



END OF TERM NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the summer holidays draw ever nearer, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been an exciting and eventful term for us all here at Queen's Park High School. It's always lovely to finish the year on a high note, the problem is though, we just seem to have too many to choose from!

Over recent weeks, we have had the privilege of being able to celebrate our students' talents and achievements through our tremendously successful Sports Day, our Celebration Evening, the Year 11 and Year 13 Proms and finally our Art Exhibition 'Boing'. We are now eagerly awaiting the A Level & GCSE results days in August, hoping that all the hard work on behalf of our students (and our staff) has paid off and that they can successfully move on to the next chapter in their lives, whether that is here at Queen's Park or elsewhere.

QPHS goes to Kathmandu

The summer term also saw our school community come together to raise funds for the earthquake appeal for Nepal. I would like to thank everyone who got involved in our fund-raising journey which resulted in us raising over £2000 and covered an incredible 7000 miles. Not only did we make it to Kathmandu, but we were certainly only a short-haul flight away from making it back again, which really is a significant achievement! Our PTA played a key role in this whole event and I really would like to thank them for their planning, organisation and event co-ordination, not forgetting of course, their skills with a BBQ at the Festival of Learning. It's just a shame that their Dragon Boat skills weren't quite up to the mark, enabling the QPHS staff to win the inaugural 'Parents versus Staff' Dragon Boat race. Good fun was had by all though and it looks like this could become an annual event in its own right – so watch this space should you wish to be involved next year!

Some goodbyes.....

There are a number of teaching staff leaving us at the end of this year. Congratulations to Miss Davies who is going to become Head of RE at Shrewsbury High School and to Ms Kearney who will be Head of Geography at St. John Plessington Catholic College. Also moving to St. John Plessington is Mr Griffiths, whilst Mrs Evans is making her way to St. Martin's School, Oswestry. Miss Darlington is heading back to Wales to Flint High School, Miss Adams is venturing further afield and heading to be second in Psychology at Kingsdale Foundation School, London and Mrs Preston is leaving to pursue other challenges! We also wish Miss Murdoch and Ms Cowley the best of luck in their new posts.

I would like to thank them all for the contributions that they have made to students' lives during their time here at Queen's Park and wish them every success in the future. They will all most certainly be missed!

Our School Improvement Journey

As promised, I just wanted to give you all an update on the progress that the school is making in line with our school development priorities and the changes ahead from September. We are currently very much at a transitional stage in our journey, with much of the work that has been taking place this term being focused around new systems and structures to be implemented from September.

Introducing our new House System

Thank you to all the students, parents and staff who entered the competition to name our three houses. The winning names are Eaton, Grosvenor and Westminster, shown below with their accompanying House colour as well.



House	Eaton	Grosvenor	Westminster
Head of House	Miss Prys-Owen	Mr Taylor	Mrs Cutler
Assistant Head of House	Miss Byrne	Mrs McCormack	Mrs Rigby

Each House is made up of tutor groups from Year 7 upwards, giving students the opportunity to get to know students in other year groups, to develop their leadership skills and to build an element of competition across the different houses. The Houses are led by a Head of House who is a member of the teaching staff and an Assistant Head of House, who is a member of our support staff.

I need to speak to a member of staff about my child, who do I speak to?

As a parent or carer, if you need to speak to a member of staff about your child, then generally your child's Group Tutor should be your first point of contact. Your child sees their Group Tutor on a daily basis and gets to know them very well. They can then liaise with other members of staff on your behalf as needed. Should you have a specific subject related concern, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's subject teacher directly. We always aim to respond to parent's calls within 48 hours.

We will be introducing a Review Evening/Day on Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 October 2015 to give all parents/carers the opportunity to come into school and meet with their child's Group Tutor and review their child's progress early on in the academic year. We hope that this will help build the pastoral link to school for parents whilst also addressing the concern that a number of parents have expressed, in relation to the late timing in the year and the frequency of parents' evenings.

The House system is being introduced to students in assemblies this week, so hopefully by now they will already have come home and told you which house they are in.

Changes to the School Day

We have decided to move tutor time back to the start of the school day from September and also reduce its length by five minutes, adding five minutes onto the lunch break instead. These changes have largely come about through feedback from both staff and students to help provide a more supportive and settling start to the school day and to enable more clubs/curriculum support to take place at lunchtimes. We will continue to focus upon attendance and punctuality to school, with the expectation that all students should arrive in school by 8.40am, ready to go to their tutor base for 8.45am. All students should be aiming for more than 95% attendance throughout an academic year. The timings of the school day will therefore be as follows:

8.40am	Students to arrive at school
8.45am	Tutor Time
9.05am	Lesson 1
10.05am	Lesson 2
11.05am	Break (15 minutes)
11.20am	Lesson 3
12.20pm	Lunch (extended by 5 minutes)
1.00pm	Lesson 4
2.00pm	Lesson 5 (except on a Tuesday when school finishes at 2pm)
3.00pm	End of the school day

Early finish –Tuesday

Thank you to those parents and students who have given feedback about the change of the early finish from a Friday to a Tuesday from September. Whilst some parents and students are excited about the extended opportunities that this will bring, both in terms of the enrichment programme and improvements in teaching and learning, some parents and students would certainly prefer to keep things as they are and understandably so. I appreciate that change can be difficult but I would just like to ask for your continued support and trust, as I know from experience what impact this will have in terms of improving opportunities and outcomes for our students.

Great Learning and Teaching at Queen's Park High School

A feature our school improvement strategy is increased collaboration, not just between teachers, facilitated by our early finish on Tuesdays, but also increased collaboration between teachers and students, reflecting upon and designing great learning and teaching. When given the opportunity, our students have repeatedly given some of the most insightful, intelligent feedback on learning and we intend to ensure that this has a significant impact upon teaching moving forwards. This term we have undertaken an ambitious project that provides every teacher and every student the opportunity to share their vision of what a 'great lesson' looks like at Queen's Park High School. This is currently being edited by teachers and students and will become the school's learning and teaching policy, written by teachers and students and at the heart of our strategy towards becoming an outstanding school.

Student Enrichment Programme

The Student Enrichment Programme is optional for students and runs on a termly basis, with a different selection of activities being proposed each term. Your son/daughter should have received a booklet within the last few days with a form to return with their 1st, 2nd or 3rd choice should they wish to take part. The activities will begin on Tuesday 8 September and run for the whole term.

If your son/daughter would like to propose an activity to be included in the future, then they should speak to Mr Halstead (Acting Deputy Headteacher) who is co-ordinating the programme.

Duke of Edinburgh – we are aware that a number of KS4 students (and parents) are interested in the Duke of Edinburgh awards and are looking to support this within the enrichment programme from January onwards. We are just in the process of applying for additional funding and looking to launch it with the 6th Form initially in the Autumn term. Mr Budgen has kindly offered to lead our Duke of Edinburgh provision going forwards.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

We will be introducing a new positive behaviour policy from September which will be linked to a reward system called 'Vivo'. Students will be able to earn points for themselves and also for their house, particularly when they have made a positive contribution either within a lesson or by their participation in a school event. Students will now receive a grade each lesson for their attitude to their learning, with an expectation that this will be good. Further information about the new policy will be made available to parents in the first newsletter of the academic year and will be also be available on the school website.

School Uniform

At Queen's Park High School we expect a high standard of personal appearance from all our students whether this is in school during the day or equally as ambassadors beyond the school gates. Our school uniform encourages a sense of community, develops a sense of pride and belonging, whilst also preparing our students for life beyond education. We welcome parental support to help maintain our high expectations.

Any student not in full school uniform or whose appearance does not meet our standards may be sent home to change. If there is a genuine emergency then a note should be brought into school for the attention of the Group Tutor. Should you have any questions about our uniform policy, then please do not hesitate to contact us at school and we will be able to add further clarification as necessary.

For students in Years 7-11 the uniform is as follows:

Girls:	Additional Guidance:
Navy blue blazer with school logo	To be worn at all times.
Navy blue V neck jumper (Optional)	No hooded sweatshirts or tops of sweatshirt material
Black school skirt Or Black school trousers	Loose fitting and no shorter than just above the knee (no pencil/stretch skirts) Smart, straight cut or bootleg (not tight fitting/stretch or leggings and no denim)
Plain white shirt	Long or short sleeved, buttoned to the top and tucked in
School Tie	At an appropriate length
Plain black tights or black, grey, navy or white ankle socks	No knee length socks
Black shoes	Flat or low heeled plain leather (look) shoes. No boots, pumps or trainers
Outdoor waterproof coat – as plain as possible	Large enough to be worn over a blazer. To be removed at all times within the school building

Boys:	Additional Guidance:
Navy blue blazer with school logo	To be worn at all times.
Navy blue V neck jumper (Optional)	No hooded sweatshirts or tops of sweatshirt material
Black school trousers	Smart, tailored/straight cut (no black denim jeans or chinos)
Plain white shirt	Long or short sleeved, buttoned to the top and tucked in
School Tie	At an appropriate length
Plain black, grey, navy or white socks	
Black shoes	Lace up, Velcro fastening or slip on. No trainers, pumps, canvas shoes or other alternatives
Outdoor waterproof coat	Large enough to be worn over a blazer. To be removed at all times within the school building

Kit for Games/PE

The following items are compulsory for both boys and girls:

- Navy blue Football Shorts with school logo
- Navy blue Polo Shirt with school logo
- Navy blue Football Socks
- Training Shoes
- Football Boots are required for outdoor football/rugby
- Shin pads for football and hockey

The following items are optional for cold weather

- Navy Blue Rugby Shirt
- Base layer (black or navy)

Further expectations around appearance:

Jewellery:

Jewellery must be limited to a single plain stud in each ear lobe, one charity band and a watch. No other piercings are allowed.

Make-up:

For girls in Years 7-9, make-up should not be worn.

For girls in Year 10 upwards – light, natural looking make-up may be worn – no lipstick, eye-shadow etc. Students will be asked to remove any make-up which is deemed by the school to be excessive or inappropriate.

Nails: No coloured nail varnish allowed. Acrylic/gel nails are also not suitable for school and should therefore not be worn.

Hair:

Hair styles must be appropriate for school and not infringe health and safety. Students should refrain from having extreme hairstyles or brightly coloured hair during school time. Hair should be one natural colour. Hair styles should also not be excessively short or shaven (not less than a number two).

Parent/Carer Questionnaire

Thank you to all those parents/carers who took the time to complete our recent Parent/Carer Questionnaire. Unfortunately we only managed to get 52 replies, which means it is difficult to know how representative the views are, but there was certainly some very valuable feedback around areas for improvement in particular. The key strengths which were identified are as follows:

Key Strengths (Strongly Agree/Agree)

- The school encourages attendance and punctuality – 98%
- I am made to feel welcome when I visit the school – 94%
- My child is safe in school – 91%
- My child is making good academic progress – 85%
- My child is happy in school – 81%

The areas for development and actions as a consequence are outlined in the table below:

Key Concerns (Disagree/Strongly Disagree)	ACTIONS
Homework is used effectively to promote learning and progress – 52%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure all students are issued with a homework timetable from September. • For homework to be monitored on a half termly basis by Directors and Leaders of Learning alongside the Senior Leadership Team
I am informed regularly about my child’s work and progress – 50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The introduction of a Review Day before October half term, so that parents have a further opportunity to come into school and meet with the Group Tutor • Interim reports to be sent home at the end of each term • A new assessment and feedback policy to be introduced from September to improve the quality of written dialogue with students about their progress – parents should be able to see evidence of this in students’ books.
I know who the parent governors are – 46%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governors area of the website to be re-developed • Improved communication from the Governing Body through newsletters etc.
I feel that my views are sought and valued by the school – 40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeat of parental survey • Opportunities to meet members of the Leadership Team and the Governors at key events • Increased communication about the life of the school through newsletters, the website, Social media etc.
The school has high expectations for all – 36%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved target setting from September to ensure that high expectations are shared by all • A shared ownership of what makes ‘Great learning’ to be a key focus for both staff and students within and outside of lessons

Governor Update:

Our Governors have also been busy over recent weeks, setting out their own vision for the school over the next three years.

Governor Vision Statement 2015- 2018

For Queen's Park High School to be:

"A thriving school that unlocks the potential of all."

To achieve this we will:

- have high expectations of our students and staff
- provide a stimulating curriculum which meets individual needs
- promote pride in our students and the school
- work in partnership with parents, carers and the wider community
- create a safe and happy environment
- develop strong leadership throughout the school
- grow the reputation of the school
- equip students for life after school and future success

I would also like to say a huge thank you to four of our Governors who have all stepped down from office at the end of this term – Andrea Hopkinson, Joyce Pickford, Bill Richardson, and Richard Tompkins. Collectively they have shown a tremendous amount of support for the school over a number of years and have been committed to ensuring that students have always been at the forefront of all decision making. I would like to thank them for their commitment, in terms of both time and energy, and for the support that they have given me in particular, since I joined the school in January.

We therefore now have four vacancies on the Governing Body for September and will be looking to recruit very early in the autumn term. Ideally we would like to welcome a range of skills to help us to achieve our vision for the school. For one of the vacancies only, we are particularly seeking someone with a strong financial background. To find out more information about the role of school governors, please visit the National Governor's Association website www.nga.org.uk or please contact our Clerk to the Governors – Mrs June Bennett jbt@qphs.cheshire.sch.uk and she can put you in contact with our Chair or Vice-Chair of Governors for further information. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Finally, I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the support which you have shown for the school over the last academic year. I hope you all have a lovely summer holiday and a well-deserved break. We will look forward to welcoming you all back again in September, for the next chapter in Queen's Park High School's exciting journey!

Miss Watterson
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary:

AUGUST	
13.08.15	'A' Level Results
20.08.15	GCSE Results
SEPTEMBER	
01.09.15	INSET DAY
02.09.15	Students return to school
10.09.15	Years 7, 10 & 12 Photographs
11.09.15	Year 7 New Parents Information Evening - 6.00pm
17.09.15	Open Evening - 6.00pm
18 & 21.09.15	Open Sessions (9.00am – 12.00noon)
OCTOBER	
07.10.15	Pastoral Curriculum Enrichment Day
21.10.15	Review Evening
22.10.15	Review Day
26-30.10.15	AUTUMN HALF TERM
NOVEMBER	
02.11.15	INSET DAY
03.11.15	Students return to school
05.11.15	Sixth Form Home School Forum – <i>“The real cost of going to University”</i>
11.11.15	Year 11 Parents' Evening (4.30 – 7.30pm)
19.11.15	Faculty Curriculum Enrichment Day
23-27.11.15	Year 11 Trial Exams
25.11.15	Sixth Form Parents' Evening (4.30 – 7.30pm)
DECEMBER	
04.12.15	Pastoral Curriculum Enrichment Day
08.12.15	Year 11 Futures Evening – 6.00pm
16.12.15	Awards Evening – 7.00pm
21.12.15	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

QPHS PLAYS HOST TO 'OLIVIA'

On Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 of July, Queen's Park High School played host to the annual end of year production performed by the talented students of Mill View Primary School. This year, their chosen production was, 'Olivia!' - a modern twist on the classical story of Oliver.

In a unique collaboration, students from Queen's Park High School worked as technicians supporting their younger peers to develop their production and enhance the already incredible show with lighting and sound.

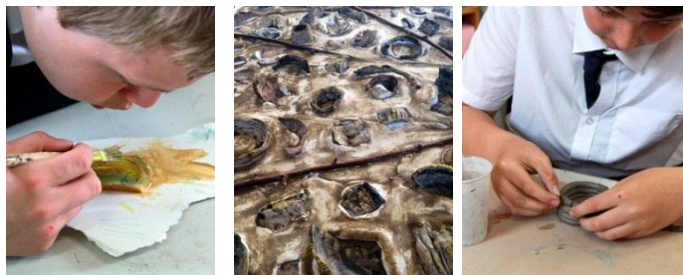


Matt Yeoman, Director of Learning for the Visual and Performing Arts said, *'It is always fantastic when new ideas, new collaborations and new opportunities are created for students and this certainly is the case. Working alongside the staff and students from Mill View Primary School has been a real privilege and I know our own students from Queen's Park have gained a lot from the truly vocational opportunity the collaboration had presented.'* Nearly 500 parents, carers and friends of the Mill View children saw their outstanding production – a great way to end the school year.

QPHS COLLABORATES WITH THE GROSVENOR MUSEUM

A Prehistoric Landscape: Archaeology of the mid-Cheshire Ridge:

Art students from years 7, 8 and 9 have been working over the past month to produce work for an exhibition at the Grosvenor Museum which is exploring Cheshire's Bronze Age past. For the exhibition students are working in collaboration with the Grosvenor Museum to explore the human history of the Sandstone Ridge up to the Roman invasion of AD 43.



Lorna Kernahan came to QPHS and gave our students a presentation about the proposed exhibition with some original artefacts to view.

Students have engaged in the making of funerary urns, flat axes, palstave axes and socketed axes and the work will be displayed on six 6' x 3' panels. Here will be a private viewing of the work where all students, parents and friends are very welcome to attend and view the work created. A big thank you to Wayne Dawber the Art Technician at QPHS who has worked tirelessly in the preparation of the work to be exhibited.

The exhibition opens on 4 July 2015 and runs until 1 November when it will go to Northwich for the next run of the exhibition at Weaver Hall Museum.

HOUSE COMPETITION

Thank you to all of the students, parents and staff who got involved and entered some excellent suggestions. After a difficult judging process, the results are in and the decision has been made. From September, our houses will be Eaton, Grosvenor and Westminster. The names were suggested by both Miss Morris and Mr Yeoman and both were keen advocates for the positive local and historical links. The house team are very much looking forward to working with all of the students in their new houses.



Prize draw and winning entry vouchers are as follows:

Student Entry Prize Draw – James Graham who wins a £5 voucher

Parent Entry Prize Draw – Adrian Baker who wins a £5 voucher

Winning Entry – Mr Yeoman and Miss Morris who each win a £10 voucher

Mrs Scanlon

LECTURERS DELIVER REVISION SESSIONS TO A-LEVEL RELIGIOUS STUDIES STUDENTS

Dr Wendy Dossett and Professor David Clough from Chester University's Theology and Religious Studies Department came into school to deliver revision lessons to our A-Level RS students. The lectures and discussions they delivered were of the highest quality. Dr Dossett and Prof Clough were engaging, passionate about their subjects and very approachable. They provided a bespoke and comprehensive overview of some of our key AS topics including Natural Law, Psychological approaches to Religion and Animal Rights. There was a real buzz in the room as the students were involved in discussion work at key points throughout the lectures.

Mollie commented *"Prof Clough provided a new perspective on animal rights and the concept of eating them as meat. Dr Dossett's Freud talk was interesting and informative, a great help before the exam!"* Matty went on to say *"The talks were an illuminating insight into the AS topics and I found them to be really helpful for my revision and improving my knowledge."*



We are so grateful to Wendy and David for taking time out of their busy schedules to come into Queen's Park High School to provide myself and the students with this fantastic experience. We are, as always, proud of our student's engagement, intelligence and welcoming nature.

Mrs E Merryweather, Subject leader for RE

GOLD FOR QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL ROWING CLUB SCULLER

On a particularly gusty, yet sunny, morning on 6 June, Gwilym Harris from Queen's Park High school rowing club competed at Blenheim Palace Regatta, an event for juniors aged 14 and under to compete in a series of multi-lane racing over 500 metres. The event drew competitors from many of the top rowing schools in the south.

Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire is the birthplace of Winston Churchill and sits in 2000 acres including a beautiful lake which hosted the regatta.

One of Churchill's quotes, 'Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference' couldn't have been more apt. Despite being unwell with a virus, Gwilym approached his first regatta admirably. A second place finish in his heat required a second qualifying race which he won, going on to storm the final beating some very capable scullers, winning the gold medal.



TED-ED CLUB AND CONNECT WEEK

The students at Queen's Park High School TED-Ed Club have been working as part of a global project to connect and share ideas with other TED-Ed Clubs all over the world. As part of this innovative and ground breaking initiative, Key Stage 3 students in this group have started to explore themes for their own TED talks, before connecting on 11 July with students in schools in Chile, Poland and Greece to share their concepts for their own presentations.

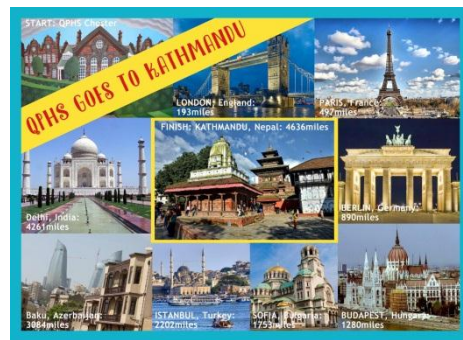


The group has been selected from across year groups to nurture talent and leadership, investing time and opportunities into a range of students who all display different skills to aid their groups while developing their individual mind-sets on contemporary questions for society.

"I was delighted to see the students speak with passion and creativity on their subjects and receive feedback from their peers on a global stage" said Miss Davies, Director of Learning 10-14. "The way the students interacted made me very proud that we are representing the UK on this project and leading the way. Having passed through the proposal and interview stages, I am delighted that the students at QPHS have this opportunity as one of a handful of schools in the country working as a TED-Ed Club." We can't wait to see the next challenge!

QPHS GOES TO KATHMANDU

On 1 June 2015 Queen's Park High school embarked on a virtual trek to Kathmandu. The purpose was to raise money to support the people of Nepal following the devastating earthquake. Some students logged their miles from walking to school, others organised bike rides and some staff did extra mileage in the gym. We even had an exercise bike in reception for anyone with a spare ten minutes to fill! The target was to cover the distance in just three weeks. During the final week students and staff all joined together and took part in a 3.5 mile sponsored walk. After the three weeks the total mileage was recorded at 7013 miles.



A fantastic effort by all those involved. The event was heavily supported by our PTA who awarded prizes to those individuals who they felt had 'gone the extra mile'. The culmination of the event was the very successful Festival of Learning and BBQ on the school field. We are yet to have a final total of sponsorship money but are hoping for a considerable amount to send to Nepal to help with the rebuilding of the area devastated by the Earthquake. A huge thank you to all involved!

DRAGON BOAT RACE

Following a series of recent sporting successes the Queen's Park High School staff team were challenged to yet another extraordinary sporting challenge. This time it was the parents who fancied their chances at a Dragon Boat race. Prior to the event rivalry was rife, with parents even resorting to 'trash talk' during Parents' Evening.

The stage was set at the Queen's Park High School Boathouse where both teams, each of twenty two participants lined up alongside The River Dee. The parents boasted an impressive squad, complete with seasoned rowers including one ex GB rower. Whilst the teachers demonstrated their superior face painting ability through their Spartan like 'pink' war paint.

The parents took to the water first for a well-planned practice session prior to the big race, followed by the teacher causal paddle. Whilst each boat of dragons made their way to the start line the tension was quite clearly building. As they lined up alongside one another, the horn sounded to signal the start of the race. Initially, this was followed by a panic like frenzy of splashing, before the parents begun to take up a noticeable lead. The race appeared almost out of the staffs hands by the half-way point. Then with one last push the staff team began to gain ground as they roared out their rowing pattern 'one-two, one-two' in time with their student drummer. The crowd cheered as the Queen's Park High School staff steamed to victory. The teams retired back to school for a well-earned BBQ, as they celebrated the recent successes of the current year 6's and soon to be new Queen's Park High School students.



THE ENGLISH TEAM GO TO KATHMANDU

On Friday 12th of June some of Mr. Richardson's classes and some of Miss Steen's classes took to the field for their reading lesson to add some miles to the Kathmandu appeal. The students - who pledged to make up any lost reading time at home - clocked up a fantastic 323 miles between them. Well done to all involved.

OUTSTANDING EFFORT

As we approach the final few weeks Miss Steen would like to congratulate her year 10 all-girls class for their exceptional effort, hard work and positive attitude to learning this school year. All of the girls have had a very productive year and are well prepared for a busy and successful year 11!

TWITTER

All parents, carers and students aged 14 and above are invited to follow our Twitter page @QPHSEnglish for updates and information regarding English lessons, homework, successes, competitions and more.

Lisa Steen - Leader of Learning - English

YEAR 5 WORKSHOPS 2015

The theme for this year's workshops for Year 5 and the Festival of Learning was 'Heroes and Heroines', and the students certainly stepped up to the mark! There were a variety of workshops across two days that students from our partner primary schools selected around this theme, providing a secondary level experience and mixing with new friends!



The theme of super heroes and heroines led to some very creative sessions, and culminated in a celebration at the Festival BBQ on 19th June. Even though the wind was initially whipping the bunting, the BBQ was a great success with tours around the school for prospective parents led by Governors and students. The sun even broke through the clouds before the end of the afternoon to shine on the prize giving from Miss Watterson. Overall a fantastic event and we hope to see many of the year 5s at our open evening on 17th September 2015. Miss Davies

CELEBRATION EVENING

Queen's Park High School's annual Celebration evening was held on Tuesday 30 June. The evening is an opportunity to celebrate the success of students across all subjects and to recognise the commitment of students achieving 100% attendance and punctuality. Over 100 students were invited to attend with their parents; so with a packed hall and a camera at the ready, the Headteacher, Miss Watterson opened with evening with a keynote speech.



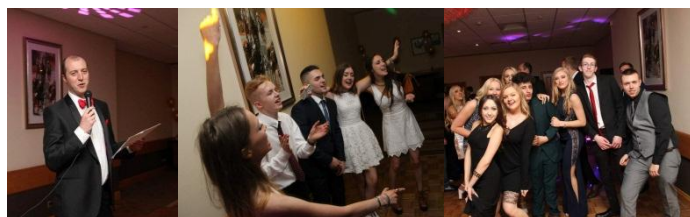
Students received framed certificates for achievement in subject areas. There were three Key Stage awards available for outstanding learners in each faculty. The evening culminated in the presentation of five Headteachers awards, one for each year group. This trophy was presented to the student who had received a number of nominations from all different subjects and who was clearly making a very positive contribution across the school.

At Queen's Park High School we are very proud of all of our students and it was a lovely way to celebrate their achievements from throughout the year. Well done to all the students who were nominated and received awards.

YEAR 13 PROM

Year 13 students at Queen's Park High School celebrated their Prom at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Chester.

All present were in a superb mood as they toasted their success and revelled in the end of school education; seven years of hard work and determination that will pay off come results day in August.



Students were also joined by members of staff who joined in the celebrations. *"It is an honour to be part of these young people's lives and wish them the very best for the future"* – Mr Booth, Key Stage Five Manager.

YEAR 11 PROM

Year 11 celebrated in style at their very successful prom which was held at the Mollington Banastre Hotel on Wednesday 8th July. It was a chance for staff and students to come together to celebrate the successes of students over the past 5 years and to mark the end of this part of their formal education. All of the students made a superb effort to look fantastic on the night and staff were very proud of how mature they all were. After some refreshments, students and staff danced the night away and really came together as a team to share the celebration.



Miss Prys-Owen, Key Stage 4 Manager said *"we are really proud of the work our year 11 students have put in over the past 5 years, but particularly over recent months as they coped with the work and pressure of their GCSE exams. The prom has been a lovely occasion and we look forward to seeing the students again in August where we can celebrate their results and achievements"*. Thank you to all the staff who have worked with year 11 and to those who came to celebrate this important evening with them.

CONWAY CENTRE

Over the recent weekend, Queen's Park High School's Physical Education department were accompanied by 11 students to the Conway Centre, Anglesey. Whilst there, they took on a series of extreme and challenging activities. Day one saw the staff and students take on the Anglesey coastline, as they traversed their way along a series of difficult rock climbs.

One of the more challenging sections meant using tiny grapple holes as a means of maintaining our position on the cliff. This required substantial amount of upper body strength. Our positioning on the rock meant that we were suspended above an inevitable drop into the sea below. Before we knew it splashes were common sounds, as students appeared to be dropping off the rock face from all angles as they lost their grip and footing. At one point, a student was whisked away by a wave as he attempted to jump between rocks. The group had a sentimental moment as they ate lunch on the cliff top and reflected on what we had achieved. As night fell, the group settled in for a camp fire as they toasted their obligatory marshmallows.

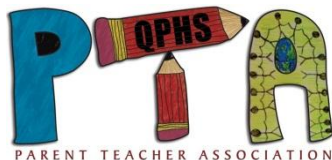


Paddle boarding was the order for the next day. Initially, the group attempted the paddle boarding with a 'run before you can walk' attitude. This resulted in yet more splashes as students hit the water repeatedly. With practice student began to gain their balance and water confidence. By the end of the session students were flying along the Menai Strait. Following the trip Mr Taylor said, "It was great fun for all and gave students an opportunity to experience challenges they wouldn't normally face".

'No children were injured in the making of this trip!'

FROM HSA TO PTA

Change is afoot with the parents and carers at QPHS! There has been a change in the way that the HSA is known, to reflect the important role which parents are making in supporting the school.



Mike Benson, Chair of the PTA explained the change *"at a recent meeting the Queen's Park High School Home Schools Association (HSA) decided to change its name to the Parent Teacher Association (PTA). This was done for a variety of reasons but the main one was to ensure continuity and clarity when children move from Primary School to Secondary School."*

As with any re-brand a logo needed to be designed and the PTA were impressed with the response from the school. A vote was carried out at a PTA meeting and we were delighted to announce that the winning logo was designed by Megan Pritchard, Maya Murphy and Kristine Tiskus. This logo will be used on all communications from the PTA as well as featuring on the school website. Congratulations to Megan, Maya and Kristine"

The students are very proud of their logo and delighted that it will be used to represent the school, supporting fundraising such as the QPHS Car Park which is open each weekend on Saturdays and each day in school holidays; and supports a multitude of activities and extra-curricular opportunities for our students. Well done girls!

NATIONAL HANDBALL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Callum Bishop, Eve Finlay, James Harrison and Joe Clegg from Year 10 all represented Cheshire Under 16 Handball at the National Handball County Championship held in Somerset. The girls team successfully fought off competition from Warwick, Dorset and Kent to win a place in the final. This was to be a tough match against a strong team, with Cheshire eventually coming second overall.

The boys' competition followed with Cheshire pitted against teams from Devon, Nottingham, Middlesex and Buckinghamshire. Cheshire won all but one of their games to get to the final. This was to be a nail-biting match with Cheshire showing perseverance and tenacity to win 10-8, becoming the National Handball County Champions 2015!



Well done to both the girls and the boys team and especially to our Queen's Park High players!

ParentMail & Parental Portal – What's the Difference?



You may have heard about ParentMail and Parental Portal and wonder what they are. To clarify, **ParentMail** is the system we use to send emails home about general events or letters specific to your child. It is also used to text when students arrive late into school or if they do not arrive into school. It means the message is sent directly to you and letters are not lost on the way home! And of course it saves paper and postage costs.

Parental Portal is the system that allows you to view information about your child – behaviour credits and referrals, canteen expenditure, attendance and much more. It is also used to book Parents' Evening appointments on-line, ensuring you don't miss out on this important event. A form to register for Parental Portal can be found on the school website; to register with ParentMail, please contact school on 01244 981500 or email enquiries@qphs.cheshire.sch.uk.

Don't miss out on those important messages!

PTA 200 Club winners for April and May were Sharon Rowlands and Martin Degg respectively.