



Dear Parents/Carers

What a difference a year makes!

As we draw near to the end of 2015, I would just like to take a moment to reflect upon my first year here as Headteacher. What an exciting journey it has been! I first wrote to you back in December 2014, before taking up my post, saying that 'I believe that Queen's Park High School has many strengths and enormous potential for the future.' This belief has not wavered over the last year, in fact I would say that I feel more determined than ever that Queen's Park's future will be a bright one, where our students will receive the recognition that they deserve for all their talents and achievements. Our students have been a constant source of inspiration to me particularly over recent months; with many of them putting themselves forward for student leadership roles, because they too share the passion and desire to contribute towards our school's future success.

As many of you are aware, our GCSE results in the summer were extremely disappointing for us as a school. Whilst the progress that our students make across the board in relation to their starting points is generally good and sometimes outstanding, our overall percentage in the key public measure of students achieving 5 A*-C including English and Maths was too low. We have responded very proactively to address areas of underperformance, particularly around Maths, and will be continuing to make some changes over the coming weeks. We are resolute in our determination to raise the expectations of both our students and our staff so that we can equally improve outcomes. We recently had a two day 'Local Authority Review' of the progress that the school is making in relation to the key Ofsted judgements. This involved a number of Senior

Leaders from other schools within Cheshire West and Chester coming in to observe lessons, speak to students, staff and Governors. The review recognised the positive impact of all the changes that have been put in place across the school since September – largely in relation to the introduction of the House system, the introduction of the 'Study Skills and Attitude' (SSA) grades in lessons and the changes to the behaviour policy. We are now working hard to ensure that these become embedded in everyday practice and are used consistently and effectively across the school.

Up until Christmas and beyond, teachers are now focusing upon 'planning for progress' within lessons, supported by the introduction of a template which will be used within all lessons going forwards. The purpose of the template is to ensure that students are clear about what they will be learning in their lesson (the Learning Intention), why they are learning this (how does it link to prior learning/expectations in terms of levels/grades) and how they will know if they have been successful. They will also be informed about the expectations for them to achieve a SSA grade of 1 so that this is something that they can realistically aim to achieve and can therefore be rewarded.

We are also striving to ensure that students have a clear understanding of their current levels of performance in each subject area in relation to their targets. As parents/carers you should receive your first Interim Report before Christmas informing you about the progress that your son/daughter is making. Should you have any questions/concerns about the information that you have received then please speak with your child in

the first instance (as they should be able to tell you about the information) or please do not hesitate to speak to a specific subject teacher for further clarification.

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your continued support of the school and to wish you all a very happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year ahead.

Miss Watterson, Headteacher

FAREWELLS



I would like to say farewell and thank you to our two Deputy Headteachers, Miss Sheen and Mrs Logan who will be leaving us at the end of term. Miss Sheen joined Queen's Park High in September 2002 and always has shown a real commitment to the school, wanting the best outcomes for all the students and the school as a whole. I wish her all the best as she moves on to take up new challenges, including a post at Sandbach High School from January. Mrs Logan, who joined Queen's Park in September 2004, equally worked tirelessly to ensure that students were supported to achieve their potential. Mrs Logan has taken early retirement following a long term absence through illness. I would like to thank them both for their combined 24 year service to the school. During that time they have had a significant influence upon the lives of many students who have passed through the school, particularly through their love of English.



DEWA ROMAN EXPERIENCE CHESTER

HUMANITIES & ENTERPRISE

Year 8 students experienced the sights, sounds and smells of Roman Chester as they explored the Dewa Roman Experience. Atmospheric reconstructions, genuine archaeological remains and the journey through the Roman Dewa Fortress enriched students understanding of Chester as an historical city destination. Students enjoyed the interactive room where they had the unique opportunity to dress like a Roman Soldier and explore what life was like in Roman times. Students took part in a Roman soldier patrol which provided an unforgettable experience of what it was like to be a



Roman soldier. Armed with shields, they visited the Amphitheatre, Roman gardens and prepared for battle!

Upon returning to school, students found out more about the importance of Chester as a historical city destination which attracts millions of tourists each year, providing jobs and wealth for the local economy. Students were given the opportunity to use their

enterprising skills to create a new leaflet to promote the Dewa Roman Experience to a specific target market with a view to increasing visitor numbers to one of Chester's important visitor attractions. Year 8 are delighted that they have been asked to share their work with the staff at the Dewa Roman Experience who are currently redeveloping their marketing strategy.



ART & PHOTOGRAPHY



Year 11 Art and Photography students and staff recent visited Tate Liverpool and Open Eye Galleries in Liverpool. Students fully immersed themselves in the gallery experience building their learning power through noticing, questioning and making links with the artwork on display. Students explored their critical understanding and developed their ability to analyse artworks in preparation for their mock and GCSE exams. All students were a credit to themselves and the school; taking the opportunity to behave in a mature fashion and further their studies through purposeful enquiry.

HISTORY

Year 11 Historians toured Chester City centre in order to provide physical examples of their GCSE study of Medicine & Health through time.

The students were perfectly behaved as they found unfamiliar sites within a very familiar context. We discovered Roman remains in a number of venues across the city including 'Spudulike'.

We explored Dark Age Cathedrals, Medieval Plagues, Monasteries, Renaissance town houses (hidden in Sofa Workshop), Georgian hospitals and Victorian slums.



Many thanks to the local business and faith groups that welcomed us into their properties.

ENGLISH

We are proud to announce that 50 students from Year 7-9 have been successful in the Young Writers Competition and will

have their work published in 'Poetry Trials - Cheshire' on 29 February 2016. This will then be sent to the British Library and other libraries across the UK.

ENGLISH & PE

Thursday 19 November was one of the most interesting Curriculum Enrichment Days we've had so far; down to the fact it was based upon a sporting legend: Neil Danns. Me (Jake), Evie and Sophie spent part of the afternoon interviewing the X-Games champion. Despite the nerves of being in the same room as a 'pro', it was an honour we could never have asked for. In the morning Neil



talked to us about his strive to become a professional skateboarder and how six easy steps: mental toughness, the hunger to achieve, people skills, sports & life knowledge, breaking barriers and planning for success, got him to the place he is now. He shared these goals with us as he explained how each one could help us follow in his legendary footsteps.

Written by Jake Edwards-Try & Evie Newbould

LIFE SAVING DEFIBRILLATOR PRESENTED TO SCHOOL

On Wednesday 25 November, Lee Challinor from the Blacon Defibrillator Fund (BDF) came into school to present us with our new Defibrillator. The defibrillator was presented to Maisy Versey, the sister of Jess Versey, a former QPHS student, who tragically died in June this year. Jess' family very kindly donated money from Jess' funeral to the Blacon Defibrillator Fund who have then generously supported us in Jess' memory.

Miss Watterson, Headteacher said, "I would like to express my sincere thanks to Jess' family and to Lee Challinor from the Blacon Defibrillator Fund for this donation to the school. It is lovely that something so positive can come out of

such a tragedy. Jess was an inspiration to others and I am delighted that her legacy can live on here at Queen's Park in this way. We now want to help



support Lee's fund as much as possible so that he can continue his excellent work, raising people's awareness of such a worthwhile cause."

CHARITY CHARITY CHARITY

As a school we've had a very busy term organising a range of events and activities to help raise funds for our chosen charities. These have included a non-school uniform day for Children in Need (over £400), 6th Form Fancy Dress for CoppaFeel (over £70), Cake Bake for The Babygrow Appeal at the Countess of Chester Hospital, Coffee Morning for MacMillan Cancer (over £155), Hairdressing at our in house salon 'Queenies' and a 11,000ft tandem Skydive for WaterAid!

Our PTA have also been actively sourcing funds for The Hospice of the Good Shepherd and Babygrow Appeal by donating all car parking fees they received from the Chester Santa Dash on Sunday 6 December.

They successfully raised over £100 for each of the charities. The school car park is now open every Saturday and Sunday until Christmas as well as everyday in the school holidays for just £3.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thanks to our students, 47 Christmas boxes for boys and girls aged 2-16 yrs around the world were taken to the Wrexham depot and a certificate and handshake of thanks and gratitude was given to QPHS for providing the gifts and spreading love and joy.



We are very pleased to announce that our school production for February 2016 will be 'Little Shop of Horrors'. Over a course of three Wednesdays throughout September, over 100 students attended a series of drama and music workshops linked to the show and on 30 September students' formal auditions took place. After some serious head scratching and

deliberation, our cast was formed but as always, anyone who auditioned is automatically in the show in one way or another. Our backstage crew have also started work on preparing the staging of this epic show, meeting each Thursday afterschool. We now have a full complement of crew members including a Stage Manager, Deputy Stage Managers, Assistant Stage Managers and other key roles for the behind the scenes work.

Tickets for the production will be released in early January.

WWI & II EXPERT IN SCHOOL

Following on from the schools recent visit to the World War I battlefields we are delighted to introduce a local expert who has offered to do some additional historical research into the soldiers commemorated on the World War I and II remembrance memorials here at school.

Mr Nigel Meyrick is a former pupil of the school who has gone on to have a very successful career in industrial engineering around the world, and now runs his own company called Pelaton Design. Any fans of Cadbury chocolate should be grateful for the work he has done in engineering their production lines!



He is starting a project that will research the names of the soldiers and ex-pupils lost in the wars which will then feed back into lessons and assemblies here at the school. He is always happy to find more historical sources, so if you have any knowledge or photographs about family members involved in the great conflicts of World War I or II he would be happy to hear from you at pelatondesign@gmail.com.

LAUNCH OF BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Book Club has been launched this month in the LLC. Year 8 & 9 students were invited along to enjoy fruit juice and warm waffles



whilst discussing the selection of books that we will be reading. The books have all been nominated for the Cheshire Schools' Book Award 2016. The group will meet once a month on a Tuesday in tutor time when we hope to have some lively discussions about the choice of a worthy winner.

SUCCESS FOR QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SENIOR ROWERS

An early start for Queen's Park High students to travel to Northwich Rowing club to compete at their head race on the River Weaver over a 2350m course.

The first division was cancelled for all under 15 single scullers due to extreme winds and dangerous river conditions, As the day progressed river conditions improved and all other combinations and crews were allowed to race.

First place wins in the WJ17 double category for Emily Cox and Amy Williamson and the WJ16 double to Rona Fishburn and Fi Weir.

The WJ16 quad with Eve Finlay, Rona Fishburn, Eve Lawlor and Fi Weir achieved second place against a slightly faster crew from Trentham Boat Club.

All students and coaches enjoyed the day despite the poor weather and conditions.

More information and results can be found on our Facebook page: [Queensparkhighschoolrowingclub](#)

The club will now look forward to the next competition at Liverpool Victoria Rowing Club in December.



Eco-Club

This term has seen the launch of the new Eco-Club in school. We are aiming to improve the school environment and help the school win an Eco-School Award. The club is open to students of all years who want to help make QPHS a more eco-friendly place. Come and join us, Wednesdays after school in S4 - Mrs Allen

200 CLUB LOTTERY

Congratulations to Daljit Johal, Tracey Goodall & Linda Francis who were the winners of the 200 Club draw for August, September and October .

CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT

New term, New Year, new activities, new you? We have a range of new opportunities as part of our Tuesday afternoon Enrichment Programme. These have been sent home with students and we hope there is something to capture their interest.

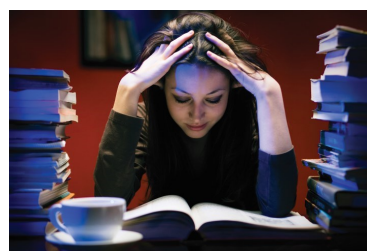
For the Spring Term we have added Astronomy for stargazers, Hockey, Journalism and club 'Queenies' based in our hairdressing salon. If what's on offer in the Spring term doesn't capture your son or daughter's interest, but they have an activity in mind, please contact Mr Halstead. If we can find a coach and there is enough interest we'd love to add to our offer.



MENTAL HEALTH & SCHOOL

Mental health isn't just about what is right or wrong in your life, or even about how happy you are, it's about what struggles you have and how you deal with them. Everyone can be affected by their mental health at some stage. School stress, bullying, not getting help when it's needed and exams are some of the reasons our mental health can be affected.

Many students at Queen's Park High School find dealing with the stress of exams difficult, it's nothing to be ashamed about but there are things you can do



to ensure exams are a time for you to shine with confidence and not something to dread. To help, Mrs Allen has set up an 'Exam confidence' group, running on a Wednesday lunchtime in S4.

If you'd like to join in and meet others to share tips and strategies then come along.....sometimes there is even cake!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Event	Date	Time
Year 11 Futures Evening	9 December 2015	6.00pm
Christmas Concert	15 December 2015	7.00pm
Christmas Break		
School Closes	18 December 2015	12.20pm
School Re-opens	5 January 2016	8.45am
Year 9 Parents' Evening	13 January 2016	4.30 – 7.30pm
Year 9 Futures Evening	27 January 2016	6.00pm
English Theatre Trip Year 10 & 11	3 February 2016	12.30pm
School Production	9 – 12 February 2016	7.00pm
Spring Half Term		
School closes for students	11 February 2016	3.00pm
Staff INSET Day	12 February 2016	
School Re-opens	22 February 2016	8.45am
Art & Design Sixth Form Trip to Paris	13 – 16 February 2016	
Year 7 Parents' Evening	9 March 2016	4.30 – 7.30pm
NTC 500 'Bassetf' Performance	16 – 18 March 2016	7.00pm
'V' Factor	24 March 2016	7.00pm
Easter Bank Holiday		
School Closes	24 March 2016	3.00pm
School Re-opens	29 March 2016	8.45am
Year 10 Parents' Evening	30 March 2016	4.30 – 7.30pm
Spanish Trip Year 9,10,11 to Andalucía	1 – 5 April 2016	
Spring Break		
School Closes	1 April 2015	3.00pm
School Re-opens	18 April 2016	8.45pm