



October 2021



NEWSLETTER

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Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents/Carers

The start of a new school year always brings excitement, fresh challenges, new faces and changes. 2021-22 has been no exception and in many ways there have been more issues to address than in previous years. It has been excellent to see all of the students in school with fewer restrictions to their learning and movement. The dropping of bubbles has enabled us to revert to a traditional timetable and bring back many more routine practices and activities such as extra-curricular events, which are so important to the fully rounded development of our students. It has been a delight to see the new Year 7 students settle in so quickly and for older students who have missed so much, especially the Year 8, who barely experienced any 'normal teaching' last year, to establish routines so quickly. Seeing the school stir back into life as 'normal' has been very enjoyable.

This has not come without its challenges, though. Testing again took up a lot of time and effort from all staff and the recent vaccination programme has also caused a lot of extra work for our teams at a time when they are stretched as it is. The isolation of students affected by Covid has led to us being proactive and organising online 'hybrid' learning for those students well enough to work. Staff have responded admirably to the challenges presented. We are starting to reintroduce trips and visits, although limiting these to local destinations for now and later to within the UK. There are still too many unknowns for us to start exploring foreign trips, but we will resume the tremendous programme of overseas visits as soon as it becomes practicable.

Helping us to cope with these changes has been a host of new faces. We have welcomed numerous new colleagues to the staff at QEGS as we increase our numbers to enable more students to benefit from a grammar school education.

Staff joining QEGS from September 2021:

Ms Chatterton	Sixth Form Guidance and Support
Miss Lamb	Humanities
Miss Marshall	Geography
Mr Masci-Gore	English
Mrs Nohavicka	Assistant Headteacher & English
Miss Price	English

Mrs Terry	MFL	
Mr Gorman-Tysoe		Music
Mr Wakefield	Science	
Mr Wareham	Maths	
Miss Wilson	PE	

Some of our existing staff are taking up new roles within the school:

Miss Smith	Head of Sixth Form
Mrs Judge	Head of Human Sciences

They are all most welcome and have already made a significant impact on making the start of the year so successful.

We have also made some significant changes to the lunchtime arrangements with the replacement of the old snack bar with a new facility serving sandwiches and other snacks – including a build your own baguette facility which is proving very popular.

We held our very successful Sponsored Walk in September and this was enjoyed by students and staff alike. The Friends of QEGS provided much needed refreshment and snacks on the revised circular route around The Beacon. Issues on the last sponsored walk along the traditional route made it necessary for safety reasons to amend the plans this year. Students were able to set their own target with some managing 7 or 8 circuits but most aiming at a more sedate 2 or 3. Members of the School Council have welcomed the change and have expressed the view that they and their peers felt it was a success. The new route certainly increased the sponsorship raised: a new record of £13,000! We hope the funds raised will go some way towards the purchase of a new school minibus. Half of the income will be donated to a charity selected by the Student Council.

On the assumption that we will continue to be able to reintroduce more of the traditional QEGS events as the year progresses, we are planning to hold our two Prize Giving evenings, in November for last year's GCSE results and, in January, for the A level cohort from 2021. Both sets of Teacher Assessed Grades were carefully moderated internally and externally and students produced outstanding outcomes across both cohorts, which fully reflected the effort and achievements of all involved. We also expect to run our Christmas end of term services at St Andrews, for the first time in two years, along with a new venture from Mr Roberts and the music department: Carols from QEGS, a full service of readings and carols at St Andrews on Tuesday 14th December from 7pm. More details to follow, but I do hope we will see many of you there.

I hope this first newsletter of the new academic year provides you an insight into the progress made at QEGS back towards 'normal'. There may be a way to go yet, but the early signs are very encouraging and I want to pay tribute to the staff who have worked so hard to facilitate what we have achieved and will go on to achieve. It is also important to acknowledge your support and hard work in helping to build a recovery from the pandemic which will be sustained and for the benefit of all of our students.

Best wishes

Mr Buckland

Friends of QEGS News

At last December's AGM, Alison Almond and Lucinda Weymouth stood down as Chair and Secretary of the Friends of QEGS committee after many years of fundraising and of playing an important part in keeping our community glued together and as active as possible. The whole extended community of QEGS parents owes you an enormous THANK YOU – you welcomed us when we were new to the school and worked tirelessly to fundraise and to try and draw the community closer despite the large catchment area of the school and the busy lives most people lead. Your warmth, endurance (I'm sure you'll never forget that Sponsored walk in 2019), inclusive spirit and unfailing cheerfulness are going to be a tough act to follow. Luckily, you haven't managed to escape entirely and are still guiding us and doing a lot of the work!

There are now several new faces in the group as the next wave of children enters the school and those of us who have 'joined up' will do our best to try and carry on your amazing work. Despite now having been in our new roles for nearly a year, it is only really with the start of this school year that the Friends of QEGS feels properly alive again and we are enjoying the fact that finally we can organise events and really start working towards our current target of funding a new minibus. If anyone would like to join us in any capacity we would be delighted, as many hands certainly do make lighter work.

It has been a busy start to the new academic year! The FQEGS stall at the sponsored walk made a grand total of £1117.00 which was a very encouraging way to begin the new fundraising year; way better than just a pair of furry dice for the new minibus. We are now busily organising this year's CHRISTMAS SHOPPING FAIR which will be on FRIDAY 26TH NOVEMBER. Please put the date in your diaries - it looks as though it's shaping up to be a really lovely evening. For Year 7, 8 and 9 parents in particular this is a very rare opportunity to actually come in to the school and piece together some of the scant snippets our children come home with. With Parents' Evenings now probably happening online, events such as this are a great way to feel more connected to the school.

We will be serving hot food and mulled wine to keep out the cold and we already have a really attractive and interesting range of stalls who have signed up to come and sell. There will also be a tombola, a raffle, a cake stall and the school choir will be singing some Christmas carols so the event should appeal to the whole family. We will publish more details nearer the time but hope to see you there. 26th November! Important date!

Very best wishes from the FQEGS.



Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Penrith

Covid Vaccinations

Over two days, 19th and 20th of October, 350 students aged between 12 and 15 received their Covid-19 vaccination. The process was handled very smoothly and efficiently. We are aware that some students were unable to receive their vaccination for a number of reasons and we are pleased to pass on the following message from NHS sources regarding access to the vaccine outside of the school offer.

(Please note that this message has been released nationally. As vaccinations have already taken place in our school, you will need to use the NHS booking service for your child's vaccination)

12-15 Supplementary Offer – in addition to (not a replacement for) the in-school offer

NHS England have now opened an additional route for 12 to 15 year olds to get their COVID-19 vaccine.

Parents of children aged 12 to 15 are now able to book an appointment for their child out of school, such as through vaccination centres, via the NHS website.

On Monday, parents of children aged 12 to 15 will receive a letter direct from the NHS with more information on the vaccination programme, and how to book an appointment out of school.

It is important to note that this is not a replacement for the in-school vaccination offer, all eligible pupils will continue to be offered the vaccination in school if they want it.

Unfortunately, some 16 year olds will receive the letter (given that 15 year olds are becoming 16 every day). For the same reason, some 12 year olds will not receive this letter - but they should be flagged and contacted in the coming weeks as the system catches up with itself. This automated flagging and scheduling usually happens weekly, but there may be a slight delay due to the numbers involved in this first tranche.

Not all children will be able to attend an out of school site, and so in continuing to support the in-school programme, you are helping to ensure all children and young people have an equal opportunity to be vaccinated.

[Visit the NHS page for more details on the updated guidance for 12-15 vaccinations.](#)



QEGS Students Step Out for Charity

The 24th September saw the students and staff of Queen Elizabeth Grammar School step out on their whole school sponsored walk for the first time since 2019.

This popular annual event has been a highlight of QEGS's calendar for many years, raising thousands of pounds for both the school and a variety of charities. The proceeds from this year's walk will be split equally between Cancer Research UK, and the Friends of QEGS campaign to raise funds for a new school minibus.

Taking a new route than in previous years, walkers crossed Penrith and climbed the footpath up to Beacon Hill Plantation. Students then followed a loop around the forest tracks, aiming to complete as many miles as possible. All students completed at least one loop, a walk of some six miles; most completed two or three loops on walks of over ten miles while the most enthusiastic walked over twenty miles.

The Friends of QEGS provided a popular refreshment station on the beacon, taking over £1,100 from sales of hotdogs, snacks and drinks to fuel the walkers.



The walk was organised by Assistant Headteacher, Rob Dawson, who said:

“This was the first whole-school event since the Covid-19 pandemic began, and it was a great success. It was brilliant to see the students out of school and taking part in something together again. The way in which our older students supported the youngest ones is a reminder of how important things like this are in the life of our school. We are enormously grateful to both Lowther and Lonsdale Estates, who have been so helpful in making the event possible. Our PTA supported the walk superbly, and we are really appreciative of the time and effort our parents went to in making the day a success”.



Mathematical Challenge Success

In the most recent Junior Maths challenge sat back in May we had lots of pupils across years 7 and 8 entering, some for the first time and there was again a lot of success with plenty achieving certificates as shown below. Sixteen of the students scored well enough to be entered for the next round, the Junior Kangaroo: Sonny Arora, Hoang Cao, Mustafa Ijaz, John Evans, Alex Stevens, Rory Woodham, Sarah Davies, Oliver Bird, Aser Mohamed, Pranjal Bhat, Ben Jonker, Maneesh Pai, Sam Dalton, Isobel Palmer, Cameron Fletcher and Lucy Reay. Five of these pupils Hoang Cao, Ben Jonker, Maneesh Pai, Cameron Fletcher and Lucy Reay performed particularly well and achieved a merit. A special mention must go to Owen Alban, who in Year 7 scored so impressively in the Junior Maths Challenge that he was entered into the Junior Olympiad, where we performed very well and achieved a merit.

The Intermediate Kangaroo and Olympiad were sat back in March for the pupils who scored highest in the Intermediate Maths challenge, with Wilfrid Teasdale, Finn Mayhew, Thomas Weng and William Siddle all achieving a merit in the Kangaroo and with both Arjun Sankar and Finley Ilett achieving distinctions in the Olympiad; Arjun in particular impressed with a near perfect score.

Mr Conner

Second in Maths

Junior Maths Challenge June 2021 Congratulations Year 7 (now 8)!

Gold

Owen Alban
Sonny Arora
Hoang Cao
Mustafa Ijaz
John Evans
Alex Stevens
Rory Woodham

Silver

Han Fei Weng
Harry Dear
Elizabeth Hexter
Eddie Lin
Ronnie Hodgson
Matthew Smith
Erin Smith
Brooke Wilson
Amina Arif
Aditya Manemi
Eleanor Tebbutt
Any Curran
Isla Macdonald
Ethan Robinson
Louis Simpson

Bronze

Adam Hartness
Liam Hawes
Holly Ryan
Samuel Hurst
Nicky Pearson
Alfie Mellor
Imogen Strong
Honey Barker
Jasmine Crowther
Daniel Hartness
Thea Ilett
Alexander McCormick
Kritin Mukherjee
Beth Upton
Chloe Whitton
Jessica Forrest
Henry Simpson

Edward Pickard
Robbie Brown
Archie Cleasby
Archie Fisher
Kira Holliday
Morland Carling
William Colak
Annie Ellwood
Archie Milstead
Zahren Shah
Eva Hollando
Cai Morgan
Laura Per
Mia Renwick
Will Ross
Joseph Rumney
Harry Teasdale



Junior Maths Challenge June 2021

Congratulations Year 8 (now 9)!

Gold

Sarah Davies
Oliver Bird
Aser Mohamed
Pranjal Bhat
Ben Jonker
Maneesh Pai
Sam Dalton
Isobel Palmer
Cameron Fletcher
Lucy Reay

Silver

Isabel Hall
Hannah Mead
Garrett Bacon
Ainara Cowan
Jonty Hansford
Tamsin Melling
Eddie Taylor
Maiki Tolmie
Zach Graham
Joel Koney
Sameer Shahul Hame
Poppy Foster
Sophie Cantley
Grace Errington
Hasini Ambekar Vedapanakal
Adam Borradaile
Elliot Lambert
Peter Stewart
Vinoli Wijesiriwardana

Bronze

James Cooper
Ryan Moukarram
Hannah Saudek
Eliza Hudson
Maximus Lazonby
Lawson Lightfoot
Nina Stanwell
Fiona Villadsen
Theo Wasilkowski
Carrie Fox
Joe Cox
Sonny Kirkwood
Matilda McTear
Christian Muirhead
Tom Rodley
Amie Stamper
Linus Boateng



QEGS' Students Football Fundraiser

A group of students have raised over £100 for Cancer Research by organising a football tournament.

All fans of the beautiful game, Toby Davies, Jonah Murray, Archie Cleasby and James Heron were inspired to raise funds for the charity.

They said: "We chose Cancer Research because some of our family and friends have been through and lost loved ones to cancer so any bit of money will help save people's lives; whether it's £1 or £1,000,000. It's the little things that make big changes."

Teams of Year 7 students paid to enter the tournament, and others in their form raised more money by selling refreshments. The matches were refereed by year 10 students.

A total of £137.29 was raised, which was presented to Cancer Research shop manager, Marzena Harris .



QEGS Sport

It has been great to have more clubs and fixtures this year and we have already competed against many of our local schools and participated in several tournaments across a range of sports including tennis, football, hockey, netball and rugby. Here are just a few of the highlights.

Hockey

On Thursday 23rd September, the **Year 11 Girls' Hockey Team** played in the north round of the county hockey tournament at Wigton. They welcomed Evie Holme, Jasmine Laker, Rebecca Newby and Katie Smith from Year 10. They played against Cockermouth School first, where they worked well together and successfully integrated the new additions to the squad. QEGS won 4-0 with goals from Rosie Airey, Harper Short and Abi White. Immediately after, they played their toughest match against Nelson Thomlinson School (NTS) which resulted in a 1-1 draw. Their third and final game was against Caldew School, where they again played well and won convincingly 5-0, with goals from Olivia Corbishley, Abi White and Rosie Airey. This meant that QEGS and NTS had drawn on points once all games had been played, but QEGS had a goal difference of 10 and NTS had 9! QEGS have therefore won the north round of the tournament and will play Kirkbie Kendal School, Windermere School and NTS again at the Cumbria County Finals Tournament on the Tuesday 12th October at Penrith Leisure Centre astro. We will update you on the outcome of the finals in our next newsletter.



QEGS Sport Cont...

On Tuesday 28th September, the **Year 10 Girls Hockey** Team played in one of two north rounds of the county hockey tournament, at Penrith. They played against Ullswater Community College first, where they took advantage of the dry weather and scored 4 goals and conceded none to win the game. They knew the next game against Nelson Thomlinson School (NTS) would be a challenge. Unhelpfully the torrential rain/hail had set in making the pitch very slippery and sticks hard to hold. NTS started strongly and there was a lot of play in QEGS half, but as the game went on QEGS fought back. Neither team could get the ball in the opposition's goal and secure a victory, so the game ended a nil-nil draw. This meant that QEGS and NTS had drawn on points once all games had been played, but QEGS had a goal difference of 4 and NTS had 1 so QEGS had won their section of the north tournament and they will play Austin Friars, Sedbergh and Kirkby Stephen at the Cumbria County Finals Tournament on the Wednesday 13th October at Penrith Leisure Centre astro. Again, we will update you on the outcome of the Finals in our next newsletter.

On Wednesday 6th October, the **First VI Girls' Hockey Team** played in the county hockey tournament at Wigton. They welcomed a last minute volunteer Isabel Abbott who at very short notice replaced the hole, left by another player who was absent from school. Newly appointed Captain, Alexa Weymouth efficiently organised the team as they travelled to the tournament and ensured they were prepared for their first game against Austin Friars School. The QEGS team gelled quickly and worked hard from the start. They were busy defending the frequent Austin Friars attacks and were unable to use their possession to level the score line, which at half-time was 2-0 to Austin Friars. In the second half, QEGS were more effective at protecting the middle of the pitch using a zonal-style of defence but the opposition managed to squeeze one more into the net and the game finished 3-0 loss. The girls then played Nelson Thomlinson School (NTS) and both teams were evenly matched (NTS had also lost to Austin Friars, 4-0). Both teams battled hard and the game was end to end, but neither teams were clinical enough in their attacking D to make their hard work pay off, and the game ended as a 0-0 draw. This meant that QEGS and NTS had drawn on points once all games had been played, but on goal difference, QEGS achieved second place. Only one team, Austin Friars, continue to the next round.



QEGS Sport Cont...

North Cumbria Netball Tournament

The U19 netball team put in an amazing effort at the U19 North tournament. Whilst battling against the wet, cold conditions, there was a great display of teamwork, incorporating set plays on the attack and a strong defence. Everyone played brilliantly, filling positions where needed with confidence and skill. This led to 3 wins and 1 draw out of a total of 6 matches. The hard work and resilience of every player resulted in a well deserved 3rd place for the team.

Freya Jamieson Smith
Netball Captain

U19 Netball Team

Freya Jamieson Smith
Rosie Hazard
Ciara Bones
Kate Dawson
Abigail Pantry
Daisy Gillon
Jyoti Walters
Anna Billington
Mia McKeown



Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Penrith

Library News

We are delighted that the library has re-opened to all year groups this term and it's great to see so many students using the space again.

The library is available to students before and after school as well as during the school day. This includes breaks and lunchtimes when it can be used for doing homework, playing board games, meeting up with friends, borrowing books and reading.

We have a Book of the Week every week and often promote our new books and themed collections on the school's social media sites.

We also have an e-library which can be accessed via the school website – look for QEGS eLibrary under the Students tab on the homepage. It can also be accessed via the Wheeler's ePlatform app which can be downloaded onto students' own devices, allowing free 24 hour access to around 1400 e-books and around 800 audio books.

After School Club has also re-opened this term and runs in the library between 4pm and 6pm Monday to Thursday, and 4.30pm on Friday. There is a charge of £2.50 after 4.15pm. Miss Feetham supervises the room and runs optional clubs at no extra cost each night.

Monday - Craft Club & Warhammer

Tuesday – Craft Club / Board Games

Wednesday - Eco Club Thursday - Quiz Night

Booking is not required and payment is taken via Parentmail - students are not asked for cash payments on the night.

Mrs Marshall
Librarian



Food and Nutrition Practical Work

Year 11 completed their first practical trial, generating ideas to answer the Italian, cardio vascular and children's set brief for this years assessment.

Ideas included: ravioli and tortellini filled with crab and prawn in a basil butter and served with a char- grilled flat bread, meatballs in ragu with tagliatelle, mini pancakes filled with apple and cinnamon served with a vanilla custard, tart au citron, arancini rice balls served with ragu and wedges, twice cooked biscotti served with chocolate sauce and mini meringues and chicken curry with flat bread.

All these dishes are totally cooked from scratch and completed in a lesson. An amazing celebration of skill and talent on the journey to success.



Mrs Buckland
DT Food & Nutrition



New Snack Bar

This summer saw the removal of the old snack bar. The removal took four men, 10 days to complete. The old snack bar comprised of eight layers of roofing and three layers of flooring which all had to be removed a layer at a time.

The new unit is now in place and a new frame installed with non-slip composite decking. The three sets of concrete steps have been removed and replaced by non-slip composite steps and also a ramp for either disabled access or for the safe movement of catering supplies. The area has been landscaped using 2 tonnes of gravel and additional outside tables and chairs are now in place. The decking area has been made safe by the installation of a fence that mirrors the cladding on the unit .



The snack bar is fully wired and now has hot and cold running water. This required the laying of new water supply and drainage due to the old services being removed many years ago. Previously the snack bar did not have any washing facilities, which was in conflict with food hygiene regulations.

Once installed the team fitted out the cabin ready for service on the 1st day of term, including fridges, sinks and worktops.

The removal of the unit generated:

- The relocation of confidential storage to a secure location.
- Disposal of 10 years of archives into 36 confidential shredding bags weighing 720 kilos
- Removal of two large 20 cubic yard roll on roll off skips each holding in excess of 5 tonnes of waste
- Recycled over 3 tonnes of wood

Students can now buy a wide selection of cold food including sandwiches, freshly made to order.



Student Commendations

Commendations have been awarded to the following students:

Deputy Headteacher's Commendations

Archie Harding 10ME

Alyssa Dixon 11MF

Taylor McCombie 11DP

Ainara Cowan 9FW

Isla Birch 9MA

Tamsin Melling 9MA

Rama Moukaaram 11RP

Josh Willis 10CB

Olivia Cleasby 10LAW

Josephine Lloyd 10LAW

Congratulations!

OLD STAMPS WANTED

Please could everyone keep handing in their old stamps to be donated to the North Air Ambulance. Please could you make sure to keep a cm of the envelope around the stamp if possible.

Thank you

Mrs Johnston



Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Penrith

Diary Dates

November & December 2021

9th November	Year 11 Citizenship Day
10th November	Year 7 Parent and Tutor Meeting (<i>A ParentMail has been issued</i>)
16/17th November	Nasal Flu Vaccinations
24th November	Year 11 Parents Evening (<i>A ParentMail has been issued</i>)
26th November	Friends of QEGS Christmas Fayre
29th November	GCSE Awards Evening (Penrith Methodist Church)
3rd December	Year 7 Grandparents Christmas Party
7th December	Year 12 Parents Evening
8th December	Year 10 Citizenship Day
14th December	Carols From QEGS, St Andrews Church
16th December	End of Term Service, St Andrews Church

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



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