



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

SUMMER TERM
MAY 2018

ROBO-MANIA
Academic Excellence
Programme

STUDENTS JOIN 300.000 IN
**UK Junior MATHS
CHALLENGE**

V FACTOR 2018
Students showcase their
talent for charity

**MICROSOFT
OFFICE**
Free package
for students

LITERACY LIVE
Vocabulary Drive

BOYS WIN SILVER
Junior Inter-regional Regatta

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

**STUDENTS HEAD TO HOLLYWOOD &
WEST COAST OF AMERICA**

TED GETS HIS WINGS
Year 11 student makes RAF History

**QPHS
FINALIST**
in
Cheshire Schools
Awards
2018

WELCOME



This lovely weather can only mean one thing....the exam season is finally upon us, the two always seem to go hand in hand! I just want to take this opportunity to wish all our Year 11 and Sixth Form students the best of luck. I am confident that their hard work will be rewarded in the summer and we look forward to celebrating their last days in school with them

on Friday 25th May, and then later on at their respective Proms. Where does the time go?

Works begin....

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, work begins this week on the permanent build for Christleton International Studio, which will be located within the framework of the existing canteen and linkway between our two main buildings (the ugly green building in the main). The works will hopefully be completed by Christmas but will obviously involve some disruption to our normal routines during that period.

The key implications for us are as follows:

- Kitchen to be temporarily located at the East End - all food will be served from this area and additional seating will be set up in the social area as well as the hall if needed.
- Sixth Form café 'The Beach' to be moved to the Theatre Bar.
- No through route from the main entrance to the main hall corridor – we will be routed via the Science corridor (circulation as normal upstairs though for students).
- The 'Gateway' area to be closed off and pastoral support services to be relocated.

We will look forward to January when we reap the benefits of the build as we can then move back into a brand new dining facility and also take back a number of areas of the school which will have benefitted from a refurbishment. These are exciting times, particularly with our new food technology room being about to re-open after half term, as well as the Trust successfully securing significant funding to replace the roof on the rear building with work on this hopefully starting over the summer. There's never a dull day!

Our numbers for Year 7 for September have almost doubled from last year and we are delighted to be welcoming our new recruits this week for their Induction Evening, as well as supporting them and their families to become part of the Queen's Park community.

I hope you all have a lovely half term.

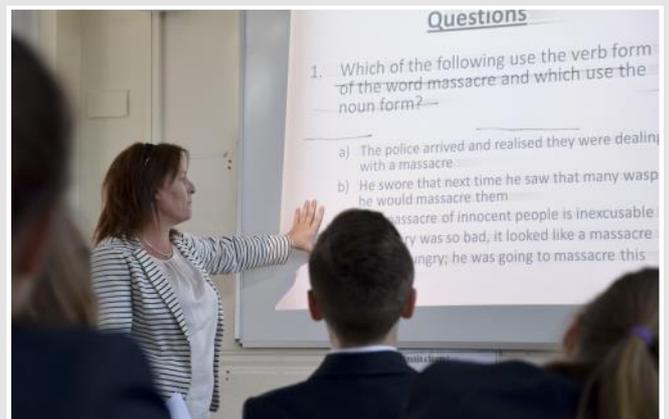
Miss Watterson,
HEADTEACHER



LITERACY LIVE

Vocabulary Stretch

Starting this summer term there will be a whole school focus on extending students' vocabulary. Research suggest that this is a key indicator for success. 'Vocabulary Stretch' is a programme of 'Words of the Week' where the focus is on motivating students to develop their word knowledge and to discover new words and their meaning for use in their writing.



This is a tutor time activity where all students in KS3 students learn new words and their definitions. To further embed students' knowledge, they are given examples of how the words could be used and then encouraged to use them in their own writing. 'Words of the Week' are displayed in all classrooms and their use is promoted by staff every lesson.





CHESHIRE SCHOOL AWARDS 2018

QPHS announced as finalist for communication award

We are really excited to announce that Queen's Park High School have once again been shortlisted for the Trinity Mirror Cheshire Schools Awards, sponsored by Excell Supply Limited. This year we have qualified as finalists in the 'Communication Award' category. Trinity Mirror received a high volume of entries, all with an exceptionally high standard, which made the judges' decisions extremely difficult. We are thrilled to have been selected as a finalist this year!

The Trinity Mirror Cheshire Schools Awards are in 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 19th June 2018 and will be opened by Michael Green, Executive Editor Trinity Mirror Cheshire, and hosted by TV presenter Dianne Oxberry.

During the awards ceremony last year, Queen's Park High School's Headteacher, Miss Watterson,

was named 'Cheshire Secondary School Headteacher of the Year 2017' so we are delighted that Queen's Park High School once again has been recognised as a finalist at this prestigious event.

Winners across all ten 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!

MICROSOFT OFFICE 2016

Free package for students

QPHS students are now able to download a full version of Microsoft Office for PC or Mac (free of charge) for installation on personal devices including tablets and phones. Office 365 Professional Plus is provided on a subscription basis - you can use the latest version of Office for free by signing in with a student account. This is all due to changes made to the school email system that took place during the Easter holidays.

A full guide explaining how to claim a copy of Office will be available on the school website under the 'Students' menu.





ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME

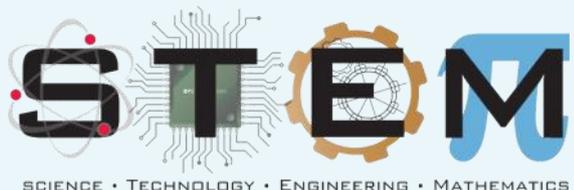
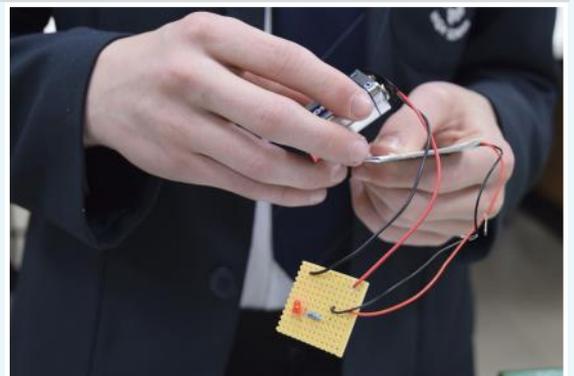


As part of the Academic Excellence Programme, this half term we have been learning about designing and creating robots. In after school sessions we learned about the four things that a robot needs. They are power (a lithium ion battery), movement (treadmills, legs, wheels etc.), sensors and intelligence. We also learnt about nanotechnology and its possibilities, which include use in healthcare to repair cells, fight infections and kill bacteria.

We were able to build a robotic hand using straw and strings and make our own censoring system with a circuit board and light.

We'd like to thank Mr Peter Thorn from Imaging Partnership for coming in and talking to us about robotics - it was a real eye opener! It really helped us get an idea of how technology will develop in the future.

Written by Dan McDermott (Y8), Joel Coombs (Y8), Rory Jones (Y9)





FORMIDABLE FORCE OF FOUR Inter-school Debate Competition



As part of the Academic Excellence Programme, and to celebrate 100 years since women's right to vote, QPHS were invited to the Queen's School in Chester to compete in an inter-school debate competition.

“ The debating itself was really interesting. We were talking about extremely relevant topics so, whatever side of the argument we fell on, it was intriguing to hear what the opponent had to say. It was a great experience and we had a lot of fun.
Juliette Gilchrist, Year 9



The debate topics centred around contemporary women's issues, which included depictions of women in the media, women progressing in the workplace and equal rights for parents. Each topic lasted for 15 minutes. Speeches were prepared and the debate was then presented to both judges and opponents.

“ It was a brilliant to see the girls' confidence develop throughout the competition and they constructed some brilliant arguments. Well done, Kiara, Juliette, Sophie and Lydia! ”

Miss Sutton, AEP Co-ordinator

“ We had a fantastic time competing and watching the finalists debate. We have also developed our debating skills and learnt that a good debate needs a strong argument and passion. ”

Lydia Lewis & Sophia Souna, Year 9

This is a fantastic example of the talent we have within, QPHS. Congratulations girls!





IT'S A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

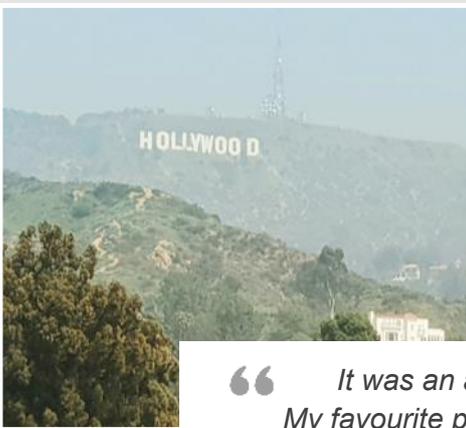
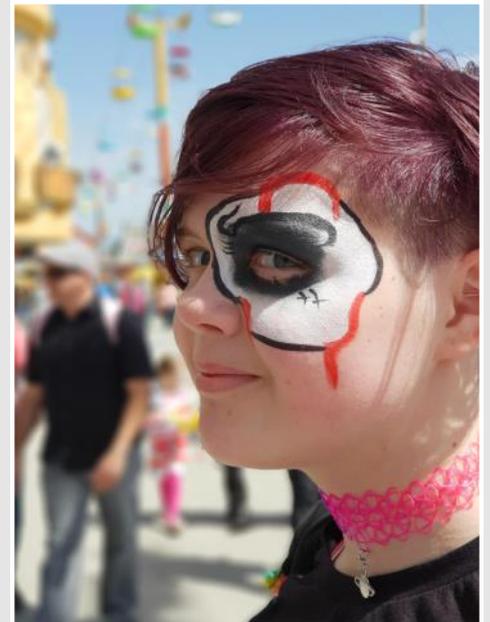
Students head to the West Coast of America



Part of our role as educators is to prepare our students for their futures, which includes giving them an appreciation of what it means to be a global citizen. As part of our commitment to developing our students in this way, members of staff from Queen's Park High School took 49 students across Year 7 to 13 to the other side of the world on a visit to Los Angeles and San Francisco, California.

After a gruelling 11 hour flight students spent the first few days visiting Hollywood, Santa Monica and Universal Studios before venturing up the coast through Malibu, up to Santa Cruz and finally to San Francisco. Seeing the Golden Gate Bridge for the first time was amazing and, juxtaposed against the island of Alcatraz, was an incredible sight.





As part of the trip, staff and students were fortunate to visit the islands and take a tour of the prison. They even met one of the reformed former prisoners and learned of his experience as an inmate while he signed books!



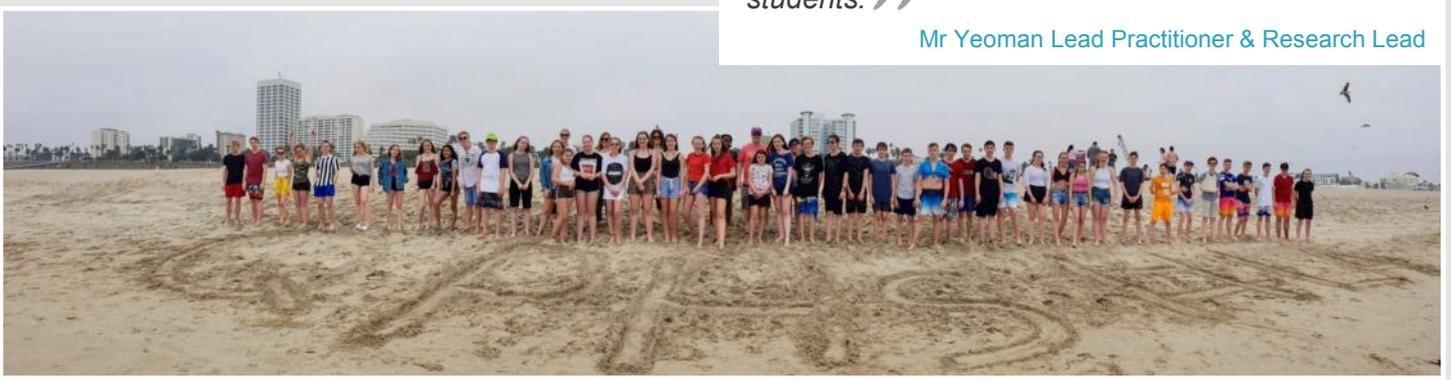
“ It was an absolutely amazing opportunity. My favourite part was visiting Alcatraz - it was so interesting to discover how people spent their lives living on that Island in such confinement! ”
 Rory Jones, Year 9



Other highlights of the trip included walking down the Hollywood Walk of Fame, standing on the Hollywood Bowl Stage and visiting Pier 39 in San Francisco with its incredible array of shops and restaurants.



“ This was truly an experience that none of us will ever forget and certainly served as an opportunity to broaden the aspirations of our students. ”
 Mr Yeoman Lead Practitioner & Research Lead





V FACTOR 2018

Students take to the stage for charity

Thursday 22nd March 2018 saw the eagerly anticipated 'V Factor', with students from all year groups competing live on stage to win the judges votes whilst performing songs by their favourite artists.

The competition was fierce, and quite rightly so, as the high quality performances kept the audience of over 250 people thoroughly entertained. Sitting directly in front of the stage were the five V Factor judges who had a really tough time marking the performances and feeding back to the performers - just like the ITV talent show itself. With twenty acts taking to the stage, making a decision was very difficult. The top three places were separated by only a few points. In third place, with their performance of Bon Jovi's, 'You Give Love a Bad Name', were Year 9 students, Tom Devlin, Jonah Wardle, Adam Beaumont and Calum Marks. The group were just pipped to second place by Year 13 student Felicity Weir with her knock out performance of Larkin Poe's, 'Trouble in Mind'.

However, the judges decided that the overall winner had to go to a Sixth Form student who kept the audience captivated with every note she sang.

The 2018 V Factor winner was Year 13 student Eve Lawlor, with her powerful performance of Sia's, 'Elastic Heart'. Eve stunned the audience with her amazing voice which won us over earlier this year when she played the role of Principal Rosalie Mullins in the QPHS production of 'School of Rock The Musical'.

The V Factor show is not only a great opportunity for our students to showcase their singing talent, but also a fantastic way of raising money for charity. Our chosen charities this year are Comic Relief and Chester Aid to the Homeless (CATH). We are thrilled to announce that we raised over £200 for Chester Aid to the Homeless during this event, which Sixth Former Reece Lloyd presented to their delighted CEO Rob Bisset last week. Once again, the students of Queen's Park High School have exceeded the expectations of us all and helped, not only to provide an evening of high quality entertainment, but support others less fortunate. Well done and congratulations to all the participants and winners who challenged themselves to step out of their comfort zones and perform live on stage in front of over 250 people! What an achievement! They are a real credit to the



200 Club Winners

Congratulations to Sue Bell, Richard Cox, Claire Farrow, Lesley Twigg and Gila Yalarakis, who were announced as the recent winners of the 200 Club lottery draw. Thank you for your continued support.



“ Fun but brain stretching ”

Reuben Sharp, Year 7



BEAUTIFUL MINDS

UK Junior Mathematics Challenge

At the end of April 2018, 60 students in Years 7 and 8 took part in the 'UK Junior Mathematical Challenge'.

The Junior Challenge is aimed at students in Year 7 and 8, and encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

Most of the questions are accessible, yet still challenge those with more experience. It comprises 15 multiple choice questions - students need to use numerical, geometric, algebraic skills and logical thinking to answer them. The Junior Challenge is the UK's most popular mathematics competition.

“ I thought it was a good experience with questions which tested my abilities; the questions were hard but I enjoyed it. ”

Ruby Wilson, Year 7

The students, along with 300,000 others across the country, worked exceptionally hard during the allocated time. Later in May 2018, we will present students with gold, silver or bronze certificates. We will also find out if any students have qualified to take part in the National Junior Mathematical Olympiad.

Well done to our Year 7 and 8 students for managing to complete this difficult challenge!

“ It was challenging, but it is important to push our knowledge. ”

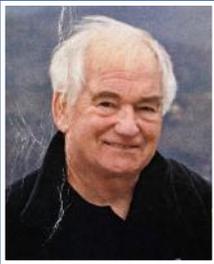
Jennifer Hooper, Year 8



“ The difficult part was working out what strategies to use. ”

Sam Baker, Year 8





Sad News of Former Deputy Head

The school received the sad news last month that ex-Deputy Headteacher, Mr

Chris Middleditch died on 15 April 2018 at the age of 71 years. He was appointed to Queen's Park in 1972, just after it became a comprehensive school in the wake of the two former grammar schools on the site. He retired in 2005 after 33 years of service to the school.

“ I worked with Chris from my appointment as headteacher in 1989 until his retirement. Throughout those 16 years, I saw at first hand his commitment and dedication to the school. He was an educationalist with a strong belief in the value of co-educational comprehensive education. His students found his teaching interesting and inspiring and many chose to continue with the subject at university and into a career. Over the years he gained expertise across the whole range of the school's work, providing support and challenge to help colleagues develop their careers. His organisation was meticulous and his good judgment and steady hand contributed significantly to the work of the school's Leadership Team. He played a leading role in the school's successful bid to become a Specialist Visual Arts College in 2002.

Such achievement does not come without working long hours. Indeed I am told that his wife Polly, at times, felt like a single parent to their children Kathryn and Andrew! However, I know how much Chris appreciated the support he had at home and there is no doubt that he was totally committed to his family. His enjoyment of orienteering and playing on the staff cricket team provided further balance, but, I am told, also brought out his fiercely competitive spirit! As a season ticket holder at Manchester United, he demonstrated dedication of a different kind!

Chris' contribution to QPHS over the years is incalculable. He will be remembered with gratitude and affection by generations of young people and the many colleagues with whom he worked. ”

Andrew Firman, Headteacher 1989-2009



ROYAL CHESHIRE SHOW

'Thank you for the Music'

Last weekend, the QPHS Choir were guest performers at the Chester Wind Band Spring Concert held in Ellesmere Port Civic Hall. The choir sang a selection of their own material, alongside a full programme of music from the 60s, 70s and 80s. The choir also performed a joint version of 'Thank You for the Music' with the band.

Our Year 7 Choir are in demand at the moment, having been chosen to perform at this year's annual Royal Cheshire Show in Tabley, Cheshire. Only a small selection of schools from Cheshire West and Chester have been invited to attend the day and perform to show visitors. The choir will be performing a selection of pieces, with some students brave enough to take on solos. The choir are really excited to be offered this opportunity and have been relentlessly rehearsing to ensure they are ready to perform for their audience.

We all wish them the very best of luck!

TED GETS HIS WINGS

Year 11 student makes RAF Cadet History



“ This memorable flight was my first ever in a Glider. I really enjoyed it and look forward to flying in the Viking. ”

Ted Goulden, Year 11

The Grob Vigilant T1 Motor Glider formally retired after 27 years of service with the Royal Air Force on Sunday 6th May 2018 - but not before QPHS Year 11 student and Cadet Edward (Ted) Goulden made history as being the last ever cadet to fly in the Vigilant! This completed Ted's Blue Wings aviation package and was also his first ever flight! The final sortie, flown by OC 645 Squadron Leader Stephen Hughes, took to the air for the final time on Sunday! You're in the history books Ted - Fantastic achievement!



BOYS WIN SILVER Junior Inter-regional Regatta

Queen's Park High School Rowing Club (QPHSRC) had a great weekend representing the North West Region against the rest of the country at the Inter-regional Regatta in Nottingham on Saturday 21st April 2018.

The most celebrated race of the day was the J16 boys final, which saw Year 11 student Gwilym Harris from QPHS and his doubles partner Patrick Brogan from Northwich Rowing Club, in a nail biting and epic battle for the finish line. The boys ended the race in a dead heat for second place, and won coveted and acclaimed silver medals in the process.

Congratulations to both boys for their endless commitment and dedication to the sport which has earned them this fantastic achievement.

Meanwhile, our own Year 9 boys, Dylan Howard and Iestyn Burke, battled well in their J14 double to

get a place in the A final, beating the renowned Henley Rowing Club! They finished in fifth place after another close race to the finish line. An additional well done to QPHS Year 11 girls, Kiera Burke and Zara Gautier-Price, who were representing the North West Region for the second year running and finished in a

respectably ranked 10th place in the J16 girls double event.

All in all, it was yet another successful day of rowing for QPHSRC - the results of all the races contributed to the North West team claiming an overall fourth place.

Following on from this event, Gwilym has been enjoying his winning streak. He competed in the Junior Sculling Regatta at the Olympic Rowing Course in Dorney Lake, Eton and once again featured in the medal winners alongside his teammates from Northwich Rowing Club. The boys competed in the J18 quad but only one of the boys is aged 18! They managed fifth position out of 11 crews in the time trial and then finished in a very impressive third place behind Star and Garter A and B crews, (otherwise known as Leander club) who are the best in the country. This is yet another fantastic achievement for the team.

“ The Junior Inter-regional Regatta is a culmination of all the best crews across the country, these are all picked to represent their region and have to race over 1500m numerous times on the day. Our rowers have been training for 6 days a week in the lead up to the event, before and after school. This shows great commitment and drive to succeed from them and I would like to thank them all for their efforts and equally their coaches for making it happen.”

Richard Cox, QPHSRC Chairman

Morgan shows his mettle to win J17 final



We are delighted for Sixth Form student Morgan Linfield, who rows for Young Royals, who broke through his pain barrier to win the J17 final at the Shrewsbury Regatta last weekend. This was against the person who beat him last year! A great achievement, Morgan - Well Done!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - SUMMER TERM 2018

Date	Event	Time	Date	Event	Time
23 May	Cheshire Schools Athletics (juniors)	12.00-5.00pm	27 June	OPEN MORNING for Year 4 & 5 Parents/ Carers	9.15-12.00pm
23 May	Year 6 Induction Evening	6.00-7.30pm	28 June	OPEN MORNING for Year 4 & 5 Parents/ Carers	9.15-12.00pm
25 May	Year 11 Leavers' Assembly	11.35-12.00pm	29 June	PTA Parents vs Staff Dragon Boat Race TBC	5.30pm
25 - 26 May	Rowing Event - National Schools Regatta, London		29 June	Year 13 Celebration Ball/Prom	7.00pm
28 May - 1 June	SUMMER HALF TERM		30 June	Rowing Event - Ironbridge Regatta	All Day
28 May	Rowing Event - Northwich Regatta	All day	2 - 6 July	Enrichment Week Year 10 & 12 Work Experience	
4 June	Bonjour Photography in school	All day	3 July	Year 6 Transition Day	All Day
5 - 6 June	DofE Training Expedition	All day	4 July	Year 11 Celebration Ball/Prom	7.00pm
8 June	Chester University WBL students last day of placement	All Day	5 July	Sports Day	1.00-3.00pm
9 June	Rowing Event - Chester Regatta	All Day	12 July	A Level Drama Performance	7.00-8.00pm
12 June	A Level Drama Performance	7.00-8.00pm	15 July	Rowing Event - Runcorn Regatta	
13 June	DSP Year 5 Curriculum Challenge Day	All day	16 - 17 July	DofE Qualifying Expedition	All Day
18 June	OPEN MORNING for Year 4 & 5 Parents/ Carers	9.15-12.00pm	17 July	Awards Evening & Arts Exhibition	6.30-7.30pm 6.00-8.00pm
19 June	Year 7 Choir performing at Royal Cheshire Show, Knutsford.	9.00-3.00pm	19 July	Rewards Trips	All day
19 June	Trinity Mirror Cheshire School Awards at Queen Hotel	12.00-2.45pm	20 - 22 July	Rowing Event - National Junior Rowing Championship	
19 - 22 June	KS3 End of Year Assessments		23 - 24 July	INSET Days	
20 June	OPEN MORNING for Year 4 & 5 Parents/ Carers	9.15-12.00pm	16 August	A Level Results	9.00am
21 June	Cheshire Schools Athletics (seniors)	12.00-5.00pm	20 - 22 August	Summer Sports Camp for Year 4 & 5 children	10.00-3.00pm
25 June	Summer Exams End (Year 11-13)		20 - 22 August	Summer School for QPHS new Year 7	10.00-3.00pm
25 - 29 June	Year 10 & 12 Exams		23 August	GCSE Results	9.30am
			25 July - 31 August	SUMMER HOLIDAYS	
			3 September	Back to School Welcome back to all our present & new students	8.40am

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