



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

SPRING TERM
MARCH 2017

LEGO ROBOTICS

Year 8 face a challenge at
RAF-Cosford Museum

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

THE MAGIC OF PHYSICS

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FREUD MUSEUM
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QPHS ROCKS

'ROCK OF AGES'
VIEWED BEST SHOW YET!

CULTURAL VISIT

QPHS Welcome
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We are on Twitter. Follow @QPHSchester to keep up to date with our news

AN ACTIVE PARTNERSHIP

QPHS Governors & the School Community

On the eve of transitioning into an academy school under the Christleton Learning Trust (1st April 2017), we wanted to thank everyone within the school community for their ongoing support and passion in our school.

Together, Miss Watterson, the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the Governors are excited and enthusiastic about the next stage of our journey as a school under the Multi Academy Trust (MAT).

"As Governors of QPHS we are delighted to see the passion and enthusiasm of staff and students working towards making QPHS the school of choice for the West Cheshire (or Chester) region."

"Every week we are given another example that highlights the terrific progress our school is making."

"QPHS continues to provide opportunities for all students to develop and succeed in their education, both inside and outside of the classroom."

Looking ahead we will continue to share with you the ever evolving partnership between the Governors and the school as it is often not easy to understand what the Governors do and how they are here to work together with the school and the community.

Follow the Governors on Twitter @QPHSGovs, or get in contact through Mrs Kay Gresty; Clerk to Governors on Tel: 01244 981502 or Email: queensparkadmin@cheshire.gov.uk



Kayte Parlevliet
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS



CHINESE CULTURAL VISIT

Three days in the life of QPHS

We were delighted to open our doors to 30 Chinese students on their three day cultural visit to the city between 8th – 10th February.

The students aged between 12 – 14 years, spent their time linked to Year 7 and 8 students to get a taste of what 'a day in the life at Queen's Park High School' was like.



Our visitors spent time in lessons, making friends with our students, and were especially excited about sampling the different foods from our canteen!

Our students commented on how friendly and helpful they were in their lessons, and really enjoyed the experience of meeting students their own age from very different backgrounds.

The visit has transpired through a connection with South Cheshire College, which will hopefully reap benefits for our students going forwards. The visit has already inspired many of our students to go to China for the same experience – Watch this space!





QPHS ROCKS!

Rock of Ages - Best show yet!

Every year we set ourselves the challenge of surpassing the quality of the production we produced the year before. This challenge is laid down before the students and they certainly rose to meet it!

This year's production, 'Rock of Ages' was one of our most successful yet not least because of the outstanding performances of the students involved but also because of the exceptional design of the show itself.

As always, it was the last production for our Year 13 students who have taken part every year since they started at QPHS in 2010. Elliot Lush and Rosie Mossley really surpassed themselves this year with some admirable performances; of which our younger students will aspire to replicate as they progress through the years.

Over the course of the five days, we played host to over 1000 audience members, including our partner primary Year 5 students. The feedback was excellent and affirmed the quality we had all striven to achieve.

There were many students for whom this was their first time performing in a QPHS school production; Liam Ramsden, who played the role of Drew, one of the main characters, commented, "It was a genuinely amazing experience for me. I had not been in a school production until this year and I will definitely be auditioning for the show next year!"

Eirinn McGuire (Year 8) played the role of Anita Bath and thoroughly enjoyed taking on a leading role, "I really enjoyed taking on this character, it was a fantastic experience because I met lots of new people which helped me realise my true potential as a performer".

We are all currently in a state of recovery, but will soon be thinking ahead to what the production will be in 2018 - and what we can possibly do to top 'Rock of Ages' and provide another performance challenge for the very talented students of our school. We'll keep you posted!



THEATRE TRIP

Aristophanes in Edinburgh

On Saturday 28 January Year 13 Drama and Theatre Studies students travelled to Edinburgh for the day to watch a production of Aristophanes' Lysistrata. The performance was a modernised interpretation of the text and reflected the changing nature of relationships, addressing the contemporary themes of war and peace. It was a fab day including an opportunity to see Edinburgh Castle! Students will be writing about the production as part of their final written Drama examination in June.



THE CRUCIBLE

Year 12 perform at St Mary's

In January, A Level Drama and Theatre Studies students took to the stage at St Mary's Creative Space to showcase their talents in an evening performance of Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible'.

Clayton Jarvis-Parker said, "I had a great time performing 'The Crucible' as it brought the Year 12 Drama group together. I believe the most challenging aspect of the play was learning all the numerous lines in the script."

The entire four months of rehearsals have been filled with stress, anger and a bit of fear as we got closer to performing in front of a live audience. When the day finally came we were stressing back stage and constantly going over our lines. As soon as the play was over, we all cheered as it had gone so well."

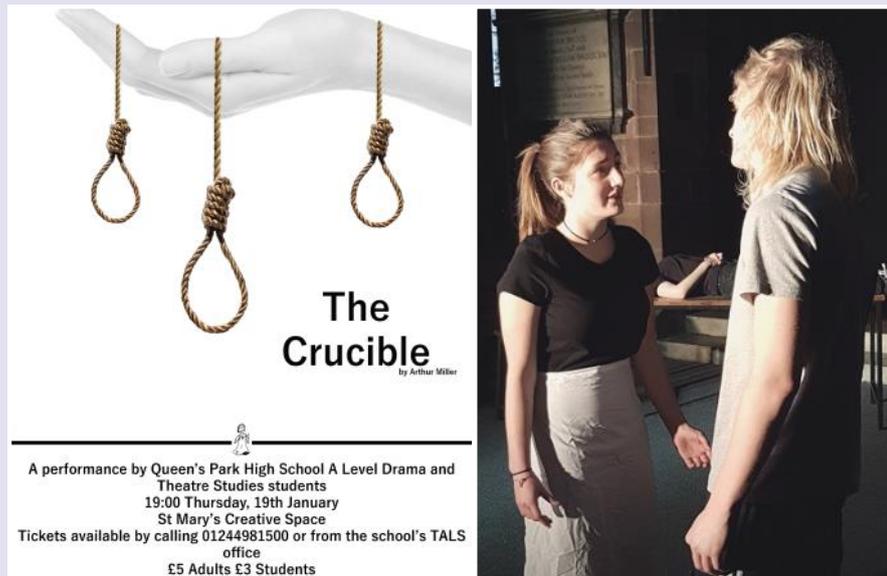
Mr Yeoman said, "...the talent of the Year 12 students was wonderful to see in a different performance venue. They really brought a very difficult text to life and at key moments in the play the audience were visibly moved by their characterisation. This practical experience has given them the opportunity to work as a single performance company and refine their rehearsal skills further as they work towards their A Level in Drama and Theatre Studies".



ON YOUR MARKS

Kick start your day

Getting the best start to the day by having a good breakfast is an important part of being healthy. But many of us are missing out by choosing breakfast options that are high in sugar or fat, or not having anything to eat at all. Eating breakfast gives us the energy we need until lunchtime and can help to cut-down on snacking throughout the morning. During tutor time, 9AWT have been learning about making healthy choices for breakfast. Mrs Watts gave every student a free cereal bar during tutor time courtesy of Kellogg's. 'Change 4 Life' has been our focus and together we will be making healthier choices in the future!



FREUD MUSEUM LONDON

The theory of Psychoanalysis

Year 12 and 13 enjoyed a day in London last term when they visited the Freud Museum. Students immersed themselves in Freud's Theory of Psychoanalysis and Freud's life. They visited his house (which is now the museum), his couch and desk. Students spent time working on his Psychoanalysis theory of personality to deepen and enhance their knowledge.

During the visit they were able to visit the Wellcome Centre to see the 'Bedlam and beyond' Mental Health exhibition, which showcased the lives and history of mental health patients and institutions, highlighting the daily struggle of individuals with poor mental health.

The day culminated in a festive walk down Regent Street in Central London to view the spectacular Christmas lights. For some students it was the first time they had visited the capital and its speed of life; the underground alone being a unique experience!

LEGO ROBOTICS

Year 8 compete at RAF Museum



Nine lucky Year 8 students that have been regularly attending Lego Robotics club during their lunchtime were selected by the Science department to compete at the EEP Robotics Challenge competition this month organised by Tomorrow's Engineers, at RAF Museum-Cosford.

Cory Hall writes about his experience *"..on our trip to Cosford the lego robotics team which included Matty Bland, Joe Smith, Harry Devlin, Jonah Wardle, Josh Halewood, Nathaniel Almeida, Abdelrahmn Mahmoud, Lucy Wood and myself faced many challenges. We had programming challenges, building challenges and presentations.*

We had a semi-decent work ethic and our leader, Jonah guided us with good direction, so overall we feel we did well. The bad news is, we lost all our programming but the good news is that I managed to redo it on Colin's Mac !

We had a great day and I believe did Miss Maier, Mr Grundy and QPHS proud!"

ETHICS CONFERENCE

What's your view on Euthanasia?

Sixth form students enjoyed a 'Vardy' conference day in Manchester last month listening to the great theologian Dr. Peter Vardy and key note speaker Dr. David Webster.

Vardy's enigmatic charisma spilled out into the conference room captivating the minds of our Year 12 and Year 13 students. This intensive event explored the big questions in the Philosophy of Religion and Ethics arguing for God exploring Aquinas' famous ways to God and the problem of evil and suffering, explaining the logical and evidential problem. Both topics relate directly to the exam specification. The day's debate was entitled 'this house sees legalising Euthanasia as the most loving response to suffering'. Manchester voted 80% in favour of this question - which was an overwhelming response from the students.

Ben Salmon, Year 13 spoke in the debate stating *"I believe that the hospice movement does incredible work. As the medication for an ill person decreases life expectancy, the 'doctrine of the double effect' takes place and we should allow them to be euthanized to end their torture and suffering"*.

Klara Sapinska, Year 12 spoke also in the debate stating, *"I'm neutral about Euthanasia. Yes it is ending someone's life but I can see why some people are for it. When it comes to Euthanasia you have to look at both sides of the argument"*.

PSYCHOLOGY WORKSHOPS

With Chester Zoo's spider monkeys

Year 12 and 13 Psychology students enthusiastically enjoyed a January trip to Chester Zoo and a chance to learn about animal behaviour in their environment and how it links to human behaviour. The two workshops which were interactive relate the research by Psychologists and animal behaviours and the evolution of human intelligence to the AQA syllabus.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the day and had the chance to see the chimpanzees, spider monkeys and orangutans plus a first glimpse of the new baby elephant!





BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

Is it Magic or is it Physics?

During the week 13-17 March QPHS took part in British Science Week - it was a great success! As part of curriculum lessons, students entered the national poster competition entitled 'Change'. They came up with some considered ideas about what 'Change' meant to them in Science including changes to technology, climate change and changes throughout the year. During each lunch time that week, staff led various activities, including eye dissections, the magic of Physics and chemical explosions!

On Friday our STEM Ambassador, Roger Todd, came into school to share his experiences about engineering and entrepreneurship. Several classes also had the opportunity to take part in 'I'm a Scientist, Get me Out of Here'; students spoke to real-life scientists via a webchat and asked them questions about their work. To top it all it was a chance for our Science teachers to show off their inner geek, by wearing Science themed T-Shirts and showcasing their favourite demonstrations!



WE WANT YOU!

Volunteers for thriving Rowing Club

Queen's Park High School Rowing Club is looking for adult volunteers to help out during the week and/or weekends. We are a friendly, enthusiastic bunch, run entirely by volunteers and fortunate to be one of a few state schools to have our own Boat House and Rowing Club. Our junior rowers attend many local and national competitions and train on the River Dee from our Boat House in Queens Park (visit us on facebook).

Experience is ideal but not essential, and many of our volunteers are parents of current and past students. All volunteers have the opportunity to attend British rowing training courses and seminars with the option of gaining an internationally recognised qualification in coaching, first aid, power boat license and child welfare.

Over the last two years the club has seen a big increase in membership due to the school's enhanced Curriculum Enrichment Programme.



We currently have a hold on accepting new members, and really need a few more helpers to enable us to continue providing this exciting and unique opportunity for many years to come.

If you can help us in any way please contact the club chairman, [Richard Cox on Tel: 07905385112](tel:07905385112) or [Email: Richardcox543@outlook.com](mailto:Richardcox543@outlook.com)

Please note all our volunteers have to go through an enhanced CRB check which is organised through the school.



ROWING NEWS

English Indoor Rowing Championship

Queen's Park High School gained several medals during the English Indoor Rowing Championships, where rowers of all ages compete against each other on rowing machines at the Velodrome in Manchester.

The Rowing Club entered 27 athletes across most year groups. All athletes competed in individual races and team events, with most gaining personal best times.

Emily Cox - The girls' captain who is in Year 13 competed in the 500m sprint event rowing against adults and achieved a first place gold medal.

The Year 7 team comprising Alf Dougherty, Luke Harris, James Greensmith and Jack Smith put in some extreme effort to take first place after rowing an enormous 3000m, whilst Harrison Kendall-Smith in Year 11 rowed 2000m to come third and beat his personal best time by 10 seconds.

It was a great fun-filled and active day requiring lots of enthusiasm, determination, maximum effort and teamwork across all years – well done to all involved.

GIRLS HOCKEY SUCCESS

Year 8 girls win Small Schools League

Last term Year 8 girls were playing in the Small Schools league against Catholic High, Blacon and Abbey Gate College. It was the first time in 12 years Queen's Park have put a hockey team together so expectations weren't too ambitious!

Our team included Rhea Yalarakis, Tyler Price, Ellie Theil, Lyddy Lewis, Maddy Lewis, Ceri Raynor and Sophia Souna.

Mrs Cutler said, *"The girls were awesome, showing an excellent skill level and desire to win."*

The result was an overwhelming win by the QPHS girls who truly deserve the accolade, 'WINNERS'!



FOOTBALL TRIUMPH

Year 10 boys win Chester Schools Football Tournament

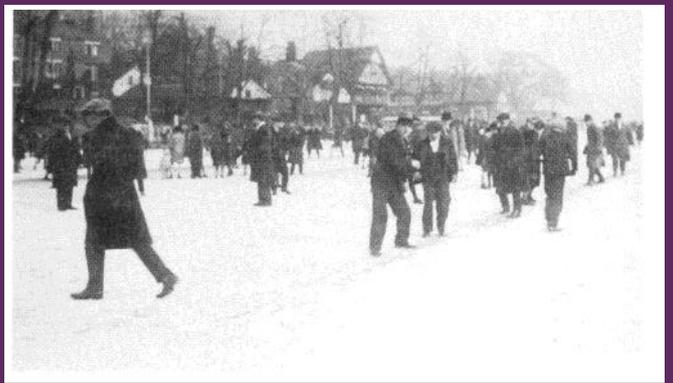


The Year 10 boys were fortunate enough to be involved in the Chester Schools Football 8-a-side tournament. They were so eager and excited they arrived 20 minutes early! It was great to see how positive the team were about this tournament and how privileged they felt to be a part of something so special.

QPHS approached every game with the mind-set that they could win and it proved very effective. They didn't lose one game! The team happened to beat one school by 2-0 and draw the rest, whilst another school won a game by 1-0 and drew the rest. This meant QPHS won on a goal difference against Bishop Heber, Christleton, Blacon, Upton & The Kings School. The team were overjoyed and could hardly believe it. They were a real pleasure to watch and thoroughly deserved the winners' medals.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event	Time
29 March	Year 10 Parents' Evening	4.30-7.30pm
31 March	Spring Break School Closes	3.00pm
18 April	School Re-opens for students	8.45am
15 April	Trafford Regatta Rowing Event	
20 April	PCED: Curriculum Enrichment Day	All Day
22 April	Junior Inter Regional Regatta Rowing Event	
26 April	Year 7 Parents' Evening	4.30-7.30pm
27-28 April	Year 12 University of Chester Timeline Residential	
1 May	May Day Bank Holiday	All Day
6 May	Shrewsbury Regatta Rowing Event	
10 & 11 May	GCSE Drama Exam Performance Evenings	6.00pm
14 May	Junior Sculling Regatta: Eton Dorney London	
15 May	Summer Exams Begin	
16 May	Year 7 & 8 Minor Championships	
17 May	Year 6 Induction Evening	
26 May	Summer Half Term School Closes	3.00pm
5 June	School Re-opens for students	8.45am
4 June	Trentham Regatta Rowing Event	
10 June	Chester Regatta Rowing Event	
14 June	Dee Schools Partnership Year 5 Curriculum Challenge Day	All Day
15 June	Year 12 University of Liverpool UCAS convention	All Day
19 June	Year 12 Coleg Cambria visit	All Day
23 – 24 June	Performing Arts Trip to London (All Years)	
24 June	Ironbridge Regatta Rowing Event	
23 – 25 June	Conway Centre Trip	
26 June	Year 9 & 10 District Sports	
28 June	A Level Devised Piece Performance Evening	7.00pm
29 June	Sixth Form Prom (TBC)	
30 June	Pre-Sports Day	



The photo shows a frozen River Dee from 1929

CLIMATE BOOK ISSUED By Former Geography Teacher

A former Geography teacher of Queen's Park High School, Geoff Nelder, has reissued his Chester's Climate book as an e-book. The book reveals fascinating weather anecdotes about Chester such as tornadoes, when the Dee froze over and how rain made the city walls fall down.

Geoff explains, *"In 1985 I gathered my local climate research with the help of QPHS students (a volunteer rota took Met readings every three hours at a met station in the lower school quadrangle supported by automatic stations for over 10 years including the 1982 winter when the temp fell to -22 C). With photographs and anecdotes gleaned from libraries, the record office, staff and students I published Chester's Climate: past and present. It was printed in Handbridge and sold out its 400 copies by the end of the year.*

Nowadays I write more fiction than non-fiction but by popular request I have rereleased Chester's Climate with updated data and commentary."

A link for more information is at:

info <https://payhip.com/b/62pM>

Alternatively, email or leave a text message for Geoff on Tel: 07787110081 Website: www.geoffnelder.com Twitter: @geoffnelder



Geoff's legacy lives on at QPHS - his weather vane adorns our rooftop today



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL, QUEEN'S PARK, CHESTER CH4 7AE

Tel: 01244 981500

Email: enquiries@qphs.cheshire.sch.uk

Website: www.qphs.cheshire.sch.uk

[@qphschester](https://twitter.com/qphschester)