



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

AUTUMN TERM
October 2016

CONWAY

Year 12 Transition
Residential

Big Bang North
West VFX Show

Wins in Rowing
at Agecroft

STATUS QUO

Drummer Jeff Rich
Rocks Out with KS3

MAT
Consultation
Read the latest
developments

Memory Walk
by students for Dementia



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

WELCOME



We have had an incredibly busy start to the new academic year so far. The last eight weeks have certainly flown by and the summer holidays are certainly a distant memory! Our new Year 7 students have settled in exceptionally well and have made an impressive start, becoming active members of our school community and growing

in confidence by the day.

I was delighted to be able to witness this first hand as I listened to them present their experiences of their recent residential to Conway in assembly last week, with 7BMR being awarded the first ever House points for Westminster House – Well done!

On Thursday 22 September, we were delighted to welcome Year 5 and Year 6 children along with their parents for our annual Open Evening. We received a lot of really positive feedback from the evening particularly in relation to the pride that our students show in their school. Over 150 students proved themselves to be excellent ambassadors for the school either as tour guides or advocates for individual subject areas and I would just like to thank them again for their support. Congratulations go to Dylan Welsh, Year 6 from Overleigh St. Mary's, who was the overall winner in our famous faces quiz. Well done to all the runners up too, you may have spotted via our Twitter feed that Miss Morris has been busy presenting prizes in quite a number of primary school assemblies over the last couple of weeks!

We were delighted to see a significant improvement in

our results over the summer with both English and maths improving by 14% and 10% respectively. The new Progress 8 measure shows that our students have made the progress expected of them and this is now in line with expectation. As you may be aware, there is a significant amount of curriculum change taking place at present nationally, with the introduction of new specifications at both GCSE and A Level, GCSEs are transitioning from grades to numbers and we are moving to 'Age Related Milestones' rather than National Curriculum Levels at Key Stage 3. Mr Richardson will be providing further guidance about all these changes through a series of presentations at our Review Evening and Day and information will also be available early next half term via our website/Parent Mail.

We have now received our Academy Order and are hoping to progress our proposed academy conversion to join Christleton Learning Trust over the next few months. The Trust is built upon 8 core values: Students are always first, Mutual benefit, Inclusivity, Fairness, Excellence and Learning, Partnership, Freedom to innovate and make decisions and Integrity. These values are fundamental to our developing collaboration, as we seek to ensure that Queen's Park High School can continue its journey to become an outstanding school in the future whilst broadening the opportunities available to our students, staff and the wider community. We have much to gain from working in partnership in this way and I will continue to keep you updated about our progress in the coming weeks.

I would just like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a lovely half term and we look forward to welcoming our students back again on Tuesday 8 November.

Miss Watterson
HEADTEACHER



STATUS QUO

Drum Master class for all KS3

STATUS Quo's former drummer, Jeff Rich had all KS3 students getting 'down, down deeper and down' to his beats and rhythms during a percussion master class last week.

During his hour and half session on Thursday 13 October he invited students to try out a variety of percussion instruments whilst giving them an insight into the music industry. Students and staff then accompanied him in a rhythm based mini performance ending with a finale which enabled our student 'drummers' to play his own personal drum kit!

Jeff said, *"It's all about inspiration; because a lot of these kids will never have been in front of a live musician before, especially drums, which are a very powerful instrument."*

Jeff was Status Quo's drummer from 1986 to 2000, but left to share his music skills with young people. Since then, he has taken his drum workshop to over 7,000 schools across the UK.

Looking back on his own path to music, Jeff said: *"I never had anything like this at my school. I had to do it the hard way, playing pots and pans in the kitchen. I took any weekend job, cleaning cars and stuff, to get money to buy a snare drum and gradually built the kit up."*

He added: *"I come from a really deprived area of London, my parents couldn't afford for me to do it. But I went out and got into the music business. It's all about determination. If you want to do it, go for it."*



AUDITIONS



On Wednesday 5 October we held our auditions for this year's School Production, 'Rock of Ages'. Nearly a hundred students had taken part in the workshop auditions leading up to the formal audition evening with students having to perform a section of the script and perform part of a song for the show in front of a panel of six judges. It was very intense but needless to say, there was such a large pool of talent to choose from, formulating the final cast list wasn't easy! Rehearsals are now well under way for the production and it is already proving to be one which will be remembered for a long time, not least because of the music, but because of the talent of the students performing it...



JAPANESE WORKSHOP

40 Taiko Drummers visit QPHS

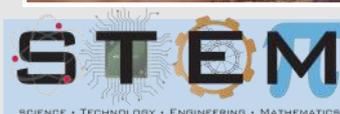


On Thursday 22 September, QPHS played host to an incredibly talented group of 40 Japanese students who travelled over 6000 miles to visit Chester as part of an International Cultural Exchange Programme led by Allan Owens from the University of Chester.

The student ensemble performed a rhythmical piece of work on their Taiko Drums to Sixth Form students studying, Drama, Performing Arts and Music. The performance was fantastic with one of our Sixth Formers stating, *It's incredible to see just how rhythmical a large group of performers can be and just how much they enjoy their art.*

Following on from their performance, Professor Owens led an intercultural drama workshop looking at how metaphor in a story can be interpreted in a similar way in different cultures that speak different languages. Mr. Yeoman, Lead Practitioner for Teaching and Learning at QPHS said, *It's amazing to see how gesture, movement and other methods of non-verbal communication are universal and how acceptance and friendships can develop between two very different groups of people.*

The workshop served part of the enrichment offer available to students at Queen's Park High School, as it aims to develop their awareness of international and intercultural relationships that exist across the world.



BIG BANG NORTH WEST

STEM club win VFX show

On Friday 14 October, visitors from IntoFilm and The Big Bang North West came to QPHS to give a show on how visual effects are linked to STEM. We won this opportunity due to our work with STEM club looking at animal behaviour through the investigation of how snails react to different environments.

Year 10 were the lucky group to have this experience!

We were able to see the most up-to-date technology used in the production of movies and computer games and even witnessed the creation of a computer-generated zombie from scratch. The team talked to the students about how STEM links to the film industry (Maths is more important than Art for animation roles!), different career opportunities in the sector and some interesting facts such as over 3000 people worked on the new Iron Man film!



ALTON TOWERS

Year 10 & 11 Business Study Trip

Merlin Entertainment is a multinational public limited company operating 115 attractions in 23 countries across four continents. Year 10 and 11 Business students went to Alton Towers on Friday 7 October to find out about how the company delivers unique and memorable experiences to millions of visitors every year.

Following a very interesting talk about the business from Liz West (Marketing Manager) students were given the opportunity to develop their own business concepts to help the resort improve what they offer to customers. Students suggested a festival event, the use of Segways and a zip wire to cross the park.

Well done to Chloe Wissett who won a fast track ticket due to her excellent contribution!

MY FIRST HALF TERM

Written by Simone Butler, Year 7

Since I moved from Bermuda my life has been a roller coaster of excitement and fun! I have made a lot of new friends like DD, Amelia, Georgina and Zayna; they have helped me whenever I've had a problem. My friend Amelia lives right across the road so that is handy.

At Conway we were all in a room together, we had a lot of fun sharing two nights together! Conway was great fun; we did loads of activities, with different people in my group. This was a great experience, as now I have a lot more friends.

My favourite activity was the night goggles, it blacked everything out and you had to hold onto a rope and go under, over and around an obstacle course. It was really good fun.

I have had a great start at QPHS and I feel I will have a really good time with friends over the years to come!



CHARITY NEWS

Students walk for Dementia



On Saturday 24 September, Year 10 students Lauren Taylor, Faith Robson Hall, Kaylum Morris, Hannah Powell and Britney Osei took part on the memory walk for dementia at Delamere Forest.

Lauren said, *"It was really fun as we had a Zumba warm up to start and there were horses around, plenty of food and many dogs. It was a great atmosphere with over 3,500 people doing the walk including the dinner ladies."*

The dedicated students raised over £300 in aid of Kaylum's nan, Vera Morris.

MacMillan



Thanks to all those who donated their scrummy bakes for our McMillan Coffee Morning – and to all those who sacrificed their waste lines eating them and

donating so generously!

We made just over £120 for this great cause; not bad for a 20 minute coffee break! Well done to Ms Britland

for guessing the closest to 456 spots on the cake and for generously donating her £9 winnings back to the charity.



Master Chef



Our students are giving Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood a run for their money at our in-house Master Chef Cookery Club. So far this term, they've made lots of goodies, including cookies, chocolate brownie muffins, shortbread, and even doughnuts. Students discuss and decide what recipes they would like to try and get to take home their creations! The Club runs on Tuesday afternoons as part of our Enrichment Programme.



CONWAY RESIDENTIAL

Year 12 Transition

Year 12 students had a great time at the Conway Residential Centre from Monday 12 – Wednesday 14 September as part of their transition and induction into the Sixth Form.

Students were accompanied by the Year 12 tutors, Mr Clubb, Mrs Skeoch and Mr Yeoman plus Mrs Scanlon, Director of Sixth Form and Miss Watterson who supported students through a number of team work and physical outdoor activities as well as sessions on independent learning and other key skills essential for success as Sixth Form students.

All of the students threw themselves in with gusto and achieved a lot, both personally and as part of a team.

Mrs Scanlon said, *"It was a real pleasure to see how well the students supported one another and encouraged individuals to push themselves to achieve goals and challenges. I was proud of how well they worked together and know that they are setting themselves up for future success"*.



THE BEACH

Sixth Form Café



The Sixth Form Café enterprise project has got underway quickly this Autumn term.

The Retail Society which is the thinking behind how the Café runs as a business, have been busy renovating the outdoor area for Sixth Form and staff to eat their lunch outdoors. They have been hard at work sanding down the tables and staining them in colours to create a tranquil and relaxing ambience.

The name and theme of the Café has been chosen as 'The Beach' and the Sixth Form are on task to develop their ideas which include planting for outside and additional seating and artwork to display on the walls inside the Café.

Once all the work has been completed it will be a truly unique space for the Sixth Form. Watch this space for the official launch date. . . !



SPORTS

Year 7 Football Tournament



On Monday 10 October our Year 7 football team headed out full of energy and confidence to compete in a football tournament at Abbey Gate College.

They started the tournament slowly with a draw in the first game and then suffered a loss against Abbey Gate (the hosts) of 1-0, although we deserved to win this game as we created so many more chances to score. Despite this our boys kept their heads up and looked on to the next game still full of excitement and positivity.

Year 7 soon found their stride and went on to beat Bishop Heber, Kings and drew against a very good Upton High School, to finish runners up in the tournament against four other great schools.

The parents and students who were present were extremely proud and so they should be as our Year 7 students deserved every medal they received. All students shook hands with each other and left with beaming smiles on their faces.

Cross-Country Success

Congratulations to Zara Gautier-Price and DD Smyth who came 5th and 11th respectively in the Chester and District Cross Country Championships on Wednesday 19 October. A great result for both girls!

ROWING NEWS

Agecroft

Year 10 and above travelled to Salford Quays in Manchester to take part in The Agecroft Rowing Club Head Race. The race is held on the River Irwell, over a 3000m course with the finish line being just outside the BBC building.

There was success for Gwilym Harris from Year 10 who raced against eleven Year 11 boys from across the Northwest, he achieved an impressive time being 23 seconds faster than the rower who came second!

Zara Gautier-Price and Kiera Burke from Year 10

gained second place after competing in the IM3 single and Eve Finlay, Year 12 and Amy Williamson, Year 13 joined together for the first time in a while also took second place in the IM3 double category.

All our rowers enjoyed the day and the conditions were excellent for the event.

Long Distance Skulls



This was the first head of the season with the older rowers competing over 5000m and the younger rowers, 2750m. For every rower it was a gruelling race to complete, but everyone managed it with some even racing twice in other combinations.

Both crews in the morning division came second, with not much between them and first.

The afternoon division was a lot busier, with nine crews out on the water which included a J16 quad with Charlie, Henry, Morgan and Jack stepping in last minute.

In the short course Kiera and Zara were in their WJ15 double; they did really well and came first. Gwilym and Harrison were out in a J16 double on the long course and also got first. Well done to both crews!



continued QPH's winning streak and came first in their J15 double category by beating three other crews and having a time better than three Year 11 crews.

Our older rowers Emily Cox, Year 13 came second in the adults IM2 single category, Rona Fishburn, Year 12

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Event	Date	Time
25 October	Cheshire Vale TSA Training Event	All Day
26 October	Review Evening	4.30 - 7.30pm
27 October	Review Day	All Day
29 October	Dee Autumn Head rowing event	
28 October	Autumn Half Term School Closes	3.00pm
8 November	School Re-opens for students	8.45am
5 November	Boat House tidy day	
7 November	INSET DAY	All Day
10 November	Cheshire Vale TSA 'Train to Teach' Promotional Event	4.00 - 6.00pm
13 November	Northwich Autumn Head rowing event	
16 November	Year 12/13 Parents' Evening	4.30 - 7.30pm
21 - 25 November	Year 11 & 13 Mock Exams	
23 November	Year 5 Curriculum Challenge Day	All Day
25 November	PTA Quiz Night	7.30 - 10.00pm
30 November	Awards Evening	6.30 - 8.15pm
3 December	Liverpool Victoria Head rowing event	
7 December	Year 12/13 London Freud Museum Trip	All Day
14 December	Year 11 Parents' Evening	4.30 - 7:30pm
20 December	Christmas Concert	7.00 - 9.30pm
23 December	Christmas Break School Closes	3.00pm
9 January	School Re-opens for students	8.45am



QPHS Rowing Club would like to thank Mr Mike Horsley - Director of Lawton Tools, Sandbach, Mr Mark Harris - Director of Supermarine Aero Engineering, Stoke on Trent and Mr and Mrs Lane for their much appreciated donations towards the purchase of our new Gazebo for the Rowing Club. This will help keep our students dry and warm during down time at competitions.

PTA WELCOME
QUIZ NIGHT
A FUN GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ THAT'S NOT TOO HARD & NOT TOO EASY!
FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER
THEATRE BAR
AT QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL
FROM 7.30pm
TICKETS £10 PER PERSON
INC. SNACKS & CHEESE BOARD; BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS

- We recommend teams of 6-8 people
- Prizes for the winning teams!
- Tickets available from school reception or email
- PTA@QPHS.CHESHIRE.SCH.UK
- Cheques payable to QPHS PTA

PROCEEDS FROM THE EVENING WILL SUPPORT ALL QPHS STUDENTS EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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