



Dear Parents/Carers



Where does the time go? I can't believe I am writing to you at the end of what has been another extremely busy half term for us here at Queen's Park! Our Year 11

and Sixth Form students are now fully engaged with their exams and have been working incredibly hard over the last few weeks, even choosing to come into school on Saturday mornings and in the holidays! I wish them every success and we all look forward to celebrating their achievements with them on the results days in August.

As a school we have been delighted to develop a number of exciting partnerships over recent months, many of which are referenced in this newsletter and with the local press. These partnerships have created opportunities for our students to engage with StoryHouse, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Home Theatre in Manchester, Chester Philharmonic Orchestra and English in Chester to name but a few. I encourage you to follow our Twitter feed @qphschester and our Facebook page: QPHSchester to ensure that you are kept fully informed about all the enrichment opportunities available.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to our recent consultation over Academy conversion. The Governors and I will be writing to parents and carers shortly after half term with an update on the outcomes of this consultation and to ensure that you are kept fully informed with any further future developments linked to our School Development Plan for 2016-17.

I hope you all have a lovely half term and students return re-energised, ready to engage fully with their learning for the remainder of the academic year.

Miss Watterson, Headteacher

## STORYHOUSE



We are really excited to announce our new partnership with StoryHouse, formerly known as Chester Performs who produce the nationally acclaimed Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre. Over the next 10 weeks we are hosting the cast and creative crew on site as they rehearse for their productions of Stig of the Dump, As You Like It and The Two Gentlemen of Verona which will be performed

between 1 July – 21 August this summer. Alex Clifton, Artistic Director of Storyhouse, said "We are really thrilled with our new partnership with Queen's Park High. We hope the school's students can feel part of the Open Air Theatre, and be inspired by the work we are creating there."

Miss Watterson said, "Working in partnership with Storyhouse is an enviable position for a school to be in, as the opportunities it affords bring the professional world of the performing arts in line with our students' learning experiences."

After a rigorous interview and tough competition from the University of Chester, we are delighted for Sixth Form students Jamie-Lee Barlow, Elliot Lush and Alice Wild who have been afforded trainee director roles with StoryHouse on these productions. Other students will have the opportunity to work behind the scenes as the partnership develops into the summer months.

## STUDENTS FLYING HIGH FOR WATERAID



On Saturday 16 April, four Sixth Form students, Adem Yilmaz, Steven Sheekey, Milan Matthews and Tom McDermott, took part in an incredible tandem skydive to raise money for WaterAid. This was the perfect opportunity for the self-proclaimed "thrill-seekers" to combine an adrenaline rush with a passion for helping those in need.

The boys travelled to Black Knights Parachute Centre in Lancaster to complete their massive jumps. While the other skydivers jumped at 11,000 feet, the boys upgraded to an immense 15,000 feet for theirs!

Adem, Grosvenor House Captain, jumped first, saying he "could see as far as Blackpool Tower and even the Isle of Man!" They also experienced freezing temperatures of -15 degrees and could see their breath in the air!

While Tom and Adem have tried bungee jumping before, this was the first time for Steven and Milan to experience such dramatic heights. Adem went on to say, "It was an amazing and exhilarating experience. We're so proud and happy to have raised the money for WaterAid!" The students beat their target raising over £500 for the charity.



## HAS QPHS GOT THE X FACTOR?

With the current craze around the televised programmes BGT and the X factor, QPHS decided once again to host their own talent competition aptly titled the 'V Factor'. The competition is open to students of all years and true to the format of the main shows, students



had to undergo challenging auditions before their live performance, at the end of last term.

The sell-out show didn't disappoint and delivered an evening of high octane entertainment as QPHS students took to the stage to perform songs by their favourite artists. We even had our own Simon Cowell and associate judges to voice their opinions on the acts.

The show is a great opportunity for our students to showcase their singing talent but also a fantastic way of raising money for charity. Our chosen charities this year are Cancer Research UK and the Little Princess Trust (LPT). Maisie Versey from Year 7 and her family support the LPT who provide real hair wigs for children that have sadly lost their own hair through cancer treatment. Maisie herself

had all her lovely long locks cut off and her head shaved during Easter to donate it to the trust.

Congratulations go to the winning acts Klara Sapinska singing Jessie J's 'Do it like a Dude', Elliot Lush for his unique take on 'Let it Go' by James Bay and finally to Eve Lawlor and Felicity Weir for their winning performance of Sarah Bareilles 'Love Song'.



## GEOGRAPHY TRIP

In May, 52 Year 10 GCSE Geography students visited Betws-Y-Coed to study the impacts of tourism in the area.

When arriving in Betws-Y-Coed, they completed an environmental quality survey to look at the impacts of tourism on the town. This involved looking at



litter in the area, the level of traffic and the surrounding landscape. A land use map of the site was also created to look at how much of the area is focused on tourism and how much is for the use of locals.

Afterwards they split into smaller groups with some of the students carrying out a pedestrian count and other students carrying out a traffic count. Students also had the opportunity to complete their own independent research.

Year 10 student, Adam Young said, "It was fun because we got to understand the impacts of tourism and carried out independent research in the town"

## GROSVENOR MUSEUM

Thanks to the Grosvenor Museum who came into school to present a hands on artefact lesson of Roman medicine. The gifted and talented students in Year

8 History and Drama will be making a video for display in the Museum over the summer.



No students were harmed in the making of these skulls.

## THE SOMME 100

This year is the 100th year since World War One's, Battle of the Somme. In conjunction with the Battle of the Somme Centenary Tour and as part of The Somme100 Film Project Queen's Park High School are collaborating with Chester Philharmonic Orchestra on a performance to commemorate the historic event. The concert will feature music by Laura Rossi and a film commissioned by the Imperial War Museum, to which the Orchestra will be providing the soundtrack. This will be one of the first 100 performances of the film and score in the country.

Following on from this, Queen's Park High School students will perform a number of pieces including reprises of some of the songs performed with the Orchestra in their sensational musical, Les Miserables. The concert will conclude with a few WW1 songs for everyone.

Director of Learning for the Visual and

Performing Arts, Mr Yeoman said,

"This will be a very poignant and powerful concert and we hope it will serve as a fitting tribute to those who

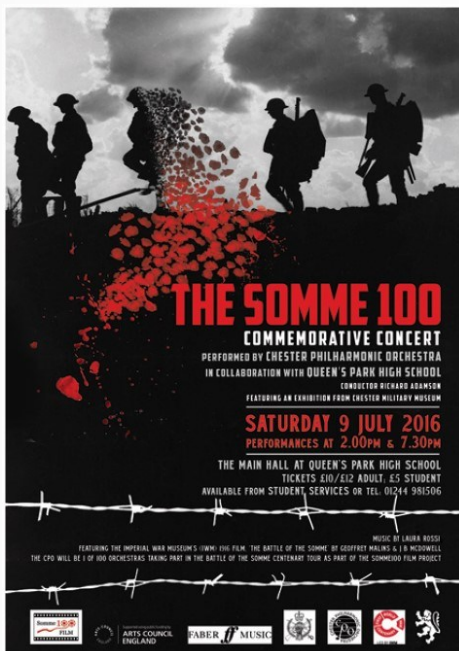
gave their lives for their country in World War I."

To enrich the audience experience there will also feature an exhibition from Chester Military Museum.

There will be two performances on Saturday 9 July; Matinee at 2.00pm and Evening Performance at 7.30pm in the Main Hall at Queen's Park High School.

Tickets are priced at £10/£12 Adults; £5 Students and are now available to buy from the school. As we anticipate this to be a sell-out, please book early to avoid disappointment. Please contact Lynn Morris at Queen's Park High School on Tel: 01244 981506 or email [enquiries@qphs.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@qphs.cheshire.sch.uk) and mark FAO Lynn Morris

Headteacher, Lyndsay Watterson added "We are delighted to welcome the Chester Philharmonic Orchestra to Queen's Park High and be able to play our part in the commemoration of such an important event from our history".





## BASSETT GOES 'HOME'

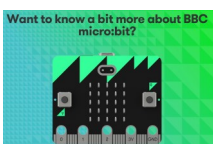
On Friday 29 April, 16 students had the opportunity to perform the play 'Bassett' at Manchester's new theatre, HOME. The performance formed part of the National Theatre Connections 500 project, involving 500 companies from across the UK – with each performing one of 12 plays from the National Theatre's back catalogue. The students had an amazing experience performing on a

professional stage and some students even had the opportunity to work backstage as deputy stage managers and sound operators.

Matt Yeoman, Director of Learning for the Visual and Performing Arts said, "The whole experience has been a really fantastic opportunity for Queen's Park students from Years 10 and 12 and has enabled them to impress large audiences with their performance skills."

Feedback from the audience (including a standing ovation at HOME!) has been incredibly positive, with one audience member tweeting, 'Now that is exactly how to deliver a powerful, dramatic performance'. The opportunity to perform at a national level is one of many opportunities open to Queen's Park High School's numerous dramatists who are looking to develop their CVs as they plan for future careers in the performing arts.

## MICRO:BITS FOR YEAR 7



The Micro:bit is a handheld, fully programmable computer being given free to every

Year 7 or equivalent child across the UK. It's 70 times smaller and 18 times faster than the original BBC Micro computers used in schools in the early 1980s. The Micro:bit can be used for all sorts of fun creations, from robots to musical instruments – the possibilities are endless!

This is a fantastic opportunity for our Year 7 students at QPHS. The Micro:bit will help improve their coding skills

and provide them with the basic knowledge and skills they would need if they choose to go down the route of doing GCSE Computer Science at Key Stage 4.

Year 7 student Jack Glass said, "My impression of the Micro:bit is that it's a very intelligent piece of technology and it teaches you to code step by step."



## YEAR 8 HEALTH & WELLBEING

What constitutes a healthy lifestyle? How can we stay fit and healthy? These are the two key questions that Year 8 explored as part of the PCED in May.

Students were introduced to the guidelines regarding what constitutes a healthy lifestyle. Using information from the British Heart Foundation, students learnt about the types of foods and portions they should be eating as part of a balanced diet. They considered how important physical activity was in maintaining health and wellbeing.

During the day, students completed a mile walk which links to the Government initiative carried out recently, whereby Primary School children walked a mile a day to

promote health and wellbeing in children – and to encourage an optimal learning environment!

Using the information from the morning session and their own independent research, students produced a five day menu and exercise plan for a target group of people.

"I enjoyed finding out about how to make the right food choices and the mile walk was fun" – student comment 8AWT



## NEWLY REBURBISHED GYM

The official handover of our newly refurbished gym took place on Friday 13 May and is now available for the use of the PE department and Community lettings.

What started off as a simple job to mend a 'leaky roof' back in the summer term of last year, soon changed once the contractors realised that the gable end and external walls had begun to move. This then became a long term project. It was imperative to rebuild the walls and safeguard the space from structural instability.

It has been a big investment funded by the local authority to restore the building and return the facility ready for school and Community use.

IKO Roofing Felts supplied a new type of roofing felt called IKO Carrara – air purifying Technology, which is more eco-friendly as it absorbs carbon. New electric windows were also fitted in this modern upgrade.

Time was of the essence as the local elections were due to take place in the facility on 5 May.

Thanks to Quest Services, Harry Fairclough and ENGIE, the deadline was met and we have our gym back once again!



## HELP QPHS SAVE THE PLANET

As part of our commitment to help save the planet, we have introduced recycling bins into classrooms for the recycling of waste.

As a school we produce 396,000 litres of general waste and 88,000 litres of recycled waste per month which is very expensive for us to dispose of. If we can start recycling at source, this will make a huge saving for the school and will also benefit the environment, with less waste going to landfill sites!

Staff and students are encouraged to put paper, card, plastic bottles and cans into the new eco-friendly green bins. The general waste bins will still be left in classrooms for non-recyclable waste.

### What can I recycle?



## GREAT NEWS FOR CAIN

Congratulations to Year 10 student Cain Noble who, along with the CSFA U15 squad, won the Senior Trophy at Cheshire Inter Association Cup in Middlewich Town Football Club, last week. They battled through the wet weather and

defeated Knowsley School by two goals to one.

Chester led 1-0 for most of the game, with a headed goal from Man of the Match, Tom Roebuck.

Cain has been successful in making the Chester School FA and is now looking to represent Cheshire!



## ROWING CLUB NEWS

During a busy week training in Scotland, our rowers experienced rowing on the famous Commonwealth Games lake in Strathclyde. They had two outings per day which consisted of technical and endurance work, along with the use of a fully equipped gym and rowing tank.

The students also had the use of the bigger 'eight' boats where they were all able to row together, even the coaches!

The week ended with a small regatta and race offs in eights.



## SHREWSBURY REGATTA

The first regatta of the year was at Shrewsbury.

It was a wonderful warm summer-like day enjoyed by everyone.

Henry Dougherty and Charlie Birchall-Jones won the J15 double and Gwilym Harris the J14 single. All other athletes progressed to finals.

## ATHLETICS

On a warm sunny day in May Mrs Cutler, Mr Bearcroft and Mr McMullen took the Year 7 and Year 8 QPHS Athletics Teams to the Chester and District Championships held at Deeside College. The competition against all the Chester High Schools was of an incredibly high standard this year with records falling in a number of events. The students did not let themselves down in the face of such stiff competition and did themselves and the school proud with some excellent performances and outstanding effort all round.

Some star performers on the day were Matthew Bland, Joshua Halewood and Tyler Price. The PE department are sure that all the students will be able to build on their performances and win some medals next year.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2016

Event	Date	Time
Official opening of Snack Bar Co-construction Art Project	25 May	12.25 - 1.00pm
Year 10 Logistics Event at WCC	27 May	10.30 - 1.30pm
<b>Summer Half Term</b>		
School Closes	27 May	3.00pm
School Re-opens	6 June	8.45am
All Years Trentham Regatta	5 June	All Day
All Years Chester Regatta	11 June	All Day
Year 12 UCAS Higher Education Conference	13 June	8.45 - 3.00pm
Open Sessions for Year 5 Parent/Carers	15 June 20 June	9.30 - 12.30pm
Year 10 DofE Training	21 - 22 June	
Year 8 Conway Residential	24 - 26 June	
Year 9 upwards Iron Bridge Regatta	25 June	All Day
Year 7 & 8 Liverpool Trip	29 June	8.45 - 3.00pm
Sports Day Field Events	30 June	9 - 12.20pm
Sixth Form Prom	30 June	7.30 - 11.00pm
All Years Performing Arts Trip to London	1 - 2 July	
Year 7-9 Runcorn Regatta	2 July	All Day
Year 6 Induction Day	5 July	8.45 - 3.00pm
Sports Day Track Events	6 July	12.20 - 3.00pm
Year 11 Prom	7 July	7.30 - 11.00pm
The Somme 100 Commemorative Concert	9 July	2pm & 7.30pm
Visual Arts Summer Exhibition	12 July	6.30 - 8.00pm
Celebration/Awards Evening	13 July	6.30 - 8.15pm
Year 10 DofE Expedition	14 - 15 July	
National Junior Rowing Championships	15 - 17 July	
All Years House Rewards Trips	18 July	8.45 - 3.00pm
<b>Summer Break</b>		
School Closes	20 July	3.00pm
School Re-opens - All students	6 September	8.45am
Staff INSET	21 July	8.45 - 3.00pm
A Level Exam Results	18 August	9am Year 13 10am Year 12
GCSE Exam Results	25 August	10am
All Years Ross Regatta Camping	26 - 29 August	
Staff INSET	5 September	8.45 - 3.00pm