



MARCH / APRIL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

Now that May is upon us, the summer term is definitely in full swing. The May Bank Holiday weekend signals for us the countdown to the forthcoming exam season which will officially start on Monday 11th May. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Year 11, 12 and 13 students the best of luck with their exam preparations and also for the exams themselves. This is the time to focus now and benefit from the wealth of additional support that is available from each subject area and from staff as a whole.

Well done to all those students who came in over the Easter holidays for extra revision sessions and equally to those students who have been coming in on Saturdays too to work in the LLC. The tension is most definitely building! The full exam timetable is now available on the school website but students have all been issued with their individual ones as well which they should be able to share with you at home. It is important that students check exam times carefully and ensure that they are punctual for all exams, dressed smartly in their full uniform (Year 11) and with the correct equipment.

We launched our additional enrichment provision last Friday after school. Over thirty students enthusiastically took part in the sessions for Taekwondo, Cricket, Tennis, Zumba and Fitness. There are still places available for all the activities, so please encourage your son/daughter to come along and give it a go – you never know, they may discover a new talent, make some new friends or just have some fun at the end of a busy week!

Forthcoming Events:

General Election – 7th May: I just wanted to inform all parents/carers that the school gym will be used as a Polling Station on the day.

Nepal Appeal: QPHS goes to Kathmandu

Following the devastating earthquake in Nepal recently, the staff and students at Queen's Park High School and the PTA are currently planning a fundraising campaign to support the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) appeal and also raise some funds for extra-curricular provision here within school. Over a number of weeks, we will be aiming to cover (virtually) the distance from Chester to Kathmandu through a variety of means.....walking, cycling and rowing...to name but a few! Further information about this event will be available shortly.

QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL – PTA

Recent 200 Club winners are; Andrew Dixon, Julie Lush, Angela Moreton, Amy McCartney & Bethan Clayton

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.

Cheques should be made payable to Queen's Park High School PTA 200 Club

QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL STRIKES GOLD!

Queen's Park High School became a nationally recognised outstanding provider of arts education this month having been awarded 'Artsmark Gold' by an individual assessor on behalf of Trinity College in London.



Through a rigorous application and inspection process the school was identified as having an outstanding commitment to the arts and the independent assessor commented in his report that: *'Through conversations during the school visit stage with the school headteacher, pupils and Artsmark lead around the arts, it is evident that the arts are impacting on pupils self-confidence, self-esteem and attitude to learning, including pupils with additional behavioural needs'. He then went on to say that 'The students also have an almost tangible love for the arts and enthusiasm for learning and self-expression through the arts. They also display a confidence and pride in their achievements. The Head, governors and staff team demonstrate an exemplary commitment to developing the arts in all forms as a powerful, dynamic approach to teaching and learning across all areas of the curriculum, and a deep rooted understanding of how the arts can be a highly effective tool for developing the whole child and those with additional needs'.*



Matt Yeoman, Director of Learning for the Visual and Performing Arts said, *'This is a fantastic accolade for the school and a true reflection of the outstanding work that the Visual and Performing Arts teachers do, to support students in the development of a life-long passion for not only the arts, but for learning too.*

Queen's Park High is now a recognised shining example of how arts education can be delivered at its best and we are now looking to share our practice with other schools as we continue to enrich the arts experience of young people in Chester'.

The award comes after a series of highly successful arts experiences for the students including the introduction of a GCSE in Animation, a huge scale production of Les Misérables, performances of Shakespeare's Hamlet and A Midsummer Night's Dream at the Floral Pavilion, alongside trips to Paris, London and finally Broadway in New York this coming Easter. Representatives of the student council will be attending a celebration event later this year where they will be formally presented with their certificate and plaque for the school.

Lyndsay Watterson, Headteacher, is thrilled for the school's achievements to be recognised in this way. She said *'this award puts Queen's Park High School at the forefront of inspiring practice around the arts within our locality. Our aim now is to work collaboratively with other schools and institutions to share excellent practice around arts education so that we can collectively inspire more young people to become confident, independent and successful learners in the future. I am very proud of the achievements of all our students and would just like to congratulate them and our committed staff, they thoroughly deserve this award.'*

'V' FACTOR

Friday the 27 March saw the eagerly anticipated evening of this year's 'V Factor' with students from all years competing live on stage for a chance to win an all-expenses paid overnight stay in London including two West End shows.

The competition was fierce and quite rightly so as the high quality performances kept the audience of nearly 300 people thoroughly entertained. Sitting directly in front of the stage were the V Factor judges who had a really tough time marking the performances and feeding back to the performers on stage.

With over 40 talented students involved, making a decision was very difficult, with the top three places only separated by a few points. In third place with their performance of Lady GaGa and Beyonce's *Telephone* were Year 11 students, Bianca McMullen and Liam Thompson who were just pipped to second place by Year 9 student Alistair Hogan with his performance of Sam Smith's *Lay Me Down*.



However, the judges decided that the overall winner and grand prize had to go to the performer who kept the audience thrilled with every note sang. This year's V Factor winner was Louis McHugh from Year 10 with his performance of Drake's *Hold On, We're Going Home*. Louis stunned the audience with his amazing voice and we can all see a very bright future for him with his talent!

Of course the main reason for the evening was to raise money for our school charity, Claire House. The school council were moved when they heard about the work the hospice does and so too were the other students in school who helped to make the evening a sell-out success and raise £700 for the charity.

Once again, the students of Queen's Park High School have exceeded the expectations of us all and helped to not only provide an evening of high quality entertainment, but support other children who are not as fortunate. They are a credit to the school.

ART, PHOTOGRAPHY & GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO LONDON

During February half term, students from Years 11, 12 and 13 spent their time visiting major galleries; the Tate Modern, The National Portrait Gallery and the Photographers Gallery to collect ideas for their current exam based research. We also had the opportunity to go on the London Eye and see one of the world's greatest capital cities from the air. Shopping in London is a must and the students explored Carnaby Street, Oxford Street and the crazy world of Hamley's Toy Store.



Meanwhile Miss Kearney's Geography students explored the regenerated area of Kings Cross collecting vital primary research for their A2 exam in June, and are busy completing the write up. They had a guided tour around the newly developed area, including looking at the new Google HQ site, green spaces and the sustainable Skip Garden to name but a few! Year 11 students helped out as independent researchers, and got a true flavour of real-life fieldwork at A-Level.

The students were great fun and a real pleasure to be with during our visit but we were sure glad to be home to rest our weary legs!

STEM CLUB



A new STEM Club started on the 16 March to celebrate STEM



week. Aimed at KS4 & KS5 students, the Micro-controller Challenge will provide students with the opportunity to learn how to write code and program a micro-controller to carry out a variety of tasks. The club is led by STEM Ambassador Roger Todd and Mr Griffiths.

Key Stage 3 Science Club students have also been working with STEM ambassador Roger Todd and have entered the Big Bang Competition 2015.

Students have started their project which is to design and evolve a model boat that is able to move on its own. Students are in the middle of designing their boats using different materials and electronics and adding features that will allow them to move including making papier-mâché and testing this with materials from the Design and Technology department to select an appropriate material to build their boats. The boats and ideas will then be presented to judges at the Big Bang Competition in July.

STEM Club KS3 – Tuesday 3.00-4.00pm
STEM Club KS4 & KS5 – Monday 3.00-4.00pm

OUTSIDE SPEAKERS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Since January 2015 Paul and Nick from C.S.C.W have come into Mrs Merryweather's AS and A2 Ethics classes three times. They provided the students with and in depth look at Christian viewpoints on Sexual Ethics, Medical Ethics and on the meaning and purpose of life!! The students were complimented by Paul and Nick for their maturity and their intelligent and perceptive questions.



Mollie A2 asked "If someone opted to be euthanized would they go to hell?" Rory A2 asked "Can you give us the meaning and purpose of life for Christians in a nutshell?" and Jake AS asked "Even in a modern relationship, should sex wait for marriage?"

I'd really like to thank Paul and Nick for their valuable insights, honest answers and a wealth of references and biblical quotes for students to use in their exam answers. I was so proud of our students for their politeness and respect whilst posing challenging and probing questions.

Mrs Merryweather, Subject Leader in RE.

REVISION WORKSHOP

The Vue Cinema, The Lowry Outlet, Manchester was the venue for a series of exciting and intensive one-day exam coaching & revision workshops for Year 12 and 13 Business Studies Students. Working alongside experienced AQA examiners, students had the opportunity to improve their ability to maximise their performance in the 2015 exams. Throughout the day, students focused on and built up techniques that will enable them to meet the assessment objectives for the course; consolidating and revising what has been learnt in the classroom including effective essay planning and writing technique.



"The revision workshop was fantastic; each session was linked to the context of looking at both Manufacturing in the UK (Section A) and core topics (Section B of our exam) including leadership, change management, technology, strategic choice and globalisation." Year 13 Student.

"The finance blast session was really useful as it enabled me to test my understanding of finance formula and practice calculations. Thanks for taking us Mrs Watts☺" Year 12 Student.

Mrs A Watts – Subject Leader Business, Leisure, Travel & Tourism

CHESTER AND DISTRICT NETBALL TOURNAMENT

The sun was shining and the sky was blue, perfect weather conditions for the Year 10 Chester and District Netball Tournament (unless you are a goal shooter with the sun in your eyes!!). The girls were in good spirits despite knowing Kings and Christleton would provide very strong opposition. Discussions were held in the minibus on the way to Bishops and the challenge was set: to finish in the top four. The girls started positively against a very well organised Bishops team and managed to hang on to a draw. Results then took an upward turn and QPHS defeated Abbey Gate College, Kings B and Queens School. Once points had been tallied up and results were revealed, QPHS had managed to earn themselves third place behind Christleton and Kings. Mission accomplished!!! Well done to all the girls who played so well. They did themselves, me and the school proud.

Mrs Cutler

HAMPTON SCHOOLS HEAD

Queen's Park High School Rowing Club's Wj15 quad of Eve Finlay, Felicity Weir, Eve Lawlor, Rona Fishburn and Amy Williamson travelled with their coaches 200 miles south to compete at one of the most prestigious events of the junior rowing competitions held at Hampton School on the River Thames, which was attended by over 500 crews across all school ages.



Competing against all the top private schools and rowing clubs from around the South East over a 3000m course, the girls came 14th out of a total of 30 crews.

The girls were supported by fellow rowers Emily Cox and Zoe Theil who cheered them on over the length of the course.

SUCCESS FOR QUEEN'S PARK HIGH ROWING CLUB.

On a very cold day, Queen's Park High School Rowing Club students competed in snow, sleet, rain and finally some sun at Trafford Rowing Club.

The J14 quad of Cameron Neill, Aiden Farrelly, Henry Dougherty, Charlie Birchall Jones and cox Harrison Kendall Smith came first in their category; Gwilym Harris also achieved a gold medal racing in a single boat at J13.



The clubs Wj13 quad of Zara Gaultier Price, Louise Coleman, Kiera Burke, Charlotte Carswell and cox Emily Cox achieved second place, While Charlie Birchall Jones who competed in his first race in a J14 single boat missed first place by three seconds.

The club entered over 13 boats, with all the Year 8 and 9 boys competing in singles for the first time. Well done!

Richard Cox.

WINTER GAMES TRIUMPH FOR QPHS

The 17 March 2015 was a date to remember for the Queen's Park High School Rowing Teams. The Winter Games held at MMU Crewe proved to be a very successful experience for all students involved. 20 students from QPHS Rowing Club represented the school at these games, which included all schools from Cheshire and Warrington competing in many sports including a high profile indoor ergo rowing Championships overseen by British Rowing.



Successes on the day included Emily Cox winning Gold in the singles event, Rona Fishburn winning Silver and the combined Year 10 Girls team winning Gold Medals in the Relay Finals. The medals did not stop there, with Year 11 boys winning Silver Medals in the Relay, Year 9 Boys winning Bronze Medals. Other personal performances were noted on the day, especially the exceptional strong finish in the relay that Ben Newell produced. *"It was an absolutely fantastic day for all concerned"* said Mr Clubb. Mr Taylor commented *"The attitude and mind set of the rowers was one of steadfast discipline and complete focus"*.

ENGLISH INDOOR ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Queen's Park High School gained several medals during the English Indoor Rowing Championships at the Manchester Velodrome; rowers of all ages competed against each other on indoor rowing machines.

Emily Cox from Year 11 achieved a silver medal and a personal best time after rowing 2000m.



Year 9 boys, Charlie Birchall-Jones, Cameron Neill, Aiden Farrelly and Henry Dougherty achieved a silver medal rowing over 3000m.

Another team of Year 9 boys, Connor Mewburn-Mercer, Morgan Whitley, Max Harvey and Harrison Kendall-Smith came away with a bronze medal.

The Rowing Club entered 25 athletes across all year groups, including a team of four Year 6 pupils from Belgrave Primary School who will all be Queen's Park High School students in September and future rowers.

James Cox also competed in the Year 6 single event rowing for two minutes achieving a silver medal.

A great fun filled day with lots of determination, hard work and teamwork across all years.

Richard Cox.

TERM DATES 2015-16		
In line with the local authority, other schools in Cheshire West and Chester and as a result of the early Easter, our Spring Break will NOT include the Easter Bank Holidays.		
Holiday Period	Date of Closing	Date of Re-opening
Autumn Term 2015		Wed 2 Sept 2015
Autumn Half Term	Fri 23 Oct 2015	Tues 3 Nov 2015
Christmas 2015/16	Fri 18 Dec 2015	Tues 5 Jan 2016
Spring Half Term	Thurs 11 Feb 2016	Mon 22 Feb 2016
Easter	Thurs 24 March 2016	Tues 29 March 2016
Spring Break	Fri 1 April 2016	Mon 18 April 2016
May Day	Mon 2 May 2016	Tues 3 May 2016
Summer Half Term	Fri 27 May 2016	Mon 6 June 2016
Summer 2016	Wed 20 July 2016	
Staff Training Days		
INSET	Tues 1 Sept 2015	Students not in school
INSET	Mon 2 Nov 2015	Students not in school
INSET	Mon 4 Jan 2016	Students not in school
INSET	Fri 12 Feb 2016	Students not in school
INSET	Thurs 21 July 2016	Students not in school

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JUNE	
10 & 11	Year 5 Workshops
17	Year 8 Parents' Evening
18	Faculty Curriculum Enrichment Day
24	PSHCE Curriculum Enrichment Day
30	Celebration Evening
JULY	
6	Year 6 Induction Evening
7	Year 6 Induction Day
9	Sixth Form Induction
14	Art Exhibition

Link to Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/queensparkhighschoolchester>