



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

SUMMER TERM
JUNE 2017

YOUTH CONNECT 5
New course for Parents

CAFÉ FRANÇAIS
Year 7's pop up shop

**SPORTING
SUCCESS**
at Chester &
District Athletics



**STUDENTS RANKED
TOP 5 IN COUNTRY**
QPHS Rowers are OAR-inspiring

**CHESHIRE SCHOOLS
AWARDS 2017**

QPHS shortlisted as finalists

**ARTS
FESTIVAL**

'Without the Walls'
12 -13 July



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

WELCOME



Welcome back everyone to our final half term of this academic year, and what a busy one it promises to be! There's lots of excitement ahead for students; with the Year 5 Curriculum Challenge Day, Year 6 Induction Day, our own Enrichment Week, Year 10 & 12 Work Experience, Year 11 & 13 Proms, Rewards trips, our Celebration Evening and the 'Without the Walls' Arts Festival, to name but a few of the events ahead. If as a parent, you are feeling a little

left out.....please do not hesitate to sign yourself up for our annual Parents vs Staff Dragon Boat Race on Friday 7th July (further details are in this newsletter and on our website).

Prior to the holidays we said our 'official' goodbyes to our Year 11 and Year 13 students, who are now all well and truly in the midst of the exam season. They have worked incredibly hard in the build up to the exams and have shown a real sense of maturity and resilience under the pressures ahead. We wish them every success and certainly look forward to celebrating their time with us at their Proms and on their results days in August. I would also just like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff who have worked incredibly hard to support the students prior to and during this exam period. Many colleagues have given up time before school, after school and during the holidays to offer guidance, support and sometimes to just be a listening ear! I am very lucky to have such a dedicated team of staff who continue to prioritise the needs of our students in these times of complex educational change.

As schools we are all heading into a period of uncertainty not only in terms of our future funding but also how examination results will be judged in the summer. Comparisons can no longer be made to previous results due to the changes in the accountability measures. Please see the links below for further information about Progress 8 and the changes to GCSE gradings from summer 2017:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgZYx_fycrM

www.youtube.com/watch?v=4IAEqFMSGDY

(To note: in our 2016 results, we achieved a progress 8 score of -0.04, which means our students achieved in line with the national average). We will update parents following our results in the summer.

Finally, if you follow us on Twitter, you will have seen that further work has been completed over the half term holidays as we continue to enrich the school environment for our students. As a school we continue to strive for improved outcomes in all areas and I would like to thank you for all the positive feedback received to date about how different the school looks and feels – we have come a long way since our Ofsted in June 2016. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be asking you to complete a Parental Survey to help support us going forward - your honest feedback will be greatly appreciated!

I hope you enjoy this latest edition of our newsletter, action packed as ever with the wonderful achievements of our students.

Miss Watterson
HEADTEACHER

CHESHIRE SCHOOLS AWARDS

QPHS shortlisted as finalists

We are really excited to announce that Queen's Park High School have once again been shortlisted for the Mirror Cheshire Schools Awards sponsored by Excell Supply Limited. This year we are delighted to have qualified as finalists for two award categories; Mr Richardson (Assistant Headteacher) for 'Howard Worth's Inspirational Teacher of the Year' and Miss Watterson for 'Secondary School Headteacher of the Year'.

Trinity Mirror said they received a high volume of entries all with an exceptionally high standard, which made the judges' decisions extremely difficult, so we are thrilled that two of our nominees have been selected as finalists .



Mirror Cheshire Schools Awards is a celebration of the hard work, dedication and achievements of schools throughout the county, the children who attend them and the staff who inspire them.

The celebratory event is due to take place on 28 June and will be opened by Michael Green, Executive Editor, Trinity Mirror Cheshire and hosted by TV presenter Dianne Oxberry .

Winners across all nine award categories will be revealed during the ceremony at the Queen Hotel, which both staff and QPHS students will attend.

If you'd like to hear how we got on before the next newsletter, follow us on twitter @qphschester and we'll reveal the results as they are announced on the day!

STUDENTS RANKED TOP 5 IN THE COUNTRY

Junior Inter Regional Regatta

We are thrilled to announce that three students from Queen's Park High School Rowing Club sailed through the qualifying stage to compete in the National Inter Regional Junior Regatta in Nottingham on Saturday 22nd April, ranking them 4th and 5th in the country.

The Year 10 students, Zara Gautier-Price, Kiera Burke and Gwilym Harris initially had to get through the first stage to enter the National Regatta by competing against 100's of athletes to gain a place on the North West Team at Northwich Rowing Club earlier in March. They didn't disappoint, doing themselves and the school proud, after winning their time trial races for their age group. They had already achieved their first goal to qualify to be part of the North West team and were equipped to compete in the National heats.

After travelling to Nottingham, Zara and Kiera rowed in a double scull together and Gwilym in a single scull. They had to compete over the 1500m course at the National Water Sports Centre against the top junior athletes in the whole of the U.K.

Both crews reached the 'A' finals, which saw very close racing - Zara and Kiera being placed 5th in their final and Gwilym 4th, missing out on third place by a mere 0.3 of a second!

It was an amazing experience for them; the three athletes showed a tremendous amount of drive and determination combined with exceptional physical and mental performance amongst the top rowers in Great Britain - an inspiration to us all!



OUTSTANDING IN HIS FIELD

Mr Clubb nominated by University of Chester



Mr Clubb is celebrating his nomination as an Outstanding Mentor from the University of Chester, having been a dedicated mentor at QPHS for many years and having had the pleasure of working closely with the University. This is not the first accolade that Mr Clubb has received from Chester University, last year he was formally recognised as achieving Advanced Mentor Status.

Mr Clubb commented, "I am very proud to be recognised as an outstanding mentor, and it continues to be a pleasure to work with PGCE students from the University", adding "the experience that you gain from being a mentor is extremely rewarding, especially when you see your students developing and progressing to full time employment".

YOUTH CONNECT 5

Some Sixth Form parents have recently completed a Youth Connect 5 course at Queen's Park High School. The five week course held on Wednesday mornings was free for Parents/Carers and led by Gill Cutler, Family Worker at QPHS and Kim Hopkins, Educational Officer, Cheshire West and Chester. Youth Connect 5 gives Parents/Carers the knowledge, skills and understanding to help young people be strong and develop emotional wellbeing. They learn about resilience techniques that will help strengthen young people's ability to deal with adversity, threats or even significant sources of stress - skills that will remain with them into adulthood.

As parents, we can't always control life's situations, but being able to handle these challenges comes from having strong skills of resilience - we like to think of it as being able to bounce back when life gets tough.

Parents/Carers, and staff who took part in the course found it to be extremely supportive, and actually good fun!

The next course will start on **Thursday 15th June, 12.30-2.30pm**. For more information please contact, [Gill Cutler](mailto:g.cutler@qphs.co.uk) Tel: 01244 981500 Email: g.cutler@qphs.co.uk and visit the website: www.youthconnect5.org.uk



SKYPE TALK Philosophy & Ethics students Q&A session

At the end of last term, Year 12 & 13 Philosophy and Ethics students enjoyed an innovative and interactive lesson with Dr. David Webster, the Head of Humanities and Religious Studies at Gloucester University.

The published author and Head of innovative learning at the University gave a question and answer session to our students via Skype regarding the question of 'life after death' - this year's synopsis exam question. The students spent a rewarding hour posing questions with Dr. Webster that discussed Buddhism, Judaism, and Christianity.



ARTS FESTIVAL 'Without the Walls'

We are thrilled to announce that Queen's Park High School will be hosting the first Arts Festival in collaboration with Dee Schools Partnership and Edsential. The schools which include, Queen's Park High, Christleton High, Chester Catholic High, Belgrave Primary, Lache Primary, St Clares Catholic Primary, Dodleston CE Primary, Eccleston CE Primary, Overleigh St Marys Primary, St Werburgh's & St Columba's Catholic Primary & St Mary's Community Nursery have been working together since the beginning of the year on a joint project to raise children's aspirations and achievement in the Creative and Performing Arts.

The festival entitled 'Without the Walls', will be held over two days and is the culmination of work created during weeks of collaborative masterclasses and workshops between the schools. It will be an exciting and inspirational showcase featuring an Exhibition of Art & Design work, together with stunning performances of Dance, Drama, Music & Poetry. The Arts Festival is the first of its kind held in Chester in partnership with these schools, so please join us to support this inaugural event and celebrate the talents, successes and achievements of our young people.

**Without the Walls
Arts Festival**

**An Art Exhibition & Performances
of Dance, Drama, Music and Poetry**

Dates: Wednesday 12th &
Thursday 13th July 2017

Venue: Queen's Park High School

Time: 10am - 12pm & 1pm - 3pm

Belgrave Primary Chester Catholic High
Christleton High Dodleston CE Primary Eccleston CE Primary
Lache Primary Overleigh St Mary's Primary Queen's Park High
St Clare's Catholic Primary St Mary's Community Nursery
St Werburgh's & St Columba's Catholic Primary

Working in collaboration with Edsential



ARTS FESTIVAL

Workshops

During the last week of term, Queen's Park High School's Visual and Performing Arts departments have been busy leading a series of art, music and drama workshops for Year 3, 4 and 5 children from eleven schools in the Dee Schools Partnership.

Mr. Parker's Digital Imaging workshop was a challenging and rewarding day for all. 53 Year 3, 4 and 5 children from Overleigh St Marys (OSM) and St Clare's Primary Schools had their portraits taken and merged their faces with the buildings and architecture of Chester to create an individual and personal response to the city in which they live. Year 10 photography students, Bethan Curtis, Lauren Taylor, Joe Crompton, Jonah Farrow, Charlie Waters and Dan Kefford demonstrated their Photoshop prowess and intrinsic QPHS qualities by helping all children achieve their creative masterpieces.

In the Physical Theatre workshop led by Mr Yeoman, Year 6 children from Lache Primary School created an incredible piece of drama looking at the plight of refugees from Syria and how not all of them managed to survive the treacherous journey across the Mediterranean Sea. The level of focus required to deliver such a powerful piece of work was very high, but the children provided it in abundance!

At the beginning of the week, Year 4 children from Lache Primary School participated in a music workshop with the ambitious task of planning and writing a song within a two hour session! The children did not disappoint and worked exceptionally hard with Mrs Scanlon, Miss Pugh, Callum, James and Tom (Year 12) to create ideas, write lyrics and melodies and produce a song they were really proud of. They still had time to spare for rehearsing!

The ceramic workshop tested Year 4's 3D skills as they created clay figures inspired by ceramicist Jane Muir. 28 children from Belgrave Primary School designed their own character, which they modelled in clay, imprinted with textures and decorated using coloured underglazes.

Year 5 children from St Werburgh's took part in a Textile workshop inspired by the natural scenes and landscapes of Chester. Children explored texture through appliqué, and developed an understanding of embroidery techniques and colour mixing by introducing painted marks.

Mr Budgen also led a trophy making workshop for children from all the schools and Mr Corker a printmaking workshop for Eccleston and OSM.

The workshops were a unique opportunity to challenge children's understanding of the creative and performing arts, enabling them to learn and develop new skills and techniques. Mr. Parker the Curriculum Team Leader for the Visual Arts and Design has been astounded by the hardwork, resilience and creativity shown by all the children who have participated.

The work created will be on display in the 'Without the Walls' exhibition as part of the Arts Festival on Wednesday 12th July from 6.00 - 7.30pm. All the performances will be shown in front of a live audience during the Arts Festival at Queen's Park High School on 12th and 13th July.

All families are invited to attend.





CAFÉ FRANÇAIS

Year 7 project with Enabling Enterprise

On the last week of term, Mrs Scanlon's Year 7 French class opened Café Français for the morning. They have been working on this project as part of the school's link with Enabling Enterprise. Planning and preparation for the event included learning new French vocabulary (greetings, food and drink, prices etc) as well as developing an understanding of business and the practicality of knowing a second language in the world of work.

Over the five sessions, students learnt a number of vital skills that would enable them to run the Café; from how to deal with customers to marketing and pricing – all with the added expectation of doing so in French! The culmination of the project was to open the café for one morning. The first customers on site were Miss Watterson's Year 11 GCSE French group who were able to come and have a drink and a pastry to celebrate the end of their course before the café was opened up to other students and staff.

Dan McDermott said, *"The lessons were fun and I learnt a lot of greetings and café phrases in French"*,

Sam Baker commented, *"I enjoyed selling things in French, it helped me with my French knowledge!"* and Izzie Frier remarked,

"Everyone was happy, hungry and juicy! C'était tres bien"

All money raised will be given to the PTA who generously provided some treats to sell!

ELECTION FEVER

Year 11 battle it out for votes

Theresa May couldn't have timed the announcement of the surprise election better!

Only a day after the shock announcement, QPHS were having their own Year 11 election. Each tutor group was given a party to represent and campaign for; the ultimate goal to be voted 'in' by their Year 11 peers.

The competition was tough, and, true to life, some underhand and dirty tactics ensued (all in good humour of course).

Students worked seamlessly as a team to recognise not only others, but also their own skills to ensure the best candidates were selected to be party leader, deputy, researcher, designer etc. Everyone was focused on winning the campaign and supporting their peers in a drive to be the next elected party.

Creativity was at a premium with intricate rosettes, leader hats and posters all promoting the Parties. When the votes were finally counted the winning Party was revealed - Conservative gained the majority!

A DOORWAY TO LEARNING

New look for DT Dept.

Mr Budgen is now the proud owner of newly commissioned entrance doors to the Design Tech teaching spaces. The idea was to raise the visual profile of the Design environment and to give students the 'WOW' factor as they enter their Design based lessons.

Wayne Dawber, the Visual Art and Design Technician and the creative force behind 'The Beach' Sixth Form Café, was assigned the task to design and create something unique and original. He has spent the last couple of months transforming the new entrance ready for the students.

Wayne's initial inspiration for the concept came from the nautical theme Jules Vernes 'Twenty Thousands Leagues Under the Sea'





RUN & JUMP FOR JOY

Girls storm to sporting victory

Two QPHS students are over the moon after coming first at the Chester and District Year 7/8 Athletics Tournament held on 16th May at Deeside Athletics track. Izzie Frier (Year 7) and Eirinn McGuire (Year 8) proved to be too strong for their opponents as they collected first place honours in the 100m Sprint and High Jump. Izzie soared to victory in the finals with a time of 15.22 seconds after breezing through her heat earlier in the day, proving herself to be a promising young sprinter.

While QPHS dominated the sprint track, in Year 7, Eirinn McGuire was performing her own magic and cleared 1m 25cm to leap into first place. After the event, Eirinn stated *"this was a very tough encounter, with the rest of the field really pushing me to perform at my best. I feel that my technique was good and I felt comfortable with how I was jumping"*.

Izzie Frier then added another accolade later in the day, coming third in the Year 7 girls long jump with a distance of 3.89 meters. Both girls will now go onto represent Chester later in the month.

For the PE department at QPHS, returning to school after Spring means just one thing.... Summer Sports on the field and athletics track! The Summer Term has begun positively for the girl's rounders teams, with an impressive number of wins, and while matches against Bishops Bluecoat had very mixed outcomes, these were followed by wins against Catholic High, Abbey Gate College and Kings School. They hope to continue this winning streak when they compete with Bishop Heber. All teams from Year 7 through to Year 10 are practising and training hard in preparation for tournaments in June!

In other sporting news, congratulations goes to Year 10 students, Zara Gautier-Price and Cain Noble, who have been selected to represent Chester and District in the Cheshire Schools Athletics Championships in Macclesfield in June. Zara will be competing in the 800metres and Cain in the triple jump.

ROUNDERS SUCCESS

Winning Streak for Girls Teams



HANDBRIDGE CLEAN UP

Litter Pick with HCA



Earlier in the year some members of the school council had a meeting with the Handbridge Community Association (HCA) about opportunities that would allow us to work together. The litter pick was the first of these.

Despite our first impressions of what a litter pick would mean, we both decided to volunteer and our experience was actually much more enjoyable than we had imagined. Upon arrival we were equipped with the usual litter picking attire; one of those cool grabbers and a polythene bag. We then got to work and instantly found lots to do!

We want our work with the Handbridge Community Association to highlight that we, as students, care about our community and are keen to support and link up for projects. These opportunities will help to show our school in a positive light within the community and also ensure that the opinions of our school from outsiders are fair and positive. Many students now look willing to help and develop our school's reputation and the overall aesthetic of the community.

Joe Bamber & Rory Jones (Year 8)

DRAGON BOAT RACE

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Staff vs Parents

In 2015, inspired by the discovery of an old school trophy, a new QPHS PTA tradition was established - the annual Dragon Boat race and summer BBQ.

In the last race, through sheer grit and determination (and thanks to having youth on their side), the teachers were triumphant. Will the Staff Team hold onto their title again this year, or will the Parents' Team pip them at the post? Join us at QPHS Boat House next to the River Dee (meadows side) on Friday 7 July from 5.30pm to cheer your favourite team on and be part of the celebrations. To add to the lively activities there will also be a BBQ hosted by QPHS PTA - All welcome.

The Dragon Boat Race and BBQ are **FREE** to attend. There will just be a small charge for food, snacks, soft drinks, raffle etc.

All funds raised will go towards providing QPHS students with the opportunity to benefit from the school's extra curricular activities.

If you would like to be part of the parent/carers dragon boat team, simply email your name and contact details to Lisa Jones at lisamjones@btoopenworld.com



PARENTS VS STAFF
DRAGON BOAT RACE
FRIDAY 7 JULY 2017
FROM 5.30PM
QPHS BOAT CLUB
RIVER DEE, QUEENS PARK (MEADOWS SIDE)
& BBQ
FREE ENTRY
SMALL CHARGE FOR BBQ
PTA
Are you enthusiastic, competitive & enjoy a bit of fun? Fancy joining the Parents' Dragon Boat Team as a rower? DON'T MISS OUT - Email Lisa Jones at lisamjones@openworld.com

Date	Event	Time
10 June	Chester Regatta Rowing Event	
14 June	Dee Schools Partnership Year 5 Curriculum Challenge Day 3	All Day
15 June	Year 12 University of Liverpool UCAS convention	All Day
15 June	Youth Connect 5 course starts	12.30-2.30pm
16 June	Year 10 Component 1 Drama Exam	6.30-9.00pm
19 June	Year 12 Coleg Cambria visit	All Day
19 - 20 June	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Training	
20 June	Open Morning for Year 5 Parents	9.15-12.00pm
23 - 24 June	Performing Arts Trip to London (All Years)	
23 - 25 June	Year 8 Conway Centre Residential Trip	
26 - 30 June	Year 10 & 12 Exams	All Week
26 June	Year 9 & 10 District Sports	
27 June	Open Morning for Year 5 Parents	9.15-12.00pm
28 June	Cheshire Schools Awards	12.00-2.45pm
29 June	Sixth Form Prom at The MacDonald Blossoms Hotel	7.00-11.00pm
30 June	Pre-Sports Day	
3 - 7 July	Enrichment Week	All Week
3 - 7 July	Year 10 & 12 Work Experience	All Week
4 July	Year 6 Transition Day	All Day
6 July	Sports Day	12.20-3.00pm
7 July	Staff vs Parents Dragon Boat Race & BBQ	From 5.30pm
8 July	Runcorn Regatta Rowing Event	
11 July	Year 11 Celebration Ball at Double Tree Hilton Hotel	7.00-11.00pm
12 - 13 July	Arts Festival - 'Without the Walls'	10.00-3.00pm
12 July	Private View - 'Without the Walls' Arts Festival Exhibition	6.00-7.30pm
12 - 13 July	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Assessment	
14 - 16 July	British Rowing Championships	
17 July	Open Morning for Year 5 Parents	9.15-12.00pm
18 July	Art & Design Summer Exhibition	6.00-7.30pm
19 July	Awards Evening	
24 - 25 July	INSET	All Day
21 July	Summer Holidays	
5 September	School Closes for students School Re-opens for all students	12.20pm 8.45am
17 August	A Level Results Year 13 Year 12	9.00am 9.30am
24 August	GCSE Results Year 11 Other Years	9.30am 10.00am
21 September	OPEN EVENING	6.00-9.00pm
22 September	Open Morning for Year 5/6 Parents	9.15-12.00pm
25 September	Open Morning for Year 5/6 Parents	9.15-12.00pm