



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

THERE WAS AN INFERNO IN SCHOOL THIS MONTH!

Thankfully no student was harmed in the making of the 2015 Queen's Park High School production Disco Inferno which took to the stage from February 11-13th.

Director of Learning for the Visual and Performing Arts, Matt Yeoman said: *"To build on the incredible sell-out success of our 2014 production, Les Misérables was going to be a real challenge as it was our most successful production ever, providing an exceptional arts experience for so many of our students. However, we are more than confident that our 2015 production of Disco Inferno did just this and amazed the audiences as it showcased not only the singing and acting talents of our students, but also their dance skills too!"*

The musical is described as a funk-tastic adventure, which charts its way through a plethora of 70s hits such as Boogie Nights, I Will Survive, Hot Stuff and, of course, The Trammps' Disco Inferno.

A young, wannabe pop star called Jack (played by Alex Aram) is desperate to become a rich and famous celebrity – at any cost. In a Faustian twist he finds himself being managed by the devil's right-hand woman, Lady Marmalade (Anna Brodie) who promises him everything he wants in return for his soul, much to the annoyance of the local idol, Heathcliffe (Liam Thompson).

As part of the rehearsal process students and staff spent a weekend away working with a professional choreographer to help prepare for the show.



Mr Yeoman added: *"We were all very excited and the success of the show is down to the dedicated staff and incredible talent that they nurture at the school."*

Rehearsals started back in September with students auditioning before a panel who not only ensured that the right people were playing the right parts, but that all students had a part in the show.

Audiences arrived into a 70s nightclub upon arrival, and they too were very much a part of the action; dancing in the aisles and singing at the top of their voices. The house-band consisting of students and staff was brilliant and it was impossible to sit still."

Disco Inferno adds itself to the long list of incredible productions at QPHS that provides its students with creative opportunities above and beyond expectations. Work on the next school production begins in September, but before that, the charity talent contest 'V Factor' will be taking place in March.

"ETHICS MATTERS" CONFERENCE - MANCHESTER

Miss Davies and I took all of our AS and A2 Religious studies students to the "Ethics Matters" conference in Manchester on 11 February 2015. A fantastic experience was had by all! The day included lectures, workshops on topics such as Natural Law, Situation Ethics, Utilitarianism, Kantian Ethics and Medical Ethics. The day was led by Dr Peter Vardy, the famous Ethicist, Philosopher and Author of many of the texts we use on our course such as "The puzzle of Ethics".



Maisie (AS student) commented *"It was a great opportunity to explore our topics in such a unique way and debate such a controversial issue as Euthanasia"*. The students were positive, engaged and as always a credit to Queen's Park High School.

Mrs E. Merryweather

WINNING POEM ON TAKE AWAY HOMEWORK

Year 9 RE students were set a take away homework task on Buddhism and the winning piece was a poem by Emily Davies. Well done Emily!

The Buddha

Ill, old, dead, wise,
The Buddha left with no good byes.
A promise of return was made that night,
So off he went to find the light.
He then knew no God could rule across
the land,
Nor the sea, sky or sand.



Emma Davies – Director of Learning 10-14

QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL – PTA

Recent 200 Club winners are; Nicola Jones, Alastair Jones and A Dixon.

The QPHS PTA 200 Club is an easy way to support the PTA. To join the monthly 200 Club draw and have a chance of winning some cash, pick up a form at Reception, fill it in and return; it is that simple and you will be entered into the next draw.

AN INTERVIEW WITH MR PARKER – LEADER OF LEARNING FOR VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

Lucy Stenhouse - Artist in Focus (Current Work-Project 24)

Tell me about your recent Project 24 and what inspired you with your ideas?

I wanted to change the concept of beauty by distorting the face, because people idolise the perfect face in an unrealistic person. They want to achieve perfection.

How did you start with your ideas then?

I found artists such as Jenny Saville and Glen Luchford. Luchford's photography explored the theme called 'The Modern Freak Show' and Saville pushed the human body against glass to create distortions. So this gave me the initial idea to photograph peoples' faces pushed against glass.



So how did it develop further from your first experiments?

I tried lots of different machines and materials such as leaf blowers, wrapping faces in stockings, taping the head and using rubber bands to create the freak show illusion.



How did you want to display your ideas?

I wanted to create a magazine to echo the beauty magazines and the whole concept and perception of beauty in the 21st Century. I decided to call the magazine the Beauty Bible as an ironic title.

How successful were you in achieving your aims?

I am really happy with my final piece as it took me on a journey that I had not envisaged of starting and the images had reflected my intentions.

Thanks Lucy it was a real pleasure to interview you and view your work. Good luck with your next project!

REGIONAL HANDBALL TOURNAMENT

Four Year 10 QPHS students were selected to play Handball for Cheshire at the Regional Handball Tournament, held in Manchester on 14 February.

All of the players were inspired by the Thursday coaching sessions at the school, run by Gary Kelsall. In addition, they all now attend training with Deva Handball and County training sessions.



Callum Bishop, Joe Clegg, James Harrison and Eve Finlay.

Both Cheshire girls and boys teams were successful in winning this tournament, fighting off tough competition from Greater Manchester and Greater Merseyside squads. The four students from QPHS will now represent the Cheshire County at the National Championships to be held in Somerset on 18 April.

The students have done very well to achieve places in the squad (particularly as it is a squad consisting of both Year 10 and Year 11) and it is brilliant for the school that they have four county handball players on roll!

It is always fantastic to celebrate achievement so please pass this on to relevant members of staff!

Becky Clegg (Parent Governor)

PARENTMAIL

Attention All Parents!

Have you registered on ParentMail? By registering you can receive messages from the school via email and text.

This is great for parents because:

- Messages will get to you reliably
- We can send messages to, for example, mums and dads at the same time
- You will quickly know about important or urgent messages
- We can tell you more about what's going on at the school
- It's free!

It also means that you will help us:

- Save money because we are reducing paper, copying, post and phone bills
- Improve communications with you
- Be more environmentally friendly
- Reduce our workload



As you can see there are lots of benefits from using ParentMail and we would really like you to register as soon as possible.

To do this, please contact the school office.

You may have heard about ParentMail and Parental Portal and wonder what they are. To clarify, **ParentMail** is the system we use to send emails home about general events or letters specific to your child. It is also used to text when students arrive late into school or if they do not arrive into school. It means the message is sent directly to you and letters are not lost on the way home! And of course it saves paper and postage costs. **Parental Portal** is the system that allows you to view information about your child – behaviour credits and referrals, canteen expenditure, attendance and much more. It is also used to book Parents' Evening appointments on-line, ensuring you don't miss out on this important event. A form to register for Parental Portal can be found on the school website; to register with ParentMail, please contact school on 01244 981500 or email enquiries@qphs.cheshire.sch.uk. **Don't miss out on those important messages!**

'V' FACTOR