



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

AUTUMN TERM
DECEMBER 2020



LEARN TO ROW PROGRAMME

'OAR'some fun on the river

NORTHWEST FINALIST GOVERNOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

CAREERS EXPO

The Pledge Partnership

CELEBRATING CREATIVITY

Journey of discovery

INTERACTIVE LEARNING

Chocolate Glaciation

MY FIRST HALF TERM

High School Life by Year 7

SHARP NEW LOOK Unveiling new PE Kit

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK THE DIANA AWARD

SIXTH FORM LEADERSHIP Meet the Team

WASHING LINE MATHS Innovative Teaching

WRITING FOR PLEASURE Building a Community of Writers

THE POWER OF TEAM SPIRIT

THE QUEEN'S 'PARK' GAMBIT YEAR 7 CHESS TOURNAMENT

DIY
SANTA
DASH
Charity Festive
Fun Run



From 15th December 2020 our school telephone number will change to: 01244 257088

WELCOME



“As we all limp towards the end of 2020, I still can't quite believe what this year has thrown at us and the impact that Covid-19 has had on us all as individuals, families and across society as a whole. Within education, we have been challenged at every level but despite the complexities that we have faced, we have adapted and grown, shaping teaching and learning to meet the everchanging needs and doing our utmost to keep everyone safe.

The theme of this term's newsletter is *The Power of Team Spirit* and I feel very proud to lead a school community which in the face of the pandemic has shown resilience, determination, care, creativity, humour and above all teamwork since our return in September. We were thrilled to welcome students back to school following the first lockdown, schools are quite lonely places without the buzz and energy our young people bring! The school building, rules and teaching and learning have all been adapted to a new way of working and I certainly know that there have been lessons learned which will help us to shape provision in the future.

Whilst managing our school life and our 'bubbles', we have also had the added challenge of having a significant number of windows replaced around the school building – added ventilation some may say.....it has been a bit chilly but hopefully this will lead to a much warmer building after Christmas. A huge thank you to the team who have been working on this project, they have done a sterling job!

We have had a number of 'firsts' this term as we have embraced technology and gone 'virtual' for several key events, including our Open Evening, Futures Evening and most recently, our first Parent Consultation Evening. Thank you to all those parents and students who have engaged with us so positively and equally taken the time to provide really valuable feedback. We will continue to adapt provision after Christmas, so please do keep an eye out for any communications from us through Parentmail and Edulink as we flex our usual school calendar to ensure that events are fit for purpose and in-line with the most up to date public health guidance.

I hope you enjoy reading this bumper edition of the school newsletter. Although this term has been a fairly quiet one in terms of some of the extra-curricular activities that would normally be taking place each week, we have taken the opportunity this time to showcase our curriculum a little more than usual. We are in a fortunate position as a school to know that due to our provision of online learning throughout lockdown, our students are still very much on track with their learning, particularly those within the examination cohorts. Staff have been working incredibly hard this term to support students to 'catch up' and identify and address any gaps in learning. I would like to say a huge thank you to them for all their hard work, dedication and positivity this term – they have been superstars!

Finally I would just like to take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely festive break and fingers crossed, 2021 will be a better year for us all. ”

Miss Watterson, **HEADTEACHER**



CHESS CHAMPION

The Queen's 'Park' Gambit

Inspired by the hit Netflix show, 'The Queen's Gambit' and in response to the number of chess enthusiasts in Year 7, Mr Johnson has been running chess club every lunch time in the library space. Following on from the increasing number of masterminds playing the game, he decided to make things a bit more challenging and organised a knockout chess tournament.

Sixteen students entered the competition to see who could become the Queen's Park High School Grandmaster. During their lunch times over a course of three weeks, students played each other in a series of knockout rounds. The competition reached its conclusion in a tense final between Healy Smyth and Achilles Arhoniadis.

Congratulations to Healy whose sequence of strategic moves won him the final and he was crowned our chess champion. Well done to everyone who also took part in the event.



“ I didn't event think I'd make it to the quarter finals considering I only started playing chess two months ago with Jacob and Jack! ”

Healy Smyth, Year 7 Student





NORTHWEST FINALIST

Governor of the Year Award

We are so proud to announce that Queen's Park High School's former Chair of Governors, Kayte Parlevliet has just been named as a finalist for the 'Governor of the Year' award in the North West Educate Awards 2020.

“ Kayte has been an outstanding leader of our governing body for the past four years. Teamwork is Kayte's passion and undeniable strength. She has an understated ability to empower all members of her team to lead and support them to drive their plans forward: all of this delivered with incredible calmness and control.

Over the last year, Kayte has also devoted her skills to supporting our school rowing club, learning to row herself, becoming a coach and running training at 7am three times a week for her designated quad of girls. How she fits everything in, is beyond us! ”

Miss L Watterson, Headteacher

The Educate Awards is an annual ceremony that recognises and celebrates education and the teaching profession. Since launching in Liverpool in 2012, the event has grown rapidly and is now the largest education awards in the North West.

Co-founder of the Educate Awards, Kim O'Brien, said, *“It has been a really tough year for everyone and so we felt it was more important than ever to shine a spotlight on the heroes of the education sector and all the hard work that goes on in schools and colleges around the North West.”*

We are delighted for Kayte, who from hundreds of schools, academies and colleges around the region was shortlisted as one of two finalists in this brand new category for 2020. This new award honours the most committed and dedicated governor of a primary, secondary or specialist school who demonstrates a balance and diversity of knowledge, skills and experience, and goes above and beyond their voluntary role as a governor.

Miss L Watterson, Headteacher said, *“Kayte's greatest strength is her absolute commitment to young people and seeing them grow. She has phenomenal drive and is always pushing for excellence within the governing body and the wider school community. Throughout her four years as Chair of Governors, Kayte has supported the school in moving from an Ofsted grading of RI to Good. Not only is Kayte an exceptional governor, she has been my coach/mentor/friend/sounding board through some incredibly challenging times – the rock that you need when times are tough.”*

Kim added, *“The calibre of entries we received were incredibly strong – our judges will really have their work cut out when deciding on the winners!”*

The awards ceremony is provisionally planned to take place in Liverpool Cathedral on 29th January 2021.

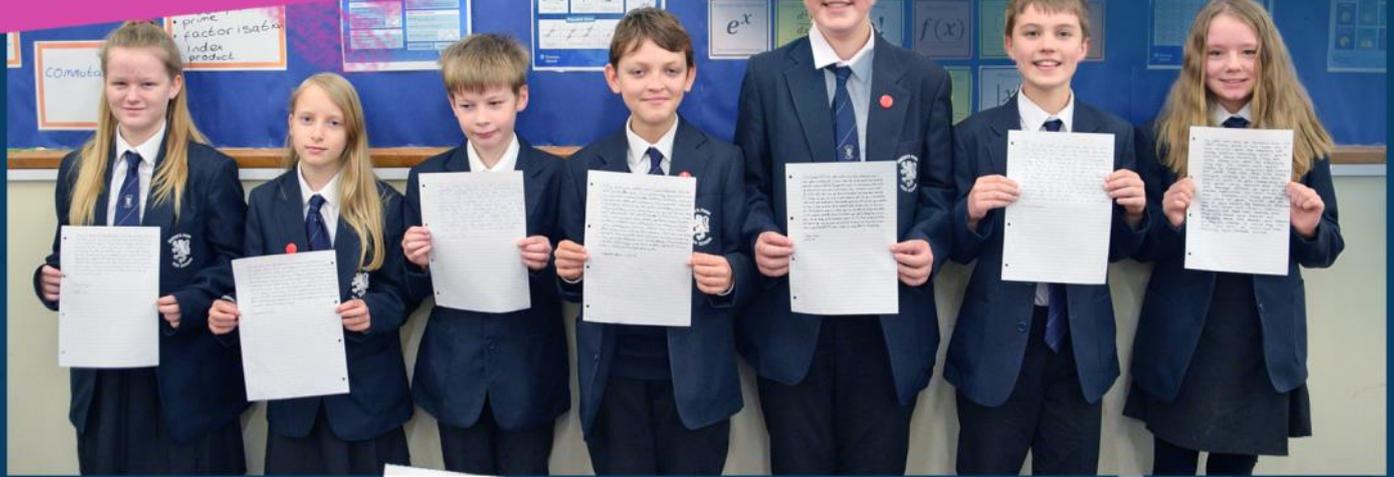
From all of us at Queen's Park High School, we wish Kayte the very best of luck.

To read the full nomination please visit our website: www.qphs.co.uk > [latest news](#)



MY 1ST HALF TERM

WONDERING HOW OUR NEW YEAR 7 STUDENTS HAVE SETTLED IN TO HIGH SCHOOL? HERE'S WHAT THEY THINK SO FAR...



LEXIE ROGERS
WTCUR

Since I started at Queens Park High it has been incredible I have met loads of new best friends: they are amazing! The days I love the most are Tuesday's and Friday's because Tuesday's we leave early at 2 o'clock to join in with exciting clubs from sports to cooking! On Friday's it is Hot Chocolate Friday where 2 people get nominated for hot chocolate and biscuits only if they have worked hard all week! My favourite subject is P.E because I get to see my friends and do physical activities and play around. But I also love lunch, my favourite food is pasta! I love my school. Despite I didn't want to come here at first but I love it and im so glad I came! I hope you want to come here too!

The first few weeks of highschool have exceeded my expectations to the highest. All the teachers and staff were so welcoming and delighted to show me around. Within the first day, I had made plenty of new friends and all the teachers were so friendly. I have many favourite lessons one of them being drama, because of its fun energy and exciting activities - even the assessment was fun! After the first week I knew my way around the whole school. One unique thing about this highschool is that the hot-choc Friday. Hot-choc Friday is when every week two people get picked from each form group to skip tiler and have hot chocolate! Mmm! Despite Covid 19 queens park highschool have continued to make my first year half term a significant experience and never ending memory!



AMY HUNT
WTCUR



SAM KENNY
WTCUR

Life in year seven has so far exceeded my expectations. The teachers have welcomed me and the subjects have been really fun and interesting. I have made lots of new friends. The lunches have been outstanding and there are many things you can do at break and lunch. My favourite subject has to be English as it helps me be more creative. In high school I have gotten lost many times but I have soon adapted. There are many things you look forward to @ QPHS from the competitors to the legendary hot choc Friday. Life in QPHS has been amazing so far.

MY 1ST HALF TERM



**OCTAVIEN BERRY
WTCUR**

My first few weeks here I have welcomed into the QPHS family, the food is amazing my favourite meal is macaroni cheese, the canteen is really good and has enough space for everyone! My favourite subjects are history because of the facts, geography because it's really interesting and science because you get to do really cool practicals. The sports center is really cool for gym, you can learn how to play football, rugby, cricket, hockey, netball and volleyball. The library is also really good because you can read or you can eat, but there is also ICT area in the library where you can play games on the computer. The Teachers are also amazing, my favourite teachers are Mr. Emptage, Miss Whitford-Stark, Miss Lutz and Mrs Sutton. Overall I have had a really good half term here.

Since joining QPHS the eight weeks have been really fun and I have settled in really well. I have made lots of new friends and found my favourite lessons quickly. My favourite lesson is music because there is lots of chances to make your own music. Also, sometimes if you book the music room, you can go down at lunchtime and play your instrument. On Fridays if you do well in your lessons you can get a hot chocolate with cream and marshmallows. Most people's favourite part of the day is lunchtime as there is lots of choice of the wonderful food all you have to do is use your thumb print to pay! In Drama you can do lots of acting and perform in the schools incredible shows. In Drama you don't always have to act, you can do stuff on the computers as well. In P.E there is lots of choice of sports you can do, you can even do rowing on the River Dee. I have had a great time at QPHS and I hope to carry that on through time.



**JULIAN BRUCE
WTCUR**

My first few weeks at high school have been really fun. When it was my first day here, I was a bit nervous about making friends but on the first 2 days I made a whole group of friends! It is really fun! My favourite lessons are I.C.T and geography. I really like this school because all the teachers are really nice. What is really nice is they have lots of different things to do such as clubs and more. They also have a thing called Hot Chocolate Friday where 2 people from your form will be chosen to get hot chocolate for being good. This school is very busy because not many schools have a rowing club but this school does where you can practice rowing on the River Dee and then go to competitions against other schools. At lunch, you can get food from the canteen which is so delicious or at snack you can buy stuff like pizza, biscuits and more. It's the best school around!



**TOBY MULHOLLAND
WTCUR**

My first half term at Queen's park has been really good. I have made lots of new friends and the teachers are really helpful, especially when you're worried about something. They are also really nice and do everything they can to make sure you're happy. My favourite subjects are probably ICT and food tech and I've really enjoyed cooking in food tech. After about a week, it gets really easy to find your way around but teachers are always around if you get lost. Overall, high school has been more fun than I expected, it's really good and even some of your friends are in all of your lessons. My favourite teachers are Mrs Tonon the music teacher, Mr Roberts the food tech teacher, Mrs Whitford-Stark who teaches us geography and Mrs Phillips who teaches us English. Overall I would say my first half term at QPHS has been amazing.



**KYLA BENNETT
WTCUR**

MEET THE TEAM



New Sixth Form Leadership Team

We are very proud to introduce our new student leadership team:

Head Students - Ioan Gwenter, Julia Neill & Hannah Williams

Deputy Head students - Ellen Bowley, Grace Stark & Niamh Hope

Charity Co-ordinator - Leah Ball,

Logistics Co-ordinator - Kyle Marks

Community Co-ordinator - Chloe Roberts

“ We are looking forward to this new academic year where we can represent the student voice. We recognise the legacy of previous school councils and believe we can embody their values and further enhance them. Our aim is to ensure that everyone feels safe and happy within our community despite the current circumstances. With this in mind, we are planning to return to school life with a positive outlook, using this as an opportunity to explore different ways to fundraise and maintain our relationship with the community in and outside of school. We have a strong and enthusiastic team of individuals who are excited to take on the important role of leading the student body. Together, with your input and support, we believe we can adapt to this new norm and continue to excel in all areas. ”

Head Students, Julia, Hannah & Ioan

CHESHIRE YOUTH COMMISSION

Fighting against online crime

In March 2019, Year 13 student, Chloe Roberts was one of ten young people in the country to be selected to join The Cheshire Youth Commission. This peer led project funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) aims to give young people a platform to be heard and bring about change in the services that impact young people living in Cheshire.

During National Hate Crime Awareness Week (10-17 October 2020) PCC David Keane in partnership with The Youth Commission launched a consultation to establish the level of online crime amongst young people in Cheshire as more than 50% of crimes reported to Cheshire Police are now cyber-related. The consultation involved 14-25 year olds completing an online survey to assess whether they had ever been a victim of online crimes such as hacking, grooming and trolling. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, young people have increased the amount of time they spend online, for work or to socialise which unfortunately has increased their risk of being subject to online crime.

We'd like to commend Chloe for her invaluable hard work and the contribution she's making to bring about positive change to the lives of young people in our community.

“ The Youth Commission do a fantastic job engaging directly with their peers so I look forward to seeing the results of this consultation and working with the Chief Constable and other key partners to ensure young people's views are considered when we make key decisions ”

David Keane, Police & Crime Commissioner





CHEMISTS IN THE MAKING

Sixth Formers fully charged for practical

Since returning to school full time in September, the Science department have really valued being able to have face-to-face lessons again, particularly with A-Level chemistry students. Year 13 students have been working hard throughout all lessons in preparation for their mock and external examinations while the new Year 12 students have seized the opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge in the subject.

Mr Jones, Curriculum Leader for Science stated that the best thing about being back in school was being able to complete practical work again. After studying the Electrochemistry module, Year 13 students were given the opportunity to make their own battery using ideas they had learnt in lessons - chemistry that happens in iPhones and modern laptops. All students were able to achieve a potential difference (voltage) and demonstrate skills which carry towards their practical accreditation for their A-Level.

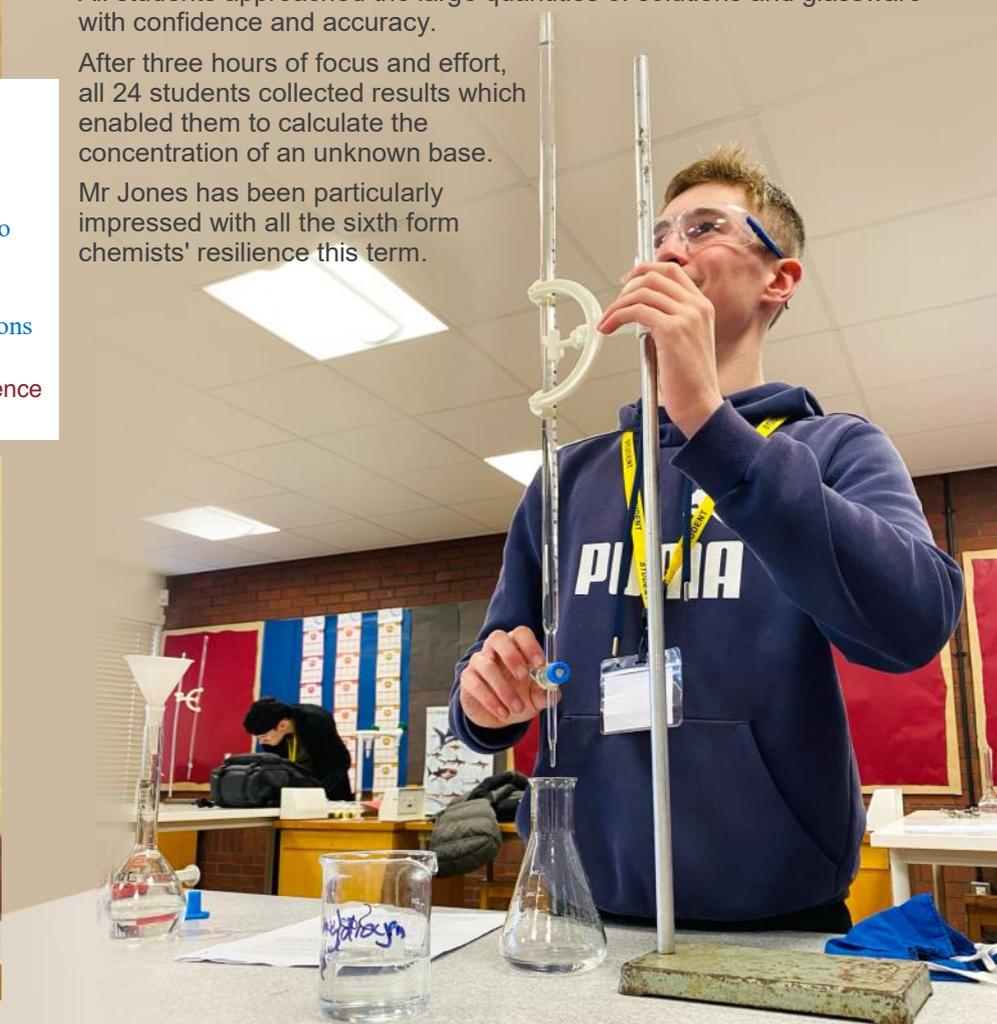
Year 12 students have spent several weeks preparing for their first required practical - the rite of passage for any A-Level chemist - the titration! All students approached the large quantities of solutions and glassware with confidence and accuracy.

After three hours of focus and effort, all 24 students collected results which enabled them to calculate the concentration of an unknown base.

Mr Jones has been particularly impressed with all the sixth form chemists' resilience this term.

“ Although Year 13 did not have the opportunity to complete experiments whilst school was closed during lockdown, this has not stopped them to continue to embrace the subject on a practical level. I have also never seen such a confident first attempt at titrations as I have in Year 12 ”

Mr Jones, Curriculum Leader for Science



INSTITUT FRANÇAIS

'Is Facebook for old people?'



On Tuesday 24 November, Year 12 students, Lydia Lewis and Rory Jones took part in a virtual French debating workshop held by the Institut Français du Royaume-Uni. Their online opponents were our neighbours, Chester International School! This discussion organised by Mrs Whitehouse, provided an ideal platform to prepare both students for the national competition - the Joutes Oratoires Lycéennes!

The French love a debate and our students had to argue both for and against issues before coming to a well thought-out conclusion. They had to convince with logical, statistical arguments and persuade with more emotional, anecdotal points. The notions discussed included, *Does reality TV make people stupid?* and *Is Facebook just for old people?*. Both Lydia and Rory came up with some fantastic arguments and were able to argue fluently, thinking on the spot to counter their opponents' dialogue.

Well done to both students! This unique experience will be a great addition on their UCAS forms!



MFL NEWS

The

Language Show



At the beginning of the month Miss Worthington and Mrs Skeoch were two of a further 52,000 language teachers from all over the world to take part in a weekend of virtual learning seminars, hosted by the 2020 Language Show and The British Council.

Whilst Mrs Skeoch took away stacks of ideas for online learning and GCSE catch up teaching, Miss Worthington picked up lots of inspiration from linguists sharing the latest methodologies and language classroom trends.

“ Not only did we both come away with countless new ideas and plans for the future of MFL at Queen's Park High School, we were encouraged to hear that lots of what was presented, is already taking place in our Spanish and French lessons on a daily basis. ”

Mrs Skeoch, Teacher of MFL



ENGLISH NEWS

Diverse Literature in the classroom

This year, The English department have introduced a new modern novel into the Year 9 curriculum: Nikesh Shukla's *The Boxer*. Shukla is perhaps best known for editing *The Good Immigrant*, a collection of 21 essays by black, Asian and minority ethnic writers. The collection explores ideas about race, immigration, identity and the experiences of minorities in the UK today - ideas which also permeate his remarkable YA novel. *The Boxer* is rooted in Shukla's own experiences. . .

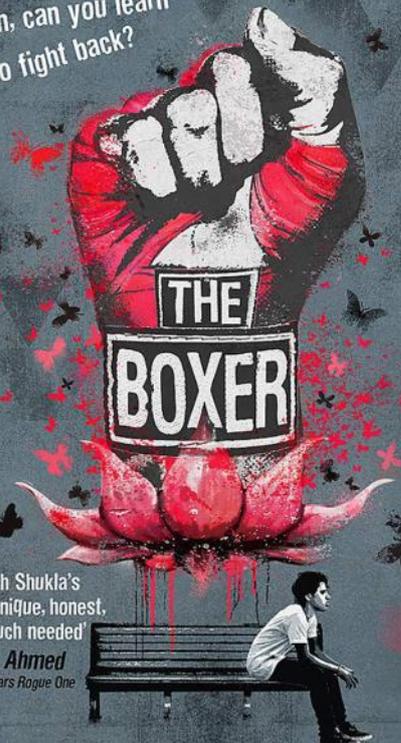
after being threatened by a group of drunk racists on a late night train home, Shukla took up boxing as a means of self-defence. His protagonist, Sunny, victim of a racist assault, follows the same path. He takes up boxing as a way to regain his confidence, and at the gym he finds the community he's been seeking, as well as a mentor in trainer Shobu.

Mrs Cogger was immediately gripped by Sunny's story, and knew that this was a text that would resonate and challenge the students, as they would need to engage with some hard-hitting topics, and discuss the realities of racism and prejudice in our society.

The curriculum was carefully planned, with clear guidelines in place for talking about these issues responsibly and sensitively. Oracy activities were placed at the heart of the unit, allowing frequent opportunities for discussion and questioning, so that all students were able to clarify their ideas before writing.

The Boxer has enabled some invaluable conversations, and led to some wonderful writing from our year 9s. It has also inspired frequent outbursts of every English teacher's favourite question, "do we get to read today?".

When life knocks you down, can you learn to fight back?



'Nikesh Shukla's voice is unique, honest, and much needed'
Riz Ahmed
Star Wars Rogue One

Nikesh Shukla



“ We are so proud of how our students have approached the text, discussing Sunny's experiences – as well as Shukla's reasons for writing the novel – with care and maturity. ”
Mrs Cogger, Teacher of English

NEW EAL LEAD

Welcome to Mrs Ikpeh



Mrs Ikpeh joined the English department at Queen's Park High School in November of this year. She is really enjoying getting to know all the students in her English and RE classes and has been building strong learning relationships with them all.

Mrs Ikpeh has also taken the lead on the EAL (English as an additional language) support for both our Greek-speaking and Arabic-speaking students and is finding it an incredible experience, learning about how the diverse cultures and ethnicities interact to shape our world views.

“ All in all, my students are doing incredibly well, despite the challenges that 2020 has thrown at them. I am so proud of the progress they have made in such a short time. Thank you to all staff, students and parents for all the support and for giving me the warmest of welcomes. ”

Mrs Ikpeh, Teacher of English



WASHING LINE MATHS

Algebra can be fun!

Mr Johnson has been trying some new strategies for teaching maths with his Year 10 class this term.

'Washing line' maths involves teams of students having to find the answers to various maths questions, suspended from a rope; highly challenging when there are so many answers to choose from and the clock is against you!

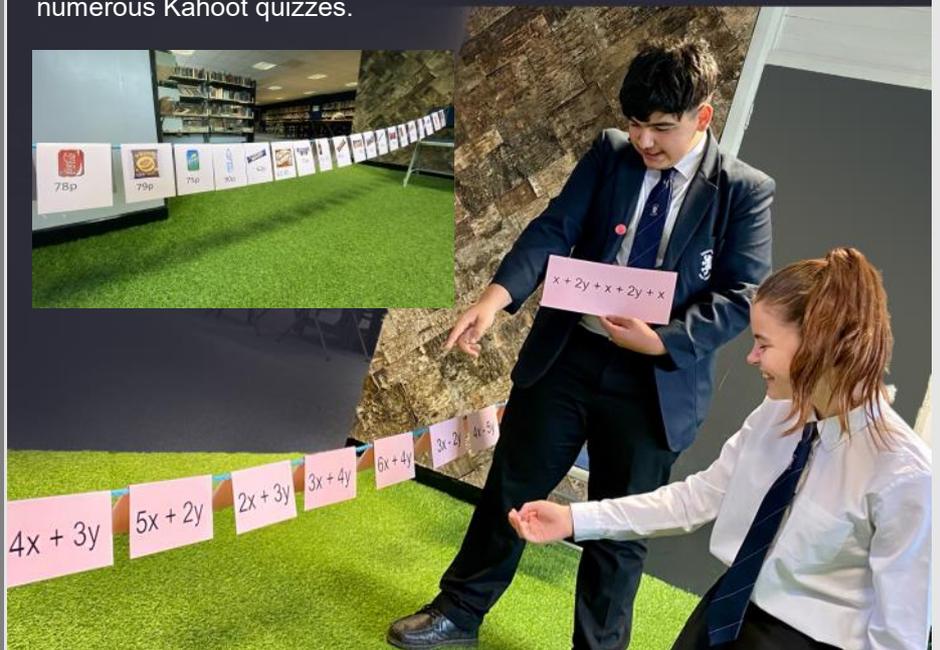
An early challenge involved the first team having to grab as many prime numbers from the line as possible, before the next team had to find all the square numbers.

More recently the class have been working on algebra, having to match up simplified expressions, find equations that match a particular solution and expand single brackets!

The most popular activity to practise mental arithmetic involved a huge selection of images and prices of sweets, crisps and drinks suspended from the line with students given a certain amount of pocket money that they had 2 minutes to spend. The student who got closest to their total without over spending was the winner.

Students have also been engaged by the online quiz app, Kahoot both in lessons and for homework.

Mr Johnson is a Verified Kahoot Educator and has been challenging students to test their knowledge on the different topics they've been working on and practise the skills they have been learning through numerous Kahoot quizzes.





“ They’re a great bunch destined for great things! ”
 Mr Howens,
 Teacher of History

CONFLICT & TENSION

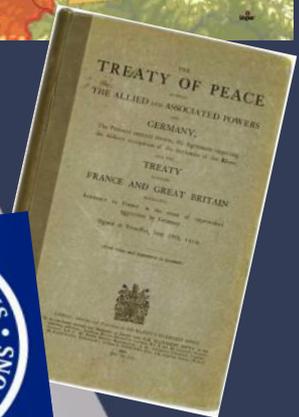
Captivates minds of GCSE history students

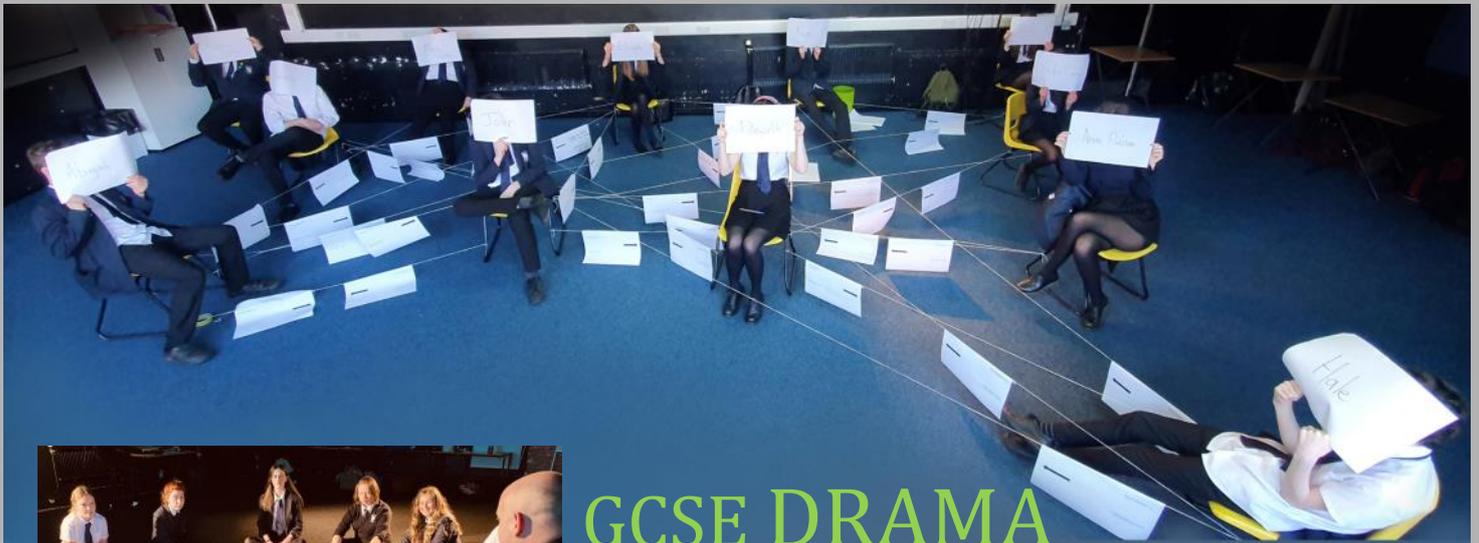
So, a new academic year and the third and final GCSE history topic to tackle, namely, *Conflict and Tension, the inter-war years 1918-1939*.

Historically this topic has always captured the imagination of students and the level of engagement both in study and group participation is exceptional. Despite the events that led up to the first truly global conflict of World War II beginning over 100 years ago, the degree of intrigue and interest into the events that re-shaped much of the world such as the fall out of the Treaty of Versailles following WWI, the creation and ultimate failure of the League of Nations and how a series of events around the globe such as the Great Depression and the invasions of Manchuria and Abyssinia shaped the rise of fascism, communism and ultimately the German Nazi party, is remarkable!

The events that literally set the world on course for a war that should, had the League of Nations been what it had been created to be, have been avoided, fires the imagination of young enquiring minds more so than ever before and Mr Howen’s GCSE classes have been no exception.

The degree of mature thought behind question and debate has yet again demonstrated what an exceptional bunch of historians we have here at Queen’s Park High School and bodes well for GCSE success.





GCSE DRAMA

Character Interconnectivity

Developing exam practice technique has been a feature of Year 11 GCSE Drama lessons of late, but linked to this is the development of a core understanding of the relationships between the characters in the course's core text, *The Crucible*.

Using string, chairs and paper, students quickly created an intricate web aimed at practically exploring the interconnectivity of the relationships between the characters in the play. This served to be a great revision lesson and will certainly help spur our GCSE Drama students on to success in both their mock and real exams next year.

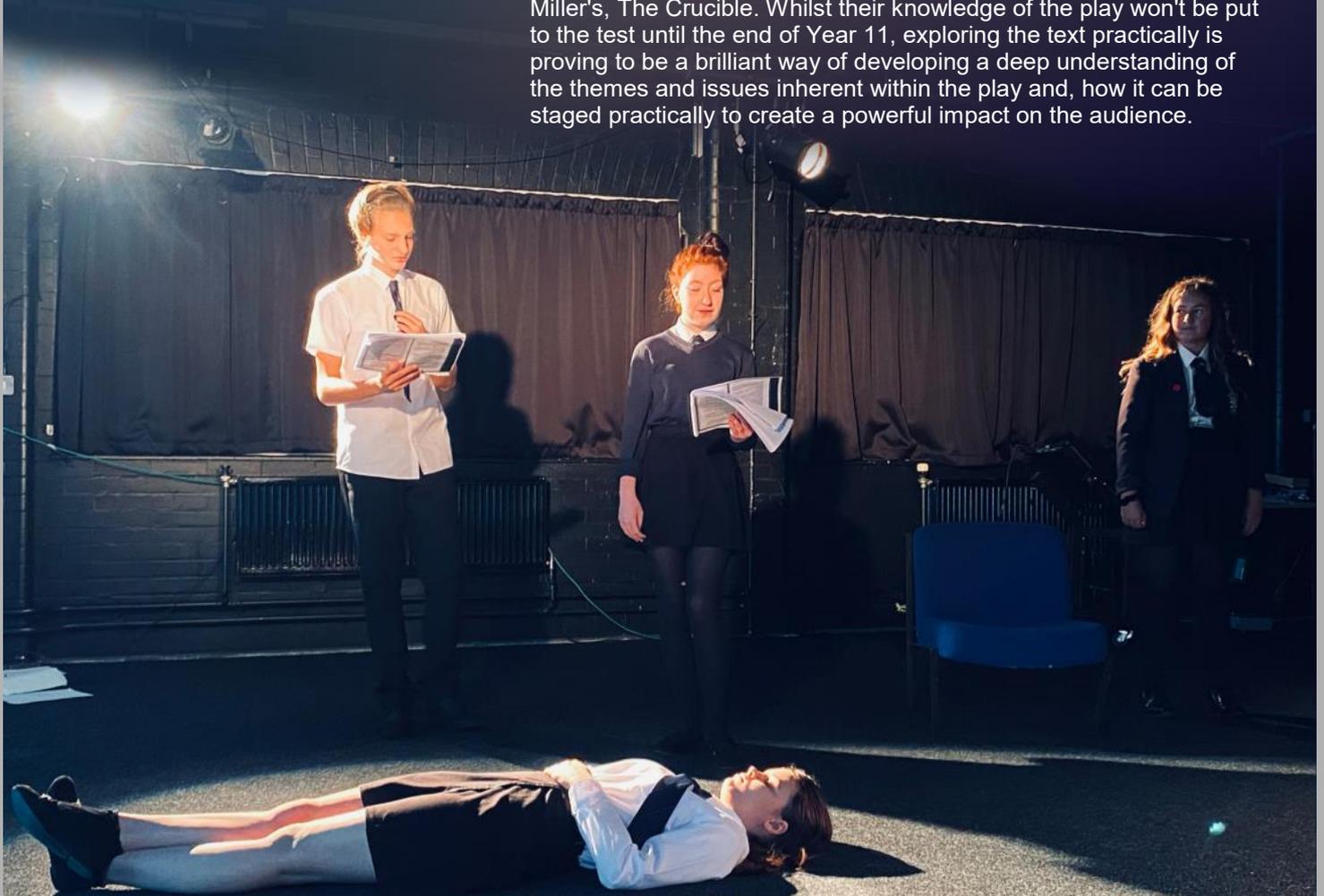
Digitally staged production

Students in the Year 10 GCSE Drama class have been working hard to learn their lines for a digitally staged production of Arthur Miller's, *The Crucible*. Whilst their knowledge of the play won't be put to the test until the end of Year 11, exploring the text practically is proving to be a brilliant way of developing a deep understanding of the themes and issues inherent within the play and, how it can be staged practically to create a powerful impact on the audience.



“ I am very impressed with the way the class are tackling the enormity of the task of learning the lines for this play. They are true professionals and a fantastic group of students to work with in a creative and practical way. ”

Mr Yeoman, Assistant Headteacher/Teacher of Drama



CELEBRATING Creativity

Observational Plant Paintings

Year 12 art & design students have been on a journey of discovery during the past term, exploring new skills, new materials and responses to a wide range of artists in both two and three dimensions.

Currently they are studying the work of Lucian Freud and his closely observed plant paintings. Students responded and set up their own still life composition with a mixture of plants to develop their recording and looking skills. Enhanced by the use of dramatic lighting, their aim has been to focus on shape, tone, textures, scale, proportion and space.

Blind continuous drawings set the tone and allowed students the freedom to look and record their drawings without being able to see what they were drawing. This really honed their observational skills which has now progressed to not just looking, but seeing. This is an important element in their progression to create individual responses. Once they've developed their painting skills, students are nearing the completion of their observational studies.



MANDALA DESIGNS

Grace's perfect patterns

Congratulations to Grace Fields in Year 8 who has really impressed Mr Parker with her varied responses to the pattern project during this first term.

Grace has been exploring ideas about rotational patterns, Mandalas, printmaking and is currently studying the very different qualities of clay.

Grace has showcased outstanding work both within lessons and work completed at home.

Well done Grace, keep up the great work.



YEAR 10 ASSIGNMENT

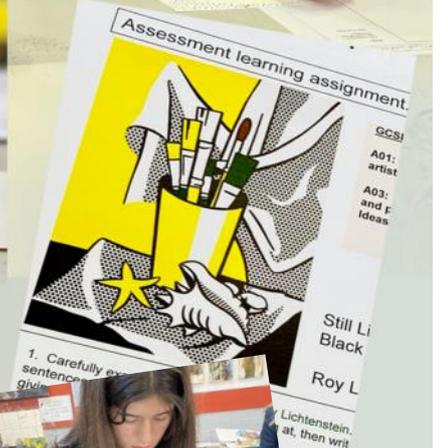
'Still Life in Black & Yellow'

Year 10 art and design students have been working on an identity project where they have explored a range of themes and responses from Lisa Milroy's shoe paintings to Jim Dine's jacket drawings.

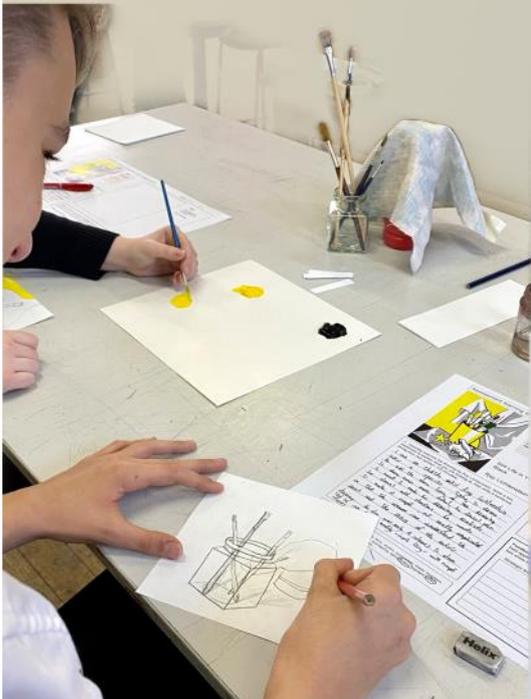
Students have been practising the skill of observing and recording from both primary and secondary resource material to inspire their own ideas based on the artists' work.

Currently Year 10 are focussed on their Assessment Learning Assignment, producing a written analysis of Roy Lichtenstein's, *Still Life in Black and Yellow*. This has led to their own visual response to observe their own still life objects set out in front of them.

Using pencil to sketch out their composition, students will then progress their work using simplified block painting techniques. They will have the opportunity to extend their work further by selecting and responding to the visual art & design department's strategic teacher feedback options.



“ All students have shown wonderful dedicated focus throughout the assessment and evidenced all of the creative learning that has taken place over the past term. ”
Mr Parker, Curriculum Leader for art & design



INTERACTIVE LEARNING

Chocolate Glaciation



As part of their learning Year 11 students have been using chocolate bars to explain the formation of glacial landforms through the process of deposition.

Students took part in an interactive lesson which broke down the different concepts of glaciation using the infamous Aldi Titan bar (other brands are available) and as an added bonus, got to eat their chocolate glaciers after their lesson!

Students will use this knowledge in their Summer examination on the challenges of the natural environment.

GEOGRAPHY

Year 13 Fieldwork

Year 13 geography students have been collecting local data to support their understanding and data collection methods which they will use for their independent investigation.

For their first data collection, students took two different elements, a studentification survey of Chester's garden quarter concentrating on environmental quality surveys and photographic evidence, followed by a focus on globalisation within Chester city centre. Students completed a clone town survey and a land use survey of Eastgate Street, to prove or disprove that globalisation has taken place within Chester.

The second of the two data collection days focused on the physical geography elements of the A-Level geography course. Students studied the rate of infiltration along the River Dee to assess the impacts of human activity on natural systems. Year 13 student, Angus Hutcheson also took the opportunity to collect his own data for his investigation into the impacts of population density in the natural environment.





JOURNEY TO ATHENS

Motivating staff fitness & wellbeing

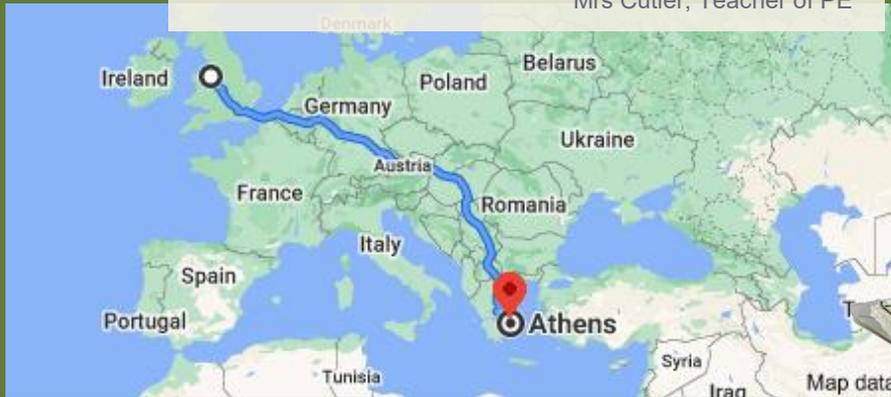
When you speak to most of the teaching staff at Queen's Park High School, the main challenge of Lockdown #1 was not how to engage students in home learning or even overcoming the technical difficulties on how to teach on Microsoft Teams, it was how to keep ourselves mentally healthy when everything that you had enjoyed doing was now temporarily vetoed!

Fortunately the beautiful weather and the gained time at home encouraged many to engage in exercise. Returning to school in September then added an additional challenge, how to maintain the level of exercise given the reduction of time (and light once British Summer Time ended!) As a motivator from the PE department, Mrs Cutler came up with a challenge. . . 'The Journey to Athens'. The plan being to run/walk to Athens by Christmas, a total of 2185 miles!

Staff have been tracking their mileage on a weekly basis and logging their distance on the team spreadsheet. More recently the pace has picked up once the runners realised at the halfway point they still had more than half the distance still to cover! Staff have been running after school and at the weekends and dogs have never been walked so much!

“ It has been a great motivator to keep staff moving and exercising, especially as gyms closed for a second time. What has been even more pleasing, being a PE teacher, is that staff who have never run before are getting out and about and doing their bit. Everyone has struggled at points in lockdown, but it's true what they say; exercise is great for the mind. ”

Mrs Cutler, Teacher of PE



GIFTS OF KINDESS

Care in the community



Our students have been spreading some Christmas cheer this week with little acts of kindness for members of our local community.

Year 12 students have been participating in 'Christmas cards of kindness'. This project aims to lift the spirits of elderly people living in care homes across the UK who might be feeling lonely during the festive season. Students have been writing personal messages in Christmas cards which will then be posted out to Abbeyfield House and Queens Park House in Handbridge, which the school has built a strong relationship with over the last couple of years. Unfortunately due to the current restrictions we are unable to invite the residents to a mince pie and carol concert event as last year, so we thought we would send our best wishes in a Christmas card of kindness.

Meanwhile our little Year 7 and Year 8 elves have been busy adding a touch of sparkle to the lives of the local Handbridge residents by decorating personalised stars for a community project set up by The Reverend Dr R P Whaite, Rector of St Marys Church and the Handbridge Community Association. We hope these bespoke pieces of artwork will cheer our residents up after what has been a very challenging year for everyone.



WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY



RAISING AWARENESS

Year 12 student shares his experiences

World Mental Health Day 2020 was held on Saturday 10th October. Some may say this has to be one of the most important yet. To raise awareness about mental health and show students how they themselves could deal with their own issues, or help others who are struggling, Year 12 student, Tyler Gordon created a short video in partnership with fellow sixth form student and mental health ambassador, Ioan Gwenter. This was presented to all students during tutor time. To watch the video please visit our [website](#)

“Mental health is an extremely prevalent issue in today’s society, and is probably the most dismissed. The ongoing pandemic situation has caused substantial change to the way we live our lives, and has undoubtedly had a detrimental effect on people’s mental health around the globe. As a teenager, the drastic changes have caused extreme levels of stress and anxiety, which has led to various occasions where my mental health has become an issue.

After interviewing Dr Vicky Eames, a clinical psychologist at Riverbank Psychology, I was able to collate professional advice from a certified psychologist - which I could then pass on to others.

Essentially, the most important things to do when dealing with emotional issues are:

- Talk to someone who you have a strong relationship with (whether that be a teacher/peer/parent/guardian)
- Get some exercise
- Get yourself outdoors and enjoy the nature
- Give yourself time to relax, watch a fun movie for example
- Identify and remove the source of your problems, as quickly as possible
- Put things into perspective, is it the end of the world?

When helping someone else who is struggling:

- make sure you listen to them, make them the subject of the conversation
- Say something positive, it can brighten someone’s day
- If you are really concerned, don’t feel afraid to get more help
- Spend some time with them, and involve them in activities

Helping others is our upmost priority, and we will do anything we can do to improve students’ experience throughout their time here at Queen’s Park High School. During rough times like this, it is crucial we work together. ”



Written by Tyler Gordon, Year 12 Student

Tyler Gordon
Year 12 Student at QPHS



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to someone face-to-face.”

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Digital Mental Health Care

On 26 November, we were delighted to welcome Sheri from the Kooth team into school to launch a fantastic new mental health and wellbeing service to all our students during their virtual assembly.

Kooth is an anonymous, free and safe online support service offering emotional and mental health support for young people aged between 11–24 years and is available up to 10pm every day.

This digital mental wellbeing community has been funded through the local authority and is accessible for all students to use.

www.kooth.com

UNITED AGAINST BULLYING

#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2020

16th – 20th November

ODD SOCKS DAY



Anti-Bullying Week

As part of this year's anti-bullying week (16-20th November), Miss Hunter and two of our anti-bullying ambassadors delivered a whole school virtual assembly which was broadcast around the building.

Anti-bullying week is launched each year by the Anti-Bullying Alliance and is supported by The Diana Award. It also falls in line with the school's 'Respect for All' policy. This year's theme tackled the issue of face to face bullying and bullying that takes place online.

Our anti-bullying ambassadors were represented by Year 10 students Hannah Jones and Kaitlin Pryce who spoke about their role in school - to be a friendly face that students can go to if they feel they are being bullied. The girls are hoping to help our year 7s settle in to school and feel like they have positive role models close by to offer a helping hand.

Miss Hunter left all students with a plea: to carry out an act of kindness to someone else in the school community. Whether it be to lend a listening ear, raise the spirits of those feeling down or to simply give a compliment and a smile to someone because you can! Through shared efforts and shared ambitions we can all make a difference.



“Here at Queen’s Park High School, we are known for having a friendly and nurturing environment. Together, we can stand up to bullying by telling an adult or anti-bullying ambassador. Let’s all aim to be kinder and look out for the VIP (verbal, indirect and physical) that could make you the VIP (very important person) for helping keep our peers and ourselves feel safe.”

Miss Hunter, Assistant KS3 Lead /Teacher of English

To coincide with Anti-bullying week our Sixth Form Leadership Team organised for the whole school to take part in 'Odd Socks Day', encouraging all students and staff to wear odd socks to school. The day sends an important message that we should all be allowed to express ourselves, our individuality and our uniqueness, free from bullying and helps us celebrate Anti-Bullying Week in a fun and positive way.



2020

DIY SANTA DASH



HOSPICE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Queen's Park High School supports two great local charities with their own DIY Chester Santa Dash



Santa convoy on fundraising festive fun run

A fleet of Queen's Park High School Santas raced through the streets of Chester for their own DIY Charity Santa Dash and raised over £1500 for two local charities.

Due to the current pandemic restrictions this year's 10th Santa Dash organised by The Hospice of the Good Shepherd and Blue Skies Balcony Appeal at the Countess of Chester Hospital, is taking place throughout December in a very different format. This didn't deter our Queen's Park High School 'dashers' though, and the school hastily organised their own festive fun run to raise money for the two great charities.

On Friday 4th December, a socially distanced convoy of 30 Queen's Park High School staff and sixth-form students dressed as Santas, raced through the streets of Chester around a 5km course starting and finishing at the school. Although it was a wet and dreary afternoon, that didn't dampen the spirits of our Santa Dashers who endured the elements and pushed through their pain barriers to reach the finish line.

The fun run culminated with a glass of non-alcoholic mulled wine and mince pie for the bedraggled Santas that completed the race.



“ To have 30 members of staff and students dashing on a very cold, wet and gloomy day is a true testament to the brilliant support the school has offered both the Hospital and the Hospice over the years! We are truly grateful for their energy, enthusiasm and commitment. ”

Kathy Kenny, Community & Event Fundraiser at Countess of Chester





Mr Johnson and his team set up a money giving page with a target of £500 to reach for the two charities and the school are unbelievably proud to say after all our Santas completed the gruelling run they smashed their goal and clocked up an amazing £967.50 in sponsorship. This added to the £600 our 'dashers' paid in brings a whopping grand total of £1567.50 for the two charities!

We'd like to thank all those that donated to this wonderful cause and to all the marshals and supporters who braved the conditions and made this festive event such a success. Thanks also to Morrisons who kindly supplied the mince pies and mulled wine.

Although it was just for fun, we do have to give a shout out to the fastest sixth-formers, Kyle Marks (23m 20s) and Eirinn McGuire (25m 25s), and the fastest members of staff, Mr Emptage and Mr Taylor both on 21m 15s with Mrs Whitehouse on 27m 10s.

If you still feeling like spreading some Christmas cheer, please visit our Money Giving page at: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/QPHSSantaDash> or to do your own challenge, register here: www.chestersantadash.com

“ I am amazed at how much we achieved in such a short time, both in terms of how many Santas participated and the money raised. For some this was their first 5km race and to be honest, the weather was horrid. Well done everyone who ran and supported. ”

Mr Johnson, QPHS event organiser

“ I feel very proud of the Queen's Park team, such great community spirit shown by all, whether 'dashing' or supporting behind the scenes. After what has been an incredibly challenging term for us all, it was great for our students and staff to be able to join forces, have some fun and raise money for such a worthwhile cause! ”

Miss Lyndsay Watterson, Headteacher & Dasher





CEIG

Careers Education, Information and Guidance (CEIG) is the acronym used to describe the support provided to students that informs them of their options going forward. This could be the transition to the next phase of education (options at GCSE for example), decisions about post-16 education/training or indeed the choices available at higher education, further education, apprenticeships or employment at the end of post-18 study.

A new careers hub has been created in the library learning centre where students can find information about careers, university courses and apprenticeships. A blog can also be found on our school website detailing current information about apprenticeship opportunities and open days.

More information can be found at: www.qphs.co.uk under [students > careers & guidance > apprenticeships, career opportunities & events](#)

Extensive information about our CEIAG provision including Labour Market Information, Work Experience, START in Cheshire & Warrington and The Pledge Partnership can be found on the Queen's Park High School website under the [students > careers & guidance](#) section.

CAREERS ADVISOR

Meet Jane Conlon



Jane Conlon is a level 6 trained independent careers adviser who works with us at Queen's Park High School. She provides independent careers advice through individual appointments with students in years 11 and 12 as they make their career planning decisions.

Individual action plans are made available to students and are emailed home via parent mail to inform decision making.

PSHCE

Fostering students' personal development

Personal, Social, Health, Economic, Citizenship Education forms a statutory part of our curriculum at Queen's Park High School. Taught on a rolling programme of one hour per fortnight, students are taught a series of lessons which fall under the three broad headings of:

- Physical Health & Mental Wellbeing
- Living in the Wider World and Relationships
- Sex Education (RSE)

Our aim is to foster students personal development so that they are equipped with the knowledge and skills required for life in modern Britain.

More information can be found on our school website under [Curriculum > PSHE & Citizenship](#) where the curriculum map can be viewed, useful resources can be found to support students and parents including The PSHE Centre; a one stop shop of PSHE resources.

During the Autumn Term all students are focusing on the Physical Health & Mental Wellbeing unit.





PIONEERING CAREERS EXPO

The Pledge Partnership

Queen's Park High School took part in the first Chester and Ellesmere Port Virtual Careers & Education EXPO organised by The Pledge Partnership for Cheshire & Warrington on Thursday 15th October.

This event was hosted on 'Learn Live', an online platform. Students in Year 12 watched a series of videos and took part in the Live Chat function which was moderated allowing them to ask questions safely and directly to employers and education providers during the live event. Students in Year 9,10,11 & 13 were encouraged to access the event 'on demand' in their own time. The purpose was to enable students to explore ideas about what subjects to study, careers to pursue, build networks with businesses and understand educational pathways and opportunities. For more information on this event please visit: <https://learnliveuk.com/ellesmere-port-and-chester-pledge-expo/>

For more information about Careers Education, please email: a.watts@qphs.co.uk If you are an employer and are interested in finding out more about The Pledge, please email roderick.hamilton@871candwep.co.uk





FUTURES' EVENT

Special guest speaker

On Wednesday 18th November, we were delighted to premier our Futures' Evening digital event for Year 11 students and their families on the school's YouTube channel.

The event explored the pathways open to Year 11 students and also focused on the support and strategies available to them to ensure they are successful in their examinations and beyond.

During the evening a series of short video presentations from members of staff provided students with guidance on the best way of preparing for their up-coming GCSEs in terms of organisation and revision, pastoral support for students and the different pathways available post GCSE, including continuing to study at Queen's Park High School Sixth Form.

To wish Year 11 and 13 students well in their forthcoming mock exams, Mr Yeoman arranged a special message which was delivered during tutor time. Students got a big surprise when MP for Chester, Chris Matheson appeared with a personal motivational video message for them that he'd filmed from the Houses of Parliament in front of the Treasury Minister - WOW!



MUSIC WORKSHOP

Aspiring singers & songwriters

On Thursday 3rd December, 25 Year 9 students were invited to participate in a workshop organised by The University of Chester to celebrate live music.

The workshop was hosted by Catrin Jones and Stefania Rillievo, two professional singers who have performed all over the UK and Italy. They were eager to deliver a workshop to promote the use of the voice and to incorporate this with a live band.

All students 'exceeded expectations' and their attainment and behaviour was a credit to the school.

By the end of the session, students performed their own original songs based on the same chord progressions, to each other for peer-assessment.

As a result, there was a whole range of genres including Jazz, Blues, Pop, Rock and acoustic!

The compositional skills learnt will help students prepare for GCSE music.

Well done to all involved!



virtual OPEN EVENING

We've gone digital!

Queen's Park High School's Open Evening is usually one of the biggest and well attended school events of the year, but this year we had to move with the times and get techno savvy. As Covid and government restrictions prevented us from opening our doors and welcoming visitors in person, we decided to host our first ever 'Virtual' Open Evening for Year 5 and 6 children and their families and brought the event 'remotely' to their homes instead!

This unique school event was a huge team effort in which students and staff stepped out of their comfort zones and into the lime light to talk in front of the camera about what life and learning is like in Year 7 at Queen's Park High School. During the course of the evening families were able to tune in and watch subject videos to find out more about the school, experience high school life during a normal working day and see the wealth of opportunities that lie ahead for children when they join our school community.

To launch the event, Headteacher, Miss Lyndsay Watterson and Senior Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Scanlon live streamed their presentation about the transition process to families who were able to listen and have any questions answered at the end of the talk.

Those keen for a challenge tested their knowledge about our school from the subject videos in our online quiz. In addition, all our online audience were given free entry into a prize draw to win a £50 Restaurant Choice gift card and runner up prizes!

Since this event, Miss Morris has been presenting (at a social distance) the lucky winners with their prizes at each of their primary schools including Belgrave, Chester Blue Coat, Eccleston, Grosvenor Park Academy, Overleigh St Mary's and St Martin's Academy.

Congratulations to the winners and runners up, in particular Elliot Kenny, Year 6 at Chester Blue Coat who was the overall prize draw winner and Lily Brown, Year 6 at Belgrave who won first prize in the quiz. We hope you enjoyed spending your prize!





WHAT'S COOKING?

These bakers won't be beaten!

Even though the pandemic has made it a challenge to manage the food technology space this term, our GCSE and KS3 students have still had opportunities to learn new skills and techniques to excel in baking.

Year 7 and 8 have been exploring how to make dough and successfully baked rock cakes, whilst Year 9 have been learning the importance of healthy eating and making some staple family favourites such as tuna pasta bake.

Year 10 have been experimenting with raising agents and studying the science behind bread. They were then set the challenge to create an appetiser that incorporated bread and the results were in Mr Roberts' words. . . *'interesting!'*

Over the next couple of weeks, Key Stage 3 will be getting into the festive spirit as they bake some mouth-watering cinnamon and ginger Christmas biscuits and discover more about the spice trade, whilst Year 10 will be attempting a homemade gingerbread house!

#GBBO get ready for your next contestants!





BRAND NEW LOOK

Unveiling the new PE uniform

The physical education department proudly unveiled the new student and staff uniform at the start of this academic year. School sports clothing has advanced considerably in recent years and as such, it is time for us to give our students a PE kit they can be proud of; one that is modern, professional, and fit for purpose.

After a thorough and comprehensive discussion period involving students, teachers, governors, and parents/carers, we have been able to provide a high-quality and performance sports kit. This clothing will allow students to feel comfortable and confident when participating in PE; whether that be in lessons, in extra-curricular activities or representing the school in clubs and teams in competitions.

The 1/4 zip long sleeve training top is a new addition to our kit range, which we believe adds a smartness to the uniform and an added layer of insulation for the colder months.

We are also very mindful of the need to offer good value for money and provide a kit that is not only professional, hardwearing and comfortable, but also cost-effective and affordable. The new kit will be supplied through our existing local supplier, Uniformity Clothing in Handbridge, who have worked with us to select the best value, high quality kit.

Don't they look smart!

“ Students and staff feel proud to represent Queen’s Park High School by wearing the new PE kit. We hope this advancement will continue to inspire our next generation of sports people. ”

Mr Taylor,
Curriculum Team Leader PPA





“ Teaching them hockey has been the highlight of my year so far. I'm hoping that when we move on to other new sports the girls demonstrate the same enthusiasm and determination. ”

Mrs Cutler, Teacher of PE

NEW SEASON, NEW SPORTS

Block, dribble, scoop, pass

Year 7 girls have been working hard since September in a number of new sports they'd not had the opportunity to experience before.

This term the girls have been learning the rules and techniques to play hockey, much to the delight of PE teacher Mrs Cutler. As a former hockey player herself, she said it has been a real treat to see the students pick up the skills of her favourite game so quickly. She has found it really rewarding watching them learn to take control of the ball whilst dribbling past defenders and passing accurately to team mates.

This unit of work has culminated in some small sided games which, of course, were as competitive as ever.

The groups have since moved on to table tennis, another first for the majority of students!

Assessment grades in both activities reflect the commitment and hard work demonstrated by the girls in all lessons.

What a great start to the year - well done girls!



ROWING IS BACK...



... with a COVID-19 flavour

“ It sounds quite daunting, but is just the new way of being able to row. ”

Kayte Parlevliet, Rowing Coach

Like everyone around the globe Queen's Park High School Rowing Club has had to make some adjustments to how it runs its outings and extra-curricular clubs following COVID-19.

The first lockdown forced them to shut their doors for over four months, and they had to work through different ways to keep together as a club. They ran online training sessions which included, ergo competitions and mental wellbeing check-ins for the rowers, coaches and support staff.

The start of the school year saw the club return to rowing with new protocols in place to ensure they were minimising the team's exposure, whilst working to get rowers back training on the water.

The standard, should you be down at the clubhouse is, only 12 people on-site at the one time, masks are compulsory, coxes have to wear face visors and all equipment is disinfected after each outing.

Currently there are no dates for competitions, however the crews are all enjoying being back out on the river, even though it is rather chilly!

Look out for rowers cross training, they aren't always on the river!

When conditions aren't favourable for rowing and there's no access to indoor training, the Rowing Club have been getting a little more creative with their training!

The crews have been out on their bicycles getting some team building, leg work and cardio in whilst cycling distances of over 40km!

Where there's a will, there's a way!



NEW CLUB CAPTAIN

Year 12 student works way up ranks

We are thrilled to introduce our new Queen's Park High School Rowing Club captain, Year 12 student Kiara Parlevliet. Kiara is a proactive and positive role model who has demonstrated her commitment to the club and its success since she joined in Year 7.

Kiara is often seen mentoring the J15s and during lockdown she was involved with training younger rowers 'remotely' by planning their riding routes for cross-training and even joined in herself, to keep them motivated!

She is a determined, dedicated and reliable member of the team who will offer continuous support, leadership and guidance for the rest of the crews. Her focus will be on continuing to improve the club and the successful outcomes of the rowers by ensuring all training sessions are optimised, by listening to feedback and by being present at all practices and club competitions.

She is really looking forward to working with both the coaches and student rowers and keen to share her passion for rowing with those coming up the ranks.

Congratulations Kiara!



“ I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to give back to the club. ”

Kiara Parlevliet, Club Captain



NEW COXED QUAD

New boat on the river

We look back fondly to September 2019 when Queen's Park High School Rowing Club ran their inaugural 100 mile Rowathon to raise funds for their new coxed quad.

In September, the club finally got to row in the new boat and now it can be seen regularly taking the Year 10 boys quad crew up and down the river.

Next time you're walking on the meadows, see if you can spot them!





LEARN TO ROW

'Oar'some fun on the river

Queen's Park High School Rowing Club is one of only four state school rowing clubs in the country.

During the October Half Term break, the Club were thrilled to relaunch their 'Learn to Row' Programme on the River Dee, offering an exclusive and exciting opportunity for Queen's Park High School students.

With most rowing activities being put on hold during this rather strange year, the club had not had their usual recruitment of new rowers from the lower year groups. After months of being shut down during lockdown, the club has tirelessly rolled out extensive COVID-19 safe practices and were able to reopen in September.

The 'Learn to Row' programme is a fairly new initiative set up by Kayte Parlevliet, Rowing Club Coach, Trustee and School Governor, who has just recently been named as a finalist for 'Governor of the Year' in the North West Educate Awards! The five day crash course provides an introduction to rowing for younger students, with an option to join the rowing club on completion.

This year's event received an overwhelming response from families and even though numbers were limited, the club managed to accommodate far more than intended with over 30 Year 8 students and a handful of Year 7 siblings from the rowing club selected to take part.

The intensive course covered everything from terminology, skills and techniques, health and safety to actually rowing in a coxed octuple on the River Dee!

Students began learning the rowing sequence on an ergo (indoor rowing machine) before progressing to a play boat on the river, coxed quad and finally the coxed octuple.

We would like to thank all eight volunteer coaches and rowers who gave up their time to mentor and support their new younger members and without which this event would not have been possible. The programme has pushed students to the next level and inspired them to pursue their passion for rowing.

“ We hoped this initiative would offer a glimmer of hope for the children, providing them with much needed time outside exercising whilst building up their skills across the sport of rowing.”

Kayte Parlevliet, Rowing Coach



“ The experience was super fun. The best bit was the rowing machines. I managed to do 2000 metres in 11mins 26secs! The most challenging part was the oct boats as it's so hard to keep in time with everyone. This made me realise the importance of teamwork! I would massively recommend rowing to others, although maybe not if you don't like being cold or wet, if not both at the same time! ”

Harper Endersby, Year 8 Student/Rower





Have you joined the 200 club? It's run by Queen's Park High School's PTA. For only £1 per month, you can help raise funds for the school plus you'll automatically be entered into a monthly cash prize draw! Payment can be made easily via Parentmail, just add this item to your basket in the usual way along with a Gift Aid donation if you wish. Congratulations to all our winners this year that include, R Cox, A Dixon, N Cossons, R Davidson, S Benson, C Farrow, S Nugent, M Binns, P Finlay, C Beaumont, T Keast and R Spencer. Thank you for your continued support to the PTA's 200 Club Lottery.

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The car park is operated by members of Queen's Park High School's PTA. All proceeds go to support extra curricular activities including playing. Thank you for your support today.

PTA PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION
 We wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2021

PARKING

QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL
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 Ofsted

SIXTH FORM
virtual
Open Week
 1st - 5th February 2021
 Live Launch
 Monday 1st February
 6.00pm-6.30pm

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