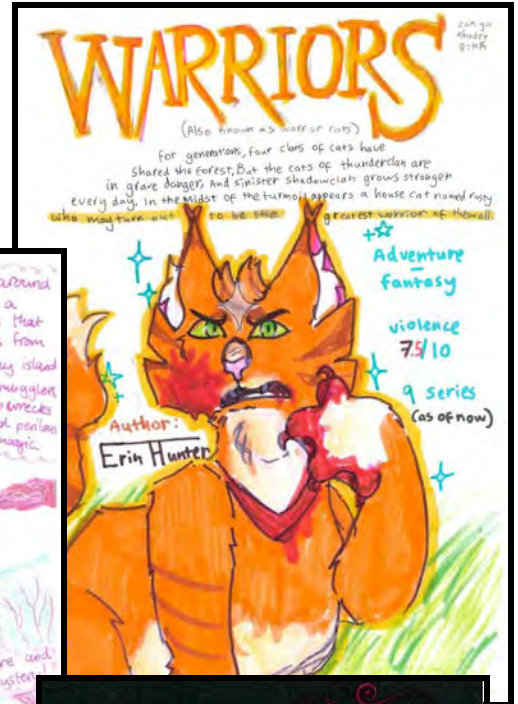


Please donate using the Just Giving Link below:

https://www.justgiving.com/team/qe-together?utm_medium=TE&utm_source=CL

QEGS Ultimate Book Sell-Off Competition

Congratulations to Hebe (9RST), Malia (8AMH), Siyaan (8AMH), Kabiyanaga (8SMK) and Zakiya (8SMK), winners of the Book Sell-Off Competition, who each received a £5 Scholastic Book Fair voucher. Students created some amazing posters promoting their favourite books, with prizes awarded for creativity, originality, design and persuasion. Well done to all involved! *The judging panel: Miss Podavitte Soldo (Librarian) and Zinan (Student Head Librarian)*



Post-18 Cooking Class

The Sixth Form were offered the opportunity to take part in a Post-18 preparation and cooking class on the 24th March. We learnt about the importance of fibre intake and micronutrients for brain health and focus, especially in the overnight oats recipe. We made a pasta salad for a lunch option and chickpea curry with homemade flatbread for dinner! We were able to achieve this in under two hours, which showed us how easy it is to meal prep for the week. All of the dishes were highly adaptable and easy to freeze, helping us prepare for university life! It was so much fun to cook in school and we are all looking forward to further sessions!

Anabelle, 6DBH



Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair returned to school on Tuesday 12 May, bringing excitement for reading across the school. Over three days, students explored new releases and old favourites, discovered new authors, and shared recommendations with friends. They also enjoyed browsing the range of stationery, notebooks, and games on offer. A special thank you to our student librarians for their help in running the event. We look forward to the next Book Fair in the autumn term!

Miss Podavitte Soldo, Librarian



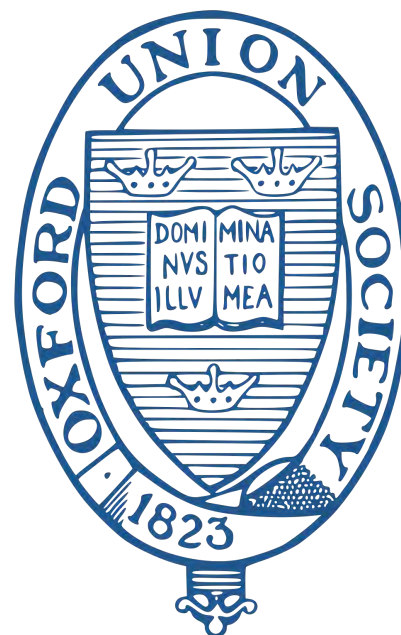
Trip to Debate at the Oxford Union

We recently attended an inspiring and revelatory Oxford Union workshop and debate. The motion: "This House would rather go to war with Russia than lose Ukraine" required us to engage with complex international issues and consider the weight of political decision-making from different perspectives.

Isabelle, the student Outreach Officer at the debating society, introduced us to the principles of parliamentary-style debating. In a series of quick mini-debates, we constructed arguments and responded to challenging points under pressure.

Proceeding from the workshop to the immersive setting of the Oxford Union's chamber, we gained insight into the expectations and standards of university-level debating. Seeing the ease with which students and external speakers articulated their arguments was especially motivating. As debate club leaders, myself, Xheni and Zara look forward to developing debating at school.

The experience was memorable and thought-provoking. We will now approach discussion with greater clarity and depth, while also giving us the confidence to engage more meaningfully with global issues. Thank you to Ms Wong who supported us and made the opportunity possible.



Zahra 6DBH

My experience of the Oxford Union was contradictory to what I was expecting. I felt the elitist tone of the institution was strong and overpowering, especially to a young female student such as myself. However, the debate was very interesting, with knowledgeable and profound speeches covering both sides of the debate. Despite my rather judgemental first opinion of the institution, I enjoyed the trip immensely as I was able to discover the inner workings of a traditional and well preserved part of Oxford students' lives. I highly recommend anyone to participate if there is a similar trip in the future.

Roisin 6MCN

School Canteen - Food Hygiene Inspection

On Friday 22nd May, our external caterers had an unannounced inspection of our canteen/kitchen from an Environmental Health Officer. We are delighted to inform you that the caterers have maintained a 5-star food hygiene certification; the highest possible rating. For further details about our catering provision, please visit our website: <https://www.gegschool.org.uk/canteen>

Please Support Our School Library

We are delighted to share an exciting opportunity for our school community to help improve our library and encourage even more young people to discover the joy of reading.

National Book Tokens are once again running their annual [#RebuildTheLibrary prize draw](#), giving five schools across the UK and Ireland the **chance to win £1,000 in National Book Tokens** to refresh and restock their library shelves with new and inspiring books.

We would love your support by nominating our school.

Even better, if our school is selected as one of the winning entries, you will also enter a prize draw to **win a £100 National Book Token to spend in your favourite bookshop.**

To celebrate the UK's National Year of Reading, there are also additional weekly prizes available. Each week until 24th June, a flash winner will be chosen at random from all entries to receive:

£100 in National Book Tokens for their school

£25 in National Book Tokens for themselves

Every nomination helps increase our chances of winning, so please consider taking a few moments to support our school library and share the campaign with family and friends.

You can find a link to the [nomination form here](#). Alternatively, you may scan the QR code on the attached poster.

The closing date for nominations is 8th July 2026. Please note that **entrants must be aged 16 or over** and residents of the United Kingdom. Multiple people may nominate the same school, but only one entry per person will be accepted. No purchase is necessary.

A well-stocked and welcoming library can make a huge difference to young people's learning, creativity, wellbeing, and lifelong love of reading. By supporting this campaign, you will help us continue to provide an inspiring space where students can read, learn, explore new ideas, and develop a lasting passion for books.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Miss Podavitte Soldo



Squishy Toys

A message to parents and carers

Fiddle or squishy toys are only permitted in school under the agreement of the school SENCO or Mental Health Lead, following professionals' advice to meet individual needs.

Please can you ensure that your daughter, unless there is a pre-existing agreement, does not bring in such items to the school. They can be a distraction to learning and they are also a hazard; they are easily broken allowing the contents to spill out. Should a student be found with one in school, they will be asked to put it away. Repeated such incidents will result in the item being confiscated.



Dates for your diary

- Year 11 into Year 12 Sixth Form Induction Day
- Sports Day
- School Play Performances
- Year 10 "A Day in the Life of the Sixth Form"
- Activities Days
- International Day
- Last day of Summer Term (early finish)

Thursday 18 June
Monday 6 July
Wednesday 8 - Friday 10 July
Monday 13 July
Tuesday 14 - Wednesday 15 July
Thursday 16 July
Friday 17 July

LinkedIn



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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