Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future

Founded in 1888

October 2026

The Tudor Rose

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



From the Headteacher

Today marks the beginning of our first two week October half term break, a period of time for rest and relaxation in the middle of our longest term. I hope you all are able to use the time productively and positively following a wonderfully busy half term at QE Girls!

As well as our Open Evening on 5th October, we hosted prospective students and parents at our Open Mornings this week, as well as our fantastic Sixth Form open evening on Wednesday. This week's assemblies have also been led by the sixth form students who took part in the Lessons from Auschwitz project (more information below). The project includes interactive seminars, hearing the testimony of a Holocaust survivor and a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum. In the assemblies, students spoke about the importance of rehumanising the victims, and the importance of sharing the lessons learnt from the Holocaust.

On Tuesday evening, Mr Ali and Mrs Myatt also presented an excellent online e-safety talk, offering practical advice on navigating social media, privacy settings, group chats, and AI. The session emphasised that supporting young people online relies on open conversations and clear boundaries. You can find a link to the presentation slides below. As we head into the break, you may also wish to undertake a short digital detox with your daughters over half term in order to promote your wellbeing!

I was also delighted to see our sixth form students participating in our first QE Together event on Monday, with a co-educational cookery lesson at Queen Elizabeth's Boys School! QE Together is an important extra-curricular initiative which provides sixth form students from both schools the opportunity to come together and pursue interests including debating and robotics. I hope you enjoy the newsletter below, and I wish you a relaxing break.

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Morocco Trek and Community Project

This summer, our World Challenge team travelled to Morocco for an experience that challenged us, inspired us and introduced us to a world very different from our own.



In the Aït Bouguemez area of the Atlas Mountains, we spent time living alongside a local community and helped to rebuild a road that had been badly damaged. Working together on something that would make a real difference to local people gave us a strong sense of purpose and achievement.

Some of the most memorable moments, however, came simply from sharing everyday life. We spent time with local children, teaching them some of our games and activities while they introduced us to theirs. Despite differences in language and culture, friendships formed remarkably quickly.

We also challenged ourselves physically during a four-day trek through the Atlas Mountains. There were breathtaking views, long days, tired legs and moments when everyone had to dig a little deeper than they thought they could. Along the way, donkeys and mules became very welcome companions. We got tired, some of us got ill, we recovered, and we kept going together.

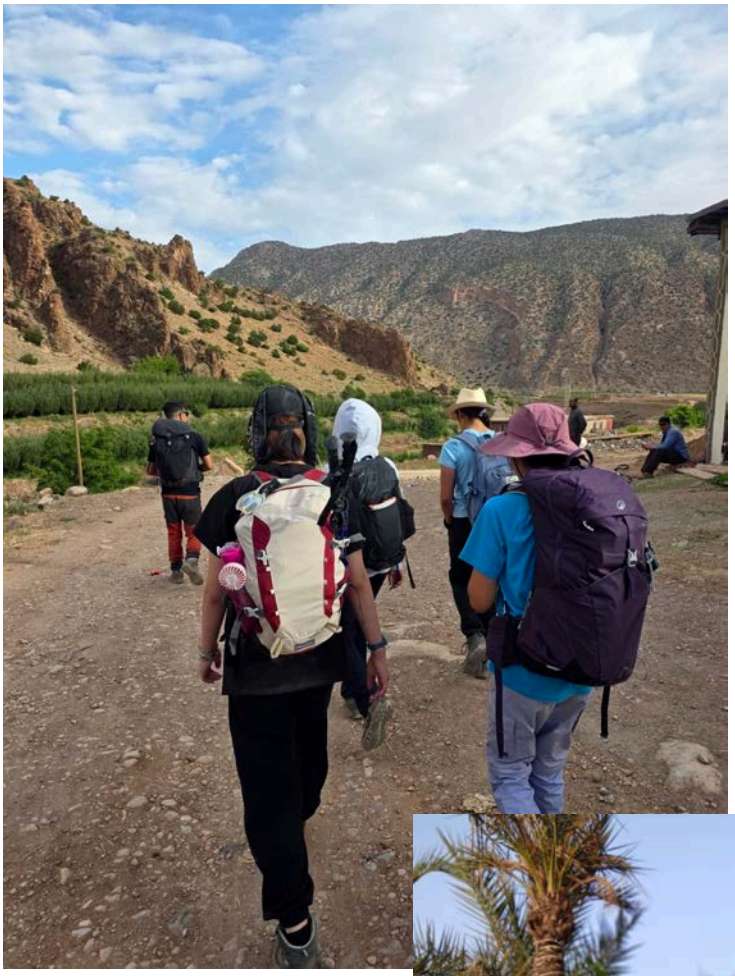


The expedition also gave us the opportunity to experience Moroccan food, culture and daily life, as well as explore Essaouira and Marrakech.

Before travelling, the team had raised money for a local school. During the trip, we were able to make the donation personally and speak with the school's founder about their work and the difference the support could make.

We returned home with far more than photographs. We came back with greater confidence, resilience and appreciation for other ways of life, as well as a huge sense of pride in what we had achieved together.

Ms Mucha







Celebration of Excellence, 2026



The school came together on 9th 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, Alison Mihail MBE, 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 Worshipful, The Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Zahra Beg, the Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning, Neil Marlow, BELS Associate Learning Network Inspector for Secondary Schools, Tracy Parrott, Endowment Fund Trustee Chair, Martyn Bradish, Headmaster of Queen Elizabeth's School, Neil Enright and other esteemed guests.



Beyond celebrating our student award winners, we also paid tribute to the incredible commitment of our staff with our Long Service Awards.

Congratulations again to all award recipients!

Open Evening



We were delighted to welcome a packed house of prospective Year 7 students and their families to our Open Evening on Monday 5 October! The buzz across the school was incredible as guests explored our vibrant community and saw first-hand the terrific work on display in every department.

A huge thank you goes out to our incredible team of over 300 student volunteers, including our fantastic tour guides and department helpers, who represented the school with such pride and enthusiasm.

Special mention must go to our inspiring speakers - Arabella in Year 7, Alanna in Year 8, and our Head Girl, Roisin - who all delivered wonderful speeches that gave our guests a true insight into student life here. Thank you to all staff and students who made the evening such a memorable success!

We received some lovely feedback from visitors after the event, including:

- *I just wanted to say a massive thank you for your open day last night. Your students are confident, friendly, and knowledgeable; they are a real credit to your school, and they should be proud of themselves.*
- *I wanted to reach out to thank all the staff and students at Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School for the exceptional event organized yesterday; your hospitality was incredible!*
- *We were really impressed with your school and facilities and are grateful to you all for the time invested in making sure your open day was a success.*

Well done also to those students selected to lead tours during the recent Open Mornings. Feedback from visitors suggested these were a great success also.



Online Safety Parent/Carer Briefing

Thank you to all parents and carers who joined our recent Keeping Children Safe Online briefing.

The session focused on helping families better understand the online world young people are navigating and the practical steps parents and carers can take to support them. We explored areas including social media and popular apps, privacy and consent, group chats, parental controls, online bullying, artificial intelligence, and what to do when something goes wrong.

A key message throughout the session was that parents do not need to be technology experts. Regular conversations, clear and age-appropriate boundaries, an understanding of the apps and services children are using, and knowing where to seek support can all make a significant difference.

For any parents or carers who were unable to attend, or who would like to revisit the information shared, the presentation slides can be accessed below:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/19V6GW_5PLTv7-khbDjZ7QDe7ffKDKqWNL55YMxqWhAw/edit?usp=sharing

We would encourage families to continue having open conversations about online activity and to regularly review privacy, contact and safety settings together with their child.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our young people use technology safely, responsibly and positively.

Mr Ali



Lessons from Auschwitz

Roisin and Zahra took part in the Lessons from Auschwitz three part programme. The programme includes an orientation seminar where we discuss pre-war Jewish life and hear from a Holocaust survivor; a one-day visit to Poland to explore the Auschwitz concentration camps; a follow up seminar to share our reflections on the visit.



The key lessons we learnt from the visit include:

- Remembering the Holocaust and respecting the victims and survivors.
- Understanding prejudice and discrimination and how they can lead to hatred and persecution.
- Challenging antisemitism, racism and intolerance in society today.
- Valuing individual responsibility and recognising the importance of speaking up against injustice.
- Sharing the lessons of the Holocaust to help prevent similar atrocities from happening again.

Roisin and Zahra have been talking to students about their experience throughout the week.

Poetry Club

Our extra-curricular poetry club continues to go from strength to strength and I am always excited to share the work that comes out of it. Learning to be creative and to write poetry outside of a lesson environment, with the ability to express your thoughts, ideas and feelings without critique or judgement is wonderfully freeing and often leads to personal moments of growth. Of the many poems created this half-term, one from Year 9 student Zofia deserves recognition for its clear passion and emotional resonance, and Zofia kindly agreed for it to be published here. Chapeau!

Mr Short

I LOVED YOU QUIETLY

By Zofia

I loved you quietly,
The way the moon loves a window from a distance
never asking to come inside.

You became a thought I carried through the night.
I'm so consumed by the ache of longing for you,
I've completely lost my appetite and my sleep.

Perhaps the moon understands
what it means to love something
you can never quite reach.

So I stare into the night sky
thinking of you,
while the moon hangs between us
close enough to see, yet impossible to touch.

Mark Evison Foundation

For our Mark Evison Foundation project, my co-partner Beatrice and I designed and created a fashion collection featuring a palette of whites and iridescent fabrics!

We are so proud to have raised £166 for the foundation so far through our JustGiving page!

The Mark Evison Foundation is a charity that helps young people develop confidence, resilience, independence and leadership skills by taking on personal challenges. It provides mentoring and funding of up to £500 for young people aged 16–18 at partner state schools to plan and complete projects outside their comfort zone. The foundation was created in memory of Mark Evison, a British Army officer who died in Afghanistan in 2009.

Blessing, Y13









Happy Black History Month!

The start of October marked QE's celebrations for Black History Month. All year groups gathered for assemblies exploring this year's theme, Honouring our Communities.

Our main focus was the incredible Kanya King CBE, founder of the MOBO Awards. Students were inspired by her story of determination, perseverance, and vision in creating a platform to ensure Black artists were heard, seen, and celebrated. Following the MOBOs' 30th anniversary, her recent passing in June at age 57 leaves a legacy that continues to open doors for artists like 2026 winner Olivia Dean.

During the assemblies we were also treated to two amazing live performances: an incredible rendition of Olivia Dean's Dive by our school choir. This featured 41 singers from across KS3 and KS4. We also heard energetic Djembe drumming from two of our talented Year 8 students - Mylah and Leilani!

Please look at our Instagram, @qegs.barnet to see the performance videos.



Mrs Campbell



Year 7 Netball

The Y7 netball team represented QEGs at EBS in their first round of netball games. They showed great teamwork and determination at the tournament.

QEGS v Ashmole 6 -5
QEGS v EBS 7-1
QEGs v TTA 9-3
QEGs v JCoss 4-5

Freya
Isabella
Carla
Lia
Maryam
Saoirse
Annabelle
Eleanor
Tasmin

Umpired by Morgan 9AMH

Miss Kantorowicz

Year 8 and 9 Netball

The Y9 netball team represented QEGs at Ashmole school in netball in their first round of games. They showed great team work and skill during the matches.

QEGS v JCOSS - 5-6
QEGS v EBS - 8-8
QEGS v Ashmole 2-2
QEGS v TTA - 7 -0

Mia 8CRT
Morgan 9AMH
Emily 9DRS
Athena 9DRS
Hannah 9DRS
Michaela 9DRS
Kayleigh 9MSU

Miss Cheverton

Digital Leaders

We are pleased to announce that our new Student Digital Leadership Team has now been selected, with 16 students from across the school joining the team.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to apply. We were really impressed by the quality of the applications and the enthusiasm shown by students wanting to support the development of technology and digital learning across the school.

Our successful Digital Leaders have now been informed via email and will play an important role in supporting digital initiatives, sharing student voice, promoting safe and responsible use of technology, and helping to develop new ideas across the school.

Our first Digital Leaders meeting will take place during the first week back after half-term, where the team will begin planning their priorities and projects for the year ahead.

We are looking forward to working with our new Digital Leaders and seeing the positive contribution they will make across the school.

Mr Ali

Berlin Trip December 2027

We were really excited to launch a new History trip last week to Berlin for the current Year 10 cohort. It proved to be extremely popular and filled up within two days! The group of 36 students will have the opportunity to visit a number of key historical sites, such as the Topography of Terror, the Reichstag Dome and Terrace, as well as a concentration camp. The trip will complement students' Year 11 GCSE History course on Weimar and Nazi Germany. However, regardless of studying History or not at GCSE, it will be a great way to immerse ourselves in another culture after the Year 11 mock exams are over and enrich our understanding of Germany's history.





Ms Madden

10 Things to Read, Watch, Make, Do - October Special

Remember there are a number of places where Kids eat free or for less this October half term (second week) if you plan a day out!

10 Books to read

1. The Guardian Opinion articles - great for GCSE Language paper 2 preparation
2. Auggie & Me
3. The Harry Potter Series
4. Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thieves series
5. A non-fiction book from our online collection
6. The Book Thief
7. The Roald Dahl Collection
8. Tsunami Girl
9. The Help
10. Holes

Please remember our ePlatform Library where you can borrow all of these books mentioned (linked). Here is a link to a pamphlet which explains how to access and use it effectively. Login for the links above to work

Why not try reading in a new space outdoors this summer?



10 Things to watch

1. The Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace one morning at 11am
2. A film at an Odeon Cinema for as little as £1 (for adults and children)
3. A Shakespeare play at The Globe from as little as £5 (check the Friday before with the "Rush" tickets
4. A family film from as little as £2 at Cineworld
5. The sunrise or sunset from the top of the Sky Garden
6. The street performances at Covent Garden
7. The fireworks displays at Alexandra Palace or Enfield Town Park on Saturday 31st or 1st November
8. *A Series of Unfortunate Events (2017)* - Netflix
9. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005)* - Now, Amazon Prime, Apple TV
10. *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (2005) - Disney+, Apple TV, Google Play, Amazon Prime Video



10 things to make

1. Carved pumpkins
2. Autumn origami leaves
3. A mini rain garden
4. Make and fly a kite
5. Autumn stones Tic Tac Toe
6. A den with your siblings or friends
7. Healthy Halloween stuffed peppers for dinner
8. Spooky spider biscuits
9. An Autumn Tree luminary jar
10. Build a bird feeder





10 Activities to do in London (free or low cost)

1. Visit The Old Operating Theatre - great for everyone but especially GCSE Historians!
2. Visit Battersea Power Station and ride the land train
3. Visit Camden Market for its free Summer activities
4. Visit one of London's pumpkin patches
5. Try one of The National Trust's top outdoor Autumn activities
6. Visit Horniman Museum and Gardens
7. Visit one of London's other fantastic free museums
8. Take a scenic walk along the Southbank and try out an activity at The Southbank Centre
9. Visit The National Gallery and try one of the free family activities
10. Go on an Autumn scavenger hunt in one of London's Royal Parks





Dates for your diary

- School Terms, Holidays and Inset Days 2026 / 2027
  - Autumn Term 2026
    - Half Term Monday 19 October 2026 - Friday 30 October 2026
    - Second Half Monday 2 November 2026 - Friday 18 December 2026
  - Spring Term 2027
    - First Half Tuesday 5 January 2027 - Friday 12 February 2027
    - Half Term Monday 15 February 2027 - Friday 19 February 2027
    - Second Half Monday 22 February 2027 - Wednesday 24 March 2027
  - Summer Term 2027
    - First Half Thursday 8 April 2027 - Friday 28 May 2027
    - Half Term Monday 31 May 2027 - Friday 4 June 2027
    - Second Half Monday 7 June 2027 - Friday 23 July 2027
  - Inset Days – Full day school closures:
    - Monday 4 January 2027

- Year 13 Parents' Evening (online) Tuesday 8 December 2026
- Year 12 Parents' Evening (online) Wednesday 18 November 2026
- Year 7 Parents' Evening (online) Wednesday 25 November 2026
- Year 11 Parents' Evening (online; 1pm school finish) Wednesday 13 January 2027
- Year 9 Parents' Evening (in person; 1pm school finish) Thursday 28 January 2027
- Year 8 Parents' Evening (in person; 1pm school finish) Wednesday 24 February 2027
- Post-18 Information Evening (online) Tuesday 16 March 2027
- Year 10 Parents' Evening (online; 1pm school finish) Tuesday 23 March 2027

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 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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