



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

SPRING TERM
MARCH 2018

INSPIRING FUTURES

Academic Excellence
Programme

**STUDENTS' POEMS
SHOWCASED AT
WAYWORD
FESTIVAL**

SIXTH FORM BASKETBALL TEAM

Crowned Chester Schools
Champions

BIG BANG FAIR

Rory's Chemical Rockets
blast off to finals

ROWING CLUB CHAIRMAN

Wins Award from
British Rowing

FURTHER MATHS

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Workshop

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**QPHS GO GREEN
FOR CANCER**

SCHOOL OF ROCK

School Musical
WOWS
audience

'ALL VOICES' CONCERT

**UNITING CHILDREN THROUGH
THE POWER OF SONG**

ENABLING ENTERPRISE

Year 7 challenged to Lend-A-Hand

WELCOME



This term, I have been overwhelmed by the talents and strengths of so many of our students. In House assemblies I have spoken about *'life beginning at the end of your comfort zone'*, how by challenging ourselves to stretch that little bit further and have higher expectations of ourselves, we can continue to grow, thrive and discover hidden talents. For me this has been modelled to perfection over recent months by all those students who took part in

'School of Rock' our school production, by Rory Jones in Year 9 who has just represented QPHS as a national finalist in the Big Bang Competition, and by our student leaders who have been working actively with our Governing body to drive improvements within and across the school. *Congratulations to all our students have who pushed themselves that little bit further this term!*

Thank you to parents/carers for their support with our drive to promote the importance of attendance and punctuality in school. Last week, there was a noticeable improvement in punctuality, so we will be continuing this focus over the coming weeks to ensure that we have 'smart starts' to our school day.

As a school we are currently reflecting upon the progress we have made against our three year school development plan which was put in place in 2015. Whilst we have much to celebrate in terms of our school improvement journey to date, we are equally ambitious for our future. Over the coming months we will be working with staff, students, governors and the Trust, to redefine our priorities, ensuring that we remain true to our vision. Our development plan for 2018-2021 will be in place by the end of June and I will share our key priorities with you before the end of the summer term.

Trust Update

Planning permission for Christleton International Studio (CIS) has now been granted and we are currently preparing for the commencement of works which will be some time between the end of May and prior to our return in September. The main implication for our students during this time will be the relocation of our kitchen and dining arrangements to the East End Canteen area. A temporary kitchen will be installed and all food will be served from this locality. On completion of the build (around Christmas 2018), QPHS will have a new canteen and kitchen to return to which will be a significant improvement on our current facilities.

Work is also underway to replace our Food Technology classroom, which will now be located closer to the Technology area and will hopefully be up and running after the Easter break.

I hope you enjoy this latest edition of our school newsletter, a snapshot of our school life. I would like to wish you all a lovely Easter break and for all those who are off to Los Angeles with the PPA Faculty - have a fantastic time and look after yourselves!

Miss Watterson, HEADTEACHER

BIG BANG FAIR

Rory blasts through to national finals

Congratulations to Year 9 student Rory Jones who was selected to represent the North West region at the National Big Bang Young Scientists and Engineers finals at the NEC in Birmingham during British Science week.

Rory was announced as one of the winners of the regional heats at The Big Bang Fair North West with his project *'Chemical Rockets'*.

As part of the project, Rory created a series of rockets powered by chemical reactions. He has since showcased and demonstrated his rockets launching to visitors during the school's Open Evening in September and has been hard at work developing the project further ready for the national finals.



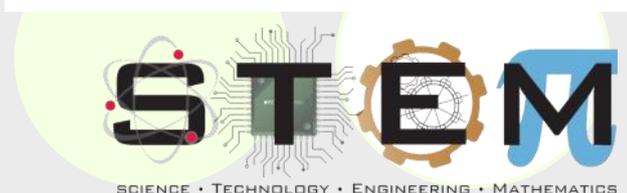
"The best part of the event was when I saw people's faces light up as I explained to them about my project. It was amazing to be around people so interested in Science where I could be with people who were happy to talk to me about all things Science."

Rory Jones, Year 9

Over the three days Rory competed for top prizes, including the coveted title of UK Young Engineer and GSK UK Young Scientist of the Year and was shortlisted for the Competitors Choice Award - a fantastic achievement!

"Rory had great enthusiasm for his project and was a great ambassador for Queen's Park High School's Science Club. Anyone interested in competing in this year's Big Bang regional finals in Liverpool in July are welcome to attend Science club on Mondays from 3-4pm in S5."

Miss Sutton, Teacher of Science



SCIENCE • TECHNOLOGY • ENGINEERING • MATHEMATICS

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'ALL VOICES' CONCERT

Uniting children through the power of song

Over 140 children from primary schools across Chester and the QPHS Year 7 choir were in fine singing voice on Thursday 8th March and dazzled the audience as they took to the stage to perform in the 'All Voices' concert hosted by QPHS.

The showcase was held in the main hall and featured songs from around the world, eagerly performed by children in Years 2 - 5 from Belgrave, Chester Blue Coat, Dodleston C of E, Eccleston C of E, Hoole C of E, Overleigh St. Mary's and The Arches Community Primary Schools and supported by the QPHS Year 7 choir.

Since September each of the schools have been working with Miss Stanners, Teacher of Music at Queen's Park High School, whose aim was to unite children through the power of song and give them the opportunity to perform in front of a live audience in a professional setting.

“ A project on this scale was always something I had aspired to do from when I first began teaching. I've always recognised how important it is to instil a love of music from the earliest possible age in order for that to continue into later life. In a day and age when we seem to read more and more about the loss of music in schools, I wanted to be proactive in encouraging the growth of music in schools instead. Music is such an enjoyable and rewarding subject and I believe that everyone should be able to access it. I would like to thank all of the schools, teachers and children who took part for their hard work and enthusiasm in helping make an ambitious plan a reality! ”

Miss Stanners

The children had just three sessions working with Miss Stanners to learn their own song and their part in a group piece which would involve all schools singing together. Each of the solo pieces explored different languages of the world to encourage the idea that anybody can be a part of music and that words and language don't need to be a barrier to that.

On the evening there was a buzz of excitement as each school prepared for their performance on stage to an eager and packed out audience!

“ The concert was an amazing showcase of talent, celebrating children's successes and achievements. It has been wonderful to see how music can build links across different age groups and schools. ”

Mrs Scanlon, Assistant Headteacher/Primary Liaison at QPHS



“ It was such a unique opportunity to experience what Bank of America Merrill Lynch is really about. ”

Year 7 student

ENABLING ENTERPRISE

The Lend-A-Hand Challenge

QPHS are now in their second year working with Enabling Enterprise. Enabling Enterprise are funded by Bank of America Merrill Lynch (BAML) and work in partnership with schools and businesses to support students to build enterprise skills and aspirations. In February, 23 Year 7 students visited BoAML to take part in the Lend-A-Hand challenge.

The session was all about problem-solving and staying positive as the students learnt about personal finance. They took part in a range of fun, fast paced activities to build their understanding of the necessity of budgeting. Through working in a team and being creative the students had to make important budgeting choices and ultimately take on the role of Financial Advisors.

All students were lucky enough to have a tour around BAML, even into high security areas, where they were able to see the complexities of a fast moving international financial house and the incredible use of technology. Students had close interaction with the employees of the business and were encouraged to ask questions and give opinions on a variety of subjects including educational requirements, expected salaries and working conditions. By listening and understanding to the advice the employees gave them the students felt confident to stand up and present their financial advice and learning from the day in front of their peers.

Thanks BAML for such a productive and great day.

Operation Moonbase

On Tuesday 23rd January QPHS hosted a challenge day led by Enabling Enterprise.

The event brought together Year 4 children from some of our local primary schools which included Lache Primary, Chester Blue Coat Primary and Belgrave Primary School. Throughout the course of the day QPHS Year 7 ambassadors that had been building their skills back at school were deployed as skills mentors to help the Year 4 children.

The challenge for the day was ‘Operation Moonbase’ and whilst in mixed groups, the children used their ‘working in a team’ skills to establish a new society on a distant moon called Utopia.

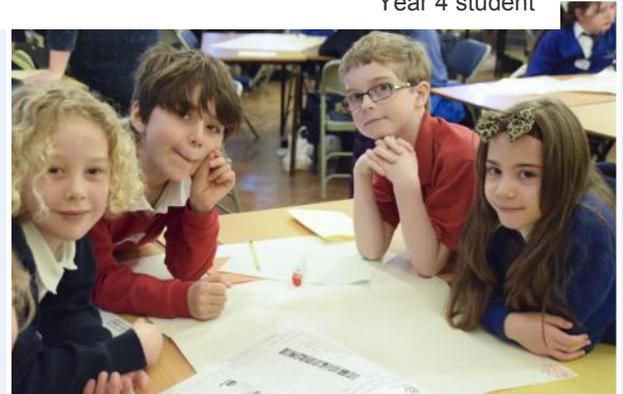
A series of tasks required teams to use their enterprise skills, particularly practising their problem solving using imagination and listening carefully.

Teams needed to select a crew to support them on their mission, then design a new species of animal to benefit society before finally creating a model of their own dream city.

The day culminated in a series of persuasive pitches at the Intergalactic Trade Fair which gave each team the opportunity to show off their fantastic ideas. Well done to all the Year 4 children.

“ I’m proud of how when we first met, we didn’t know each other but we got on and everyone did a little bit and we worked really well together . ”

Year 4 student





WAYWORD FESTIVAL

Students' poems featured in STORYHOUSE

In January, a group of Year 7 students were lucky enough to take part in an innovative poetry workshop as part of a project organised by Storyhouse in Chester.

Back in November 2017 during The Chester Literature Festival, Storyhouse commissioned poet Hollie McNish to transform their building into a poetry book. To coincide with Wayword, the Children's Literature Festival during February half-term the theatre wanted to hand over the building to children.

We were very excited to find out that Queen's Park High was one of the lucky schools chosen to be involved.

The aim of the workshop was for visiting and award winning poet, Sara Hirsch to help students create poems based on identity, libraries, history and stories. These poems would then be printed in their own handwriting and displayed on the walls around the Storyhouse building.

Sara is a London grown poet and spoken word educator. She is a former UK Slam Champion, third ranked in the World Slam Championships 2014, winner of the European Poetry Slam in Madrid 2016 and a 2017 BBC Slam Finalist. Sara has performed at Glastonbury, is a TEDx speaker, has featured on the BBC and has toured extensively both in the UK & Internationally.

The Year 7 students successfully completed two poems: one that is now displayed outside the baby changing room at Storyhouse and one that is featured in the teenage fiction section of the library.

Well done and congratulations to all involved.



POETRY LIVE

Manchester Opera House

During March, students in Years 10 and 11 had the opportunity to travel to Poetry Live at the Manchester Opera House. This event has been taking place annually for 20 years and gives students the opportunity to hear poets, whom they are studying for their GCSE English Literature exam, read their poems and discuss the genesis for their works. This time students heard from Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy, the inimitable John Agard, and the most brilliant advocate of the northern voice, Simon Armitage. Equally, there was a session with Tony Childs - formally Chief Examiner for GCSE English Literature - who gave students some pertinent advice on how to approach the trickiest aspect of the exam paper: the unseen poem!

There was much to be enjoyed and lots to be learned, both of which students will carry with them into the final weeks of preparation for their exams.





SCHOOL OF ROCK HIT PRODUCTION

Students 'Stick it to the Man'



Perhaps one of the most ambitious school productions the school has ever attempted was staged in February.

School of Rock is, on paper, a relatively straight forward show to put on. However, this year there was a real focus on the 'extras' that made the entire process itself just as important as the final product.

With support from peripatetic teachers and regular lunch time rehearsals, members of the cast became highly competent on their instruments - some of whom had never even played their instrument before the start of rehearsals in October!



The show itself was an absolute triumph in terms of the quality of the performances - both musically and dramatically - that were produced. With a relatively young cast it was incredible to see just how much talent we have here at Queen's Park High and what was even more amazing was the level of dedication and commitment shown by every member of the cast, crew and band.

Throughout the process we were visited by members of the West End School of Rock cast with Joel Montague (Mr Spencer/Dewey) leading a two hour workshop for our students back in November. This was greatly received and served to inspire all of our cast members to make the show their own.



“ Working with someone as incredible as Joel was totally inspiring. I learnt a lot from him and he certainly helped me to develop my role as Dewey for our production.”

Liam Ramsden, Year 13 (Dewey)

In January we were visited by Tom Abisgold who played Zack in the show in the West End. Tom talked through what life was like for him living in the West End and worked with our own Zack - Charlie Dixon - to showcase his guitar solo skills.



Our own house band was, as it always has been, incredible this year too. Despite being thrown into the orchestra pit (literally harnessing everything that you imagine a 'pit' to be) the band was awesome, drawing on the talent from Year 8 through to Year 13. Three members of the band will be leaving us this year – they have been stalwarts in the orchestration of productions and will be sadly missed! The show itself was a resounding success performing to over 400 Year 5 children and staff from our feeder primary schools as well as over 700 members of the public over four evening shows.

Reviews and feedback from the show have all been extremely positive and we are very confident that the impact this show will have had on all involved will be both positive and profound. It was a fantastic celebration of QPHS talent and a shining example of what teamwork can achieve!

“ It never fails to amaze me just how strong the school community is and how well it comes together to create, support and celebrate the talents of the school. It is a pleasure to work with such incredible members of staff who give up so much of their time to make productions like these possible for our young people. ”

Mr Yeoman Lead Practitioner & Research Lead





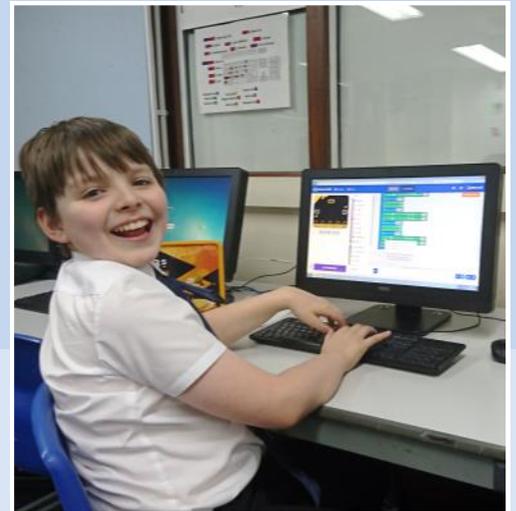
CODING CLUB

Controlling robots with scripts

For Curriculum Enrichment this term; some of our Year 7 students have been given the opportunity to explore different programming languages including Python and JavaScript. Students have spent time coding their own video games through the BBC Micro:bit and getting to grips with scripts allowing them to control a robotic vehicle around the classroom.

Whilst coding, we are recording the WPM (words per minute) of students to see if coding can increase their speed and accuracy. With this data we plan on coding an interactive graph to show each student's progress. In our most recent lesson, we've tested out a few Python hacks for Minecraft running on a Raspberry PI 3. Jantsandorj Charnock has even used his musical knowledge to produce sounds and tunes from coding!

The Coding Club runs for Year 7 every Tuesday after school and is designed around a set number of tasks and hosted via our Moodle VLE. This enables them to access the course from home and continue learning about Computer Science in their own time.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Meet our Computer Science Leaders

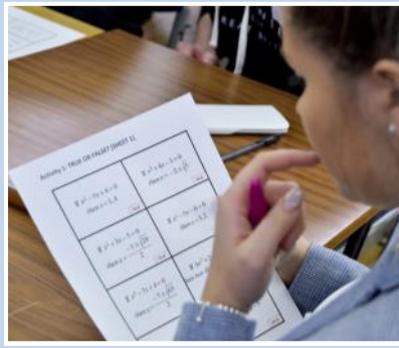


Meet our Computer Science Leaders! Their role in lessons is to assist students who need help with debugging their code. Students can voice their opinions on lessons and also bring their ideas on what they would like to do in Computer Science lessons. Students are rewarded for their role by receiving additional Vivo points!

“ I like being a computer science leader because it's fun helping people when they are stuck because you come across more problems which you then learn how to solve, which gives you an advantage for learning in this subject.”

Kieran Scanlon, Year 8





“ The maths was really difficult and challenging but working together with other students really helped me smash it! ”

Morgan Linfield, Year 13

FURTHER MATHS Sixth Form Booster Workshop

In February, QPHS hosted an A level Maths booster day for Year 12 and 13 Maths students from QPHS and other local schools including Chester Catholic High, Christleton International Studio School and University Church of England Academy (UCEA).

The event was led by Martin Bamber from the Further Maths Support programme who was also supported by 20 trainee Maths PGCE students currently studying at Chester University.

The day involved looking at a number of mathematical concepts that students will meet when they study A level Maths and finished off with a Gecko relay race that was won by a team containing Queen's Park students!

Feedback from students suggested that the day was both very challenging and extremely useful.

We'd like to thank Martin and the PGCE students for all their support and enthusiasm for making the session such a positive experience for all the students.



“ The workshop has really helped me problem solve in preparation for my exams. ”

Dan Francis, Year 13

VARDY CONFERENCE Can murder be justified?

Year 12 were keen to attend the 'Beginning A level Religious Studies' conference by Dr Peter Vardy in Manchester.

Dr Peter Vardy is internationally well known as the leader in the fields of Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethics.

The debate of the day was, 'This House believes that, given the right situation, even murder could be justified!'

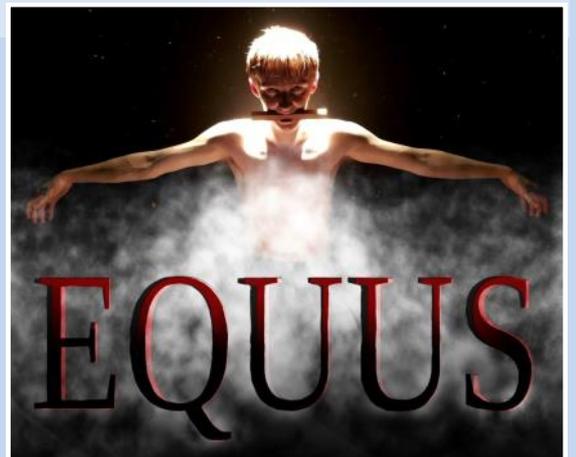
Manchester voted 80% in favour of the motion. The day included Miss Britland being chosen to go on the stage as an example for Dr Vardy's 'probability theory'- how exciting!



EQUUS

Students perform at STORYHOUSE

On Thursday 25th January our A Level Drama students staged a production Peter Shaffer's 'Equus' at Storyhouse in Chester. The challenging text was brilliantly explored by the students who excelled in their roles and created a truly intense production which the audience thoroughly enjoyed. The production was seen by other schools whose students are also studying the text at A Level. Undoubtedly, the staging of the play has enabled all involved to develop a mastery level of understanding around the challenges faced in performing such an intense production.





'LET'S GO GREEN'

Fundraising for Clatterbridge Cancer Charity

Students have been doing their bit for charity and this month have been busy fundraising for The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre.

The annual fundraising drive 'Go Green For Cancer' works to transform cancer care for people in the region and is part of an appeal to raise £15million towards the building of a new specialist cancer hospital in Liverpool city centre. Many of the iconic landmarks in Chester turned 'green' to back the cancer appeal and QPHS was no exception, lighting up the main school sign with a green glow in support of the campaign.

Within school students took part in a range of green themed activities such as guess the amount of peas in a jar, green cake bake, raffling biscuits and doughnuts to help raise funds for the charity.

On Mother's Day, James & Kiara Parlevliet in Year 7 & Year 9 teamed up with Lola Platt and Reece Hollinger in Year 7 and gave up their morning to go bag packing at Morrison's in Saltney. They managed to raise a fantastic £200 for the charity and received medals from Clatterbridge as a big thank you for their efforts.

QPHS staff are also busy training for their next charity challenge - Equinox 24! - a relay race that takes place over 24 hours and involves the team running 10km laps around the grounds of Belvoir Castle in Leicester. Not for the fainthearted!

The fundraising events so far have boosted the team's staff total but they still need help to reach their target of £2000.

If you would like to support them in this endeavour, please donate to their Just Giving page [queensparkhighrunforcancer](https://www.justgiving.com/queensparkhighrunforcancer).



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

An insight into Cambridge University



“ I found it very interesting and might consider going there in the future. ”

Kiera Cheers, Year 8

In February, Year 8 and 9 students in the Academic Excellence Programme had the exciting opportunity to meet with a former student from Cambridge University. Students were told about the different courses on offer at Cambridge and how to decide which subjects to study. Students were given the opportunity to ask questions regarding university life and extra-curricular activities on offer.

Despite university being a few years off for these students, the advice given will allow students to make informed decisions when selecting option subjects for GCSE and has provided students with further information on how to excel at their studies whilst at school.



BRITISH ROWING AWARD

'Oar'some Achievement for QPHSRC Chairman

We are delighted to announce Richard Cox, chairman of Queen's Park High School Rowing Club has been named winner of the Regional Volunteer of the Year Award for the North West by British Rowing in recognition of his significant contribution to the sport.

Richard was presented with this prestigious award by Alex Gregory MBE, double Olympic champion from London 2012 and Rio 2016 at a special awards lunch held at the River & Rowing Museum in Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire at the beginning of February this year.

The annual awards ceremony is an opportunity to formally recognise and celebrate the passion and dedication of volunteers, who work tirelessly to help rowing thrive across England. This year, 8 coaching awards and 19 volunteer awards have been presented to worthy recipients from rowing clubs across the country.

“ I was totally and pleasantly surprised to receive the award. My thanks must go to Lisa Jones and Angie Mohan who nominated me. It's not just me who runs the Rowing Club, it's one big team effort from the coaches, committee, parent helpers, parents, school and of course the students. Without everyone's input the club wouldn't survive, so it's great recognition for everyone at the club and school that does something to help us to be so successful. ”

Richard Cox, QPHSRC Chairman

As a school we would like to extend our thanks and congratulations to Richard on his richly deserved award.

If you would like to volunteer to support QPHS Rowing Club and have rowing or coaching experience please get in touch with Richard at:
richardcox54@talktalk.net



SHOOT FOR SUCCESS

Sixth Formers crowned Basketball Champs



Adil Haque led by example in our recent Queen's Park basketball tournament success. The team surpassed their first opponent, Bishop Heber by 21 points to 7 followed by another emphatic win against Tarporley beating them 18 points to 11. Tom Hancock was the top scorer on the night whilst at the other end of the court Will Davis pulled off a solid performance in defence issuing four blocks and five rebounds. Overall the player who outshone the rest was Adil Haque who adopted the point guard role which resulted in him collecting the most assists throughout the night. In and around the backboard Adil Haque and Callum Bishop were a threat claiming 10 offensive rebounds each. It was a great night for Queen's Park High School Sixth Form as they claimed the title Cheshire Schools Basketball Champions 2018!

Written by Will Davis, Year 13





WARRINGTON HEAD

Rowers brave the elements

QPHS Rowing Club competed in the Head of the Mersey at Warrington Rowing Club with years 9, 10 and 11 last month.

They faced a fierce battle of wind, rain, hail, snow and a menacing looking river at times which tested the rowers mettle but all students were keen to compete and braved the conditions producing some fantastic results.

Zara Gautier-Price in Year 11 won her single race and even beat a Year 13 rower by 10 seconds.

The Year 11 quad which comprised Kiera Burke, Charlotte Carswell, Liv Halewood and Bethan Curtis won their category despite rowing to the starting line in a storm of hail and snow!

The Year 10 rowers were also triumphant as Ben Baker in his single and Megan Dixon with Grace Stark in their double all won their races.

Unfortunately the Year 9 boys races were cancelled due to worsening weather conditions.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event	Time
22 March	V Factor Talent Show	7.00pm
28 March	Year 10 Parents' Evening	4.30-7.30pm
28-30 March	Rowing Event GB Training Camp, Nottingham	
29 March	INSET Students not in school	All Day
30 March - 13 April	EASTER HOLIDAYS	
3-10 April	Performing Arts Trip to the West Coast USA (all year groups)	
19 April	Citizenship Day	All Day
19 - 20 April	The Changing Room National Theatre Connections Performance	7.00pm
25 April	Year 7 Parents' Evening	4.30pm
26 April	Junior Maths Challenge	All Day
7 May	BANK HOLIDAY	
12 May	Year 7 choir performing in the Chester Wind Band Spring Concert, Ellesmere Port Civic Hall	5.45-9.45pm
14 May	Summer Exams begin (Years 11-13)	various
16 May	Year 6 Induction Evening	6.00-7.30pm
24 May	Cheshire Schools Athletics	
28 May - 1 June	SUMMER HALF TERM	
13 June	DSP Year 5 Curriculum Challenge Day	All day

THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG

But the Theatre trip goes right!

On 2nd February Drama students from Years 11, 12 and 13 watched the touring production of 'The Play That Goes Wrong' at Storyhouse in Chester.

The play is a fantastic epitome of a farce with all the ingredients of such coming together to create a perfect example of comic timing and slapstick humour.

Students will be using this experience on which to base their written responses in their forthcoming examinations during the summer. It was a brilliant evening and the play was certainly enjoyed by all involved.