



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL

NEWS

AUTUMN TERM
December 2016

'THE BEACH'
Launch of new
Sixth Form Café

Girls Basketball
Shoot for GOLD

Frantic Assembly
get physical in theatre workshop

CHARITY BEGINS AT QPHS

Students put the 'FUN' into
'FUN'DRAISING

**YEAR
5**

Take on the
Curriculum
Challenge

JOINT ART COLLABORATION
marks beginning of MAT

WELCOME



For me personally, this newsletter is always a delight to read as it not only showcases, but also reminds us, of the breadth of experiences for our students both within school and the wider community. As all our thoughts now turn towards Christmas and a new year, I just wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some of the achievements for us as a school over the last half term.

Our House competitions have brought an added level of excitement of late and I would just like to congratulate all our student leaders in particular for the role they have played in organising events and fundraising. 'Children in Need' proved to be the biggest fundraising event that the school has ever had and was testimony to our students' selfless approach to supporting others who are more in need than themselves. Well done to everyone who contributed in some way.

In November, I received a letter from Sir Michael Wilshaw, the Chief Inspector for Ofsted, which recognised the transformations which are taking place within our school and in particular the leadership of our 'programme of change that has been successful in rapidly establishing a culture of high aspiration'. Our school improvement journey is continuing and our students are identifiably making better progress and are showing real pride in their school.

Over recent weeks we have been consulting staff, governors and our student leaders about the creation of a new vision for the school in the future, thinking about our core values and how the House identity can become more integrated within school life. I will write to parents in January about the outcomes of our consultations to date and give you the opportunity to contribute as well.

I am also delighted to inform you that Queen's Park High School has just been selected to appear in the 2016/17 edition of 'The Parliamentary Review'. Established by former minister, The Rt Hon David Curry shortly after the 2010 general election, The Parliamentary Review's September release has become a key fixture in the political calendar. The main aim of The Review is to showcase best practice as a learning tool to both the public and private sector and to support the raising of standards in secondary education nationally. We have been nominated to showcase inspirational leadership and the impact this is having on school improvement. We will look forward to being able to share more information with you about this closer to the time, particularly as we get an invite to the House of Commons too, around the time of publication! This is a fantastic opportunity for us as a school to have our achievements recognised on a national level.

Finally, I would just like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful festive season and a very happy 2017. Thank you again for your support over the last term and we look forward to seeing you soon in the New Year.

Miss Watterson
HEADTEACHER



Student Leaders 2016-7



YEAR 5 ACTIVITY DAY

Art & Maths Curriculum Challenge

On Wednesday 23 November the school was bursting at the seams as we welcomed over 200 Year 5 pupils from Dee Schools Partnership. The Primary Schools which included Belgrave, Dodleston, Eccleston, Lache, Overleigh St Mary's, St Clares and St Werburgh's & St. Columba's came into QPHS to take part in a joint Maths and Art Activity Day based on the Golden Ratio and Fibonacci principle of the number sequence. Pupils were split into mixed school groups and rotated round the different activities giving each the opportunity to work in both subject areas.

Using the Golden Ratio as a starting point, pupils produced artwork that combined painting, drawing, colour mixing and mark-making techniques using the number sequence; whilst in Maths pupils focused on the Golden Ratio of body parts. Who knew that your hand and lower arm length should be in proportion related to the Golden Ratio or that Donald Trump's face is more symmetrical than Simon Cowell's! Pupils got to show their competitive edge during the Gold Medal Relay where speed and accuracy was of the essence to solve a torrent of mathematical conundrums.

Mr Parker, Curriculum Leader for Art & Design said, *"It was a thoroughly enjoyable and challenging day for both pupils and teachers and a wonderful opportunity to showcase how different subject areas can work together to produce a range of different outcomes."*

As well as thanking all the enthusiastic Year 5 children and staff, we would also like to thank all our Year 9 students who helped support them during the day becoming excellent ambassadors for our school.

We will be hosting more of the Curriculum Challenge Days in the Spring and Summer Term and offering a bespoke Activity Day for Hoole and Chester Blue Coat Primary Schools. These days aim to support curriculum transition and give children the experience of being in a Secondary School learning environment.



THEATRE TRIP

Woman in Black



In November Year 13 Drama and Theatre Studies students visited the Liverpool Playhouse to watch a touring production of 'The Woman In Black'. The students were very keen to see it and as such, this trip was organised as an extra-curricular opportunity to enrich their understanding of contemporary theatre practice. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, although Callum was very disturbed by the performance claiming afterwards, *"It was the scariest thing I have ever seen in my life, I'm not going to sleep tonight!"* We are all, however, very confident that Callum will soon recover and be able to use his experience to develop his own performance skills!



CHARITY NEWS

Children in Need

There were lots of exciting things going on in school on Friday 18 November as students aimed to raise as much money as possible for Children In Need. This year we tied the charity event in with our developing House identity and made it a competition between Eaton, Grosvenor and Westminster Houses. As well as selling official merchandise; wristbands and keyrings from House stalls throughout the week, each House was set the challenge to develop creative ideas which would engage both staff and students and encourage them to part with their pennies for a worthy cause.

From 'sponge the teacher' to photo booths, guess the number of sweets to bottle flipping competitions, tombolas to shoot the basketball plus a sponsored silence, the Sports Hall was a buzz with excitement throughout lunchtime and the competitive edge was certainly on show.

The outcome was a grand total of £1336.98 raised with Westminster House being victorious.

A huge thank you and well done to all of our students, student leaders and the House Teams for their hard work in preparation for Children In Need. Look out for more competitions and charity events over the coming year.

On Friday 16 December, QPHS joined in with the national Save the Children appeal 'Christmas Jumper Day'.

Students were invited to wear their own clothes with a Christmas/Seasonal jumper in exchange for a donation of £1.

Operation Christmas Child

Every year our school aims to reach out to children through the Operation Christmas Child program in which students collect shoeboxes, filling them with gifts and presents to distribute to struggling children in the developing world. Over the last month we held a competition to see which House could donate the most Christmas boxes. Eaton was this year's winner with 26 and our total school contribution was an amazing 49 boxes!

A special 'thank you' goes to Miss Oliver's Year 7 tutor group providing 11 boxes on their own! In November, Operation Christmas Child collected the gifts from Eaton House students, Sarah Kefford and Jazz Murphy (Year 7); Annie Melia, Lily O'Neil and Florence Pitt-Knowles (Year 10) and Dan Francis (Year 12).

We hope our boxes will help to bring joy, happiness and a message of hope to children less fortunate this Christmas.



SANTA DASH

Car park raises funds for Charity



QPHS are on a fundraising roll this month as we take our Santa hats off to, Dominika Bialy & Elliot Lush who raised an impressive £139 for two great local charities, The Countess of Chester Hospital's Babygrow Appeal and The Hospice of The Good Shepherd. The two Sixth Form students volunteered to prise themselves out of bed for an unsociably early 8.30am start on a frosty Sunday morning and sacrificed their day to work on the school's car park for Chester's Santa Dash 2016.

This has been the third year the PTA have opened up the car park on a Sunday for this feel good event. As thousands of fun running 'Santas' took to the streets of Chester for the 3.3km trail, both students donned their own health and safety friendly Santa outfits with coordinating high vis jackets, uttering words of encouragement to those taking part, whilst collecting cash for the worthy causes. All proceeds taken from the car park will be split equally between the two Chester charities.

A big thank you and well done to the efforts of both students.

CHOIR PERFORMS FOR M&S

Not just any Carol Singers

On Wednesday 7 December, QPHS choir was invited to M&S Bank on Chester Business Park to add an extra touch of festive spirit and sing Christmas carols to M&S staff during their annual seasonal lunch.

16 students ranging from Years 7 – 13 along with Miss Prys-Owen and Mrs Scanlon projected their dulcet tones to an audience of over 300 whilst the Managers and Directors waited on their workers.

For over 90 minutes, the choir sang a multitude of carols including an enchanting solo piece of 'Oh Holy Night' by Rosie Mossley and numbers from their Glee Choir repertoire. It was a great opportunity for the students and they raised funds for the forthcoming School Production (Rock of Ages). After their performance they got a taste of M&S delicacies as they tucked into their own Christmas lunch courtesy of the company.



THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER

A Memory of His Grace

After the recent memorial for the Duke of Westminster, we wanted to pay tribute and share a fond memory of our own with readers. Back in 2008 His Grace accepted an invitation to officially open the new Library Learning Centre (LLC) after the school celebrated the end of a 12 month building project costing £2 million.

In a Cross-Curricular project between Art and Drama, students created their own 'Spitting Image' headpieces of HRH Queen Elizabeth II and HRH Prince Charles which the students showcased in a short humorous sketch in front of the Duke, students and staff. He was amused by the lyricism and appreciated all the work the students had put in to make him feel welcome. After the official opening, former Year 10 student, Tayler Dyke-Woods presented the Duke with a framed photographic image she had designed for the occasion.

The Duke was an inspirational and benevolent gentleman who supported the school and the community of Chester and will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of meeting him.





OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF CAFÉ Sixth Formers enjoy 'The Beach'

Sixth Form students are benefiting from significant investment from Edsential in a new state-of-the-art coffee shop this term.

From flat whites to mochas, speciality teas to hot chocolate, 'The Beach' Coffee Shop is bringing a taste of the high street to the Sixth Form Centre.

'The Beach' was officially opened in November by Assistant Headteacher and Director of Sixth Form, Mrs Scanlon.

She said, *"This is an exciting venture both as a new facility for our students and the opportunities afforded to those involved in the Retail Society to develop their understanding of how the business works. The students (and staff) have embraced it with open arms and we look forward to the development of the outside area in the Spring Term."*

Ian McGrady, Edsential's Managing Director, said *"Edsential are proud to be part of this fantastic project. We were set up to help improve outcomes for young people and 'The Beach' is a great example of how we can help an innovative school."*

"By creating a retail society that allows Sixth Formers to get involved in running the business, we are providing real life skills and experience that will give them an edge when it comes to starting their careers."

'The Beach' is open 8am - 2pm, Mon - Fri serving breakfast and lunch, offering a wide range of hot and cold food, including bacon baps, croissants and the odd cake or two!

A special thank you goes out to our unsung hero and Art Technician, Wayne Dawber whose creative flair and handiwork has transformed the design of the coffee shop interior, inline with students' ideas.



ARTWORK FOR MAT Collaboration with Christleton HS



Two Art presentations marking the beginnings of the Multi Academy Trust (MAT) with Christleton High School took place last month, at each school. The presentations were the culmination of a shared art project between the two schools.

Budding architect, Joe Mulholland, Year 13 Art & Design student constructed the sculpture entitled 'Merge' out of glass, concrete and plaster to showcase at Christleton High School, whilst Christleton's digital image with the message 'Birds of a feather flock together' will be displayed at QPHS.

Joe was influenced by 'Brutalist Art' from the 1950's and has incorporated the different materials to represent 'optimism for the future'. Both pieces were created to symbolise the schools joining together as part of the Christleton Learning Trust and the shared values each school places on educational excellence.

STEM SUPERSTARS

KS3 Train a Snail at The Big Bang

Back in July, 15 KS3 Science Club students went to the Big Bang Competition in Liverpool. Students entered the North West competition with their two projects: 'Train a Snail' and 'How does the wavelength of light affect photosynthesis'. The first group worked on training a snail so that it avoided an electrical current and the second tested different coloured lights to find the best for plant growth.

On the day, students worked in groups to present their projects to different judges and other schools. They brought along props and equipment and the snail became very popular with everyone. Students also had the opportunity to engage in the Science exhibition and learn about careers in Science and Engineering.

The 'Train a Snail' project did amazingly well and was shortlisted for the second round, just missing out on a prize.

Congratulations to James Fawcett, Josh Halewood, Finlay Jaworski, Tyler Gordon, Adam Thomas and Joe Smith (Year 8) for impressing the judges with their methodical approach to the investigation, great enthusiasm and good presentation.

In the Autumn Term STEM Club received more exciting news about the arrival of baby Giant African Land Snails.

KS3 STEM club runs on a Monday 3pm – 4pm, please see Miss Sutton if you are interested.



SPORT

Year 9 Basketball Success

Our Year 8 and 9 girls showed their invincible spirit last month at the Year 9 Chester and District Girls Basketball Championships which were held at Christleton High School. The girls won all their matches bar one, drawing with The Catholic High School but owing to a greater goal difference they were awarded winners' gold medals.

This was a fantastic achievement for the QPHS team which included Eirinn McGuire, Julia Neill, Ceri Raynor, Ellie Theil and Izzy Edwards. Well done girls for showing such verve, determination and metal!

FRANTIC ASSEMBLY

Masterclass



On Thursday 24 November, 23 students from Years 11, 12 and 13 took part in a masterclass workshop delivered by the internationally renowned innovative theatre company, Frantic Assembly. Their extremely physical way of working inspired our students to adopt similar techniques in their controlled assessment work. It was incredible to see how meaning and idea can be communicated so well without speech.

Mr Yeoman said, "I have absolutely no doubt that the workshop will have supported our students to achieve their very best in their performing arts courses."

Ben Salmon (Year 13) said, "I didn't know drama could be this physical! I will definitely be incorporating their ideas into my devised work this year."

The processes students went through of exploring storytelling and narration through physical expression has since had a profound impact on their work in the classroom. On 5 & 6 December, Year 13 students incorporated Frantic Assembly style performance work into their exam piece which was both innovative and incredibly powerful. We look forward to them receiving excellent marks in the Summer.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event	Time
16 December	Christmas Jumper Day	All Day
17 December	Pudding Races - Bag Packing at Tesco Broughton	am pm
20 December	Christmas Concert	7.00 - 9.30pm
23 December 9 January 2017	Christmas Break School Closes School Re-opens for students	12.20pm 8.45am
14 - 15 January	Bag Packing at Tesco Sealands for School Production	11.00 - 5.00pm
18 January	Year 9 Parents' Evening	4.30 - 7:30pm
19 January	Curriculum Enrichment Day	All Day
20 - 22 January	School Production cast rehearsal Residential at the Conway Centre, Anglesey	
23 January	Year 13 Mocks	All Week
26 January	Year 11 Drama GCSE Trip to The Lowry, Salford Quays	5.30pm
30 January	Year 12/13 Psychology Workshop at Chester Zoo	All Day
1 February	Sixth Form Open Evening	6.00 - 8.00pm
5 February	English Indoor Rowing Championships at Manchester Velodrome	
9 February	Year 10/11 Business Studies Trip to Cadbury World	All Day
11 February	Hampton Head London Rowing Event	
13 - 17 February	School Production: Rock of Ages	7.00pm
16 February 27 February	Spring Half Term School Closes School Re-opens for students	3.00pm 8.45am
17 February	INSET Day	All Day
25 February	Trafford Head Rowing Event	
27 - 28 February	Year 12/13 Geography, Travel & Tourism Trip to London	

ROWING Northwich Head

On Sunday 13 November Queen's Park High School Rowing Club entered into Northwich Head where all crews rowed a course over 2250 metres.

The morning division consisted of Gwilym Harris in his single; Kiera Burke and Zara Gautier-Price in their double. Both crews kept up their winning streak and once again came in an excellent first place. Our Year 10 girls were in singles and all rowed a fantastic race. In the afternoon we had most of our crews in double and quads. Our seniors: Eve Finlay, Rona Fishburn, Emily Cox, Amy Williamson in their quad and Eve and Amy in their double; both crews came in a very close second place. All in all a cold but successful day was had by the rowers and parents.

Written by Emily Cox (Year 13)



PTA Welcome Quiz

The PTA would like to send a huge thank you to everyone who helped to make the PTA Welcome Quiz a tremendous success. The evening raised the fantastic sum of £662 for the school, and a good night was had by all.

We look forward to welcoming as many as possible to the PTA's next event - the annual Murder Mystery on Friday 10 March at 7.30pm. Tickets on sale in the New Year.

