

SPRING 2018/19 Edition

THE QUEEN ELIZABETH ACADEMY NEWS



The Queen Elizabeth
Academy



Principal's Welcome

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Welcome to the latest edition of The Queen Elizabeth Academy newsletter.

As summer approaches and we speed through 2019, the work being undertaken at tQEA continues to support students in achieving the very best educational outcomes. This cannot be achieved without the fantastic support from our dedicated staff and wonderful parents/carers. Thank you to you all, you cannot underestimate the power of teamwork!

This half-term has seen many highs with the publication of our best ever GCSE examination results, which put us well above national averages in the government's key performance measures and amongst the top 10 schools in

Warwickshire for the second year in a row.

We have recently been designated as 'Local Leaders of Education' (LLE) and our reputation continues to grow, both within the locality and further afield. Look out for more updates of our involvement with the LLE programme in the coming months.

In addition to our academic success, we have sent visitors to our link school in China, run workshops in character education, worked in partnership with @3MUK as part of National Science Week 2019, celebrated World Book Day and hosted our own, hugely successful, first annual careers fair. Take a look at the photos and updates on our Twitter page @tQEA_Principal and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1769515883351228/>.

Due to the academic success achieved, our very positive Ofsted report and the breadth and depth of both our curriculum and extra-curricular offer, we are growing in size. In September 2019, the Local Authority have asked us to take an additional 30 students to support the growing need within the local area. To support this increase in student numbers, we will be expanding our facilities over the summer and opening a new teaching block in September. This is a great opportunity for our school and community and recognises what has been achieved over the past four years at tQEA.

We are an innovative and forward-thinking school in Atherstone, Warwickshire; providing high quality education for the young people in the surrounding area and further afield.

At the Queen Elizabeth Academy we are committed to:

*'Securing the highest academic standards through the provision of:
outstanding **learning** and **teaching** and student **welfare**'*

If you would like to find out more about our academy, our excellent learning and teaching and our plans for the future, please feel free to contact us and we would be delighted to talk to you individually.

Dan Watts
Principal

Coventry University Visit

on the last day of last term some of our Year 8 students went to a 'Raising Aspirations Career day' at Coventry University. they had the opportunity to use new technology to solve real world problems, look at careers around StEM, and experience all of this within the University setting.

As you can see from the photos they all had a great day, and were an absolute credit to the school. Project staff member Kamal commented that *"the students were a pleasure to work with and very engaged throughout, it seems that they loved making the presentations, going on the tour, and building the solar cars!"*

A big thanks to everyone involved in organising and running the event.



French Revision Visit

the trip started with some motivational videos about our exams and we received lots of information on the benefits of studying a foreign language today. For example, we learnt that French is the third most sought after language in the workplace right now!

We then split up into groups and practiced some vocabulary regarding le bénévolat — charity work, which is something we've also been focusing on in lessons recently. this was helpful for revision technique ideas as we practiced lots of different ways of remembering the content.

Returning to the auditorium, we all went through some listening and reading mock questions together; receiving tips along the way on how to answer the questions to the best of our ability. this was inclusive to everyone as we focused on whatever grade we were personally aiming for and how to tell the examiner that we're capable of it. We were also shown

tricks that help you move up to the next level, such as using idioms like « J'ai fait une gaffe! » ("I've made a mistake!").

Finally, we were told the importance of stamina when it comes to our exams— applicable to all subjects. Madame Faircloth had us repeat words for a certain amount of time without stopping, showing us that we should always keep on going during exam time. She said "It won't be easy but it will be worth it."

By Sophie Cruddas



PE News

Sports Leadership Raising Money for Cancer Research:

our sports leadership team have been busy planning a number of events to raise money for Cancer Research including Staff v Students netball matches and bake sales. Staff had so far remained undefeated in all fixtures but this year's student team is by far the most competitive we have played yet and they managed to squeeze a win from our last game just before Easter. Staff look forward to the next match where they hope to regain their winning status!

our students have also supported primary athletic meets and primary hockey tournaments so far this year and have been true ambassadors of the PE department and the school, and positive active role models to the younger students.

Wasps Rugby Training:

Students have been undertaking a number of training sessions with Wasps rugby coaches at old Edwardians Rugby club on Mondays after school. the group have really developed their skills and knowledge of rugby and overall fitness. they have regularly been rewarded with family tickets to watch Wasps Premiership Rugby home games to reward their endeavour and attitudes during the sessions.

Fixtures:

From Athletics (indoor) to trampolining we have had a number of fixtures this half term which has seen students represent the school with tremendous pride and endeavour and the manner they have conducted themselves in each event has been exemplary.



End of Term Rewards

We held a rewards assembly during the last week of term, all the students who had no behaviour points and outstanding attendance, received an Easter Egg and had a Karaoke session in period 5. A massive thanks to Mrs deeley who ran the Karaoke which was brilliant, the students loved it.



ChatHealth

Warwickshire School Health & Wellbeing Service and Warwickshire Young Persons Substance Misuse Service has launched a new way for parents and carers of school aged children to get confidential advice and support about child health related issues. ChatHealth is an award-winning school nurse messaging service and is available Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. there will be automatic bounce-back responses to incoming messages out of hours. Answering the text message will be a nurse who can assist with any queries about general health, child development, behaviour, toileting and emotional health and wellbeing issues. the text number is 07520 619 376. the opportunity to discuss any health issues relating to your child is always available and the School Health and Wellbeing Service can be contacted on **03300 245 204**.



Oral health

According to Public Health England almost a quarter of 5 year olds have tooth decay with an average 3 or 4 teeth being affected. Prevention is always better than cure, therefore please encourage and supervise your child/ren to clean their teeth twice a day and ensure they visit the dentist for a check-up every 6 months even if there are no problems with their teeth. **NHS dental care for children under 18 is free**. Children should also limit

sugary food intake as we know that sugar harms teeth. You can speak to your dentist if you have any concerns about your child's oral health. the opportunity to discuss any health issues relating to your child is always available and the School Health and Wellbeing Service can be contacted on 03300 245 204 or confidentially text ChatHealth Parentline on **07520 619 376**.

Careers

on Friday 1st February Hays Recruitment, in partnership with tQEA, delivered a CV writing workshop to all year 10 students. Paul Hunt from Hays Recruitment delivered an engaging and informative workshop helping our year 10 students understand the key dos and don'ts when it comes to writing a CV. Students had the opportunity to look at sample CVs and identify common mistakes as well as learning good techniques. It was very pleasing to see so many students actively participate in the workshop by asking and answering questions on many occasions. the workshop was an incredibly beneficial one which we hope to run on an annual basis.

on Friday 8th February all year 9 and 10 students at tQEA had the opportunity to speak to a wide range of employers, post 16 education and training providers at

tQEA's first in house careers fair. thanks to the support of Akhil Chawla from the dWP 24 different exhibitors attended on the day to offer our students a vast range of information regarding the opportunities available to them in their future and what they needed to do to access them. It was extremely pleasing to see the enthusiasm students demonstrated on the day to actively find out as much information as they could about education and career routes they are interested in. Many of the exhibitors were very impressed by this and have already expressed their desire to come back again next year. the event was a huge success and one that we will certainly repeat in the future.



3M Year 7 Visit

We recently took all of Year 7 to 3M for a StEM Careers day, and all students were amazing school ambassadors, their behaviour and attitude were excellent throughout the trip. The staff at 3M commented on how enthused and engaged they all were.

It was a great day and students got to experience and talk about the different types of careers there are with StEM industries and experience what it would be like to work within StEM.

A massive thank you to everyone involved with organising and supporting on the day, and especially to the team at 3M who put on such an inspiring day for our students, it was lovely to see so many students, enjoying themselves whilst learning.



Apologies - Error in our latest Newsletter

there was an error in the Key dates, please note that the new Year 6 induction day is **27th June 2019** (and not July). A new key dates form has been uploaded to the website with the correct date.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

the Supreme Court recently reached a decision in the case of *Platt v Isle of Wight Council* which has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time. the parents of children of compulsory school age are required to ensure that they attend school on a regular basis. the Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

Head teachers retain the ability to authorise leave in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law. Head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. If the leave is granted, head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

It is for the Head teacher to decide what is 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. the school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent.

Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on

a case by case basis and on its own merits.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council

It is important to note, Fixed Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices in the amount of £120 each, totalling £240 for both children, this is reduced to £60 per child if paid within 21 days).

Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

Your child's progress, academically as well as socially, is our shared priority

Warwickshire Secondary School pupils recorded 8,895 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Autumn/Spring term during academic year 2017/18. This is an increase of 1,816 on the previous year.

Information
on our website

Please see the
parents area on our
website for copies of
letters, information
and key dates.



The Queen Elizabeth
Academy

The Queen Elizabeth Academy
Witherley Road, Atherstone,
Warwickshire, CV9 1LZ

T: 01827 712477

E: info@tqea.org.uk

www.tqea.org.uk

