

Summer 2018/19 edition

THE QUEEN ELIZABETH ACADEMY NEWS



The Queen Elizabeth
Academy



Principal's Welcome (and farewell)

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

As the end of term and summer holiday approaches and we continue to speed through 2019, i wanted to take this opportunity to say a fond farewell to you all. i have thoroughly enjoyed being the Principal of the Queen elizabeth Academy for the past four years and leave with many excellent memories of my time here.

i would like to say a big thank you to the wonderful staff of tQeA who have supported both students and parents/carers so well in achieving great things. You have made a real difference to the academy, community and the lives of the young people you have worked with.

to our parents and carers, thank you for your support. i have said many times that educating and guiding students through their secondary years is a team effort. it is not possible to get the very best from our young people without us working effectively together.

And finally, to our amazing students. i am constantly reminded of why we do this work through our daily interactions. You have, and continue to do great things, both inside and outside of the classroom. You should be proud of your achievements and have confidence in what the future may provide. 'You Can and You Will' be a success and go on to do great things!

moving forward, i know the academy remains in very good hands. We are fully staffed again for September, with high quality education professionals who will do their very best to ensure that tQeA continues to go from strength to strength. the Senior Leadership team remains a stable and guiding force for improvement, led by the new incoming executive Principal, Andrew Wilson, who introduced himself with the following words:

"I am delighted to be joining TQEA and our trust as Executive Principal in September. When I visited last month, I was hugely impressed with the expectations, commitment and excellent relationships that exist between students, staff and parents/carers."

the work being undertaken at tQeA continues to support students in achieving the very best educational outcomes. 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.

news, updates and current information can be found on our t witter page @tQeA_Principal and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1769515883351228/>.

We are an innovative and forward-thinking academy 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.

i wish you all the very best for the future and will continue to look with interest at the achievements of tQeA and all those involved.

dan Watts
Principal

China Visit

Visiting China has been, and will probably continue to be the best experience of my life and i doubt anything will ever exceed it. i witnessed so many spectacular things and the scenery was gorgeous! everyone i met was so friendly and hospitable and i'd love to visit again.

every activity we did and place we visited will be emblazoned in my mind forever. overall, it was an amazing trip; one of my favourite parts was seeing the Chinese student's homes. Seeing the parallels between our cultures was really interesting and it was so cool seeing how they do things and how families interact. i also thoroughly enjoyed spending time in their classes.

the part i enjoyed the most, however, was visiting the Yunmen temple. it was enchanting and serene and i regard it as one of my favourite places globally. it had such a rich history, amazing architecture and loads of koi fish and terrapins! **By Diana Clark Rijo**

the whole experience was incredible. the opportunity afforded to the students is one that they will remember forever. A HuGe plane journey to get there (how Charlie made it to the other side without being offered an unscheduled parachute jump is still a mystery to me), we arrived and headed into Guangzhou to see the sights. From the backstreets and temples, to the dizzy-heighted Canton tower- made it to the 107 floors in a lift that went at 5m/s.

We visited temples and went up mountains including the Glass Bridge in the Yunmen mountains - that was amazing.

our visit to the danxia mountains made it into a local newspaper and in between the bouts of rain there were some spectacular views to be had (and boy oh boy did it rain!). the students loved the chance to visit their partners' homes, and were incredibly well fed; Harriet and mel even making won-ton.

the moment we arrived at the school the students were mobbed. Aiden and deanna became magnets with their blonde hair. the lessons in the school covered many areas including Kung Fu, calligraphy, art, and maths, and of course basketball and table tennis.

the food was a true highlight of the trip. We were treated to some incredible delights (noodles and steamed buns for breakfast being a particular favourite), the pigs ears

(miss rowan was brave enough) not so much, hot milk for breakfast, whole chickens (with the heads still on); hot pot beef (miss Poole's favourite) and lots of chilli!

We finished on the two last days with a concert from the Chinese students and some competitive games. Finally, the fast train from Saoguan to Guangzhou, 305km/h!

China was spectacular. the students made friends with people who have a culture so different from their own, and neither group will ever forget the time we spent there.

By Miss Rowan



YEAR 11 LEAVERS ASSEMBLY & PROM

our Year 11 students celebrated at school together for the final time on Friday 21st June 2019. Students congregated in the dance hall to enjoy a buffet and sign each other's shirts with their messages of best wishes for the future, before heading into the main hall one last time for their final assembly. After enjoying a show of their year 7-11 photos and videos, and taking part in a "how well do you know your teacher" quiz, students were dismissed for the final time following words from their JLt members and mr Watts.

on the evening of the 27th June 2019, a night eagerly awaited by Year 11, it was time for the Year 11 Leaver's Prom! dapper suits, sophisticated gowns, stretch limos, and even the Stig!! the traditional trappings expected by students on their prom nights were all to be seen. the sun was shining on our students as they arrived at t ywcross Zoo, a stunning new venue for 2019! All students were a real credit to the Academy, they looked fabulous and behaved impeccably. it was a wonderful evening of dancing, music, great food and a photo booth which everyone loved. At the end of the evening the Prom King and Queen were announced, this year the winners were ellee Benstead and Lowell Sheasby.

From us all at tQeA, best wishes to the #tQeAClassof2019



Y10 HISTORY VISIT TO THE NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM, GREENWICH

on 13th June, the History department took the Year 10 Historians to London to visit the national maritime museum in London. this was part of their investigation into the significance of a major event in elizabethan england for their GCSe course. they were keen to gather as much information as they could about the Spanish Armada of 1588. We began with a short lecture of causes, events and reasons for failure of the Spanish Armada. We then undertook a series of workshops to gather as much information about this event as we could to fully appreciate its significance on elizabethan england. it was an interesting and informative day which granted our students the opportunity to appreciate this major event in British history and they all came away keen to learn more about it as part of their GCSe course this Summer t erm.



Feedback from a staff member at the national maritime museum was "i am really glad you enjoyed the day and i hope your students got something out of it. they were brilliant to work with (all of us working on the day were impressed with them).

i hope their preparation for the GCSe goes well, based on yesterday, i'm sure they'll do brilliantly".

PGL 2019

during may half term 5 members of staff and 39 year 8 students embarked on an 'outdoor education adventure' to the sunny south of France with PGL. Students arrived at school on Saturday lunchtime accompanied by excited parents looking forward to a week of peace and relaxation. our 24 hour journey was much less arduous than you would expect; the coach was spacious, air conditioned and our fantastic driver Simon had a great selection of music and DVDs to keep us entertained on our travels.

We arrived Sunday morning at our first base during our adventure, domaine de Segries, closely located to the Ardeche river. Students enjoyed a site tour and settled into their rooms before some 'dry practice' to familiarise themselves with their canoes. We then spent the next two and a half days canoeing through some of the most beautiful scenery europe has to offer with blue skies, crystal clear waters, huge gorges and an abundance of wildlife. While taking all of this in, students were able to develop their canoeing skills with a partner and navigate themselves through a series of rapids along our journey with some optional cliff jumps and other games to be enjoyed along the way. the photos really don't do it justice, it was spectacular. in the evenings there were plenty of activities for the students to participate in to keep themselves entertained, including basketball, table tennis, football and volleyball, all of which had their own courts/pitches. We played cards and games during the warm evenings and enjoyed the company of several other schools.

on Wednesday morning we departed for our next location; mimosa beach. on the way we made a quick stop at Aigues-mortes to sample some French culture and explored the medieval city walls surrounding the quaint city. We continued our journey to mimosa in good time and re-settled into our new accommodation. it was a beautiful

evening so we headed down to the beach after dinner for a game of rounders and a paddle in the sea as the sun went down. the next 2 days were all about ocean water-sports. Students were able to try their hand at catamaran sailing, dingy sailing, sea kayaking and be taken on a wild banana boat ride. in the evenings students socialised with students from other schools and enjoyed a range of activities put on by the PGL staff, including a hugely popular disco (you have to see the video!).

As Friday evening came it was time to embark on our journey home. despite being sad to leave we all had smiles on our faces due to the incredible memories we had created together during the trip. our students bonded with each other and students from other schools, they conquered their fears and developed new skills. they became more independent, mature and confident as a result of the challenges they faced. We, as staff, were, and are so proud of their conduct and attitude during our adventure.

We returned to school greeted by some well rested parents who were eager to be reunited with their children. t wo big final thanks must be given to both the parents who funded their children to give them the opportunity to enjoy this life changing experience and the staff of miss Wilson, miss Kiteley, miss Knowles and mr Stewart, who without their time and support, this trip would not have been possible.

We have already booked to do the same trip next year for our current year 7 students and have 5 places still available. if you would like your child to have this opportunity please contact me at school.

Mr Webb



Do you need to get new uniform for September 2020?

TQEA will have a 'pop up' uniform shop in school.

Come along, try different sizes of uniform and purchase what you need.

On Monday 22nd July between 12pm and 2pm in the school dining room.

Anker Wood Trip by Curtis Gladwin

On the 13th May 2019, 14 people from TQEA visited Anker Wood. Pupils in groups measured trees using tape measures, clinometers and tree keys. The wood surrounds lakes and part of the river Anker. It is looked after by volunteers and Dobbies' employees. Pupils also met a range of farm animals; pigs, goats, chickens, hamsters, ponies.

In the last hour we went to explore Maze World. (Fun fact: they have the largest range of mazes in one place in the UK.)

"I enjoyed the visit and they looked after us very well" - Adam Ratcliffe

"The ponies were cute" - Kaitlyn Addison

"I liked kissing alpacas" - Sean Laxton Bass

We hope to visit Anker Wood on an annual basis as part of our Outdoor Education.



A message from Andrew Wilson Executive Principal

I am very proud to be joining Academy transformation trust and the Queen Elizabeth Academy as executive Principal.

As way of an introduction and background - following three years as Head (and 12 years in total) at a comprehensive school, which I am delighted to have led to become the highest performing school in

Northamptonshire, an "outstanding" school, and in the top 3% of schools nationally, I have been fortunate to spend the last year developing their Academy trust at a national level. I have worked particularly closely with the Headteachers and Senior Leadership teams at the Compton School and the Charter School – Dulwich North, two of the very best comprehensive schools in the country, to identify and develop ideas that work to support students to achieve both academically and in the broadest possible sense.

The staff and students at TQEA have worked tirelessly and with pride to ensure that your school is recognised to be one of the highest performing in Warwickshire. This achievement means TQEA students are in a strong position to move to the very best courses and apprenticeships, ensuring they can make a difference in the modern world.

TQEA has been on an incredible journey in moving to be a "good" school with outstanding features. It is completely focussed on the needs of its students and I am committed to lead and support the team who are ready to begin the final push towards "outstanding".

We will continue to develop links with the very best schools both within and beyond our trust, and to work with you as parents and carers, an invaluable part of team TQEA, to give our students the widest choice of options for their future.

I look forward to meeting you as we move into the new academic year. Your support is crucial, both to your children and to this school as we continue our vision of 'Securing the highest academic standards through the provision of: outstanding learning and teaching and student welfare'

Andrew Wilson
Executive Principal

Front page picture: the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire visits with the members of the armed forces for a covenant data signing ceremony

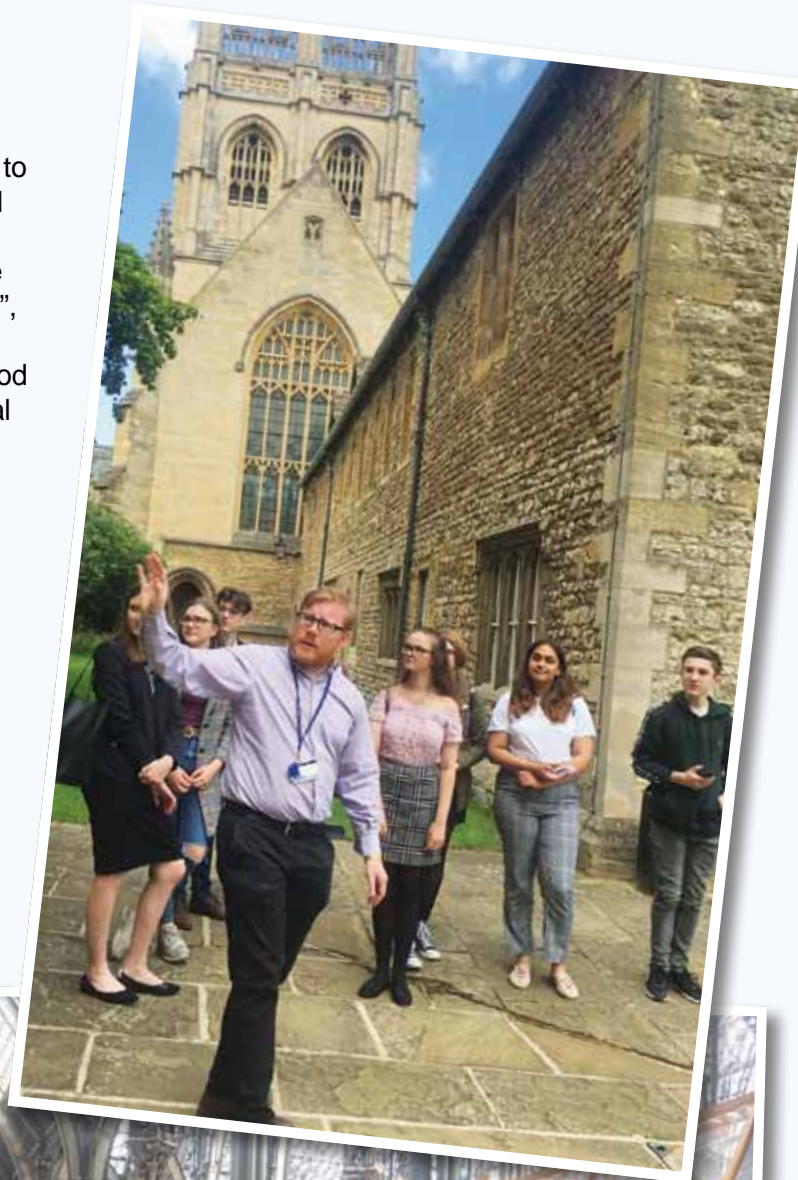
Oxford University Visit

on monday, the first of July, we were travelling to oxford. We all got up early and travelled to school, buzzing with excitement. We all boarded the minibus (expertly driven by Mrs Ressel) at 8.00 and set off to Oxford University. After about an hour and a half we reached this amazing educational establishment, dressed in our smartest clothes. We met our tour guide for the day, Andrew. We had a quick talk and headed off to a college in the university (Merton College), where Andrew would talk to us about what the university had to offer. But firstly we had to walk there, and what I saw before my eyes was utterly amazing.

The architecture and pristine nature of the university left me astonished; the many buildings and shops were perfectly designed, the streets were clear of any rubbish and multiple green spaces could be seen. It was like educational Heaven on earth. After our quick walk we were briefed on

the university's many different courses and quirks, such as the clubs and societies that exist inside the university, as well as the many social aspects that such a unique place has to offer. After this talk, we made our way down to the canteen, passing even more pristine architecture and lovely people. We passed the "quads", 4 large blocks of teaching rooms with a flat grass square in the middle; we passed other little gardens such as "the Chestnut Garden", a place named after a chestnut tree that now was no longer there. We also passed little corridors and stood under a little arch, where on the top were little astrological signs; all seemed normal except for the little scorpion sign, where it was quite funny to look at, as the person who carved it had to make it from a terrible description. It's little things like this which fueled our curiosity into this university and made it into such an amazing place.

At lunch after I had asked our guide at least 1000 questions we entered a grand cafeteria, at least 400-600 years old, with many previous Heads of Colleges on portraits on the walls. After this we passed more landmarks of Oxford University until we reached the Museum of Natural History, a place that had so much detail inscribed into every little nook and cranny. Dinosaur bones, preserved animals and a little demonstration from one of the staff there and we were blown away. We had around 30 minutes to explore this amazing place, but all great things need to come to the end. And so we headed back to our school and said goodbye to the amazing teachers we have. I just wanted to thank these teachers: Mrs Ressel and Mrs Bickely for making this such an amazing day. Also thank you to Mrs Ressel's daughter for helping to set up the visit.



Authentic Indian cooking in Food Tech

Students had a brilliant day when Mrs Gill came in to teach them how to cook authentic Indian cuisine. Samosas, pakoras and much more. The pupils really enjoy trying new experiences and were enthusiastic and motivated. Staff were also very happy with the results!



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.



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