



Dear Parents/Carers

Once again we are drawing to the end of another very busy half term here at Queen's Park High School. If you would like up to date news on a daily basis about the exciting activities taking place across the school, please follow us on twitter @qphschester.

This week has been no exception, with our Year 7 boys becoming the Chester Dodgeball Champions, our rowers being filmed on the River Dee for the 'Be the heartbeat' advert for the Olympics, and of course, our fantastic production of 'Little Shop of Horrors'. At times like this, you remember what a privilege it is to be able to spend time with and nurture the talents of such inspirational young people.

Life is about opportunities, sometimes we seek them out for ourselves and at other times we need some encouragement from those around us! At Queen's Park High however, we are fortunate to have a wealth of very dedicated staff, governors and parents who always work with our students' best interests at heart. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your on-going support, it really is appreciated! As for the students, remember to keep stepping out of that comfort zone and be proud of what you have achieved, I certainly am!

Miss Watterson, Headteacher



## AMSTERDAM VISIT

35 students and lecturers from the University of Amsterdam received a warm welcome at Queen's Park High School as part of their five day visit to the UK to look at British culture and education.



The majority of the group were trainee teachers of English who were fascinated to talk about and reflect upon the work of the school's students and teachers, many of whom commented on the effective use of questioning to promote student learning and progress.

As part of their morning the group had the opportunity to meet with Headteacher, Lyndsay Watterson; CPD

and PGCE/NQT Induction Tutor, Matt Yeoman; Head Boy, Matt Stoltzer and Deputy Head Boy, Daniel Depuis. The exchange of cultures and ideas culminated with a truly traditional English buffet over which the Dutch visitors asked many questions about practice and why students wear uniform!

At the end of the visit Head Boy, Matt Stoltzer reflected, 'it was fascinating to meet teachers from a different culture and talk about how their students experience learning – whilst our culture and language might be different, the core values of teaching and learning are really quite similar.' Queen's Park High School is currently in the process of applying for the re-designation of its International School Status.



## LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Since September over 110 students spanning Year 7 – 13 have been involved in intensive rehearsals preparing for the production which has culminated in five performances. As part of this intensive process, students have been away to the Conway Centre in Anglesey, taking part in singing, dancing and acting master classes.

The show provides opportunities for students interested in not only musical theatre, but stage management, technical operation of lighting and sound, and of course, musicianship as a member of the band. Matt Yeoman, Director of Learning for the Visual and Performing Arts said, 'the challenge each year is to produce a show that

*broadens our students' experience of musical theatre – a show that both challenges and raises the bar from the previous year. Whilst Little Shop is performed in a 'Sci-Fi B movie' style, this has presented a real challenge to all of our students who have had to develop a real flair for melodramatic acting – a challenge they have all risen to and succeeded in meeting.*

The first show was a matinee performance for Year 5 children and staff from our partner Primary schools on Monday 8 February followed by four evening performances.

Feedback from the show has been extremely positive with it being described as 'amazing' and feeling like a West End production!



## KS3 SCIENCE CLUB

2016 got off to a great start for the KS3 Science Club. Students have been fortunate enough to work with Geoff Owens from Urenco, a nuclear fuel supplying company and have been developing team working, problem solving and communication skills. They were faced with a problem: 'How to transfer a radioactive ping pong ball using only recyclable rubbish'. The students had to use their Science knowledge and creative skills to fix this problem. Lots of creative and innovative designs were made but only one group were successful.

Previously students have been

experimenting with lots of fun Science activities including bouncy custard balls, non-Newtonian fluids, methane bubbles and ping pong ball launchers.

Science Club is open to all KS3 students and new members welcome on a Monday, 3pm in S2.



## SCHOOL REPORT

BBC NEWS



Recruitment is already underway for our BBC School Report Team ready for News Day in March 2016 with Year 13 Media Studies students taking lead roles. This is an excellent opportunity for those students who enjoy writing, broadcasting and photography and those who hope to have a career in the media to expand their skills and have some fun. All interested students are invited to speak to Miss Steen in E3 for details of how to get involved.

## CO-CONSTRUCTION IN LEARNING

During this term, Year 9 Set 1 have been working on a co-construction project to regenerate the snack bar, with Mr. Parker. Using the topic of co-construction we have started to manage our own learning by taking



responsibility for our classwork, setting our own homework and marking our work by setting our own assessment criteria. We researched the Turner Prize winners Assemble and their project on the four Granby Streets in Liverpool. They won the Turner Prize Award 2015. We split into groups with each group working on different ideas.

Our group used the idea of wooden block printing technique. To create a canvas we have wooden blocks and will print them in a form of a pattern on the canvas. We have researched how to do it and will teach each other in our group the technique. On top of some blocks we will use a marble technique, on others we will spray paint shapes using stencils. We will hang them as



wall coverings in the snack bar space. Other groups are making concrete table tops, marble lampshades, wooden bench seating and photographs.

Written by Olivia, Bethan & Kiera

## HISTORY NEWS

A local businessman, former student and historian Nigel Meyrick is doing research into our war memorial



WILLIAM H. OWEN  
HUGH WILDIG  
THOMAS A. ELLIS R.S.C.

'A BRAVE MAN COMMEMORATED ON THE QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL MEMORIAL'

COMING SOON THE STORY OF

'LIEUTENANT MICHAEL DU GRAY AND HIS CO PILOT SECOND LIEUTENANT HUGH WILDIG'

TWO ROYAL FLYING CORP PILOTS WHO PIT THEIR SKILLS AGAINST THE IMPERIAL GERMAN FLYING MACHINES OVER THE GREAT WAR BATTLE FIELDS OF FRANCE

## SIXTH FORM STUDENTS MEET SCIENCE PROFESSOR

Professor Michael Coleman from Aston University came in to school to speak to Sixth Form students studying Biology, Chemistry, Physics and L3 Applied Science about how Science research works and how discoveries are made. He did a 40min humorous and thought provoking lecture followed by a question and answer session. Students found the event stimulating, relevant and inspiring. Professor Coleman commented after the session that our students were engaged, enthusiastic and asked very intellectual questions showing an in depth comprehension of the topics they had studied. We were pleased to be joined at the event by some Sixth Form students from Chester Catholic High and look forward to working together in the future.



## ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

Another fantastic conference this year by the Candle Conference team for Year 12 and 13 Ethics students. The day included lectures, workshops on topics such as Genetic Engineering, Sexual Ethics, Natural Law, Situation Ethics, Utilitarianism and Kantian Ethics.

The day was led by Dr Peter Vardy, the famous Ethicist and Philosopher



with Dr David Webster as guest speaker. Adem Yilmaz made an intelligent contribution to the 'everyone should have the right to a child' debate. Ben Salmon commented '*I really enjoyed today as it was an amazing opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of ethical theories applied to contemporary matters. The debate was a huge plus!*'. Matt Stolzer said '*Ethical theories were presented in an engaging fashion providing scholarly quotations to boost essays. I highly recommend attending for people wishing to improve RS grades*'. Jake Gilmore went on to quip '*I particularly enjoyed sex with Vardy, it was top!*'. The students were polite, engaged and a credit to themselves and QPHS.

## RE & GEOGRAPHY

On Monday 8 February the Humanities team took a group of 47 Year 9 students and Sixth Form helpers to The Sri Guru Gobind Singh Gurdwara in Manchester. This was a fantastic enrichment opportunity as we are currently studying Sikhism in RE lessons. The General Secretary Parkash Singh gave us an informative talk, a tour of the Prayer Hall and the students were given a glimpse of the sacred holy book The Guru Granth Sahib Ji. Afterwards refreshments were provided in the Langar Hall.

We then went onto the Trafford Centre to undertake data gathering techniques to prepare students for

GCSE Geography next year. We were also joined by the Year 12 Travel and Tourism class who gathered vital case study information on customer services.

The students were well behaved, asked intelligent questions and completed the work booklets in detail. Well done Year 9!



## CHESTER ZOO TRIP

Students from Year 7 visited Chester Zoo on Curriculum Enrichment Day and were asked to think and focus on 'conservation'.

After splitting into six groups, the groups toured the zoo at their own leisurely pace in the morning and found most animals were out to play—including the new rhino!

Students then attended a talk held by two zookeepers, who explained how some animals, that were spotted earlier in the day, are in various Chester Zoos around the world (there's ten!) and are tended to and looked after in order to preserve them. This is with the vision that animals, who are extinct in the wild, will one day be reintroduced back into their natural habitat.



## CHESTER UNIVERSITY BOOK CLUB

In January, six lucky Year 9 students went on a trip to Chester University's new Queen's Park Campus. We went because we had decided to take part in a brand new initiative which would challenge us to widen our reading repertoire and give us the opportunity to experience University life. A few weeks before, Chester University's outreach co-ordinator, Kevin Hornblower, and other University staff and students, had visited us in our English lesson to tell us all about the initiative. We were told we'd be required to read some new and more challenging books and then discuss them with students studying English at University.



We were invited into the large and grand building and given our very own seminar room where we discussed and brainstormed our ideas about the books with two students from the University studying English Literature, as well as University staff. We then split into groups to look at the novel from different angles and were challenged to think critically, like University students!

After a great discussion we returned to school armed with our next book to read in time for our next meeting in February. Miss Steen, who accompanied us to the University, said, '*We were thrilled to be invited to participate in some outreach work with Chester University and a book club seemed like an ideal opportunity to challenge our most able students. The university staff and students were astonished at the students' mature and perceptive analysis of the novel and excited to welcome them again in a few weeks time. Many thanks go to Kevin, in particular, for organising such a positive experience for our students.*'

Written by Joseph Crompton & Frank Riding YR 9



## SOUTH TO NORTH LAKES CHALLENGE

Mr Clubb and Mr Taylor will be embarking on a 12 hour challenge to raise money for the QPHS PE Extra-Curricular activities and the newly introduced defibrillator station in school's main reception.

The challenge called the 'South

to North Lakes Challenge' will take place in May with Mr Clubb and Mr Taylor taking on the length of the mighty Lake Windermere in a canoe then cycling to Helvellyn. Having climbed Helvellyn they will then cycle once more to Keswick.

The intrepid teachers have already completed the 'Coast to Coast' in the past few years and now set their sights on this arduous task.

Mr Taylor said *'This is another great experience for us and hopefully people will dig deep and sponsor us for a very good cause.'*

## MATHS NEWS

A group of Year 10 students have entered a team into the Alan Turin Cryptography competition. They have successfully gained maximum points for solving Chapter One.

Well done to Team Leader Shukrie Kemal.

## A BUSY MONTH AT THE BOAT HOUSE



the City Baths for our Year 7 and Year 8 rowers – this is where they put into practice what they should do if they capsize their boat. They are taught how to upright it and get back in. Other activities included a 50m swim test, four minutes treading water and practice using a throw line to rescue someone.



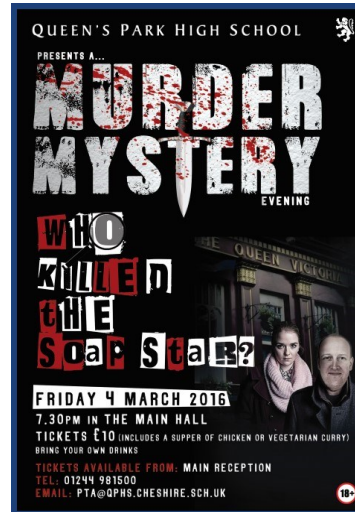
Lots still happen during the winter at the rowing club, whilst it may be cold, windy and wet – hard work during the winter period pays off in the summer.

The focus turns to long steady state sessions on the water, rowing machines and fitness training.

The heavy rain and wind that we have had has made it difficult to get out on the water, so training sessions have been on land doing ergos, circuits, runs and core strength work.

Rona Fishburn and Emily Cox attended a training day at The Grange School Boat Club for high performing athletes, where they rowed with mixed crews from all over the Northwest; they were also coached and tested throughout the day. Capsize and recovery training at

Attention in February returns to competitions where we will compete at The English Indoor Rowing Championships, Trafford Head, Hampton Head near London and some students will go through a series of trials to enable them to compete in the Northwest Regional Team against the rest of the country in the summer. The coaches will also attend a course on how to use skill exercises to develop the rowing technique.



## SPANISH TRIP

Parents' Information Evening on 9 March 7.30-8.30pm to run through the itinerary, expectations and some do's and don'ts along with a bit of administration.

It will be good to see as many parents/carers and students as possible.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Event	Date	Time
Murder Mystery	4 March 2016	7.30pm
Year 7 Parents' Evening	9 March 2016	4.30 - 7.30pm
Spanish Trip Parents' Evening	9 March 2016	7.30 - 8.30pm
NTC 500 'Bassett' Performance	16 - 18 March	7.00pm
Year 12/13 Ethics Revision Conference	22 March 2016	9.00 - 3.00pm
Year 9 Collaborative Art Project with CCHS	24 March 2016	9.00 - 3.00pm
Year 12 Geography Snowdonia Trip	24 March 2016	9.00 - 3.00pm
'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
Year 8 Parents' Evening	27 April 2016	4.30 - 7.30pm
'Bassett' Performance Manchester	29 April 2016	7.00pm
May Day		
School Closes	29 April 2015	3.00pm
School Re-opens	3 May 2016	8.45pm
Year 6 Induction Evening	4 May 2016	6.00pm