

Queen Elizabeth Grammar School

Autumn/Winter Term
2023

Newsletter



Headteacher's Note

As Christmas approaches it has been wonderful to attend the many celebration events and concerts that we have at this time of year. My thanks to all the staff and students involved it is a wonderful way to start the festive season.

The students have continued to excel themselves and I want to thank them for their hard work and determination this term. I would also like to thank our wonderful staff who have continued to challenge our students to be the best they can be.

I would specifically like to pay tribute to the hard work of the staff who are leaving us this Christmas. Miss Halliwell from our Science Technician team is off to teach in Georgia, Mrs Armstrong from our Pastoral team is leaving us to work for Cumberland Council, and Mrs Taylor our Data Manager, and Mr Frost are heading off to what we hope will be a restful and enjoyable retirement. We also need to wish Mr Dawson the best with his Secondment to Alston Moor Federation until the end of the academic year. I know he will do a fantastic job and am grateful that he is supporting another Eden school. On behalf of the whole school community we wish them the best in their new roles or retirement.

There is so much that goes on in the term and therefore it is impossible to cram everything in to the newsletter. That said, we have tried our best and I hope you can see just how much is on offer at QEGS and how much time and dedication our staff give for your children.

On the back page you will find our term dates for next year.

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.

David Marchant, Headteacher



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Whole School Events

Children In Need

A fantastic day raising money for Children in Need – £650 in total! From bake sales and face painting to the students vs staff dodgeball game, it was wonderful to see the school community coming together to support such a fantastic cause.

Massive well done and thank you to our Year 12 students for organizing and leading all the events and to everyone who contributed to the bake sale.

A particular favourite at the bake sale were these



Sponsored Walk 2023

This year's annual Beacon Hill sponsored walk went well. Great weather conditions contributed to overall success. Many thanks to students, staff and the Friends of QEGS for refreshments and good cheer.



Y9 Battlefields Visit to Belgium



*The Somme and trenches
beneath the trees.*



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 1. 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.



A level Drama trip to London

Day one of our A Level drama trip was jam packed full of culture and the buzz of the big city! Students travelled down to London on an early train, but all were in good spirits.

Our first stop was at the Victoria and Albert Museum, visiting their new 'Diva' exhibition. The exhibit explores the origins of the term 'diva', famous divas throughout the ages and how public perception of divas has evolved over time. Thought provoking stuff!

After the museum, we were presented with a problem. The show we had planned to see had been cancelled. So, students were given a choice; they could go and have a backstage tour of the National Theatre and watch a play called 'The Father And The Assassin', or attend The Bridge Theatre for their immersive production of 'Guys and Dolls'.

A couple of students chose to visit The National and learned a lot about the workings of the building, the two largest theatre spaces, the workshop where all the set and props are built and, most importantly, the work experience/apprenticeships they have on offer. It was a truly inspiring tour. After a quick bite to eat, they watched The Father and the Assassin, full of magnificent and ferocious performances. The show is based around Ghandi, his assassinator and teaches the audience about India's fight for independence.

For the rest of the students, they experienced musical theatre in a way none of them have before - dancing on stage and partying with the actors! The Bridge are famous for their interpretation of iconic shows and Guys and Dolls was no different. Immersive productions bring the audience into the action, making for an unforgettable experience. With an incredible set and glorious performances, the magic of the musicals was felt by all and students were gushing about it afterwards!



A Level Drama trip to London

Day 2 of our A Level drama trip started with getting the river taxi to the Tower of London! Students had a guided tour alongside the Thames, learning about what life was like for those who inhabited it's banks (and the piracy/pickpocketing that lurked at every turn). This is relevant to their set text, 'Our Country's Good', written by Timberlake Wertenbaker. The play surrounds a group of convicts, sent over to Australia for their petty crimes.

Our Wednesday matinee was one of the greatest British comedy classics, 'Noises Off!'. A star studded cast had the students in stitches and good fun was had by all.

Next up, students roamed the West End! Tea time took place at a range of eateries, giving students a bit of freedom to explore their surroundings before the next show. China Town was a particular favourite!

Our evening performance was the ground-breaking production of 'Imposter 22' at the world-renowned Royal Court Theatre. This show had been ten years in the making and was devised by a brilliant cast of disabled actors, who cultivated a relaxed and accepting environment to make all feel welcome.



On our final day, students were given a backstage tour of the Royal Court Theatre, where they looked around the stage, flying tower, costume department, casting department, offices and rehearsal spaces. The educational outreach team were fantastic, hosting a workshop, explaining their way into the industry and answering theatre/industry related questions in a q&a. Students even gave notes and feedback regarding our previous night's show 'Blue Mist', helping the creative team in their process of refining the play!

It was an inspiring end to a jam-packed, wonderful trip. We can't wait to see the students put what they've learned into practice.

GCSE Awards Evening

On the 27th November students, parents and staff came together to celebrate the achievements of students during their GCSE year.

The evening was held at Penrith Methodist Church and included a number of special awards for sport, school productions and academic and personal success.

The guest of honour was former professional football player Chris Lumsden. Chris spoke about the challenges of playing elite sport and the highs and lows it can bring. His lessons for life and improving mental health were wonderful to listen to. Chris works with young people to develop good mental health through sport.



Food Technology



Year 11 GCSE food preparation and nutrition student Eimhear McGarth enjoyed 3 days in Italy – her prize for winning the national final of the Rotary Yung Chef competition.

Highlights of her trip included trips to La Spezia, Cinques Terres, Pisa and Lucca with visits to traditional produce stores and local restaurants. Eimhear also enjoyed masterclasses in pizza and pasta making and been taken truffle hunting in the local countryside.

A fabulous reward for the talent, hard work and commitment needed to win such a prestigious competition.

In mid-November our Year 10 food preparation and nutrition team conquered their nerves and produced a winning afternoon tea in the final of a competition organised by Carlisle College. The team of judges, including a Michelin starred chef from The Old Stamp House in Ambleside, praised the team for the presentation, taste and varied textures of their bakes.



Bottom left: Logan Ivinson, Scarlett Gibson, Brooke Wilson, Anya Lennon.



FRIENDS OF QUEEN ELIZABETH GRAMMAR SCHOOL PENRITH



Dear All,

This has been a good term for FQEGS and fundraising. We got off to a great start with the news that we have reached our target sum of £40,000 for a new minibus and that is now ordered and should be in use by about the end of January – way hey! A massive achievement and a perfect way to start the new school year.

Our next aim is to make enough money to be able to fund some outdoor cover for wherever possible around the school – something I think every pupil would be very in favour of! We have got off to a good start thanks to your help; firstly, by encouraging your children to support our hot dog and snacks stand at the Sponsored Walk back in September and then just last week with our very successful annual Christmas Shopping Evening. A huge thanks to those who helped at either event in any way and well done to everyone who braved the freezing weather on 1st December and came along to buy and join in with what was a really lovely event. We made a satisfying £1,350, which sum provided a real feeling of warmth after the minus 3 degree conditions.

Next term's main event will be the Quiz Night on Friday 2nd February which was really fun last year and which sold out quite quickly. If you would like to book a table and maybe some pizzas, please use the link below and get swotting. <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/COLR> or <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/44919>. Mr and Mrs Marchant set a fabulous quiz last year and have kindly agreed to do this year's too so it should be a very good evening.

Next term we will also be providing refreshments at each of the Grease performances in February and as always we'll be asking for volunteers to come and help with this as it's quite a commitment for the usual small group of FQEGS over the course of four evenings. If you've got a child performing and are on chauffeuring duty maybe you'd consider helping out one evening if you're hanging around anyway?

And that's it from FQEGS. Happy Christmas from us and see you next term!



FOLLOW US FRIENDS OF
QUEEN ELIZABETH
GRAMMAR SCHOOL PENRITH

Mathematical Challenge Success



This December Akshay Dharmrajan has been awarded the Kathy Duval award for success in the UK Maths Challenge and he now holds the most gold certificates in school, having accumulated a total of 5 gold certificates in his seven years at QEGS!

In the recent Senior Maths Challenge students were very successful with many gaining certificates as shown below.

Five students, Akshay Dharmrajan, Amy Graham, Ben Rodley, Henry Yang and Aser Mohamed, got through to the next round of the competition which was excellent. Akshay managed to get a Merit in this round which was fantastic.

LoveReading4Kids

We know that reading for pleasure, and improving reading standards, has a huge impact on our children's wellbeing, academic achievements, and future success. We have recently discovered LoveReading4Kids, which works in a similar way like Scholastic Book Fair, but – we think – has a better selection of books to support and encourage your child's reading.

You can sign up to receive age-appropriate recommendations via email about once a month with no obligation.

Buy books, change lives - how it works

- When you buy any book from [LoveReading](#) or [LoveReading4Kids](#), 25% of the cover price will be given to a school of your choice, such as us!
- Book prices are competitive with at least 10% off the RRP
- After you've searched for the books you'd like to buy (after reading reviews and accessing opening extracts of highly recommended titles), at checkout, you'll be able to search for us, by adding "Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Penrith" or the school's postcode "CA11 7EG", and you allocate that money to us. It will even tell you how much your purchase has donated to us!
- We can then spend our allocated funds on LoveReading4Kids to get more books in our classrooms and library.



Buy books, change lives - what to do

LoveReading has a huge selection of books for all ages, across all genres, at competitive prices, so make LoveReading and LoveReading4Kids your go-to bookshops to give our school the chance to access more books.

Sounds like a win-win situation - you get great books, while we get funds for great books to encourage even more reading for pleasure in our children..

Like we said at the start, reading matters and books change lives - buying books through LoveReading will ensure that continues to happen for students at our school, and future generations.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Hallé Youth Orchestra and The West End



A pair of our talented musicians have joined the prestigious Hallé Youth Orchestra! After successful auditions, Tamsin Crook and Tiegan Lowthian will spend their Sundays rehearsing with the orchestra at Manchester's Bridgwater Hall, and will perform in the orchestra's termly concerts, as well as taking part in a summer tour.

The orchestra is for outstanding young instrumentalists, of at least grade 8 standard, and provides young musicians with the experience of performing as part of a full orchestra, as well as shadowing musicians in the professional orchestra. Both students are also juniors at the Royal Northern College of Music, also in Manchester.

Several talented students from QEGS were selected to take part with Razzamataz Theatre's West End Performance Team.

The team have been rehearsing for the past few months and on Sunday the 3rd December, they finally hit the spotlight on the stage in the Shaftesbury Theatre in London's West End in front of an audience of nearly 1,400.

This is such a unique opportunity and they really took on this challenge and gave it everything.



Environmental Science

Our Environmental Scientists have been out and about a lot in Autumn term. Year 12 visited Mungrisdale and Cliburn Moss to study land management and carbon sequestration.



Year 13 visited Whinlatter to study differences in woodland and carried out a noise survey in Penrith. Great days getting the most out of their time outdoors. Year 13 also took part in fieldwork at Bankwood Farm looking at the effect of different management strategies and discussed the next steps for the farm, as well as exploring the farm and learning about the various practices the farm currently uses and the decisions behind them.

Students braved the wild weather conditions asking lots of questions and developing their knowledge of agriculture.



Economics Dragons Den

Tebay Services had come to judge the Year 12 Economics Dragons Den competition. Students presented business ideas and “pitched” to have them put on

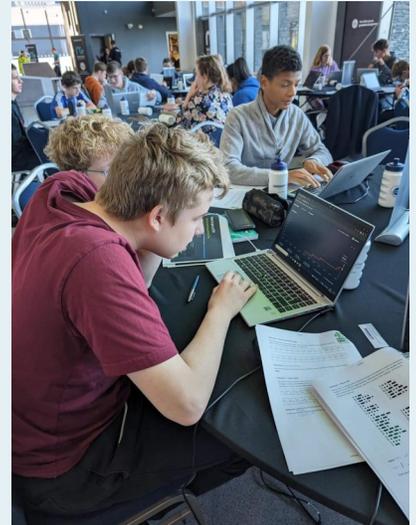
Tebay’s shelves. The winning group were: Blooming Bouquets, a dried flower florist, and Scenic Scents, a producer of Lake District themed car fresheners.

The judges commented how impressed they were with the thought which had gone into the projects and how well they had been aligned to the



Electronics Club

Students and staff were pleased to welcome Matthew Raywood from Rolls-Royce (aero engines) in mid-November. The club is open to students of all ages, and some of its longer-term attendees have been working in recent months on a project funded by Rolls-Royce, seeking to build WiFi controlled, multi-coloured light matrices designed for the stage productions.



Cyber Event

Year 10 and Year 11 students have been enjoying cyber event in Workington.

QEGS teams came 2nd and 3rd in the Kahoot quiz and were first to finish the initial online activities.

Fantastic work completed by all students!



Music



NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

PRESENTED BY
QEGS CHOIR AND GIRLS' CHOIR

QEGS' talented students with Miss Wilkinson and Mr Gorman-Tysoe have been rehearsing tirelessly over the past couple of weeks delivering fantastic service on Nine Lessons and Carols as well as PSMA Carol Festival at St Andrew's parish church, Penrith. Local primary schools also attended and it was lovely to see a comment on how amazing QEGS' performance had been.

Lunchtime Concerts

It was standing room only at our first lunchtime concert of the year in October. We had seven fantastic performances ranging from renditions of a Chopin prelude, to a Dvorak violin sonatina, to a heartfelt rendition of Chris Isaak's Wicked Game.

It was fantastic to see so many pupils eager to perform and share their wonderful talents, as well as so many staff and students keen to support. Well done to Jonty, Y11, who hosted the concert.

The Grandparents' Tea Party took place in December and it was a great success, with 80 grandparents attending. Special thanks to Mrs Terry, Miss Wilkinson and QEGS Choir, the food tech team and all students who helped baking, sixth formers and Linus Boateng for playing the piano during the event.



Put the dates in your diary now for next year's school production, Grease the Musical!

Performance dates are: Wednesday 7th, Thursday 8th, Friday 9th and Saturday 10th February 2024, all at 7pm. Tickets on sale in January.

Grease - it's the one that you want!



Sports



Dressage Competition

Three members of the QEGS riding team attended the NSEA dressage competition at Newton Rigg on the 11th November, Charlie, Hannah and Zara.

Hannah and Zara Kelly entered the Intro C. Zara was placed 1st and Hannah 3rd.

All three students entered the Prelim restricted section. It was a large class of 20 competitors, and they all did really well with the scores being quite close. Charlie was placed 2nd which qualifies him for the National Championships. Hannah was 7th and Zara was 9th.

They all had a lovely day



Rugby

Congratulations to the six QEGS students selected for Cumbria County U18 Rugby team. They have clearly demonstrated a great deal of commitment and dedication. Thank you to all those who have been part of their development at School especially Mr Dawson and Mr Holmes.

Congratulations to the coaches and set up at Penrith Rugby Club. The countless opportunities that Stuart Hook and Julian Parry and their team have given these students is very impressive and has been instrumental in their success.

Swimming

Congratulations to Max in Year 11 for being selected for the Cumbria Swim team. He competed at Ponds Forge in Sheffield in October at the GoCardless Swim England National County Team Championships 2023, which was a huge event, with the best two swimmers from each UK county competing against each other.



Trampoline

Congratulations to Kira our Year 10 student who was representing Team GBR at the World Trampoline Gymnastics Age Group Championship in November in front of a home crowd. She came 17th! What a fantastic achievement!



Sports

Badminton

The U16 Boys Badminton team of Sam Dalton, Callum Lloyd, Louis Simpson and Sam Kershaw defeated Wigan High School earlier in November and also went on to beat Rossall School. Today we hosted a very strong team from Altrincham Grammar School. The boys played well making the visitors work for every point. On this occasion Altrincham proved too strong.



Gymnastics

Well done to our Novice Gymnasts from Year 7 and 8 who came 3rd place at the County Competition at the Sands Centre at the beginning of November. Thanks to coaches Mrs Winter, Summer and Alex in Year 12 who have given their time to run the club and take the gymnasts to the event. A special mention to Scarlett who also achieved an individual bronze medal!

Netball—Year 11

In November, the Year 11 Netball Team showed their skill and untiring enthusiasm while playing in the County Finals at Sedbergh. It was going to be a tough contest involving 9 teams, however we worked for each other and reached the semi-finals, losing to eventual winners, Sedbergh. We picked ourselves up for the 3/4th place match and came out victorious against a determined Austin Friars team. The entire team put in 100% effort and really showed their worth on the netball court. Well played!



U19 County Final Netball

Congratulations to our sixth form netball team who competed in the Cumbria County final in the early November, coming fourth in the county, this team has developed over the years to become an impressive team, demonstrating skill in their matches and dedication to training. The tournament started well with a comfortable win over Cockermouth. The following games against QEGS and Ulverston were hard fought but on this occasion narrowly lost. Special mentions to Lucy Dawson, Eve Bousefield and Harper Short for their enduring efforts throughout the whole tournament. Congratulations for their first county final as a team and a huge thank you to our coaches Miss Wilson



Football

Great team performance from the U18's in mid November against William Howard. Despite conceding early due to a rare defensive lapse, the midfield of Coady, Lazageanu and Renwick took control, creating plenty of openings for QEGS front three. Williams equalised with a cross to the back post which caught the strong wind. Missed chances proved costly when Brampton countered to take a 2-1 lead. QEGS found an extra gear in the second half, playing out through the composed skipper Rogerson. O' Hare and Donnelly combined down the right to set up the equaliser from Williams. Renwick then sliced through the Brampton defence to coolly slot home, before Rogerson sealed it by despatching a late penalty. A 4-2 win for the blues and a really energetic performance.



Create and Bake

This half term the MFL department, with the help and support of the Art and Food Technology departments, ran the MFL/Art Christmas Card competition and the QEGS Great German Biscuit Bake Off. The creative and culinary talents of our pupils made the judges' decision extremely difficult but a decision was made.

The MFL/Art Christmas Card winner 2023 is Sophie Lee Year 8. Her design will be used as the MFL card for this year. Well done!

The QEGS GGBBO 2023 champion is Jemima Evans Year 9, whose display of homemade German biscuits was mouth wateringly beautiful! Lecker!



Thank you and well done to all those who entered. We hope you enjoyed the process. Watch out next term for our MFL Easter creative challenges!

**Frohe Weihnachten/
Joyeux Noël!**



QEGS Library



Non-Fiction November

As part of Non-Fiction November, the library was able to offer a free copy of the i newspaper to every student.

For some students, this was the first time they had read a physical copy of a newspaper. Some classes spent time reading and reflecting on items the paper during lesson time. Every student was able to take their copy home to keep.



Mrs Parker and Mrs Lawson challenged students to write a 150 word response to something they read in the i. It could be about something:

- they had learned, or
- that made them think differently about a situation or person, or
- that made them feel angry, or optimistic, or some other emotional response, or anything that struck them in some way from the day's paper.

Congratulations to Scarlett Gibson Year 10, whose poem "Safe" inspired by the reports of the Israel-Palestine conflict, has won a prize for the best entry.

Safe

Live in a city they said.

It'll be safe they said.

Is safe being too afraid to get up every morning, or even so afraid you don't sleep then yes that's how it is.

Is safe is being too afraid to leave shelter due to the persistent air strikes.

Is safe not knowing when your next meal is going to be.

Is safe starving yourself so your children can get fed.

Then Yes, I'm safe, we're safe.

QEGS Library

This term, we have launched the Accessit Web App - the student-facing end of our library management system. KS3 have had hands-on sessions learning how to use it in ICT lessons, whilst the upper school has attended assemblies showcasing some of the highlights of the system.



All students - and staff - have an account with the library and can access it via the web app from the link on the Library page on the school website:

<https://qegs.website/school-library/>

One of the many features of the web app is the ability for students to review books they have read. Once approved by librarians Mrs Marshall and Mrs Lawson, the reviews become available to all to read, helping others choose the books they want to read.

Mrs Marshall and Mrs Lawson will award an Achievement Point to any student who writes a review that is good enough to be published. Here is a great example of a review by Molly Shaw, who enjoyed "This Book is Cruelty Free" by Linda Newberry

"Another amazing book that I bought a copy of! This book is great for people who already care about animals, but want to learn more about what is going on and how to help. It is also great for people wanting to become veggie/vegan but aren't sure how (I'm already veggie, but if I wasn't this book definitely would have persuaded me!). The book gives information about animals for food, pets, fashion, and animal testing for cosmetics. It shows the truth on how we treat animals, despite this being a sad reality. It also gives an insight into speaking up for everyone who doesn't have a voice! I would 100% recommend this book, it is so awesome & inspirational!"

Plea for used stamps

Mrs Johnston (P.E.) is kindly asking for donation of any used stamps. This helps raising funds towards The Guide Dogs for The Blind Association.



Bookbuzz

Year 7 students have all been given a new book in their first term at the school, as part of "Bookbuzz", a national initiative to encourage reading for pleasure.

As part of their school library induction, students were able to choose their own book to take home and keep, from a list of 17 titles suitable for 11 to 13-year-olds. The books were carefully selected by a panel of experts to ensure quality and suitability.

Reading is a great habit to form! Studies have shown that reading fiction regularly has many benefits, including increased concentration and focus, decreased anxiety and stress, and greater empathy with others. QEGS takes part in Bookbuzz every year to encourage all our new students to get reading.

A team of sixth form volunteers helped to wrap the books for Christmas, so students can take them home and put them under the tree - if they can bear to wait!



QEGS Term Dates 2024—2025

AUTUMN TERM 2024

School begins *Y7 & Y12 ONLY* - Wednesday 4th September 2024
 School begins *ALL YEARS* - Thursday 5th September 2024

Half Term Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November

Monday 4th November – Friday 20th December
School finishes at 1.15pm on Friday 20th December

SPRING TERM 2025

Tuesday 7th January 2025 – Friday 14th February 2025

Half Term Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February

Monday 24th February – Friday 4th April

SUMMER TERM 2025

Tuesday 22nd April – Friday 23rd May

Half Term Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May

Monday 2nd June – Friday 18th July
School finishes at 1.15pm on Friday 18th July

Confirmed Staff Training Dates:	Public Holidays:
Monday 2 nd September 2024	Wednesday 25 th December 2024
Tuesday 3 rd September 2024	Thursday 26 th December 2024
Monday 6 th January 2025	Wednesday 1 st January 2025
	Friday 18 th April 2025
	Monday 21 st April 2025
	Monday 5 th May 2025
	Monday 26 th May 2025
	Monday 25 th August 2025