

# Newsletter



## Headteacher's Note

As I approach the end of my first term, I am immensely proud of all the students here at QEGS. Students have started the year with great enthusiasm and it is now fantastic to see students doing so many activities for the school and in the wider community.

It has also been wonderful to see how students have thrown themselves into the academic year and for the upper school, we have had some wonderful speakers in to help prepare students for their exams and their independent studies.

Throughout the term, we have had some amazing whole school events, such as the Sponsored Walk and the Mason Mile. This has really demonstrated to me the special community that QEGS is.

The recent face-to-face parents evenings have also been wonderful as parents have returned to our corridors with students to discuss their academic progress. Based on the survey feedback and our experience this term, we will continue to hold these meetings face-to-face on the future.

More recently, Carols at QEGS and the Grandparents Christmas party are just two examples of the wonderful events students have thrown themselves into this term, which many of you (or your parents) will have attended. However, I am also immensely proud of the thoughtful donations families have made to the toy appeal and the reverse

advent calendar. I am conscious that many of our families are finding increased financial pressures - to see such generosity is wonderful and extremely appreciated.

As we approach the Christmas holidays, I want to wish you and your family a restful break and we look forward to seeing you in the new year.

*Mr David Marchant, Headteacher*



### Inside this issue

- Head Teacher's Note .....1
- Whole School Events .....2
- School Trips .....3
- GSCE Awards .....4
- Christmas Toy Appeal .....6
- Subjects .....7
- Sports .....13
- Clubs .....15
- Library News .....16
- Alumni News .....17

### Special points of interest

- Children In Need
- Battlefields Trip
- The Mason Mile

# Whole School Events

## Children In Need

Children In Need was a huge success this year, with QEGS raising over £650!

Student and staff alike took part in a variety of events, including bake sales, face painting and even a sixth form vs staff dodgeball game.

Donned in fancy dress and sportswear, our sixth form students and staff battled it out at lunchtime in front of a large crowd of supporters. In the end, the staff team came out victorious.

It was a brilliant day of charity and fun. A special thank you goes to our sixth formers, for organising the events.



## The Mason Mile

The 22nd of September saw the first running of the 'Mason Mile', commemorating beloved geography teacher Mr Mason, a keen runner and instrumental in the running team at QEGS.

A huge number of runners took part in both the race and the fun run. Congratulations to everyone who ran or came out to support in the rain and well done to the race winners. The first Year 7s home were Gil Burns and Daisy Ritson. The overall race winners were Gemma O'Dowd and Tom Renwick.

Mr Mason would have been proud of both the effort on display and the sheer level of mass participation in the sport he loved so much.



## Sponsored Walk

This year's annual sponsored walk didn't appear promising with difficult weather conditions. However, mid-morning the rain eased and students pressed on, demonstrating admirable resilience. It was a great effort by all and the walk was a success. Many thanks to the Friends of QEGS, students and staff.





*Students at Sanctuary Wood, where original trenches have been preserved*

## Battlefields Trip

The school's first overseas trip since the Covid-19 pandemic saw students visit World War I battlefields in Belgium.

A packed 3-day itinerary included visits to both British and German cemeteries, the Ypres Menin Gate Memorial and the Passchendaele Memorial Museum.

One of several war cemeteries included in the trip was Tyne Cot British cemetery, where students laid a wreath in honour of the QEGS old boys who fell in World War I. A memorial bearing their names hangs in the school's main hall. On day two of the trip, students took part in the daily Last Post Ceremony at Ypres' Menin Gate, during which a second wreath to QEGS' fallen was laid.

Reconstructed and preserved trench systems including British ones at the Yorkshire trench, and German ones at Croonaert Wood, gave students a taste of trench warfare. They experienced the cramped conditions and hazards of slippery duckboards, as well as the close proximity of enemy soldiers. Students also saw the 15m deep "Caterpillar Crater" near Hill 60, created by British mines during an offensive to recapture the area.

Bays Docwra was one of the participating students. He said:

*"The battlefields were definitely even more bleak than we learn about in school. I particularly liked seeing the trenches and the sort of places they would have lived for months on end. Seeing the conditions they would have been in made what we learn about in school seem a lot more real."*

## Cat Bells Climb

Earlier this term, Year 7 geographers set out to the Lake District, carrying out some field work on Cat Bells. They were blessed with fine weather and fun was had by all - thanks to the staff who accompanied them.

Below are some snaps of the students at work.



# GCSE Awards Evening



On the 28th of November, students, parents and staff came together to celebrate the achievements of students in our upper school during their GCSE year.

## Presentation of Special Awards

**The CJ Kirkup Trophy for the most impressive contribution to a school stage production**

*Mr Kirkup was Headmaster from 2004 to 2015.*

**Hazel Harrison**

*For outstanding commitment to three musicals throughout KS3 and KS4*

**QEGS 450<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Trophy for Outstanding Achievement in Sport**

**Boys: Finn Logue**

*Finn has been dedicated to his tennis for over a decade, traveling to Bolton twice a week from aged ten, training with the county and giving back through coaching tennis on Sundays. Last year he sustained an injury to his arm and has shown great determination to continue playing and is currently ranked in the top 100 hundred in the country at U16 level.*

**Girls: Grace Monkhouse**

*Grace played for the Durham regional talent centre u16 team, playing teams such as Sheffield United, Leeds, Sunderland and Blackburn. In addition, Grace represented the county in cross country and athletics. Grace now play for Durham's women's super league u21 academy, playing (and beating!) teams such as*



# GCSE Awards Evening



## Presentation of Special Awards (Continued)

### **The Governors' Achievement Award**

*Awarded in recognition of significant personal achievement.*

#### **Seamus Barker**

*Most Progress*

### **The QEGS@50 Endeavour Award**

#### **Lauren Bell**

*Lauren was nominated for this award for showing immense determination and real endeavour during her GCSE studies to achieve a fantastic set of results.*

### **The Headteacher's Award for the best GCSE Results**

#### **Rebecca Boving Foster**

*10 x 9's and 1 x 8*



## Christmas Toy Appeal



After some generous donations of toys from parents, students and staff, our Year 7 students set to work on wrapping gifts for local families who may have had nothing to open on Christmas day. Thanks to all who helped spread some Christmas cheer!



## A Message from the Friends of QEGS

Dear All,

It's been another very good term for FQEGS and the minibus fund - we think we're very nearly there! Both the Sponsored Walk and the Christmas Shopping Evening were extremely successful events so thank you to everyone who helped in any way; from sending your child with money for a hot dog and bag of crisps on the Walk through to manning a stall and helping decorate for the Shopping Evening, all support is very gratefully received.

Two dates for next year; the annual Quiz Night will be on Friday 10th February and is a lovely family evening with pizzas, a bar and a raffle as well as a pretty tough quiz set by the Senior Leadership Team. If you're interested in booking a table please just follow this link; <http://www.trybooking.co.uk/BKVQ>

And then on Saturday 17th June we are going to host an auction of promises at Roundthorn Hotel in Penrith. This is a new venture for FQEGS so we will email again in the New Year when we are a bit further on with our planning but for now, put the date in your diaries and we will hope to see many of you there.

Best wishes from FQEGS. We hope everyone will enjoy a very happy Christmas holiday and a well-earned break after this long, cold term.

# Maths

In the recent Senior Maths Challenge, students were very successful, with a high proportion of entrants gaining certificates as shown below. Nine students scored well enough to enter the next rounds. Arjun Sankar and Thomas Weng qualified for the senior Olympiad; pupils qualify for this by achieving one of the top 1000 scores from across the country in the Senior Maths Challenge. Finley Ilett, Wilfrid Teasdale, Charlie Cox, Finn Mayhew, Jacob St John, Akshay Dharmrajan and Amelia Turnbull all made it through to the Kangaroo; which they were selected for by being in the next several thousand highest scorers. Special mention to Ben Rodley who should have made it through to the Kangaroo, but was unable to take part due to an error during registration. Both rounds have now been sat - we are awaiting results.

This year we also ran the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls. We had three pupils enter from Year 12 and 13. They all performed very well, with Carys Ilett receiving a distinction and Elizabeth Reid and Yuke Lin both achieving merits. *Mr Conner*

<u>Year 13</u>	<u>Year 12</u>	<u>Year 11</u>
<b>Gold</b>	<b>Gold</b>	<b>Gold</b>
Arjun Sankar	Ben Rodley	Akshay Dharmrajan
Thomas Weng	<b>Silver</b>	<b>Silver</b>
Wilfrid Teasdale	Luka Labram	Callum Crosher
Finley Ilett	Lucy Dawson	Kai Hall
Charlie Cox	Henry Yang	Sasha Dunn
Finn Mayhew	Taylor McCombie	Amy Graham
Jacob St John	Carys Ilett	Jessica Wharton
<b>Silver</b>	Dylan Romanis	Amelia Turnbull
Avery Bolton	Charlie Kemp	<b>Bronze</b>
Gemma O'Dowd	<b>Bronze</b>	Sarmad Khan
Elizabeth Reid	Rebecca Boving Foster	Toby Hamilton
Arran Clement	Bella Briggs	Katie Wiasara
Matthew Pullan	Ben Ellis	James Barrie
Jacob Rankin	Grace Monkhouse	Finn Smith
<b>Bronze</b>	Imogen Tomlin	Shaun Paul
Prathit Bhat	Andrei Carp	Thomas Brannen
Olivia Errington	Jack Simpson	Amara Rose
Matthew Noble	Rama Moukarram	Morgan Macaulay
William Siddle	Charley Pinnell	Xanthe Melling
Nat Grieff	Abi White	Tom Dawson
	Yuke Lin	Thomas Brammer
	Dylan Ruane	Anna Kirkbride
	Lola Telfer	Josh Willis
	Nathan Rogerson	Archie Harding
	Cameron Cowan	Hannah Kidd
	Tom Milton	Magnus Villadsen

# Art



Students across the student body have been hard at work in the Art department!

Our Year 7 artists have settled in nicely, already impressing staff with their creativity and enthusiasm for the subject. This term, they have been focusing on different drawing techniques, using a variety of tools to explore different effects. They were put to the test with the autumn drawing skills exam, using pencils to sketch and shade a glass bottle (pictured top and bottom right). Staff were delighted by the results.



In our upper school, A Level students have been honing their skills and are beginning to demonstrate their individual styles as artists. A wide range of work has been created, including (but not limited to!) acrylic paintings, special effects makeup, scraper board, life drawing and anime.

In Year 13, alginate was used to create a cast of a student's face. The process was a race against time, as the material sets in 4 minutes! After mixing alginate powder to water, it formed a gloopy substance, which was then applied by hand to the face. It was then re-enforced with a mod-roc shell. Once set, the cast was removed from the face and plaster of Paris was poured into the mould.

The intention will be to use clay to sculpt the student's desired look. Then, thin layers of latex will be applied. After drying, the latex will be removed, which will hold the shape of the clay. The latex can then be used on the face.

Matilda Grace Gonzalez, our artist, is pursuing prosthetics and special effects makeup - she is an incredible talent.

*Miss Anderson and Miss Pereira*



QUEEN ELIZABETH GRAMMAR SCHOOL ART DEPARTMENT Table Number 5  
YR 7 DRAWING SKILLS AUTUMN 2022 EXAM  
NAME:  FORM:  GRADE: 7  
*Abigail Fleming*  
Using all your knowledge and the skills you have developed, you're to produce a 3D shaded drawing of a milk bottle. You will be marked on your skills in drawing, shading, and understanding of the 3D form.  
You must use a 4B & HB pencil to shade and use all the space provided in the rectangle below



# Food Technology

Year 10 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition students have worked on high level presentation skills in the winter half term. They were given the challenge of presenting cheesecakes in unique ways.

Students delivered some of these fabulous desserts to Mr Marchant and Mrs R Wilson, who were delighted to sample them!



# Food Technology

During lunchtimes, the Food Department have run a Molecular Gastronomy club.

Students from Year 7 to Sixth Form have had great fun trying out dehydration of fruits, jellification of caviar pearls, foams, chocolate soil and caramelisation for spun sugar.



# Design Technology



Oliver Watson in Year 12 successfully completed a selection process, including an interview and aptitude test, to become an Arkwright engineering scholar. The scholarship lasts for two years and pairs scholars with industry professionals. In addition, the scholarship provides support and mentorship alongside work experience, degree level apprenticeships and university study. Oliver has done extremely well in securing this prestigious award.

The selection process has already started for next year's scholars - see Mr Wilson in DT for more information.

Oliver also won second prize of \$100 in an international design competition run by American 3D CAD company Autodesk. Oliver faced stiff competition and impressed judges with his multi-functional ID card and lanyard.

*Mr Wilson*



## Year 7 & 8

Y7 and Y8 students have been enjoying completing their wooden bird boxes in DT club. Look out for more fun DT clubs throughout the year.



# Drama



*Year 10 students rehearsing **Blood Brothers***



*Year 12 students rehearsing their devising piece*

## **Blood Brothers Trip**

Students returned home with rave reviews of the *Blood Brothers* production, which they saw at the Sands Centre in Carlisle.

*Blood Brothers* plays a large part in Drama GCSE, and what better way to revise than with a trip to the theatre! It was a fabulous evening and we believe students left the show inspired.

Our Year 10 students have worked on various scenes from *Blood Brothers* this term, using what they learned from the production in their own work.

GCSE students have been hard at work this term, with the Year 11 actors and technical teams putting together their spring exam performance, 'Love And Information'.

Actors have been working on their stage craft and putting the skills they have been building up into practise (such as physical theatre), whilst our tech team have been busy behind the scenes - creating exciting visuals and detailed soundscapes.

A Level students have been equally busy, studying a range of theatre classics such as *Mistero Buffo* by Dario Fo, *Blue Remembered Hills* by Dennis Potter and *Our Country's Good* by Timberlake Wertenbaker. In addition, Year 12 students have been learning to work and collaborate as an ensemble, devising their own piece from scratch.

# Sports



## Hockey



### Year 9 Girls

We had a very exciting start to the hockey season this term! Many of the year 8 girls bravely stepped up to play 11 a-side hockey for the Year 9 Girls Team, which included Brooke Wilson, Freya Lennon (GK), Lily Crone and Lucy Harnwell. The girls played some fantastic hockey and managed to win the first round of the county tournament, with wins against Cockermouth, Keswick and UCC. Two weeks later, the same squad went to Sedbergh to play in the County Finals. The competition was tough; our girls played close matches against Kirkby Stephen, Austin Friars and also took on Sedbergh. The girls were very tenacious, and their play demonstrated an instinctive understanding of the game. Well done to everyone who played.

### Year 11 Girls

The Year 11 Girls Team played the first round of their county tournament at Wigton, on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September. It is superb to have a large and committed group of players at this age group. The first game was against Cockermouth, and it gave QEGS the opportunity to gel as a team. However, we were unable to convert our chances and the game ended 0-0. A slight change to the formation in the second game against Keswick pushed the highest forward into the D allowed us to score from a fast break following a turnover of possession at a hit-out, and QEGS took three points. The final game against Nelson Thomlinson School was always going to be the toughest, and despite a high intensity battle fought by both sides the game ended as another 0-0 draw. This meant that overall QEGS came second to Nelson Thomlinson School in the tournament, and all that was in it was one goal of goal difference.

### U18 Girls

The U18 Girls Team played their county tournament at Penrith on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October. The first game was against a very well-drilled Austin Friars team who managed to put five goals away to win the game. The second game was against the Lakes School from Windermere and QEGS were able to control the game more and some excellent hockey from all, led to a goal knocked in from the post to seal a 1-0 win. The team from Nelson Thomlinson School had done well in their games before they played against QEGS, but the QEGS girls had gone from strength to strength and were able to outplay the opposition and again out away another goal to win the game. QEGS achieved second place overall and are the County Runners up! Well done to the talented squad of skilful hockey players and the girls from Year 11 who stepped up to play for the team.



*Year 10 girls before their county tournament*

## Sports

### Football - U18 Boys

Our U18 boys football team have had a brilliant season so far, qualifying for the city cup final and winning the first two rounds of the national cup. Well done all!



### Year 7 Girls

Our Y7 girls football team played in the Carlisle tournament on the 3rd of November. 3 wins and 2 defeats saw the girls come third out of six. There were some great goals scored and super saves from our keeper. Congratulations girls!



# Clubs

QEGS is extremely lucky to have staff using their lunch times and evenings to run extra curricular activities and enthusiastic students attending them in their droves! It's been a very busy term, with a wide range of clubs on offer across sports, the arts and STEM, including (but not limited to) electronics, felt making, debate, netball, drama, choir and dodgeball. Seeing students using their free time to develop their skills, try something new or make new friends is one of the many things that make our students special.



"Over 50 students have already attended crochet club and we've set up a wool shop, where students can buy wool and crochet hooks. The club is on Thursday lunchtimes (in B4)."

*Mrs Terry*

Circus club also got started this term. The club is ran by Emily Stackhouse and Roman Penhallurick. Students have been experimenting with a variety of new circus skills and tricks, which develop focus, coordination and creativity (as well as being good fun!).



# QEGS Library



Year 7 students were excited to receive their free BookBuzz books this week, wrapped for Christmas. In this scheme run by reading charity BookTrust, students are able to choose a free book of their own to keep. Students picked from a selection of titles, chosen by a panel which includes school librarians, teachers and other children's reading experts.

The books are carefully chosen to make sure there is something to suit all interests and reading levels, from keen readers to uninterested ones, and advanced readers to those for whom accessing books is a real challenge.

The most popular titles amongst QEGS students included World War Two adventure "When the Sky Falls" by Phil Earle; sci-fi thriller "Orion Lost" by Alastair Chisholm; and whodunnit "Waiting for Murder" by Fleur Hitchcock. We decided to give them out as Christmas presents this year so every Y7 student has a gift under the tree from QEGS.

*Mrs Lawson*

## Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who supported the Scholastic Book Fair which was recently held in school.

Students had the opportunity to browse and buy from over 100 titles ranging from 8+ to Young Adult titles. It was also present at the FQEGS Christmas Shopping Evening which proved to be a great opportunity for parents and families to buy some books for Christmas.

All the sales earn commission, which we can spend on titles from Scholastic for our library over the next few months – a great boost to our funds.

Many thanks again – we really do appreciate your continued support.

*Mrs Marshall & Mrs Lawson  
Librarians*





*Left: Aaron Graham pictured outside the Royal Albert Hall.*

*Top right: 'Bennet H Brough' Medal | Bottom right: Inside the Royal Albert Hall*

## Alumni News

QEGS alumni Arron Graham graduated this year from Imperial College London, with a Masters Degree in Geology. He became interested in this subject during his time at QEGS. The ceremony took place in the world renowned Royal Albert Hall, in front of over six thousand people.

Like many students during his period of study, in the height of the coronavirus pandemic, Arron's undergraduate education took place remotely for two years - demonstrating his resilience and making his achievements all the more impressive.

During his final year at Imperial, Arron was involved in a PhD project, looking at illegal gold mining in Ghana. This came with the possibility of using sophisticated computer learning techniques, which used satellite images to identify land use –including land which was being used illegally.

As part of this project, Arron went on to invent and produce image processing software, capable of teaching itself to identify land use across the globe from satellite images. His skills and hard work resulted in software capable of searching for illegal mining operations, in addition to other land use and land use change. Traditionally, this image processing would have involved hundreds of hours of human study to determine land use, along with people on the ground to analyse results. This software can cover thousands of square miles in seconds and is self-checking and self-calibrating, removing the man power required.

Arron's success carries geological significance across the globe, which could go on to tackle major issues, such as the illegal logging and land use of the Amazon Rain Forest. This has been recognised by the University, who have awarded Arron the 'Bennett H Brough' Medal for 'Outstanding Academic Achievement', which is only awarded to a very select group of students. Arron has since gone on to do additional research in this field, under the Europe funding scheme.

QEGS is extremely proud of Arron's achievements and wish him every success with his promising career in Geology. Many thanks go to Aaron's father, Richard Graham, for sharing his story with us. Richard would like to add that *"Arron was diagnosed with Dyslexia during his school years, which just goes to show this disability should never put anyone off aiming high."*

# Alumni News

“My name is Louie and I am proud to say that I am a former pupil of QEGS.

I heard you all took part in the Mason Mile at school recently... Myself and a certain Mr Douglas were some of the original members of the running group, which was started by the ex-head of geography, Mr Mason. I was an average runner but soon found myself regularly traipsing round one field or another with a smile on my face. With some help from ‘Rodders’, my teammates and a good dose of self-diagnosed stubbornness, I ended up finding myself at county championships and national trials.



Sadly, Mr Mason passed away earlier this year. As I sat at his memorial service, I knew I wanted to do something more to celebrate his life and to keep his legacy alive. So, the two marathons in two weeks challenge was dreamt up.

In the marathon world, there is a series call the Abbott Majors. The challenge is to complete 6 Marathons, no time limit – just get a star in the bag for each of the 6. They are made up of London, Boston, Chicago, New York, Berlin and Tokyo. Each has its unique feature giving itself ‘major’ status and they have varying degrees of difficulties when it comes to getting a qualifying spot.

My first marathon was London 2015 which I ran with my Dad. What a race! I couldn't quite believe I had actually run a marathon, 26.2 Miles. It had sewn a seed!

New York was next in 2019. This time for my sisters 30<sup>th</sup> birthday and

coincidentally exactly 10 years since we had been to the states as a family to cheer on my Dad running this famous race. The New York Marathon was totally different. For starters, I had a sibling to beat! I have never known noise at a race like it. Constant, apart from when crossing one of the 7 bridges that the race takes, making it extremely hilly. Fuelled by the prospect of beating my little sister, I smashed my personal best. 3 hours and 46 minutes, a vast improvement on the 4hrs 2 minutes that I had managed in London. I had seen Mr Mason the week before the event - I couldn't wait to let him know.

It turns out I was quick for my age, giving me a greater chance of qualifying for other marathons. The Chicago ballot voted in my favour, so I was all set to run in the windy city 2020 event. Unfortunately, we all know what happened there. 2021 went the same way. 2022 was the last chance I could run it on my current ticket. The morning of Mr Masons Memorial, I had received a monthly newsletter from England Athletics, with a discounted offer for places at Berlin marathon. I knew Mr Mason was leaving a legacy, as we allowed ourselves to feel sadness at him no longer being there to cheer us on, lend unwavering support or lead us to mischief in ways only he could manage. For those of us who were lucky enough to spend any time with him, every time we show kindness, support, or care for one another, show grit, dig in or push on, that is his legacy.

Berlin was the hardest race I had ever run. Worth it in the end, as I shaved off a further 10 minutes to my current PB. Chicago, exactly 13 days later, wasn't any easier. However, starting as the sun rose over Lake Michigan and raising money for the wonderful charity *Every Life Matters* in order to try and prevent more loss gave me all the motivation I needed.

I will be externally grateful for the gift of knowing what it is to set yourself a

challenge and complete it, however long that may take. It's about how you get there and how you tackle something head on.

4 stars in the bag, I'll keep working towards the next two. Those who know me are aware I am never any good at giving myself credit, however, I am just about able to call myself a runner now.

I have now chalked up 28 half marathons and 7 marathons in 5 countries but that's not the important bit. Running has taught me determination, friendship, support, encouragement, teamwork and kindness, from competitors and teammates a like. It's fostered a 'never give up attitude'. You will have it too - you just might not have realised it yet. If you give it your best, enjoy what you're doing and be true to yourself, then you can always be proud of everything you do. Dig in and take it one step at a time, whatever the challenge is in front of you, be it a marathon, 5km, your next exam or tricky coursework. The first step will be the hardest but find your resilience. It is there. Go for it."



Article kindly contributed by Louie Whitmore, in memoriam of Mr Mason.