



Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Penrith

October 2019

NEWSLETTER

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World Mental Health Day



It was all yellow!!

On Thursday 10th October, QEGS students celebrated World Mental Health Day by wearing something yellow and donating £1 to the YoungMinds charity.

It was a bright and colourful way for students to show their support for young people's mental health. They raised a total of £501, which is a fantastic result.

Headteacher's Update

We have had a very exciting and successful first half term. The new Year 7 pupils have made an excellent start to their time at QEGS. After a hectic whirlwind of new experiences and friendships, they have acquired the air of confident and happy learners, secure and confident in all aspects of their education. The same can be said for the Sixth Form, where incomers and incumbents have mixed really well and settled to their studies at a higher level with minimal difficulty.

New staff have also settled quickly and are enjoying their first term here. In the English department we have welcomed Mrs Erica Inman and in maths, Mr Matthew Atkinson has joined us. Mr Fellowes has also returned to his post following a year's sabbatical. We have also strengthened our support team with new appointments and an additional role. After half term we will be joined by Mrs Culverwell as our Attendance Officer and Mrs Mark will take on a new role as Pastoral Support Officer. Mrs Caroline Brammer joined us from September as Cover Manager and Work Experience Co-ordinator as Mrs Warner is taking a very well earned rest and retiring from QEGS at half term, after giving 20 years of exemplary service to the school. Mrs Warner has been a stalwart of the school. Her commitment and dedication are unrivalled. She has kept the school working in the face of blizzards, floods, numerous other acts of God and staff absence. She has handled the logistics for a myriad of special events, including work experience and Activities Week and always with a smile and enthusiasm. She will be greatly missed by staff and students alike.

One of the new experiences enjoyed by our incomers and all students was the annual Sponsored Walk. This year saw more students than ever before take part. The weather was a concern leading up to the event, but the BBC weather site assured us that light showers and sunshine were to be expected and the decision was taken to go ahead on the morning, with the sun shining as the first groups of students and parents set off from school. Unfortunately, this image was not to last as heavy and persistent rain established itself. It soon became clear that parts of the route were becoming slippery and there was an element of concern about safety. The walk was cancelled, and all students and parents made it back to school, many in rapidly organised coaches, soon after 2pm.

Whilst it was a shame that the event had to be curtailed, it was still enjoyed by the vast majority of students. In fact, we received many positive comments from students and parents. I hope that sponsors will consider the context and still pay out on pledges as the funds are very welcome in our bid to complete the furnishing of the Colin Birnie Building, with support from the Friends of QEGS.

On the topic of funding, many parents will have heard the government's announcements of increases in school funding over recent weeks. Whilst it is true that the extra funds are welcome, it should not be forgotten that there is still a £2bn gap between what is on offer now and the levels of funding in 2015. Student numbers have also risen sharply, nationally since 2015. There has been a period of chronic underfunding, which has hit schools very hard and damaged infrastructure and staffing. It will take a lot of time and even more money to re-establish the quality of education schools could supply five years ago. It is a positive step, but there is still a long way to go before we at QEGS, like 80% of schools nationally, will be able to feel financially secure long term.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half term break, and look forward to the run up to Christmas when we come back on Monday 28th October.

Paul Buckland
Headteacher



Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Penrith

Governor News

Congratulations to all the children and young adults who received their GCSE and A Level results this summer. It has been another year with great results, and on the two results days it was a joy to see so many happy and relieved faces, with only the very occasional tear.

Now it is time to look forward, and I would like to welcome everybody back to a new academic year, with an especially warm welcome to all new children and parents. As a parent, I always find that the start of the year feels a bit like a whirlwind, and by now it is difficult to remember the summer holidays, but I hope everybody has settled into school routine.

The governing body's focus this year is on the welfare and workload of all staff, as well as the management of our economy. This corresponds to the outcomes of a big national survey that found that the two biggest concerns for governing bodies are lack of funding, and staff welfare, so at least we are not alone.

We are still in the fortunate position that we have been able to attract highly qualified specialist teachers, and we, as a governing board, will do what we can to keep QEGS an attractive school to work in. After all, the teachers are the most important component in our children's education.

School funding has been very much in the media during the last months, but while there have been many statements concerning further money to education, the reality is that no further funding has been given for this academic year. Given the political turmoil at the moment, it is impossible to know what exactly will happen next year, and financial prudence will be very important this year.

The survey also found that it can be very difficult to fill the posts on the governing board, and nationwide there is a shortage of 18,000 governors. The community around QEGS is very supportive, and we have been fortunate to be able to appoint Dr Jean Jenkins after Mrs Gravett stepped down after many years of invaluable service to the school. Dr Jenkins has worked mainly as a GP, but also helped to develop health services, particularly in mental health, and she will take over the role as link governor for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, as well as providing support for the pastoral team.

I look forward to seeing you at various events during the school year.

Tine Boving Foster
Chair of Governors

Governor News



My professional life has been as a doctor, working mainly as a GP, first in Leeds and then in Cheshire. In addition to my clinical work I also helped to develop health services particularly in mental health.

I moved to Penrith a couple of years ago, and I am enjoying many new interests, although still doing some work helping to redesign health services.

I owe my career to a good education and share the ethos of the school of having high expectations and standards. I hope to contribute positively to school life and look forward to meeting many of you at school events and functions in the future. **Dr Jean Jenkins**

We're delighted to announce that we are a Stonewall School Champion for another year, and are continuing our commitment to making our school a place where pupils and staff - including lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people - are accepted without exception. Our students have told us that equality for all is a central part of the school's ethos, which they value highly and we intend to do all we can to further and encourage this.

R Chapman
Assistant Head, Student Welfare



Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Penrith

Student Achievements



Chad Davies (along with Max Hamblin and Luke Beaumont) attended a day's flying at RAF Leeming last month with the Royal Air Force Air Cadets.

Chad is now one flight off obtaining his bronze wings, and has been selected to assist Air Cadets with their flights at RAF Woodvale.

This is a picture of Chad in action.

Hannah Bentley attended The Lord Ferrers Awards in London, which recognises outstanding contributions to volunteering in policing, where her team won the

award for volunteer police cadets and their project around suicide and mental health.



And in Sporting News...

Fell Running Championships 2019

A very technical fell running course was to face the 25 strong team from QEGS, with conditions at Settle made worse under foot by recent rainfall.

The year 7's race was brought home by Tom Haughan (32nd). The girls team packed well and scooped 2nd team prize: Grace Errington, Amelie Thornburn and Matilda McTear. The year 8/9 race, Thomas Renwick just missed out on a podium spot claiming 4th place supported well by Alastair Grant (32nd) and Ed Walker (44th) to take 3rd team. The best QEGS performance of the day came from Ben O'Dowd taking 2nd in the year 10/11 race. Another team 2nd followed, with good runs from year 10 runners Oliver Willets and Jacob Rankin. Gemma O'Dowd (11th), Amelie Marshall (12th) Daisy Gillion (39th) and Melissa Ferard (40th) scooped 2nd team for the girls in the same race.

Last to run, the seniors, on the longest ascent saw Sol Johl finish 9th with Charlie Harding tracking closely in 11th. The overall School placing for QEGS was 4th in the competition.



In light blue vest on muddy corner: Ben O'Dowd



On rocky tops: Sol Johl and Charlie Harding.



Dark vest in grassy fell: Thomas

And in Sporting News...



Silver medal at European Canoe Polo Championships

Two members of Penrith Canoe Club, and former QEGS students, Katie Farley and Caitlin Fox, represented Great Britain at the recent Canoe Polo European Championships in the Portuguese city of Coimbra.

In the exciting final, playing before a capacity crowd, they narrowly lost to Germany 4-2. Winning a Silver medal in such style was a huge achievement. Both players also took part in the European club championships in September in Sicily. Katie playing for her Liverpool ladies team who are reigning champions and Caitlin for a London team.

Donations wanted.....

Donations wanted of any haberdashery, such as materials, buttons, zips, beads, ribbons wools, threads etc.

Thank you.

Mrs Johnston



Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Penrith

Student Commendations

Commendations have been awarded to the following students:

Headteacher's Commendations

(awarded at the end of last year)

Ahmed Abdelgalil 8RP

Deputy Headteacher's Commendations

(awarded at the end of last year)

Enna Tomlin 7SC

Zoe Nelson 7SC

Caitlin Padgett 7SC

Rama Moukarram 8RP

Yuki Lin 8RP

Ahmad Abdelgalil 8RP



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Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Penrith

Friends of QEGS NEWS

Next Meeting:

AGM Tuesday 29th October at 7pm

Dates for your diary

Friday 29th November from 6pm



Further details to follow

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

October / November:

21st - 25th October	Half Term
28th October	Sixth Form exam week
30th October	University Admissions Tests
4th & 6th November	GCSE English Language resits
7th November	Y7 Parents' & Tutors' Meeting
13th November	GCSE Awards Evening
20th - 23rd November	school production of 'Beauty and the Beast'
26th November	Y11 Parents' Evening

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