



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

LYNDSAY WATTERSON – HEADTEACHER

I am absolutely delighted to be taking up the position in January and consider it a real privilege to have been appointed. I have a passionate desire to lead the school to an unprecedented level of success, whilst equally, empowering all individuals to hold true to the school's mission statement of 'working together to promote excellence in learning and achievement for all'.



I believe that Queen's Park High School has many strengths and enormous potential for the future. I have already been overwhelmed by the warm welcome I have received from all staff, governors and students alike and feel excited by the prospect of leading the school into its next 'chapter' of development. As Headteacher, I am committed to nurturing, motivating and inspiring all individuals within the school community to recognise their worth, develop their self-belief and strive to achieve their aspirations and goals. My expectations of the students, in terms of their achievement and behaviour, are very high. If our students are to reach their full potential as responsible citizens, there has to be a culture of mutual respect, honesty and understanding; a standard which I have cultivated throughout my career and which I believe is also valued within Queen's Park High School's community.

The relationships between teachers, students and parents are fundamental to the success of the school and I very much hope that we can work together to ensure the best outcomes for your children over the coming years. I am very much looking forward to meeting you in the near future and becoming an integral part of the school community.

I would just like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

L. Watterson – Headteacher January 2015

Outstanding Performance in English – Ola Los

It was my pleasure to present Ola Los with a special prize during assembly this week. Ola produced an outstanding collection of short stories as part of a homework assignment. However, her endeavours far exceeded the requirements of the task; Ola demonstrated imaginative vision and the ability to craft her writing that was most impressive. From



time to time, English teachers are delighted to receive work that really stands apart, and this was one such occasion. We expect the highest standards from all students, but we always want to recognise those young people who invest their time and tireless effort to produce the very best work.

VI Form Literacy Coaches

We have launched a new initiative this term which has seen some dedicated members of our VI Form training to become literacy coaches. As part of their new role, our VI Form coaches are working to support some Key Stage 3 students to ensure that they develop the skills required to be effective communicators. The VI Form students have shown tremendous commitment by working tirelessly with students to support them, and this has helped to give some younger students the confidence to develop their skills in reading and writing. This is one of the many ways our VI Form students are demonstrating leadership in the school community.

Success in GCSE English Event

The English department held its inaugural Success in GCSE English event just before half-term. The event was well attended and provided an opportunity for parents and carers of our Year 11 students to learn how they can support young people in preparation for their exams. Feedback from the event was very positive, with over 90% of parents/carers reporting that they now understand how they can help their child with revision and over 95% of parents/carers saying that they would value more events of this kind. In turn, we will be running the event once again in as we approach the terminal exams in May, so please keep an eye out for more information nearer the time.

Mr. S. Richardson
Director of Learning Communications

William Hague MP

On 12 November a group of Year 13 A Level Politics students joined a wide range of other local schools and colleges for a special event at the University of Chester's Riverside campus.

Stephen Mosely, the Local MP for Chester had arranged a visit by William Hague MP, who has had a long career in politics as leader of the opposition, Foreign Secretary and now Leader of the House of Commons. Mr Hague gave an overview of the importance of young people in politics, and answered a range of questions from students about his ideologies and political activity. This insight will be of great use to the students who attended as they will be able to use their new understanding when answering questions on conservative ideology in the coming exams. Thanks go especially to students Adam Traynor & Johnny Tarbuck for their efforts.



Mr S Hallam
Director of Learning Humanities

BOOKBUZZ



Our Year 7 students have now received their free book through the Bookbuzz scheme. The scheme is run by the Booktrust, an independent reading and writing charity in partnership with schools such as ours. The scheme is funded partly by publishers and partly by the school, which this year was paid for by a grant from our HSA.

The aim of Bookbuzz is to encourage reading for pleasure and independent learning. The students made their choice from a selection of 12 titles, both fiction and non-fiction. The selections were made following English groups sessions, when each book was reviewed via a Bookbuzz media presentation.



We do hope that the students enjoy reading their books. You will find information about Bookbuzz and the Booktrust on the website www.bookbuzz.org Mrs J Hall - Librarian

Could you to be the next Ed Sheeran?

There are likely to be some new lesson places available for students who wish to try a taster course of lessons on a musical instrument through Music for Life at school starting in January. Across our area there are currently more than three thousand students having lessons through the not-for-profit school programme which has twice been rated "Outstanding" in reports produced by the Department for Education and the Federation of Music Services. If you think your child may be interested, please register your interest with Music for Life as soon as possible before Monday 15 December. They will contact you with further information about costs to let you know if a place is available and if you then decide to go ahead they will arrange for a short "taster" course to be provided in January. Course fees are reduced by at least half for students entitled to free school meals, and Music for Life may take other circumstances into account when charging for taster courses. You can register interest via the website www.musicforlife.org.uk or by email to admin@musicforlife.org.uk or by calling 01978 761162.

Queen's Park High School Rowing Club



The club is currently looking for adult helpers to assist at coaching sessions held at the Rowing Club. No rowing or motorboat experience is required. Parents can help by providing additional supervision of rowers as they get boats in and out of the water. Volunteers would also accompany the current coaches in safety launches. Whilst this form of volunteering is likely to appeal to parents of existing rowers, other parents who want to find out more about rowing at the school will be very welcome.

The current coaching sessions are after school on Tuesdays and Fridays and also on Saturday mornings

If you think you might be able to help at one of the above sessions and would like to find out more information, without any commitment, please ring Richard Cain on 07531629300 or email richard.cain1@btinternet.com

Dee Autumn Head

The Dee Autumn Head took place under perfect conditions. In a very crowded programme crews rowed 4K from the motorway bridge to Dee Lane opposite the meadows.



Eve Finlay from the Queens Park High School Rowing Club came 3rd in the WJ15 X1 singles. The WJ13X quad with Zara Gaulier-Price, Kiera Burke, Louise Coleman, Bethan Curtis and cox Zoe Theil rowed in their first race and looked very accomplished but only rowed the course since they had no opposition.

Northwich Head

Rowing is becoming so popular these days that Northwich Rowing Club Head Race was closed one week earlier than their official date. Queen's Park High School Rowing Club was able to enter three quads.



The WJ15 X4+ quad with Eve Finlay, Eve Lawlor, Felicity Weir, Zoe Theil and cox Amy Williamson came third out of nine in a very competitive group.

The J14 X4+ quad with Henry Dougherty, Charlie Birchall-Jones, Aiden Farelly, Cameron Neill and cox Morgan Whitley rowed like demons to finish third out of thirteen crews.

Finally the WJ13 X4+quad with Zara Gaulier-Price, Kiera Burke, Bethan Curtis, Charlotte Carswell and cox Morgan Whitley rowed up with great enthusiasm in their group.

Many thanks Hamish Collin