



July 2019

NEWSLETTER

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Cumbria Pupil Librarian of the Year Award



Congratulations to our student librarians who were voted runners up in the team competition for Cumbria Pupil Librarian of the Year Award.

The Award is a new initiative from Cumbria Library Services for Schools and is open to all primary and secondary schools in Cumbria. The award was presented to either an individual pupil librarian or a team who have made a special contribution to the successful running of their school library and who have shown enthusiasm for their library duties. The award was presented by Jane McFie of Cumbria Schools Library Service, who said, "The judges were very taken with the presentation of your entry. It just looks like so much fun being part of your library team. It was noted that you have student librarians from years 7 to 13, and some who have been involved all their way through school, and that you have a real library family."

Headteacher's Update

The arrival of sunshine in recent days serves to remind us that summer is actually here and with it, the end of another highly successful school year and, in particular a very full and varied summer term.

Our Activity Week in June was a tremendous achievement. The opportunities on offer were extensive and varied: Year 7 had the opportunity to spend a week in Normandy; Year 8 attended the traditional Ullswater Residential and had in school activities; Year 9 similarly had half a week in school and half a week on a residential in London on a theatre experience organised by the English department; Year 12 had opportunities to travel to Boston on a science trip to visit Harvard and MIT as well as watching whales, a geology field trip to Tenerife or a joint art and RE trip to Rome. Year 9 also had the option of a languages trip to Berlin. In addition there were activities in school for those students who chose to or could not attend the trips. I do not think many schools could have matched this offer in one week. It is testament to the flexibility and dedication of our whole staff that this was possible and went so well. The students also played their part. I am always very proud of our students when they take part in events such these, as they do receive fulsome praise from members of the public and organisations with whom they come into contact. We have started planning for next year already.

We have had a very calm exam season this year with no administrative problems affecting the students' experiences. The Y11s and Y13s all worked very hard and really deserve credit for their approach to the exams. I wish them all good luck and a happy results day, at either 7.30 am on 15/8 for A level results or 9am on 22/8 for GCSE.

Having my son George taking his GCSE exams really brought it home to me just how much work is involved under the current system and how much pressure the students are under. The move to terminal exams and the loss of coursework in most subjects, combined with the decision to make these exams more challenging than the previous papers, make this experience extremely tough. I hope our decision to reduce the number of GCSE exams taken by the current Year 10 goes some way to reduce this stress, but I fear it will take another wholescale review of the system before it becomes a reasonable level of challenge for the students.

Our Open Evening on Tuesday 18th June was a great success. We hosted approximately 600 people from 5.30pm-8pm. All staff involved, support and teaching, put on a great show and the parents commented on how relaxed and enjoyable the evening was. There was a really great family feel with another excellent effort from teaching staff in departments to engage the children in a range of activities.

The Friends of QEGS put on their traditional BBQ, which went down a storm with families and staff alike. The event was so successful that staff continued their demonstrations and conversations until around 8.30pm, such was the demand and interest. I am delighted to be able to announce that by lunchtime on Friday 21st June, the closing deadline, we had a record 347 applications (321 last year) for the 160 places. This is the third year in a row that applications have increased and we are delighted that more parents and more children see QEGS as a viable option for them. I am determined to make access to a grammar school education a genuine option for every child within the Eden valley and we are making progress towards this goal.

On a more sombre note you will recall the joint letter between UCC and QEGS regarding our concerns about the prevalence of drugs within Penrith and the links with the ‘county lines’ problem. On Wednesday 26th June we hosted a visit to QEGS of ex UCC student Joe Fawcett; he had spoken at UCC the day before. He spoke with students from Yrs9, 10 & 12 about his life story, beginning as a student at Kirkoswald Primary and then at UCC with a bright future, to serving time in a high security prison for supplying drugs. The impact of his talk was significant and immediate as could be told by the silence in the Hall and the number and level of questions he attracted from students. His story was entirely credible and shocking to our students. His account of how and why children as young as 14 become embroiled in drug related crime was powerful and searingly honest.

I and colleagues who watched his talks agreed we have never seen a more effective anti-drugs presentation. We have begun plans to invite Joe back for next term to talk to the new Year 9 and Year 12 students. We are also exploring the possibility of a talk for parents. We have run follow up sessions in form times with all relevant year groups to embed the key messages and to encourage debate and discussion. This is an increasingly serious risk to our young people and demands an effective and robust response from educators and others. Together with our colleagues at UCC and with the police, this is what we are hoping to achieve in Penrith.

Student Leadership Team

Following several rounds of voting and a series of interviews, I am pleased to announce the members of the Student Leadership Team have been selected for the next academic year:

Head Girl: Izzy White

Deputy Head Girls : Kara Keenan-Wilson & Christina Boving Foster

Head Boy : Mueed Ijaz

Deputy Head Boys : Jacob Reid & Callum Campbell

These students carry out many roles in support of the school ranging from delivering readings at church services to supervising prefect duties. Congratulations to all those named and to all who took part in the process and have been selected as prefects. Staff look forward to working with the new team in the coming months.



In terms of changes to staffing for the next academic year, we have made two strong appointments as the school expands next year. In English we have appointed Mrs Inman and in maths we have appointed Mr Atkinson.

Staff who are leaving us this term are: Mrs Hamilton (maths); Mr Cloke(science) and Mrs Lowes (Attendance Officer).

Mr Cloke has been with us this year as a part time member of the science department, with a specialism in physics. He has moved to position on the west coast.

Mrs Hamilton has been a part time member of the mathematics department, who also delivers economics. She has been with the school for 3 years and has been a very active and committed member of the department. She has been involved in extra – curricular activities and stepped in to help deliver economics two years ago.

Mrs Lowes joined the school in November 2001 as a member of the reception team. From January 2017 she has been Attendance Officer. She has been very popular with students, parents and staff in both roles due to her empathetic and patient nature. She has given incredible service to QEGS and all of its students for 18 years and will be missed.

We are, of course, very grateful for the contributions to the school from all of the colleagues leaving us this term. We wish them all the best for the future.

End of Term Service

Our end of term service is on Friday 18th July at St Andrew's starting at 11am. Parents are welcome to attend. I hope you are able to join us and wish you all a restful summer break.

The start of the new school year for students is Wednesday 4th September. Staff begin on Monday 2nd September with two training days.

**Mr Buckland
Headteacher**

2019 Olympiad



Congratulations to Elina Saha, Annie Egglestone, Fiona Kirkpatrick and Sarah Muir, all of Year 9, to whom the Olympiad judges decided to award a commendation for their 2019 Olympiad submission (Years 7-9, Task 1). This competition is run by Oxford University's German Network on an annual basis and entries come from schools nationwide.



Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Penrith

Governor News

A word from the Vice-chair of Governors

It is an honour to have been elected Vice-chair of Governors, having been involved with QEGS in one capacity or another since 1998 – before all our current students were born!

I work closely with the Chair of Governors (Tine Boving Foster), other members of the governing body and the school's leadership team to ensure that QEGS continues to provide the high quality of education for which it is renowned.

A new governor, Glenn Miller, has recently been elected and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Glenn on behalf of everyone at QEGS. As a former QEGS student, the parent of a boy in Year 8 and having recently retired after thirty years' service with Cumbria Constabulary, Glenn will bring a wealth of experience to the work of the governing body.

Many congratulations to Rob Shephard (QEGS Governor) who has been awarded an OBE for 'environmental and community work in Patterdale' in the latest Queen's birthday honours list. A just reward for tireless hard work. Rob is also coach to the Penrith RUFC under 15 squad and would welcome some new recruits!

After another very successful year for QEGS, we should celebrate but also ensure that we don't rest on our laurels as we look to the future. As ever, there are many changes in the pipeline in the world of education, not least the introduction in September of a new OFSTED framework for the inspection of schools. It is some time since QEGS was inspected and it is important that the governing body is prepared for when inspectors arrive. Specifically, the new framework requires:

"Those responsible for governance understand their role and carry this out effectively. They ensure that the provider (school) has a clear vision and strategy and that resources are managed well. They hold leaders to account for the quality of education."

"Those with responsibility for governance ensure that the provider fulfils its statutory duties, for example, under the Equality Act (2010), and other duties, for example, in relation to the "Prevent" strategy and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of learners."

I can assure all parents and carers that governors will do all that they can to fulfil their statutory responsibilities. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at one of the forthcoming school events.

Martyn Worrall
Vice Chair of Governors

Boston 2019

by Angelina Shcherbakova, Y12

It's odd to think that only a few weeks ago, a group of twenty-ish Year 12 students were 3000 miles away from sunny England. For some, it was our first time in the USA so as well as being an educational trip in the name of science, the visit would prove to be a novel, cultural experience.

The first major realisation that struck me as we left JFK airport was that there was a conveniently placed Dunkin' Donuts right in front of me. The second realisation came to me during the transfer from New York to Boston: "This looks like the UK!" I thought, and excluding the fact that we were driving on the wrong side of the road, it did. The route we took was surrounded by green fields, forests and lakes. Not unlike home.

Boston itself is a lovely city, very open and very green despite the high-rise buildings. There was stunning contrast between the modern buildings, for example the research facilities for MIT, and the older parts of the city like the shipyards and the beautiful, red-bricked buildings of Harvard. It felt like Boston was a huge city, but a small town too.

The trip wasn't just sightseeing, and we were lucky to visit some of the renowned research facilities located around MIT. The highlight for me was visiting the TOKAMAK nuclear fusion reactor, where we saw the old reactor (a new one is currently in the works) and were fascinated by the sight of actual plasma being generated.



Other activities that enjoy honourable mentions include the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research. Here, we took a look at some of the cool equipment they used in their labs (literally cool, it was at -80 degrees Celsius) and talked about examples of what kind of research they do there. This was fascinating for all students, whether they study biology or not. Also, the visit to the Ether dome was brilliant and quite awe-worthy in a way when you

think that there were actual surgeries performed on the floor beneath you. Then there was the whale watching, and with a boat ride like that, who needs rollercoasters! If you could get over the sea-sickness, there were some really lovely views of the Boston shoreline.

So, to sum up the trip in a few words? Lots of educational benefit, lots of inspiration for future careers in science and lots of Dunkin' Donuts.

Berlin 2019

by Finley Ilett, Year 9



On Monday 10th June, a group of forty Year 9 students, along with Mrs Dawson, Mr Wilson, Mrs Chapman and Mr Baines left for Glasgow airport at 5:30am to go to Berlin for five days on a trip, which has now been running successfully for several years.

There was certainly no time wasted on this first day, with the group leaving Berlin Schönefeld airport terminal and immediately getting onto a coach for a guided tour of the city, taking them to many of the top sights; notably the Brandenburg Gate and a remaining stretch of the Berlin Wall at East Side Gallery.



Over the next few days, there was lots more history-related activity, which was understandable given the significance of this city during the 20th century. This included walking up the glass dome of the Reichstag (German Parliament) and exploring the role that the building has played in the nation's history, then also visiting numerous museums – about the Wall, life in the DDR (East Germany) and the Nazi regime.

Despite several night-time thunderstorms, the weather over the week was in general extremely hot and sunny, with blue skies making Wednesday's panoramic views of the city from the top of the iconic Fernsehturm (TV tower) even more stunning. The students and teachers also enjoyed a trip to the Kurfürstendamm, a major shopping area in the city, and then to the Berlin Zoo with its fascinating range of animals.

All in all, everyone present would agree that the trip was a great success – planning is already underway for next year.

Rome 2019

On the 11th to 14th of June 2019, 18 students and 3 teachers from QEGS went to Rome for activities week. Three of those 18 were Aurora, Lucy, and Sophie, and we are going to tell you all about our trip!

Day 1: Hello! Lucy here! On the first day, we arrived at the airport in Italy and then went straight to the hotel to get changed into some weather appropriate clothes. Our first port of call was the world renowned Giolittis. According to Wikipedia, it is the oldest ice cream parlour in the whole of Rome! I got chocolate and stratiatelli. Then we walked through central Rome and went to some basilicas. Basilica is the name given to certain churches granted special privileges by the pope. We went for dinner at Ristorante Dolce Vita in the Piazza Navona. I had pizza and we shared a garlic bread; it was way nicer than the Italian chain restaurants in England!!

Me with my huge margherita pizza at Ristorante Dolce Vita in the Piazza Navona. I couldn't manage to eat all of it, so I had to take half back to the hotel and I ate it the next day when we were waiting to go in the Colosseum!



After dinner we went to the Trevi Fountain! I was so excited to see it and it was huge, the pictures really don't do it justice. The carving was amazing and so detailed, and it was really busy because everyone wanted a photo with it!

Day 2: We woke up at 6:30am and after breakfast we hopped on a tram to the Papal Archbasilica of St. John Lateran. It is the oldest public church in the city of Rome, and the oldest basilica of the Western world.

Here is a photo I took outside of the Papal Archbasilica of St. John Lateran. The large Latin inscription on the façade reads: *Clemens XII Pont Max Anno V Christo Salvatori In Hon SS Ioan Bapt et Evang.* This translates to: "Pope Clement XII, in the fifth year [dedicated the building] to Christ the Savior, in honor of Saints John the Baptist and [John] the Evangelist"



After, we went to the Colosseum. We saw where the gladiators fought and we learnt that it dated back to 70AD. We had a tour guide who also took us to the Roman Forum, where we saw the old ruins and beautiful gardens with orange trees. This was my favourite part of the whole trip, and I thought it was the most underrated site we visited.

Here is a picture I took of the fascinating Roman Forum, looking down from the top of the Palatine Hill. The ruins you can see are from several important ancient government buildings at the center of the city of Rome.

You could see loads of the city from the viewing terrace at the top of the palatine hill, including the Colosseum and Altare Della Patria. The teachers called this the ‘wedding cake’ because it is all white with lots of detail and layers, like a wedding cake.



All the philosophy, art, and history students outside of the Altare Della Patria, or 'wedding cake'. We got to see this every day and evening, since it was near to our tram stop.

Then we went for lunch at Alle Carette pizzeria which was our favourite place for pizza! After, we went to the Capitoline Museum. We saw the plaque where the font ‘Times New Roman’ came from!

Day 3: Hi, Aurora speaking! On day three we went to the Vatican, somewhat different to the rest of the trip as it appeared less busy- until we got to the museum. And although Sandra (our tour guide) made the experience more bearable, the number of visitors in the museum made it difficult to appreciate that you were actually there, and not in the tube at rush hour.

The busy Vatican museum. Check out the ceiling!

All that being said, the Vatican was really interesting- seeing the Sistine Chapel with Michelangelo’s creation and St. Peter’s Basilica in the space of a few hours was an incredible experience. For the evening we went back to the Piazza Navona for dinner and back to the hotel for a shower and some much needed rest.



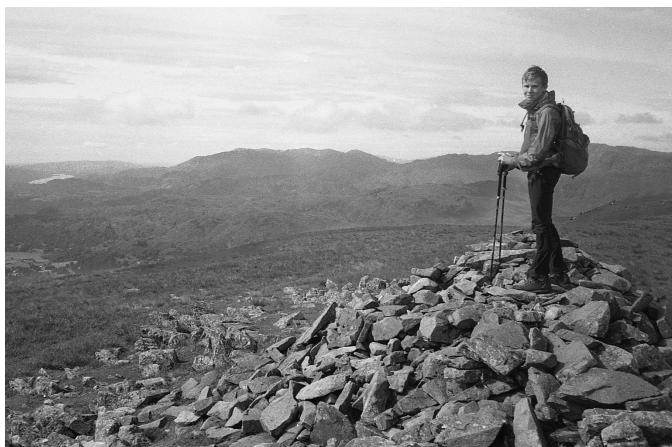
Day 4: Hi, Sophie here! On the fourth day, we got up at around 7:30 to start getting ready, and left the hotel at 9:00am. We got the metro to another area of the city, and then went on a walk to find the Palazzo Barberini.



Everyone on the cold steps of the Palazzo Barberini. This is the National Gallery of Ancient Art and is the main national collection of older paintings in Rome.

We saw art from many different eras, including paintings of Ancient Rome and portraits, such as Henry VIII's. There were also statues and sculptures, and in one room there was a band performing classical music which we paused and listened to. After this, the teachers took us to an area near the Colosseum to get our lunch, and then we went for our final (of many) ice creams of the trip. We got the metro back to the hotel to collect our suitcases and then went to the catacombs. This was my favourite part as we were told all about the catacombs and its four layers- the first of which dated back to the 3rd century! We were shown where the priests had been once buried, along with the family tomb where families, including extended family and slaves, were all buried in a room together. We were also taught about the Catholic beliefs, and about Catholics in the 19th century visiting the catacombs on pilgrimages. Sadly, we weren't allowed to take pictures. Finally, we were driven to the airport where we had a snack before getting on the flight home at 21:55.

From all of us; thank you to Mr Proctor, Mrs Sadowski, and Ms Anderson for taking us on this amazing trip.



Year 10 student Danny McAlea recently completed the 'Boundary Walk' with Patterdale Mountain Rescue Team.

The walk is approximately 44k, with 3,200m of ascent and takes in 19 Wainwrights. It took 15 hours

Danny's efforts raised money for Patterdale School and church.

And in Sporting News...

Athletics Achievements

Well done to Amelie Marshall, Jake Hayhurst, Thomas Renwick and Grace Monkhouse who all achieved a first or second place at the County Athletics Championships at Whitehaven in June and went on to represent Cumbria at the Northern Counties!



At the Year 7 County Athletics Championships in July, sixteen QEGS students competed for Eden, with the following notable performances: Caitlin Padgett 4th in 100m, Amir Maarouf 3rd in 800m, Sam Pullen 3rd in 1500m, Felicity Evans 2nd and Amara Rose 3rd in 800m, Zoe Nelson 2nd in high jump and Evie Baldwin 1st in triple jump. The Eden girls finished as COUNTY CHAMPIONS! Well done to all who competed.



Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Penrith

Student Commendations

Commendations have been awarded to the following students:

Headteacher's Commendations

| | |
|-----------------------|------|
| Isobel Page | 7PCR |
| Sally Pereira | 7SC |
| Finn Wilkinson | 7KJD |
| Luke Murray | 7PCR |
| Samuel Pullan | 7KJD |
| Theo Hodgson | 7KJD |
| Jessica Wharton | 7AGM |
| Robert Osbaldestin | 7AGM |
| Lucy Knowles | 7AGM |
| Rebecca Newby | 7AGM |
| Yara Ghaith | 7PCR |
| Rebecca Boving Foster | 8MR |

Deputy Headteacher's Commendations

| | |
|-----------------------|------|
| Theo Wilkinson | 7KJD |
| George Haygarth | 7KJD |
| James Laidlaw | 7KJD |
| Gabriel Poles | 7KJD |
| Johannah Vivian | 7SC |
| Amara Rose | 7SC |
| Felicity Evans | 7SC |
| Esther Laithwaite | 8MR |
| Rebecca Boving Foster | 8MR |
| Jessica Wharton | 7AGM |
| Morgan Macaulay | 7AGM |
| Josh Willis | 7AGM |
| Lucy Knowles | 7AGM |
| Hannah Rushton | 7AGM |
| Charis Pattimore | 8RP |
| Carys Ilett | 8RP |



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Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Penrith

Friends of QEGS NEWS

Next Meeting:

Thursday 12th September 2019 at 7pm

Dates for your diary

Future events to be published soon...

100 Club Winners for June:

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----------|---------------------|
| 1 st | £40 | Number 56 | Claire Bibby |
| 2 nd | £25 | Number 44 | Vivien Thomas |
| 3 rd | £20 | Number 78 | Joanne Hull- Davies |
| 4 th | £20 | Number 85 | Emma Shepherd |
| 5 th | £20 | Number 32 | Joanne Airey |

Friends of QEGS Committee

Chair

Alison Almond

Secretaries

Lucinda Weymouth

Treasurers

Clare Glassford
David White

Numbers Club

Sarah Thomas
Claire McKeown

Recycled Uniform

Kimberley Lawson

Diary Dates

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Friday 19th July | End of Term |
| Thursday 15th August | A Level results |
| Thursday 22nd August | GCSE Level results |
| Wednesday 4th September | Autumn Term commences |
| Thursday 5th September | School Photos |
| Saturday 14th September | Entrance Tests |
| Monday 16th September | Y7 Parents' Meeting |
| Wednesday 25th September | Y12 Introduction Evening |
| Friday 27th September | Sponsored Walk |

For more events and up-to-date calendar information, visit the homepage of the school website and access the [School Calendar via Google Live](#) which is regularly updated