



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

SPRING TERM

APRIL 2023

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in rowing & netball

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TIME TO SHINE BILLY ELLIOT

The Musical



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WELCOME



I can't quite believe we are starting the final term of this academic year, and what a busy one it promises to be! There's so many exciting events ahead for students this term including: Year 6 Induction Day, whole school Enrichment Week, Year 10 & 12

Work Experience, Year 11 & 13 Proms plus our end of year rewards trips, to name but a few!

In the coming months we also look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students into Queen's Park High School, one of our largest intake groups for many years, who are ready to take their next steps into secondary education.

Meanwhile, ready for the next phase of their educational journey, our Year 11 and Year 13 students are fully focused on their final preparations for the upcoming 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 look forward to celebrating their time with us at their proms and on their results day in August.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff who have worked tirelessly to support our students prior to, and during, this exam period. They have given up time before and after school, and during the holidays, to offer guidance and support to our students - I am certain the hard work will pay off! Our school is incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated and committed team of staff.

To improve communication between school and home, we launched our new School Synergy system and parents will now have received their personalised log in to access information about their child's attendance, behaviour, rewards and extracurricular activities. We will be adding progress data to the system over the next term and hope this enables families to feel completely informed about their child's school life and education outcomes. If you need support in accessing Synergy, please contact je.footitt@qphs.co.uk

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. Over the next couple of weeks we will be asking parents/carers to complete a Parental Survey to help support us going forward - your honest feedback will be greatly appreciated!

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

Mr Kearns,
HEADTEACHER



DEVELOPING PARTNERSHI

Pioneering careers education programme

Queen's Park High School is thrilled to announce a key partnership with The Chester Grosvenor Hotel, a luxury five star hotel located in the heart of the city which overlooks the famous Eastgate Clock. The Handbridge based school is leading the way to provide an outstanding Careers Education and Personal Development Programme for all their students via a wide range of partnerships with cornerstone employers across the region.

The school is working with Chester Hospitality Association (CHA) and Cheshire and Warrington Pledge Partnership on an exciting new Chester wide venture whereby schools across the city are to be paired with an associated hotel.

With Andrea Watts, Head of Careers at the helm, it comes as no surprise that Queen's Park High School was selected to pioneer the Hotels and Schools Programme working in partnership with The Chester Grosvenor Hotel. This initiative will see stronger links between the worlds of hospitality and education and highlight career paths available in the industry. The Pledge Partnership puts employers at the heart of informing and inspiring young people about careers and progression by connecting businesses with educators, promoting industry sectors and developing longstanding relationships with



PS

schools to build a talent pipeline. Steven Hesketh, Executive Board Chair of CHA said, “This is collaboration at its best, and it’s great to see schools embracing hospitality and of course why not, when you have the crème de la crème of hotels, The Chester Grosvenor on offer alongside a dozen other high end hotels in the city. The Chester Hospitality Association is so proud to get this Hotel Schools Programme launched.”

Earlier this month, members of the Queen’s Park High School team had the pleasure of meeting Sarah Hercules, Learning and Development Manager at The Chester Grosvenor Hotel to discuss the vision of this new partnership. This included a key focus on raising students’ aspirations through harnessing the skills and expertise

from within the hospitality industry, to provide core personal development opportunities for all students. Over the next academic year the programme of events will encompass work experience at the hotel, catering masterclasses, careers workshops and the development of transferrable skills to name but a few.

Andrea Watts said “The opportunities that this partnership will bring are limitless. We are passionate about ensuring all of our students have access to personal development opportunities which will provide the knowledge, skills and experiences to be successful in the world outside of the classroom.” The Chester Grosvenor Hotel offer a wide range of employment opportunities and apprenticeship programmes.

“ I am absolutely delighted we have been partnered with Queen’s Park High School and are very much looking forward to working with them to help inspire and grow the next generation of hospitality in Chester. Our people are at the very heart of delivering a five star experience, so it is important they are nurtured and have opportunities to develop, we offer a wide range of apprenticeships to enable our team to work towards a qualification, from commis chef apprenticeships to hospitality supervisor apprentices. ”

Sarah Hercules, Learning and Development Manager at The Chester Grosvenor Hotel



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

DITCH THE DIRT

CHESTER ZOO



Rising to the challenge

British Science Week is a 10 day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths which took place between 10th -19th March 2023!

Making a comeback this year at Queen's Park for Science Week was the *Ditch the Dirt* project - an exciting STEM challenge in which students investigate ways of making dirty water cleaner.

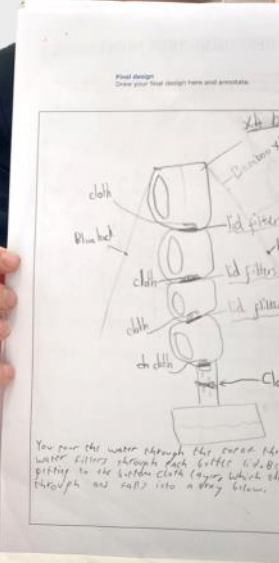
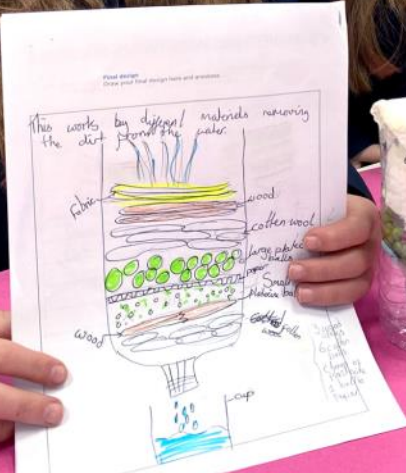
Year 7 have been designing and building a filter for the dirty water and

exploring ways of making water safe to drink. Students have been working in teams of five to create their models and will be testing and presenting them to the esteemed judges (Miss Davies and Miss Sutton) to find out whose design was most successful!

Year 8 have spent Science Week with the wonderful education officers of Chester Zoo learning all about how climate change affects our planet and what we can do to help.

As part of the programme, Chester Zoo invited all Year 8 students to visit the zoo and meet some of the animals that have been impacted by climate change the most!

Sticking with the 'zoo' theme, Year 9 spent time researching conservation projects and designing their own zoo's.





STEM CLUB

SCIENCE • TECHNOLOGY • ENGINEERING • MATHEMATICS

This term, Year 7 STEM club students have been working with Chester Zoo for 10 weeks of exciting workshops.

These sessions have focussed on conservation of species and methods to prevent extinction. Students have also had the opportunity to find out about careers at the zoo and the work they do.

The workshops have included a range of creative activities including students designing their own animal enclosures and their own animals. Students have also investigated how to estimate population sizes by making a mammal tunnel and using microchips.

Year 7 have engaged in lots of hands on activities including using Lego to build a village to investigate the effects of electricity on climate change. They've also produced stop motion animation to show the issues with conflict between large predators and humans.

These after school activities have also raised awareness of the solutions to climate change and the ways we can prevent extinction of species.

Huge thanks to the Chester Zoo Education Team for leading such engaging workshops and inspiring our students.

Villagers chop down trees, taking wood from the park to burn for fuel. There's no habitat left for tigers and leopards.

Villagers install biogas stores - they don't need wood from the park anymore.

“ It is fantastic for students to have the opportunity to learn about conservations and different real world examples of this. ”

Miss Sutton, Achievement Leader of Science



maths INSPIRATION

Calculating how to escape any planet

In March, our Year 12 mathematicians had a captivating 2 hours at the Storyhouse Theatre in Chester listening to some of the UK's most inspiring maths speakers about how maths influences the real world.

Maths Inspiration is a national programme of interactive maths lecture shows for teenagers sponsored by Bank of America. The event was a brilliant opportunity to show our students where maths can take you.

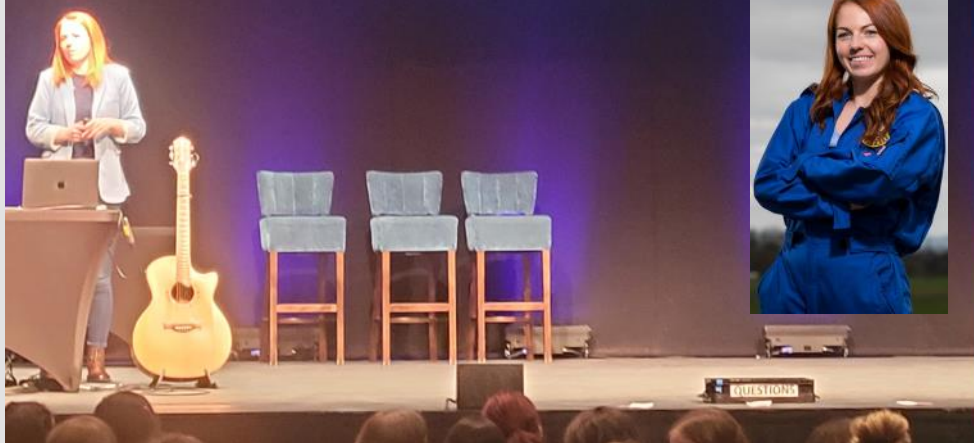
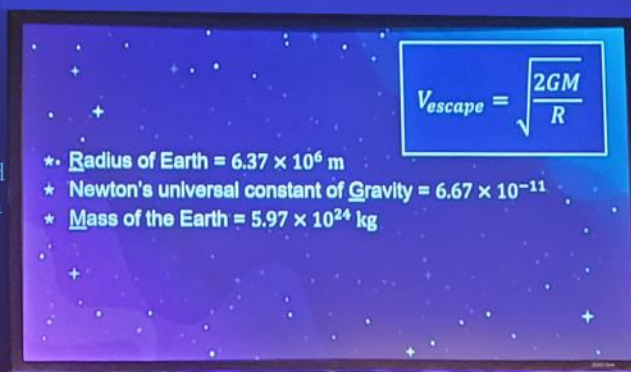
Zoe Griffiths hosted this year's show with guest speakers that included: Ben Sparks, Alison Kiddle and Dr Jaclyn Bell who all shared their fantastic insights into the world of maths with inspiring stories about puzzles and sequences to investigating the probability of winning a game of poker!

Dr Jaclyn Bell has been featured on the BBC show, *Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes?* where she underwent a series of tests, similar, or identical to those within the astronaut training programme. In her own words Jaclyn is a proud Scouse girl from a normal everyday background who thought she might be a musician when young but was always fascinated by space and the moon. She explained how the maths we learn in Year 9 enables any of us to be able to escape any planet or moon's atmosphere!

For anybody who finds themselves stuck on the moon in the future or simply wants to escape earth, take note of the calculation in the photos!

“ It was great to see our Year 12 students so enthusiastic about maths and its applications...they seemed particularly excited to revisit probability with a game of poker! ”

Miss Jones,
Maths Achievement Lead



HSBC 



REAL LIFE MATHS Student becomes teacher!

In March the maths department were delighted to welcome back to Queen's Park High School, former maths student, Morgan Linfield.

After completing his A Level studies at Queen's Park and achieving a first Class honours in Physics at Newcastle University, Morgan now works as a Wealth and Personal banking graduate for his second placement in Cyber Security and Information Risk. As part of HSBC's financial education programme, Morgan got in touch with Mrs Blears-Chalmers (Maths Curriculum Team Leader) and offered to come back to his old school to share his knowledge with Year 12 core maths students to talk about real life maths in banking, focusing on finance and interest rates.

Morgan said he was really impressed with the engagement and respect the students displayed throughout the session and can't wait to come back to talk to students from other year groups.

We would like to thank Morgan for giving up his time to work with our students. It was great to see him!

Evaluate the sum

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{1+\sqrt{2}}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2+\sqrt{3}}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3+\sqrt{4}}} + \dots + \frac{1}{\sqrt{15+\sqrt{16}}}$$

Can you find a similar sum that evaluates to 5?

MATHS BOOSTER DAY

Supporting Chester high schools

At the end of February, we hosted the annual Year 12 Booster Day for Mathematics. As in previous years, the day was led by Martin Bamber from the Advanced Maths Support Programme (AMSP) and the University of Liverpool and was supported by the Maths PCGE trainee teachers from the University of Chester.

Around 30 sixth form students from local high schools across Chester joined our own Year 12 mathematicians for a day of maths enrichment activities.

This day is a fantastic opportunity to investigate mathematical concepts in more detail and see their real-life application.

Students were given problems to solve and developed their teamwork skills to get the most effective outcomes.

The AMSP is a government-funded programme providing national support for teachers and students in England. It aims to increase participation in Core Maths, AS/A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics, and support improvement in the teaching of these level 3 maths qualifications.

The day's event was yet another successful collaboration with the two universities and Martin Bamber! Thank you to all involved!

“ Martin is inspirational! It was great to get to see maths in real situations. I really enjoyed working in a team and meeting students from other schools. ”
Year 12 maths student



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WORLD BOOK DAY!



Share a story in a day!

World Book Day was created by UNESCO on 23rd April 1995 as a worldwide celebration of books and reading and is marked in over 100 countries around the globe.

On Thursday 2nd March both staff and students enjoyed celebrating this special day in a number of ways:

For the third year running, we continued our tradition of reading a story in a day to the whole school. This year, the book of choice was *The Adventure of the Speckled Band* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; a short, suspenseful detective story with an unexpected twist at the end. The story was broken up into five sections and as students moved from lesson to lesson,

their teachers took it in turns to read instalments of the tale, so that by the end of the day, they had shared the full story.

Staff came to school dressed as their favourite book characters ranging from 'Find Wally' to our very own Miss Trunchbull from *Matilda* (aka Miss Hunter) who read to the entire Year 9 group in the main hall.

Finally, all students were sent an e-voucher for a free book. We hope they have enjoyed choosing from the fantastic selection of books available!



WORLD BOOK DAY

2 MARCH 2023



NATIONAL BOOK tokens

READING FOR PLEASURE

Discover a love for reading

World Book Day is a charity with a mission: to give every child and young person a book of their own and aim to change lives through a love of books and shared reading.

The charity is sponsored by National Book Tokens and works in partnership with schools, book publishers and booksellers to provide over 15 million £1 World Book Day book tokens to children and young people. These tokens can then be exchanged for free, new and exclusive world book day books from participating booksellers.

Thanks to the efforts of Mrs Melhuish-Jones and the generous support of Liam and Ash from WHSmith in Chester, this year we collected over 300 brand new books in advance of the day. These were then distributed to each Year 7 and Year 8 tutor group to share the joy of reading for pleasure.

We hope they enjoyed their Easter reads!

“
At Queen’s Park, reading is central to both our curriculum and our personal development.”
Mrs Phillips,
Assistant Headteacher &
Teacher of English





STUDENTS MEET AUTHOR

What do Audrey Hepburn & QPHS Book Club have in common?

Following the Cheshire School Book Awards last Autumn, Ms Melhuish-Jones our school librarian, wrote to some of the authors whose books were nominated. She was thrilled to receive back a letter containing posters and bookmarks from one of the authors - Tom Palmer. He also mentioned he would be visiting Waterstones in Chester for a book signing and invited QPHS book club to come along!

Ms MJ jumped at this exciting opportunity for her Book Club students, and set the wheels in motion for the trip to go ahead!

Despite the teacher strikes scheduled for that day, an undeterred Mrs MJ arranged to

meet the students at Waterstones, where they were surprised to discover they were the only school there!

Tom Palmer was really welcoming and shared his journey to becoming an author. He spoke about being a reluctant reader at school but was encouraged when he was older.

Our students had prepared questions in advance for Tom, which ranged from how to write a book, to did he like cheese! Students also learned that Mrs Williams is a huge Audrey Hepburn fan whose dining room is painted in Tiffany Blue in homage to Audrey!

Tom spoke to the group for almost an hour and was engaging and

encouraging throughout. He urged students to strive for their dreams.

Tom was also in Waterstones to promote his book, *Resist* which shines a light on the incredible work of the Dutch resistance during World War 2. The story is actually inspired by the real life experiences of Hollywood legend Audrey Hepburn, who began working for the Dutch resistance during her teenage years spent trapped in the Nazi-occupied Netherlands!

The students all bought a book using their World Book Day tokens and are looking forward to seeing Tom again at the Cheshire School Book Awards in May which the Book Club will be attending.





ST MARY'S VISIT

Hosted by Reverend Waite

In March, Year 11 GCSE Religious Studies visited St Mary's Church in Handbridge. Reverend Ric Waite hosted the group in the Lady Chapel and explained the significance of Eucharist and the ways different denominations of Christians celebrate it.

The students are studying Christian Practices in lessons so this was a vital section of their studies.

The students asked intelligent questions such as:

- What does the bread represent in different denominations?
- What do the stained glass windows depict?

They also answered Rev Waite's questions accurately. The group were given a very warm welcome in this beautiful local church. Rev Waite said "The walls are made of stone but are wallpapered with the prayers of 150 years" which really resonated with the students.



CHESTER UNI

Religious Studies & Theology

This trip was an exciting opportunity for students currently studying Theology and Religious Studies at GCSE level, and selected hardworking and gifted Year 9 and 10 students, to explore what studying these subjects might be like at university.

Students attended taster lectures, seminar discussions, and spoke to current lecturers and university students to ask questions. Dr Wendy Dossett welcomed the group and introduced us to what the faculty has to offer. Students attended a lecture by Dr Caroline Tee called *Religion, the Big Bang and the Origins of Human life*. This was followed by a guided tour of the university by some of their students.

After lunch we had another lively and interesting session with Professor Paul Middleton about *Christian views of the Afterlife*.

“ The students were well behaved, engaged and answered questions thoughtfully in addition to posing thought provoking questions of their own. It was great to explore the subject at a higher level and experience a taste of university life for a day. ”

Mrs MerryWeather, Teacher of RE

Who studies religion at A level and beyond?

- **the practical person** - wants the transferable skills valued by employers: empathy, understanding, critical thinking.
- **the seeker** - looking for spiritual resources, or just to make sense of life and experience
- **the thinking person of faith** - faith seeking understanding, learning to think within a religious tradition about the world
- **the person committed to social justice** - do religions help or hinder?
- **the person curious about the world** - why do people do things and think what they think?
- **the person who asks questions** - do people's beliefs make sense? How can we justify our beliefs?
- **the person who builds a better world** - wants a society of tolerance, respect and different lifestyles.



University of Chester

LEARN A LANGUAGE

Stand out from the crowd



On Thursday 2nd March, we were delighted to welcome back guest speaker, David Binns to talk to all Year 9 students on the advantage of languages in the workplace. David is the UK owner of global technology company Sanako Connect.

David's presentation was perfectly timed ahead of students' GCSE options that evening.

David shared his own educational journey and story of success with students, highlighting a number of celebrities as examples of successful individuals of whom all could speak more than one language. He touched on the recruitment process, how to stand out from the crowd when writing a CV, stressing the importance of modern languages from an employer's perspective.

Following David's talk last year and the Summer exam results, the MFL department had a 300% increase in the number of students opting to take a language to GCSE level, a key target of the Department of Education.

The UK loses £48 billion every year due to a lack of language skills, so choosing to continue learning a language has huge career benefits later in life. GCSE MFL is part of the EBacc qualification, widely accepted for progression to A level and higher study. Our MFL department are once again looking forward to teaching an even larger cohort of students for their GCSE's next year.



sanako

Not being a very clever chap it took me a while to realise a few things;

Languages has minimal change over time once you have got it, you have got it!

No Further Education and cost required unless I chose to do it!

Foreign ages

Modern Foreign Language



OFF TO OXFORD!

Anthea Bell prize for young translators

All students in Year 8 are currently competing in a nationwide translation competition organised by the University of Oxford.

They've been challenged to translate 2 texts from a Young Adult fiction novel from Spanish into English: *Como tu* - a poem by Leon Felipe, and an extract from *La liebre mecánica* by Leticia Costas. In doing so, they are learning that the translation process is much more than just changing one word for another and are having to be creative in their use of the English

language. Students are also thinking carefully about cultural differences and how much a language can be effectively translated.

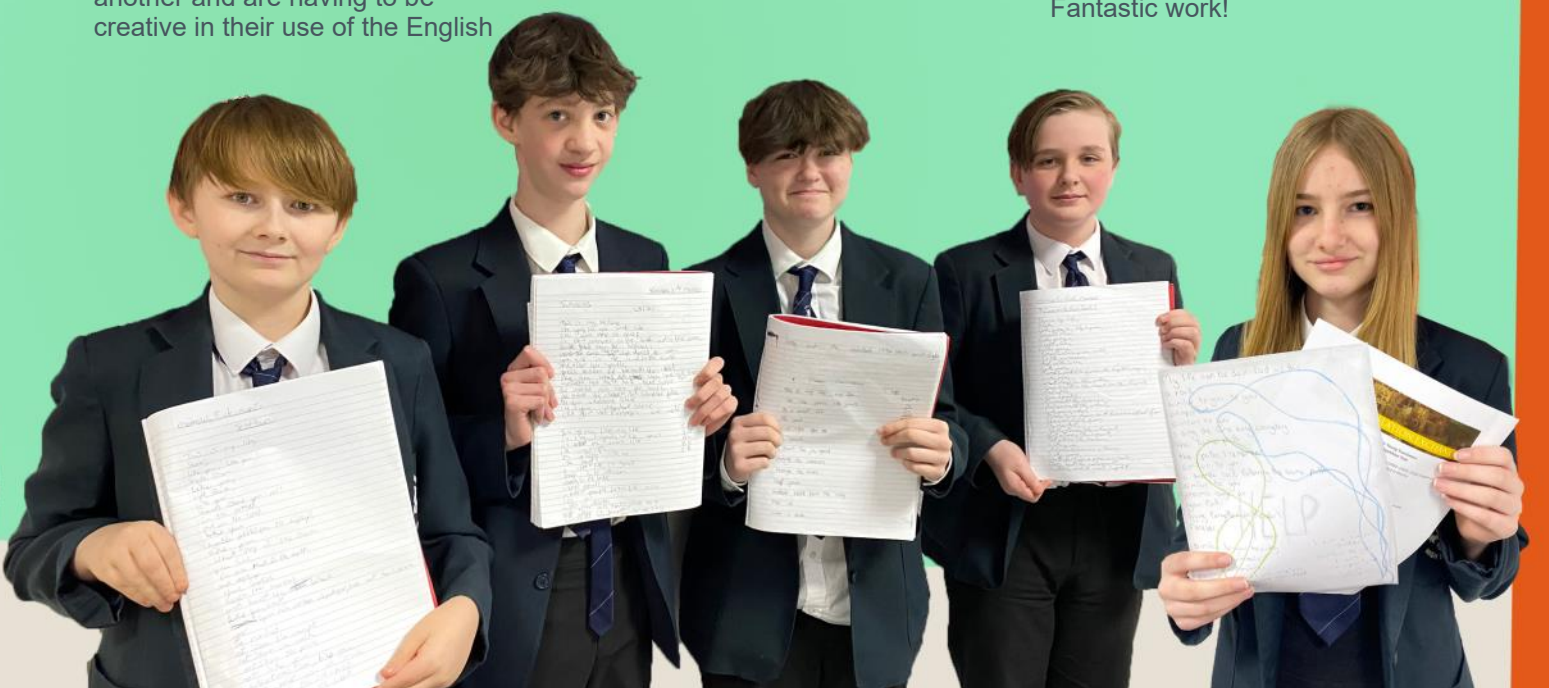
Mrs Whitehouse and Miss Worthington have been blown away by the analytical powers of our students, and their sensitivity in considering other cultures.

The Translation Exchange launched this competition for schools in 2020, in partnership with the Stephen Spender Trust.

The competition is inspired by the life and work of the great literary translator Anthea Bell (OBE). It aims to promote language learning across the UK and to inspire creativity in the classroom.

Congratulations to our Year 8 winners: Joe R, Josh L, Josh Lo, Daria N, Sasha M, Lydia S, Rosie B, Abel V, Adam S, Fin R, Albert L, Seb R and Lucy S whose work will now be submitted to the prestigious competition!

Fantastic work!





BALLOON SCULPTURES

Inspired by Henry Moore

A Level art and design students have recently been exploring the world of sculpture and three dimensional art.

The Year 12 students have been experimenting in new materials and techniques and have focused on the sculptural work of British artist, Henry Moore, studying his use of abstracted natural forms.

Students have been working in pairs to create plaster sculptures by pouring liquid plaster into balloons. This was a delicate task that took team work, patience and practise, but one which allowed students to manipulate the plaster into a range of interesting abstract forms.

The finished pieces are excellent sculptures and show direct links to the sculptor Henry Moore.

What amazing work!



CELEBRATING
Creativity

'Destroy' and transform

As part of their identity project, Year 10 photography students have been looking at how to change the perception and meaning of a portrait using photography and traditional art techniques.

British fashion photographer Rankin, launched the 'Destroy' project exploring how his portrait photographs can be radically modified to destroy the image by their subjects. Kylie Minogue scrawled red pen across her portrait whilst Sophie Ellis-Bextor cut up horizontal strips and rearranged her face completely.

Working in pairs to take portrait shots of each other, students used their own photographs and traditional art materials and techniques to cut up, destroy and transform their own portraits to create something new. They've completed a series of experimental 'Destroy' portraits with some surprising creations!

Artist of the Month



Congratulations to Year 8 student, Alisha C who has been awarded Artist of the Month for January. She has been selected for all the amazing work she has produced since September.

Georgia is a hardworking student whose sketchbook demonstrates passion, commitment and has been used to document her own personal journey. Georgia completed an excellent detailed, layered portrait for her recent mock exam. Well done Georgia!

Congratulations to Year 8 student, Alisha C who has been awarded Artist of the Month for January. She has been selected for all the amazing work she has produced since September.

Alisha is a hardworking student whose sketchbook demonstrates excellent presentation skills and documents her written and practical responses to a very high standard. Keep up the great work Alisha!



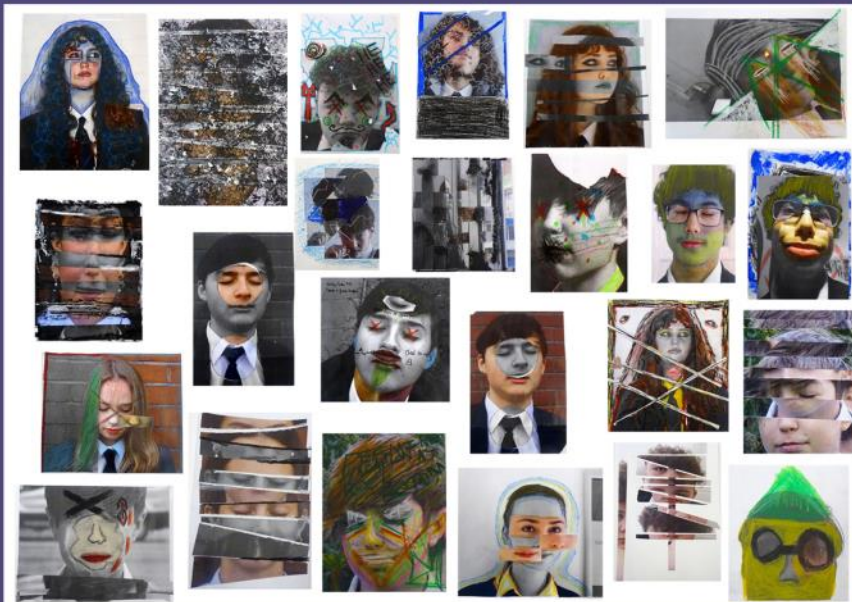
PHOTOGRAPHER of the Month



We are extremely proud of Year 11 student, Tia N, who has been selected for January's Photographer of the Month Award for the work she is currently producing for her externally set assignment.

Tia has used Liam Wong's 'low light' photographs of the city to inspire her responses. Her analysis of his work has enabled experiments in her photoshoot that lead to confident responses which show a real connection to his ideas and work.

Congratulations Tia!





MASTERCHEF

As part of this term's Enrichment Programme our Masterchef students have enjoyed making lots of tasty treats. These have included: Scotch Pancakes with various toppings for Shrove Tuesday and Jammy Red Nose biscuits for Comic relief, where students showed their icing skills decorating the biscuits to make funny character faces.

For Easter they made mini cheese cakes and crispy chocolate refrigerator cake, decorated with mini eggs, sprinkles and drizzled with white chocolate – Yum!



MICHELIN STARS

Hospitality and Catering exam

Year 11 students have been faced with the ultimate challenge this term. They've been given a design brief to create menu ideas for a restaurant that wanted to focus on family friendly British dishes using local produce - no mean feat even for the Gordon Ramsay's of this world! Students had to research nutrition, cost, and create a time plan which would enable them to cook two dishes in three hours.

They produced some amazing final outcomes including: cottage pie with piped mashed potato, spicy chicken curry and lamb hotpot followed by desserts of: cheesecake with chocolate shards, millionaire's shortbread and a soufflé with raspberry coulis!

High level skills were demonstrated through homemade breads, pastry, sauces and hasselback potatoes.

Such top-quality food made to restaurant standard. We certainly have some Michelin star chefs in the making!



Design TECHNOLOGY

The Technology Department are currently in the process of introducing a number of projects in computer aided design (CAD) to KS3 students. A recent trial run using CAD has taken place during the run up to Easter and the department is proud to announce that a number of Year 8 and 9 students completely smashed through each task with confidence.

Mr Traves' 3D Design students in Year 10 have been using Sculpt GL to mould and colour a ball of digital putty to create various creatures and characters - some cute, some scary! Year 11 students have been using the latest Auto CAD programme, *Fusion 360* so that they can include technical information, product design considerations and visual aesthetics as a part of their design development work.

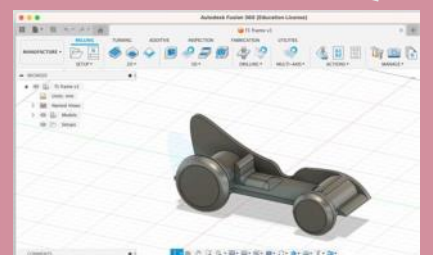
Year 7 students have been perfecting their tie-dye and printing skills this term. They've also been practising basic hand stitching in textiles, with a focus on running stitch, whip stitch, cross stitch and sewing buttons – all very important skills to make basic repairs to clothing! Some students

have even gone on to explore embroidery and making patterns, images and text with stitches!

In Year 8, students have been exploring fashion design in textiles, looking at sportswear and costumes for inspiration. They will work in groups to create designs for their own fashion lines. Keep an eye out for our future designers showcased on the fashion runways of London, Paris and Milan!

In Year 9, students have produced some fantastic interior design drawings and models this term. Research and images found on homeware store websites have helped students' mood board and form colour schemes, but also understand spacing and layouts of rooms. Students went on to plot floor plans and elevations for kitchens and living rooms, leading on to design and create a scale model of their own dream bedroom. Strangely, there seem to be no dirty clothes on the floor!

Year 11 have been enjoying after school revision every Wednesday with a slice of pizza and other treats as they prepare for their GCSE exams. We're sure their hard work will pay off when exam season hits!





CHESTER DUCK RACE

A 'Quacking' collaboration

This year's annual Chester Duck Race took place on Saturday 1st April, in which hundreds of amazingly decorated ducks were unleashed onto the River Dee.

Aaron and Partners Solicitors in Chester were one of many businesses that generously sponsored a duck in aid of the Countess of Chester Blue Skies Balcony Appeal.

Following our successful collaboration last year when the company set sixth form students the challenge to design a duck based on sustainability, Jan Chillery, partner and solicitor at

Aaron and Partners was keen to team up and invited art and design students to work their creative magic once again. As Aaron & Partners is 40 years old this year, they wanted to mark this milestone with a theme to celebrate their 40th anniversary.

Year 12 students, Sienna, Evie and Lucy were delighted to take up the creative challenge and transformed the original naked and unnamed duck into 'Rupert' who has flair, a professional image with a celebratory twist and is dressed in the company's colours! Great work girls!



HICKORY'S

“ I really enjoyed my visit to Hickory's. It was a great experience, and I was so thrilled to win my branded apron. All the staff were so lovely and the food and drinks were delicious. Thank you for this opportunity ”

Olivia H, Year 10 student

Incr'EDIBLE' dishes win restaurant challenge

In December, Matt Jones & Craig Gibson, managers at Hickory's Smoke House in Chester came into Queen's Park to work with our Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students and set them a challenge! Their design brief for the students was to create a dish for the Hickory's menu.

Nine students were then selected to visit the restaurant based on the dishes they'd created following the challenge. The aim was to give students a real insight into the different roles within the industry.

On arrival students were given the full Hickory's experience and were greeted with a warm welcome, escorted to a reserved table, full of complementary drinks and popcorn! Matt explained the roles of the staff from front of house to head chef and then took students on a behind the scenes tour.

In the meat smoking area in the kitchen students received a fresh

order and experienced the preparation process of seasoning the meat with Hickory's famous magic dust. At the end of the tour and to their delight, students were treated to a masterclass in cocktail making and created their own mock-tail behind the bar to enjoy with their meal!

Year 10 sampled a sharing platter of Hickory's signature dishes along with a range of sides which included the most delicious onion rings and Mac 'n' Cheese.

Matt presented all students with a certificate to recognise their achievements and selected which of their innovative dishes had won first and second prize for the Hickory's menu challenge.

Huge congratulations to the winner, Olivia H for her mouth-watering Southern coated fried flower onion and to the runner up, Dan K for his super tasty fried pulled pork balls!



“ It was a great day and I would really like to experience the industry further. I am delighted to be runner up in to design a dish for the menu competition. I knew my fried pulled pork balls would be a hit after testing it out on my family. ”

Dan K, Year 10 student



STUDENT'S DESIGN HAS THE EDGE

Artwork selected for special edition anniversary truck



To We are thrilled to announce that Year 10 student, Jasmine Davies from Queen's Park High School has been named as one of the 3 lucky winners of the Edge Transport Truck Livery Competition. Jasmine's creative design was selected out of over one hundred entries, from schools across Cheshire, Wirral and North Wales and has directly contributed to the final look of Edge Transport's new truck to mark their 90th anniversary.

Jasmine created her design during the school's Cultural Enrichment Day in October, where her year group explored a range of careers within the Art, Design and Technology sector and were given specific and real life assignment briefs set by big companies to fulfil.

Miss Barmer, Teacher of Art and Design thought this would be a great opportunity for our budding student designers to create and submit their designs for Edge Transport's celebratory truck competition. Following the brief, designs had to be complimentary to the company's corporate branding, use the Edge logo, and give an outstanding image of the company.

“ At Edge our values (Caring, Commitment, Ambition) are core to our daily operation and identity. We are proud of reaching such a milestone (90 years in business) and felt it was appropriate to involve the community on designing our 90th anniversary truck. Jasmine's design caught the judge's eye with its fresh, bold look to help Edge stand out on the road. Congratulations to Jasmine for expressing her creativity and helping to write a new chapter in Edge's history. ”

Dan Roach, Head of Commercial, Edge Transport,



Since that time, the anniversary truck has had the artwork installed and on Tuesday 31st January, Jasmine was able to see her concept become a physical reality as representatives of Edge Transport came to pay us a visit at Queen's Park in their brand new Volvo FH artic featuring the bespoke design.

As an extra special touch the company had all three winners' names printed in the logo design which features on the back of the truck's cab; a lasting legacy for Jasmine to remember!

As part of the launch of the special edition vehicle, Jasmine was presented with her competition winner's prize, a £50 Amazon gift card for herself and another for the school. Miss Barmer is already looking forward to spending the school's voucher on art materials and resources to support teaching and learning in the classroom.

Edge Transport was founded in 1933 and are a third-generation family business based in Deeside, Flintshire delivering cost-effective, flexible pallet distribution and warehousing solutions. They currently have a 70 strong team and operate 38 vehicles which travel around the region and across the UK.

This year, they celebrate 90 years of delivering excellence in logistics in North Wales and the North West of England. To find out more please visit their website: <https://edgetransport.co.uk/>



“ I am delighted that Jasmine's design was chosen and it was amazing to see her design on the truck. The competition was a fantastic opportunity for all our Year 10 students to extend their understanding of careers within the design industry. ”

Miss Barmer, Teacher of Art & Design

CONNECTIONS



Cultural Enrichment Day

As part of British National Science week, our students took part in a STEM based Enrichment Day. This year's theme was 'Connections', and this led to our wonderful Year 7 students spending the day exploring DNA and genetics by making Dolly the Sheep biscuits, investigating genetic diseases and creating genetically modified creatures and designing alien passports. Supported by the Visual Arts and Design faculty, students worked in a cross-curricular capacity to create a whole host of digital, 3D and edible creations linked to this strand of science.

Thanks to the work with Chester Zoo, Year 8 spent the day at with education officers Mia and Ellie, learning all about how our choices as consumers have catastrophic

effects on a vast number of animals around the world. Our students met Willie the orangutan and learnt all about how his home in Borneo had been destroyed to make way for palm oil plantations.

This wonderful zoological resource, right on our doorstep, has enabled us to run a huge range of workshops for our students leading up to this visit, putting science and ecology into context.

On an engineering theme, Year 9 students donned their engineering caps for the day and teamed up with Jamey Haywood from HS2 to design a train station and build a tunnel that was able to withstand 1kg of paper! This challenge led to some exploration of the maths behind structural engineering and

as a result of some brilliant construction and design work, many of our students were able to design something to fulfil the brief!

Year 10 were visited by Mr Davinder Lotay, Managing Director of the multi award winning company Altimex. Students learned all about how the electronics the company produce are used in a variety of robotics, such as a robot that can solve a Rubik's cube!

This day of presentation and interactive workshops brought the world of electrical engineering into the classroom and some of our students have even been offered work experience placements due to their engagement and enthusiasm for the subject.





Over the past few years disease, germs and vaccines have dominated our lives, Year 11 looked at how the world has been affected by these before. They spent time with the EBACC team looking at medical heroes that have influenced our lives such as William Harvey, Alexander Flemming, and Marie Curie. In this exciting cross-curricular adventure, history was truly realised in the context of our modern day medicines, with the expertise of Mrs Whitford-Stark and Mr Howens supporting the team with their extensive subject knowledge.

Students were also challenged to build a large scale group tetrahedron in just 1 hour; the results of which were very impressive!


Being part of the Sixth Form at Queen's Park High School during a Cultural Enrichment Day also provides opportunities for off-curriculum enrichment to support students in both their studies and preparation for their lives ahead. As part of the day, Year 12 students took part in a series of relationship and sex education workshops to strengthen their understanding of RSE.

Year 13, ahead of their imminent final examinations, spent the morning at the University of Chester where the Higher Horizons team delivered three workshops focusing on revision skills and techniques and strategies to help our students to be successful this summer. All of this was possible due to the enhanced networking the school engages with to support our students not least in the success of their academic curricula.



BILLY ELLIOT

THE MUSICAL



After four months of intensive rehearsals, the long-awaited return of the QPHS school musical took place with our production of Billy Elliot. This was probably one of our most challenging productions to date, not least because of the scale of the set and rotating house, but because of the requirements of the show to challenge our performers to all be brilliant at acting, singing and dancing.

The crew and musicians were also pushed to the limits having to learn to choreograph both the timings of the music with the 'flow' of the show, but also for the crew, moving huge set pieces on and off the stage in, at times, a mere 10 seconds!

As always, the students of our school stepped up to the bar which, unlike Mrs Wilkinson's floor bar, was very high! The quality of the acting and singing was outstanding, as were the intricate dance numbers and ballet pieces as taught by the show's resident choreographer, Cariad Morgan.

As part of the rehearsal process, the staff and cast spent a weekend at the Conway Centre in January to rehearse and refine the show. An incredible amount of time went into this production not least because the students wanted it to be the best it could, but because for so many, it re-ignited the passion for performance that has in some respects, lain dormant for a couple of years. This passion was keenly observed and relished by the 500 primary school children and their teachers who came to watch the





show during the two matinee performances, but also the hundreds more audience members who watched it over the four nights it ran.

The school will also be forever grateful to the talent of parents, with Gareth Mulholland stepping into the role as musical director

and Charlotte Carline supporting with her incredible woodwind talents.

This was truly a huge team effort and one that we know will have put QPHS school productions firmly back on the national map of excellence in musical theatre.

Now, the only question that still remains is what will be the production in 2024...!



National Theatre

CONNECTIONS 2023

Back in the summer of 2022, Queen's Park High School was successful in its bid to take part in the National Theatre Connections project for 2023. The project allows a bespoke group of theatrical companies from all over the UK to stage one of ten specially written plays for the festival.

The QPHS group, made up of Year 10 and 12 GCSE and A Level drama students, performed Ed Harris' *Strangers Like Me* in DR1 over two nights in March this year.

A director from the National Theatre in London came to watch the play and gave some brilliant feedback on the students' performance. This is all in preparation for the fantastic opportunity to transfer the production to The Crewe Lyceum on Wednesday 26th April, where the show will be staged in the main theatre at 7:30pm.

As a result of the rehearsals and performance work, the acting talents of all of the students involved have developed incredibly and projects like this serve not only to enhance skill sets required by examination specifications, but also develop confidence, leadership and team working skills for the future.

All of the students worked brilliantly on the show and are indeed, a real credit to the school.



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



DEFINING FUTURES

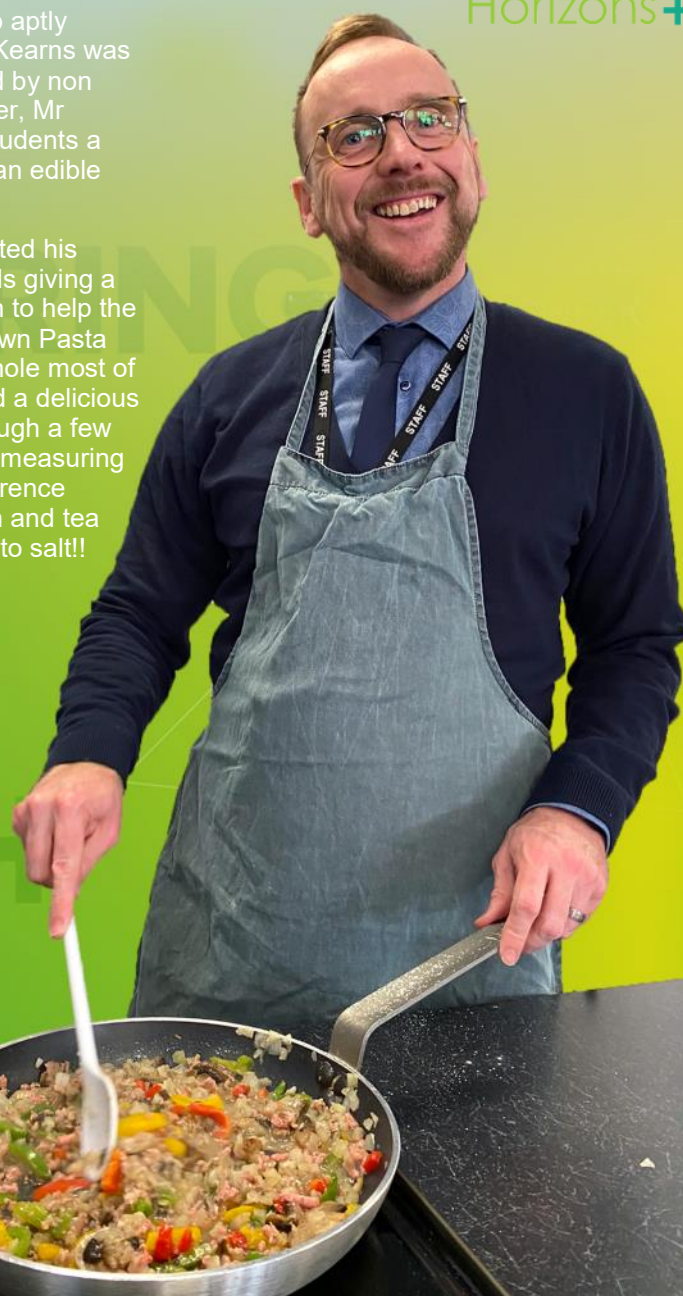
Student Finance & Cooking on a budget

It was Futures Day for Year 13 students on Tuesday 7th February. Students had two hours off timetable to take part in 'life at university' workshops. These aimed to support students' next steps after school, focusing on financial skills for the real world.

The first workshop was presented by Jess Newton from Higher Horizons - which is part of the Uni Connect Programme providing free and impartial higher education outreach to schools and colleges across Cheshire. Jess shared her knowledge and experience with students, which included information, advice and guidance on university life, student finance and disability at university with a particular focus on mental health. She explained to students how they can apply for student finance when they go to University in September.

The second workshop aptly named Cooking with Kearns was a practical session led by non other than headteacher, Mr Kearns who set the students a challenge of cooking an edible meal on a budget.

Mr Kearns demonstrated his exemplar culinary skills giving a step by step approach to help the students make their own Pasta Bolognese. On the whole most of the students produced a delicious tasting meal even though a few need to improve their measuring skills to learn the difference between a tablespoon and tea spoon when it comes to salt!!





National Careers Week



Driving aspirations and ambitions

During National Apprenticeship Week (w/c 6th February) and National Careers Week (w/c 6th March), all students across the school took part in a wide range of activities designed to enhance their knowledge and understanding of careers, options and pathways open to them for the future.

Our flag ship event was the Year 9 Futures Fair when we invited our Year 9 students and their parents into school to meet with a wide range of employers, independent training / Further Education / T - level Apprenticeship and Traineeship providers. The purpose was to encourage our Year 9 students to think about their next steps in the run up to their option choices and to provide parents with information about post -16 pathways.

Mrs Watts, Head of Careers was really excited to hear that Queen's Park High School was selected as the only Cheshire West and Chester School to write a case study for the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) as part of the Talking Futures initiative. The case study has been submitted to be considered as an example of best practice for National publication.



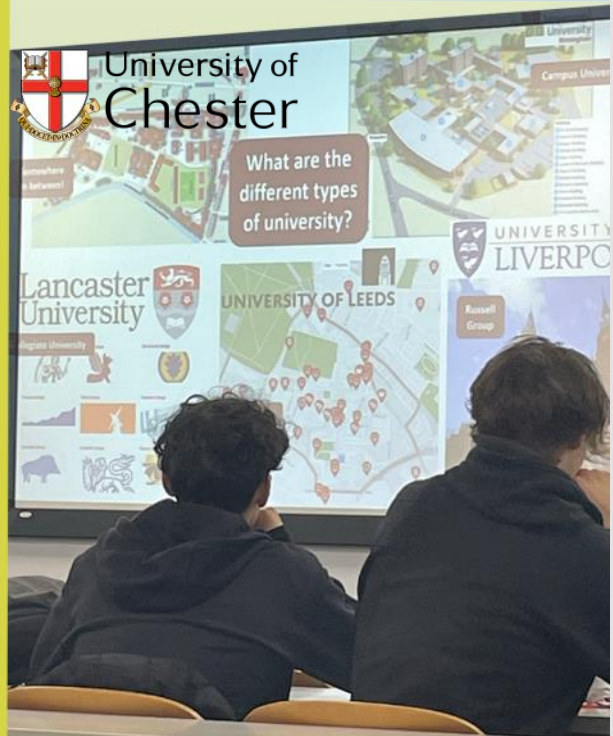
Student Life at University

In March, Year 12 students went on a visit to the University of Chester to experience life as a student.

They took part in a treasure hunt style activity which enabled them to freely explore the layout of the campus and focus on key areas, such as lecture spaces, sports facilities and social areas, that will be available for their further studies. Students then experienced lectures on student life and student finance to highlight the key life skills that they will need. They also learned about the different types of universities available.

“ This was a valuable day for Year 12 as they start to think about their next steps after Sixth Form. ”

Mrs Prydden, Head of Sixth Form



UCAS Applications

The deadline date for Year 13 UCAS applications was 25th January 2023! This year we have submitted a record number of applications, with 76% of our Sixth Form cohort applying to continue their studies at university.

Students are already receiving offers from a range of universities including Oxford, Manchester and Bangor. Those students who have not applied to UCAS are looking at different pathway opportunities, including: degree apprenticeships, apprenticeships, employment or taking a year out and travelling the world!

We look forward to following the next steps of our Year 13 students once they've completed all their exams this Summer!



Risking It All

Theatre in education

As part of our whole school approach to 'Keeping Everyone Safe in Education', Queen's Park High School students have been learning about RESPECT which is one of our whole school core values.

Tutor time activities, PSHCE lessons and assemblies have focused on this core theme where students have explored *respecting each other*, *respecting yourself*, *how to keep yourself safe* and *respecting the environment*.

Working in association with Cheshire West and Cheshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, Year 9 students took part in a performance and discussion entitled, 'Risking it all'.

This interactive workshop led by 2Engage, aims to support the welfare of young people across the region

whilst highlighting key issues around safeguarding risk-taking behaviour in adolescence.

2Engage are a not for profit organisation who facilitate and deliver theatre-based projects in educational and community settings.

The scenarios presented by the actors were based on real life stories and explored the impact these issues have on young people's mental and physical health, their education and their relationships with family and peers.

The powerful performance highlighted: social network and substance misuse, inappropriate relationships, risk-taking behaviour, peer pressure and the sometimes unseen process of grooming.





Big Period Live Lesson

As part of the PSHCE curriculum, Year 7 took part in the Big Period Live Lesson, delivered by Brook Education in partnership with Lil-lets.

All of our Year 7 girls were given practical guidance regarding puberty and were given a free starter information pack containing a range of period products and information leaflets to support them.

The content of the lesson can be watched on demand via the link: <https://www.brook.org.uk/campaigns/live-lessons/>

Further information about the PSHCE curriculum can be viewed on the curriculum section of our school website or requested via Mrs Watts.



TIME TO CHALLENGE

No-one should stand by

Working in partnership with Chester Sexual Abuse Support Service (CSASS), Mrs Watts and a team of Year 10 and Sixth Form students have been developing workshops to deliver to Year 7 students during their PSHE lessons. The focus of the sessions was to develop a shared understanding around the *Time to Challenge* and *No one should stand by* agenda, specifically addressing consent and healthy / unhealthy relationships.

Kathryn Kirk (CSASS Outreach Manager) has been working with Mrs Watts for over 18 months to enhance our approach to RSE curriculum delivery. Last year the focus was on challenging peer on peer abuse and addressing rape culture as reported in the media. At Queen's Park High School, safeguarding and keeping everyone safe is a key priority across our school community.

As part of our ongoing development of our Key Stage 4 curriculum, the Social Studies Team are working with Lime Culture, a national safeguarding / sexual violence organisation and Cheshire Police as part of the Safer Streets Partnership. The KS4 PSHCE curriculum has been designed to engage students in conversation around these issues.

“ I have been very pleased with the responsive and mature attitudes Year 7 students have shown. Well done to the Year 10 and Sixth Form team for co-delivering the workshops and leading the initiatives in school alongside Mrs Watts. ”

Kathryn Kirk CSASS Outreach Manager



Talking Relationships

Year 12 have been involved in a series of workshops to develop their knowledge and understanding of relationships and sex education.

Working in partnership with Body Positive, students explored the basics of happy and consensual sex as part of the Sex Smart programme.

The Cheshire Starting Well 0-19 Service delivered a workshop to provide information about contraception and STI's, whilst the CSASS workshop focussed on healthy vs toxic relationships, coercive control and consent.

“ I enjoyed the workshops and they were delivered in a practical way by experts. The information and advice provided will enable me to make more informed choices about my relationships and sexual health. ”

Year 12 student

“ Year 12 took a mature approach throughout the day, the dialogue around healthy relationship choices and limiting risk taking behaviour was excellent. ”

Mrs Watts, PSHE Lead



DIVERSITY ROLE MODELS

Challenging Stereotypes

It was a pleasure to welcome Kate, and former QPHS student, Craig into school to deliver interactive workshops to our Year 9 students as part of our second Cultural Enrichment Day.

Diversity Role Models are a charity who's aims are to prevent homophobic, biphobic and transphobic (HBT) bullying within UK schools. Their aim is to stop bullying before it happens by educating young people about difference, challenging stereotypes and addressing the misuse of language.

Kate and Craig are positive LGBT+ or ally role models who spoke directly to our students about their journeys around gender and sexuality. These shared experiences had a positive impact on our students' attitudes towards LGBT+ people, the issues they experience and will help reduce the misuse of

language towards them.

The themes of stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination, promoting diversity and equality are explored in further detail during PSHE lessons in school.



Diversity
Role Models

LET'S CONNECT



6-12 FEBRUARY 2023

WELLBEING SUPPORT

'I've got time to talk' Campaign

Following on from their training in the Autumn Term, our Sixth Form Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Team introduced their whole school approach to providing mental health and wellbeing support to the wider school community.

The team took this year's Children's Mental Health Awareness Week theme of *Let's Connect* as an opportunity to launch their '*I've got time to talk campaign*'. All our Sixth Form students who are trained to provide peer support can be identified by wearing a green badge. They hope to: bring together people with shared experiences to support each other, provide a space where students feel accepted and understood and treat everyone's experiences as being equally important.

Further information about our whole school mental health and wellbeing support can be found on our school website: www.qphs.co.uk



“ Making mental health part of everyday conversations is important as it helps us to support each other within our school community. I am incredibly proud of the work our MHFA team have undertaken so far. ”

Mrs Watts
Senior Mental Health Lead



kooth

There's more that connects us than divides us.

Children's Mental Health Week 2023



Mental Health Care

On 10th February we were delighted to welcome Emily from the Kooth team into school to help raise awareness of Children's Mental Health Week and talk to students about their mental health and wellbeing service.

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 our students to use.

For more information on Kooth and the services they provide, please visit: www.kooth.com



International Women's Day



CAKE BAKE SALE Women's Charity Fundraiser

A group of Sixth Form and Year 10 students have been working with Kathryn Kirk, Outreach Manager from Chester Sexual Abuse Support Service (CSASS) this year, to develop their skills and understanding within the RSE curriculum.

CSASS is a local charity who work with the community to support survivors who have been affected by sexual or domestic violence, offering a range of services, including counselling and group therapy.

Students wanted to help fundraise for the charity and also raise awareness of International Women's Day on Wednesday 8th March. Knowing staff and students have a sweet tooth and are always keen to support charity events at school, they decided to organise a cake bake sale.

Thanks to our QPHS family the event was a great success which raised just short of £100; an incredible amount in a mere half an hour lunch break when the majority of the cakes on sale are only 20p!

Chester Women's Aid and Chester Sexual Abuse Support Service will be benefitting from the money raised.

The cake bake sale was part of the continuing work which CSASS are developing with students at QPHS to challenge unwanted behaviours. Kathryn returned in March to work directly with students in Year 7 to help them understand what sexual consent means in a healthy relationship.

A group of Year 9 students have also been selected to take part in the Storyhouse Women & Girls School Day, to engage with inspiring women, based locally and beyond as part of International Women's Day 2023.

To find out more about CSASS visit: <https://csass.org.uk/>

CSASS
CHESTER SEXUAL ABUSE
SUPPORT SERVICE

“ We are proud to be working with CSASS to develop our PSHE and RSE curriculum. Our Sixth Form students are leading the way to develop workshops to educate their peers about the time to challenge agenda linked to relationships and consent. Well done to all involved. ”

Mrs Watts
PSHCE & Careers Lead



BENTLEY MOTORS



Leading female role models

BENTLEY

As part of International Women's Day and National Careers Week 2023, our Sixth Form girls were given a unique opportunity facilitated by The Cheshire and Warrington Pledge.

The day was a great success, where the students gained a lot of knowledge surrounding career pathways within Bentley, as they shared what it would take to be a successful candidate for those looking to apply for Bentley's Early Careers programme. Bentley's world-class apprenticeships offer a range of pathways across: Manufacturing, Engineering, Business, Digital, Project Management and more.

On Wednesday 8th March, Miss Jones from our maths team, accompanied the girls on a visit to Bentley Motors to enquire about their STEM apprenticeships.

Throughout the day, students learned more about the history of the world's leading manufacturers of luxury cars, and the future goals of the business as well as being able to see the incredible cars up close.

“ What a fantastic day hosted by Bentley Motors. The girls were blown away by the variety of opportunities the early careers programme has to offer and inspired by the success stories of women at Bentley. ”

Miss Jones, Achievement Leader, Maths

Our female students were able to learn and hear from extraordinary leading female role models in the business and experience practical activities in manufacturing.



THE PLEDGE
CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON



RED NOSE DAY

Charity Fundraisers

Charity is something that our community at Queen's Park High School take very seriously, even when it's funny! On Friday 17th March we took part in a huge fundraising effort to support the national and international charity, Comic Relief. As well as it being *own clothes day*, Mrs Hill and her Masterchef bakers from the Tuesday Enrichment Club made red nose biscuits to sell to the staff; students held a bake sale and perhaps the most popular activity of the day

was *sponge a teacher* or rather aptly renamed *soak the teacher!* This event was a huge favourite which drew in the crowds to witness some seemingly favourable members of staff getting a good soaking! As a result of everyone's efforts, the school managed to raise an incredible £726.52 for the charity.



COMIC RELIEF

THE 'V' FACTOR

Showcasing talent for charity



Many of our students had not experienced *The V Factor* at Queen's Park High School. Last year's *V Factor* was streamed virtually during the school day, and the previous years' had to be cancelled due to Covid. However, staging the show this year helped to reinforce that there is an incredible wealth of singing talent here in our school!

The night provided the students (and staff!) an opportunity to showcase their talent in front of a live audience and a panel of judges, expertly chosen for their understanding of both the school and music.

Since the auditions back in early March, the 14 acts spent hours of their own time preparing performances with three of the acts featuring their own live band.

The live show took place on 30th March and the standard on the night was extremely high (even higher than the dance kicks on display from Mr Howens and Mr Taylor and the note reached by Mr Traves!), but in the end the judges had to make a call on 3rd, 2nd and 1st place.

Congratulations to Mia and Isla (joint 3rd), The Year 9 Boys who came 2nd, and as a result of his own phenomenal rap performance, Frankie went straight to the top spot with his rendition of, *The one from CH1!*

It was a great night to end another very busy term, which raised much needed funds for the Turkey/Syrian Earthquake appeal. Thank you to our PTA and everyone who came to see the show to support our students for this very worthy cause.





GOLD STAR AWARDS

Celebrating Success

With the rollout of Synergy at the start of the term, staff have been able to award students house points for their efforts and achievements both in and out of the classroom.

At Queen's Park High School we want to create a highly visible culture of praise and recognition and one part of this huge school initiative relates to the rewarding of excellence.

Each week, the students who have been ranked in the top 5 of each year group for the number of house points they have been

awarded, are presented with a gold star token. This is deposited in a draw box where students can choose from a range of prizes. Last term these included a £50 Amazon, Cineworld or Storyhouse voucher.

At the start of each half term, all of the recipients of the gold stars are brought together in the Main Hall to find out the winners of the prize draw and, in recognition of their excellent achievements, were presented with a certificate, gold star badge and treated to a celebratory slice of cake!

Over 100 students took part in the celebration event when they were praised for their hard work and commitment to both their studies and their personal development at school.

Congratulations to all our gold star winners and a special shout out to our Spring Half Term voucher winners: Olivier P (Year 7), Darwin H (Year 8) and Evie M (Year 10).





GRUDGE MATCH

Dodge, Duck, Dip, Dive and Dodge

“ Take the bull by the horns, it's how I like to run my business, it's a metaphor. But that actually happened though! ”

White Goodman,
Founder of Globo Gym, Dodgeball

Following on from their success in the staff versus sixth form volleyball competition, the teachers' confidence was running high as they entered their next sporting conquest...dodgeball!

Mr Taylor was on hand to remind players of the rules and five D's of dodgeball: *dodge, duck, dip, dive and dodge!* Meanwhile, Mr Parker acted as a partially impartial referee.

As the sports hall reached a capacity crowd, the chanting and anticipation began to grow. It was

clear from the cheering that the supporters were split 50-50 in favour of the staff and students.

Prior to the game, Joe Brown rallied the Sixth Form troops, delivering an inspirational team talk. In the words of White Goodman from dodgeball, it encouraged them to, *“take the bull by the horns, it's how I like to run my business, it's a metaphor. But that actually happened though!”*.

As both teams rushed to regain possession of the dodge balls, it was clear why each staff member

had been picked for the team. Miss Darroch, and Miss Hunter were fast and nimble, Mr Footitt was the powerhouse, and Mr Kearns was the master of cunning. That said, with six games played the scores remained tied at 3-3.

Pride and bragging rights were on the line as they entered the final game. In the dying moments, only Mr Ramsden was left standing, and with one final blow, the sixth formers took the victory 4-3.

We hope they enjoy the glory... until next time!





PASTA KING COMES TO QPHS!

Launch of new pasta bar servery

We are delighted to announce the launch of a newly created pasta bar servery for all students to use at lunchtimes.

Following students' feedback that with a growing number of children on site, lunch queues were too long, we have created a dedicated speedy service pasta servery, accessible from the covered courtyard next to the existing 'Eatery'. This has significantly reduced the queues at our other servery locations.

Our Pasta King servery opened on Wednesday 8th March, and went down a storm with students.

We already know that pasta is one of the most popular items on our lunchtime menu, so we have

worked with our school catering partners Edsential, to bring Pasta King on board and increase both the variety of sauces on offer as well as improving the quality of pasta, noodles and rice available.

Pasta King also offer a variety of vegetarian, vegan and halal options to give an accessible option to students.

The first flavours popular with the students and which have been sampled in school already are arrabiata, meatball, sweet chilli chicken with rice, vegetarian bolognese and smoky pepperoni. Sauces will change to suit demand and any special theme days.

Students are able to purchase Pasta King using the normal

cashless catering method.

Pots will be charged at a maximum of £1.95 each and students can purchase a meal deal, including pasta/rice/noodle pot, homemade cake or cookie and a bottle of water, for the cost of a free school meal (currently £2.62). Students are still able to collect main hot meals and 'grab and go' options from both The Eatery and East End Servery as usual, however all pasta is now served from the new servery.

We will continue consulting with students regularly to gain feedback on school provision and make improvements where possible.





Before



After

£500K INVESTMENT

New roof keeps us warm and dry

Community members local to Handbridge, may have noticed the absence of scaffolding surrounding the school building in recent weeks. Their observations would be correct as we are delighted to confirm that our £500k roofing project is now complete and we are all keeping warm and dry!

At the end of the Summer Term last year, the school successfully gained funding to replace the old pitched roof on the west end section of the school building. Work began in July and was successfully completed in March this year.

We have also had a mini makeover for the courtyard which involved new windows, curtain walling and roof! We think it's quite an improvement!

The investment of over half a million pounds has ensured classrooms will stay dry for many years to come and benefit future generations of both staff and students.

We now hope to secure funding to replace the last section of the roof over the coming months.

Watch this space!



SPORTS REPORT

Sixth Form Basketball

The team proudly represented Queen's Park in our annual Sixth Form inter-schools competition. They put up a fierce defence against some strong opposition from The King's School, Chester Catholic High and Bishops Blue Coat. Thanks to a fantastic 3 pointer from Dan R, the team narrowly beat Catholic High, 13-12.

They continued this rich vein of form as they shot their way to victory over Bishops before sadly coming up short 24-17 against a very organised and tactically organised King's School.

It was a new-look team for our sixth formers, with many new and emerging talents joining and doing themselves proud including Dan Rudd, James Abbott and Ineta.

Well done!

Football Focus

Our Sixth Form boys were drawn against Upton High School for their Chester Cup 2nd round match.

The team, high on spirit and enthusiasm were shocked by a fast start from Upton as they raced into a 2-0 lead. The boys dug in however, and fought hard to half time, managing to hold the game at 3-0. Half time proved to be a rallying call for them however and they returned to the second half buoyant and hopeful of a resurgence. It nearly came as Jonny H pulled one back shortly after play resumed. Queen's Park did find a second late on, but 2 further goals from Upton ended hopes of any comeback and our hopes of progressing wait for another year. A great team effort nonetheless and fantastic team work ethic and resilience shown.

Glyndwr Uni trip

Our Year 12 BTEC Sport students were invited to visit Glyndwr Wrexham University to explore their higher education opportunities.

The day consisted of several taster sessions of the Sports Science degree, with students getting the chance to explore modules including: sport psychology, sports coaching, strength and conditioning and sport physiology.

Our students were able to get a taste of campus life, take part in practical sessions and meet the lecturers who lead on the course. The day also supplemented students' ongoing KS5 learning, with some of the sessions linking directly to our curriculum on the BTEC sport course. Sadly no sight of Ryan Reynolds though!





Year 7 Chester & District indoor athletics team



Year 8 Chester & District indoor athletics team



WE HAVE MEDALS!

Year 8 netball team success

We're so proud of our Year 8 netball team who recently competed in the Chester and District tournament and came back with medals!

Wet weather, slippery underfoot and a ball that was hard to catch weren't ideal conditions, but the girls fought hard and progressed through to the Plate Competition final where they faced Bishop Heber High School. Evie as goal shooter hardly missed a shot, Grace in the centre worked her socks off and the defence stood strong to come away with a win.

As a school we have worked so hard to compete in the netball competitions and the dedication of the team brought the first medals in over 15 years - a fantastic achievement. Now bring on the rounders!

All good things...

All good things...must come to an end! Unfortunately, for our Year 8 girls football team, this was the case this term. Following a hard fought battle against a formidable team from Chester Catholic High our girls were knocked out of the Chester and District Cup in the semi-finals.

They played extremely well, and for much of the game were the better team.

They even managed to put up with Mrs Cutler making her debut as a referee!

The game remained 0-0 for much of the match, before Catholic High took the lead. Not long after the equaliser came. Unfortunately the wheels started to come off a little in the last 10 minutes and some silly mistakes led to 2 quick Catholic High goals.

The score was not a true reflection of the match. Our team played well, defended robustly and tried to take their chances. Some great saves from the Catholic High keeper, prevented QPHS taking a 3-0 lead in the first half.



“ I am so proud of the way the team have progressed through this competition. Next year it is ours for the taking! ”
Mrs Cutler, KS4 Lead / Teacher of PE



NEW RACING EVENT

Junior North Head

A new event for the racing calendar is the Junior North Head which was held at Runcorn in late January.

This new event is hosted by all clubs in the area and could not have taken place without the help of parents and coaches from the club.

Division 1 is 6km long and Division 2 is 3.65km, offering a new alternative for the larger head races that are held down in London.

Our crews focused on this as a good opportunity to practise under race conditions, rowing over 20km for the day if they raced in both divisions

(they had to row 7km to the start line for the 6km race, and 4km to the start line for the shorter race). An exhausting day, but one with much learning around stamina and resilience.

Some stand out performances with wins in the long division for J16 4x- (Dan, Finn, Murphy, Matt) and in the shorter division for our WJ17 4x- (Leah, Sienna, Grace and Freya) our J14 8x+ (Jacob, Louis, Joseph, Healy, Achilles, Carlos, Jack, Seth with cox Bruno). Congratulations to all competing crews.





HOSTING AT HOME

North of England Head

The North of England Head is an important event in our rowing calendar, as the race takes place on Chester's River Dee so the club play host to many other visiting crews.

The club use this race as one of our key fundraising events, with parents volunteering their time to sell teas, coffees, cakes and BBQ treats over the day. This year we were very successful with our fundraising efforts that go into maintaining the club.

This is a 5km event, rowing from Eccleston to Chester where only large boats can compete.

Every year group was represented and had a boat entered. Our Year 9 boys quad (J14 4x+) performed spectacularly, and we are delighted to announce that they were the winners of their race.

All other crews performed well and met the goals set by their coaches. Well done to all our rowing family.



JUNIOR SCULLING HEAD

Crews set for London

Arriving at school at 4.45am on Monday 20th March, 34 committed rowers, a team of dedicated coaches and parent helpers boarded the coach to take them to London to row at The Oarsport Junior Sculling Head at Dorney Lake.

The early morning start was just the start of a very long day, where crews rowed in larger boats of quads and octos and competed with clubs from all over the country.

Rowing at Dorney is a tremendous experience (it hosted the rowing

events in the 2012 London Olympics). This event is the UK's second biggest junior head races.

Crews must row 1800m twice (once up the course and then back down) and the two times are added together to get the final result.

Our rowers did incredibly well, with the majority being placed in the top half of crews.

A big thank you to all the parents and coaches who gave up their time to support our young rowers.

Achievements:

- **J16 4x-** 16th out of 51 crews (Dan, Matt, Finn and Murphy)
- **WJ15 4x+** 24th and 59th out of 70 crews (Florence, Alice, Macy, Freya cox Louis) and (Amy, Elen, Daisy, Macey cox Healy)
- **WJ14 4x+** 18th out of 43 crews (Siyana, Alice, Eden, Issy cox Daisy)
- **J14 4x+** 25th out of 47 crews (Louis, Henry, Phoebe, Toby Cox Macey)
- **J14 8x+** 11th out of 40 crews (Carlos, Jacob, Jack, Healy, Lucas, Achilles, Joseph, Seth cox Amy)





TRAFFORD HEAD

New course record set by J14 8x+ crew!

The Head at Bridgewater is a two length head race, with a shorter course of 1000m and a longer course of 3200m raced along the Bridgewater canal.

Our younger crews attend this event, and we had our J13 crews race for the first time, as well as our J14 and some J15 crews.

A major highlight of the day was the incredible achievement of our J14 8x+ crew who set a new course record for their boat class - fantastic!

Congratulations to all our winners of the day: Issy and Siyana in their WJ14 2x; the boys Jacob, Achilles, Bruno, Joseph, Lucas, Carlos, Seth, Healy and Toby coxing in the J14 8x+; Achilles in his single; Macy and Freya WJ15 2x, and Millie and Phoebe WJ13 2x.

Amazing results!



RECORD WINS

Northwich Spring Head

The first Sunday of the Easter school holidays saw the rowers participate at the Northwich Spring Head.

We had a huge number of boats and rowers attending, and we had a glorious spring day to boot, which made spectating and rowing even more pleasant.

It was a very successful day for Queen's Park Rowing Club, with 15 wins from across all crews and levels of the club.

Outstanding results!

“ What an amazing day in so many ways! It was great to see the fantastic support from across the club crews, parents, alumni and coaches. I am delighted with the results of our crews who achieved 15 medals overall across all team age groups year entries (WJ18, WJ17, J16, WJ15, J14, WJ14 and WJ13). This was also the second event for our J13 crews and a win for the WJ13 crew - Fantastic! ”

Richard Cox,
Chair and head coach at QPHSRC



Written by Tyler G. Chief Coxswain

JIRR TIME TRIALS

Racing to represent the North West

Rowing to represent the North West region at the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta competition in April is considered a prestigious honour for junior rowers.

To be selected, crews must compete at a time trial in early March against other teams from the area. The strongest team for the North West is then selected, covering singles through to eights based on performance. These crews then start preparing to race against similar crews from all around the country at the end of April.

This is an intense day, where the strongest crews from the club were

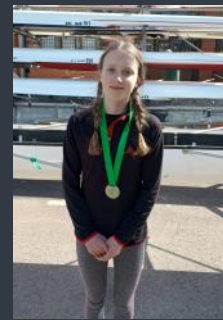
put forward to compete.

Many of our crews came second, only just missing out on being placed, showing the high level of talent we have at the club.

This year we had 4 successful crews selected. Congratulations to:

- Achilles for J14 1x
- Dan for J16 1x
- Matt & Ned for J16 2-
- Maisie & Amelie for WJ16 2-

All rowers have been training hard ready for the event that is held at the National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham on 22nd April. We wish them the very best of luck.





UNIFORM VOUCHERS

HELP SPREAD THE COST OF SCHOOL UNIFORM

Uniformity has introduced a new £5.00 school uniform saving voucher to help parents/carers spread the cost throughout the year!!

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MUSIC MARK

Reminder to families: Don't take holidays during term time

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Cheshire West and Chester Council
Floor 3, Nicholas House, 1 Black Friars
CHESTER, CH1 0BE
Tel: 0300 123 8123

Gerald Meehan
Chief Executive

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Dear Parent,

Fixed Penalty Notices for Unauthorised Holidays

This letter is to remind parents/carers that from September 2017, unless there are any exceptional circumstances, the Local Authority will be resuming the issuing of FPN's for any unauthorised absence of 5 consecutive school days (10 sessions) or more during term time.

Should an unauthorised absence take place the school will inform the Local Authority and a Fixed Penalty Notice will then be issued in accordance with section 444 of the Education Act 1996.

The law stipulates that the current penalties payable by parents/carers are £60 when the penalty is paid within 21 days, increasing to £120 when the penalty is paid within the next 7 days (giving a total of 28 days to pay). This penalty is per parent/carer per child for the duration of the absence.

If the Fixed Penalty is not paid you could be prosecuted in the Magistrates' Court.

Should you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone on 01244 976175 or by email FPNPayments@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Debbie Ward

Fixed Penalty Notice Officer



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