

AUTUMN 2019/20 EDITION

# THE QUEEN ELIZABETH ACADEMY NEWS



The Queen Elizabeth  
Academy





## Executive Principal's Welcome

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

My first year as Executive Principal is now well underway and these first few weeks have been both exciting and extremely busy as I meet students, colleagues and begin to meet our parents and other members of our community.

Our "Open Evening" was particularly successful and it was great to have the opportunity to talk with parents of our potential new intake alongside many who already have children at TQEA. This was my first opportunity

to really understand the views of our community and I was really impressed by the considered feedback that parents were expressing.

It was also an opportunity for me to confirm how proud I am to be leading TQEA on our next phase of development, building on the clear improvements that have been made over recent years and reflecting on another set of stunning GCSE results achieved by our amazing students this summer. This examination performance could not have been achieved without the fantastic support from our dedicated staff working alongside our wonderful parents to encourage and guide our students towards this success and we wish them all the best in the next leg of their educational journey.

I am also delighted to have witnessed the commitment of colleagues to providing students with a wide range of activities, including witnessing the "Tour of Britain" cycling event and two full Duke of Edinburgh expeditions within just the first four weeks of term.

We have also been fortunate to start the year working alongside our partner schools in the Academy Transformation Trust Family. As Debbie Clinton, our CEO, enters her second year, her commitment to collaborative working and professional development for our colleagues had led to the launch of the ATT institute, with many colleagues benefitting from a wide range of opportunities to work alongside colleagues from across the Midlands.

TQEA is a truly vibrant place to work and learn; 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**'*

News, updates and current information can be found on our Twitter page @TQEA\_Principal and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1769515883351228/>.

Andrew Wilson  
Executive Principal



SSAT Leading Edge Programme brings together schools that are outstanding, or good with outstanding achievement. The aim of the programme is for these schools to work together and learn from in each other in order to improve all our schools even further.

Message from SSAT:

The Queen Elizabeth Academy joins network for highest performing schools

The Queen Elizabeth Academy has been recognised for its excellence by becoming a member of the SSAT Leading Edge network, a national group of exclusively high-performing secondary and special schools. Leading Edge supports schools in collaborating to raise achievement, develop innovative new ideas and share practical strategies within the network and

across the school system to benefit all students.

Run by SSAT, the Schools, Students and Teachers network, Leading Edge is made up of schools who have succeeded in making significant levels of progress and have helped their students to perform above the national average. Leading Edge schools are significant contributors to the school-led system and the collaborative nature of the network ensures that they have deep knowledge of best practice.

SSAT's Chief Executive Sue Williamson said 'We are delighted to welcome The Queen Elizabeth Academy to our Leading Edge network. It is a credit to the hard work of all of their staff and students that they have been recognised as high-performing and we look forward to working with them.'

Andrew Wilson added:

"This is a fantastic achievement for TQEA and is a testament to the efforts and teamwork of everyone involved with the school. We look forward to working with partner schools as we continue our journey towards outstanding".

## Year 10 Visit to the Houses of Parliament

On 4th July the History Department at The Queen Elizabeth Academy organised a visit to the Houses of Parliament to learn about the processes of government and to gain insight into how our country is run. 14 students along with Mrs Watts and Mr Kinvig were given an amazing opportunity to meet our local MP, Mr Craig Tracey, who gave a historical talk explaining the role of Parliament and its place in British society and he gave us a guided tour of the Palace of Westminster.

As part of the tour we were taken to the galleries of the House of Commons and the House of Lords where we had the privilege of watching live debates by MPs who were contesting the issues of the day. Mr Tracey

took us to a committee room and gave our students the opportunity to ask him questions they had about politics, Parliament and issues that affect us locally, nationally and internationally. We came away very grateful to Mr Tracey who was open, honest and insightful in providing his knowledge and viewpoints on issues of interest to our students including, of course, Brexit and the Tory leadership contest. It was a fascinating visit and we all came away far more knowledgeable about the role of Parliament and with a deeper understanding of British politics.





# TWYXCROSS ZOO VISIT

## by Adam Ratcliffe

On Wednesday 3rd July the Learning Support Educational visit took place at Twycross Zoo. Mrs Hale, Mrs Johnson, Mrs Ressel and Mrs Williams accompanied 28 pupils to the zoo. It was a great day out for the students. We followed a route around the zoo experiencing talks on zebras, giraffes, rhinos, lemurs and penguins. In between talks we visited meerkats, gorillas, monkeys, chimps, flamingos and owls etc. Everyone had their favourite animal. Around 1pm we stopped for lunch. Then we had free time to look at gibbon forest, boiling hot butterfly house and pet farm corner. A quote from a student who went "It was a very nice zoo, I would love to go again. Thank you to all the staff, including Mr Pattison for driving the other minibus who made this possible".



# CADBURY WORLD

## by Miss Jenkins

The Year 9 students went to visit Cadbury's World 10th July. The students enjoyed touring the factory including riding the Cadabra, chocolate making, experiencing the interactive purple planet, advertising avenue and the 4D chocolate adventure. Students were able to apply their knowledge of the People in Business topic through the engaging talk from the Cadbury team.



# BRECON BEACONS

## by Miss Wilson

In July, students embarked on a three-day intensive kayaking and climbing weekend for part of their practical grading in GCSE PE, in the stunning national park of the Brecon Beacons. Students gained knowledge and experience up to qualification standards over the three days, and impressed themselves, staff and the instructors with their "never quit" attitude and constant drive to get better. Great examples working on figure of 8, re-threading on spare ropes in the evening before bed and re-doing videos, as they know they can get a faster time, or a cleaning skill.

Staff at the centre commented that the student's commitment to getting the best grade possible was refreshing. Students took care of their kit, cleaned tables, swept and tidied as part of their day to day routine, with evening theory sessions making the days quite intense and draining; but they woke up for the early starts ready to go again, with the same approach.

Students have achieved some fantastic grades as a result of their endeavour and their approach to the trip.





# INSTAGRAM ART COMPETITION

*by Miss Bennett*

Over the summer holiday, pupils were invited to take part in an art/photography challenge. The challenge was to create a piece of artwork or a photograph for each day of August, with a specific theme given for each day. There were some very exciting entries and the three winners announced in September were Georgia Vella (Year 8), Lexie Amies (Year 8) and Mia O'Hara (Year 7). All three winners were given a certificate and £10 to spend on art supplies of their choice. Keep an eye out for future art competitions and take part for your chance to win some exciting prizes.



# FRANCE DAY TRIP - JULY 12<sup>th</sup>

*by Izzy Sheffield*

The day started off with torrential rain at 2am. The coach was about an hour late and everyone was tired. When the coach finally arrived everyone settled down and off we went. We got to Dover a few hours later and excitedly boarded the ferry. The white cliffs faded in the distance as we crossed the channel to France.



When we arrived in Calais, we got back on the coach (far more awake) and headed to Boulogne-Sur-Mer. Our first stop was the sweet factory and we were all really looking forward to it! On a huge table loads of sugary mixture was poured and spread - we were shown the process of making boiled sweets. We could pick up a lot of the French words, but luckily there was a translator to help us out with the more technical vocabulary. One of the best parts was when the sweets were completed on a conveyor belt and afterwards we got to eat them. Lots of people bought packets of them to take home, but not many made it back to England.



After this we stopped for lunch at a park, where we had delicious baguettes and relaxed in the hot sun for a while. Following our quick rest, we walked up a small hill to the local bakery. This is where we learned how to make 'the best croissants'. Our instructor's expectations were really high and any croissants that weren't good enough were beaten to death by a big rolling pin. There was a lot of shouting.



The day wasn't over, and we still had Euros to spend, so we headed to two shopping areas: one in a little town and one in a shopping centre. We thoroughly enjoyed this and bought lots of snacks and souvenirs.

Finally, it was time to head back to Atherstone after an exhausting, but wonderful 24 hours!





# SPORTS DAY SUMMARY

*by Miss Wilson*

After a Glastonbury style year off from Sports Day in 2018, 2019 saw the introduction of a new style of Sports Day at TQEA. All students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 competed in a range of activities during the morning sessions, including plank races, obstacle courses and human minesweeper. Fantastic feedback from staff with hundreds of stories and examples of students demonstrating the key character strands of endeavour, kindness, resilience and pride throughout the day. After a long and eventful morning, students enjoyed a well earned rest during lunch, before the final events held in front of the whole school; with final 60m races, staff races and tug of war events completing the day. Bears and Adders held a close battle all day with

there being no more than 12 points separating the teams going into the final rounds in the afternoon. Bears, however, came out victorious after some fantastic final race results to secure the title of best Sports Day College, whilst Adders ended up having the most successful tutor group of the day with Miss Bolus's tutor group being crowned the Best Sports Day tutor group in 2019.

Some great feedback from staff and students has been noted and plans to improve the new successful style of Sports Day are well underway for July 2020. Thanks from all the PE staff, to the tutor's, support staff and students, for making a truly memorable and enjoyable day.



# DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD – DID WE REALLY DO THAT?

*by Mrs Ressel*

September 2019 saw the final expedition by foot for current Year 10 students. The venue was the Long Mynd, Shropshire, which certainly challenged our intrepid explorers from the off. As we drive towards Church Stretton, a silence descends on the minibus of, up until then, quite buoyant students, as they start to equate the gradient of the hills looming around them with the funny orange stripes, which we had been warning them about, on the maps when they were planning their route. Jack Pear realised that his sister had duped him, having offered so kindly to pack his ruck sack for him with everything including the kitchen sink. He had definitely gone off his sibling by the time we next saw them on the top of the Mynd at a high point called Pole Cottage.

A good stomp across country took the teams to the camping ground at Ratlinghope Farm. After a somewhat chilly and damp night under canvas and a thawing out back across the top of The Mynd, down to the visitor centre at Cardingmill Valley, the students met with their assessor to reflect on what just happened through bleary tired eyes.

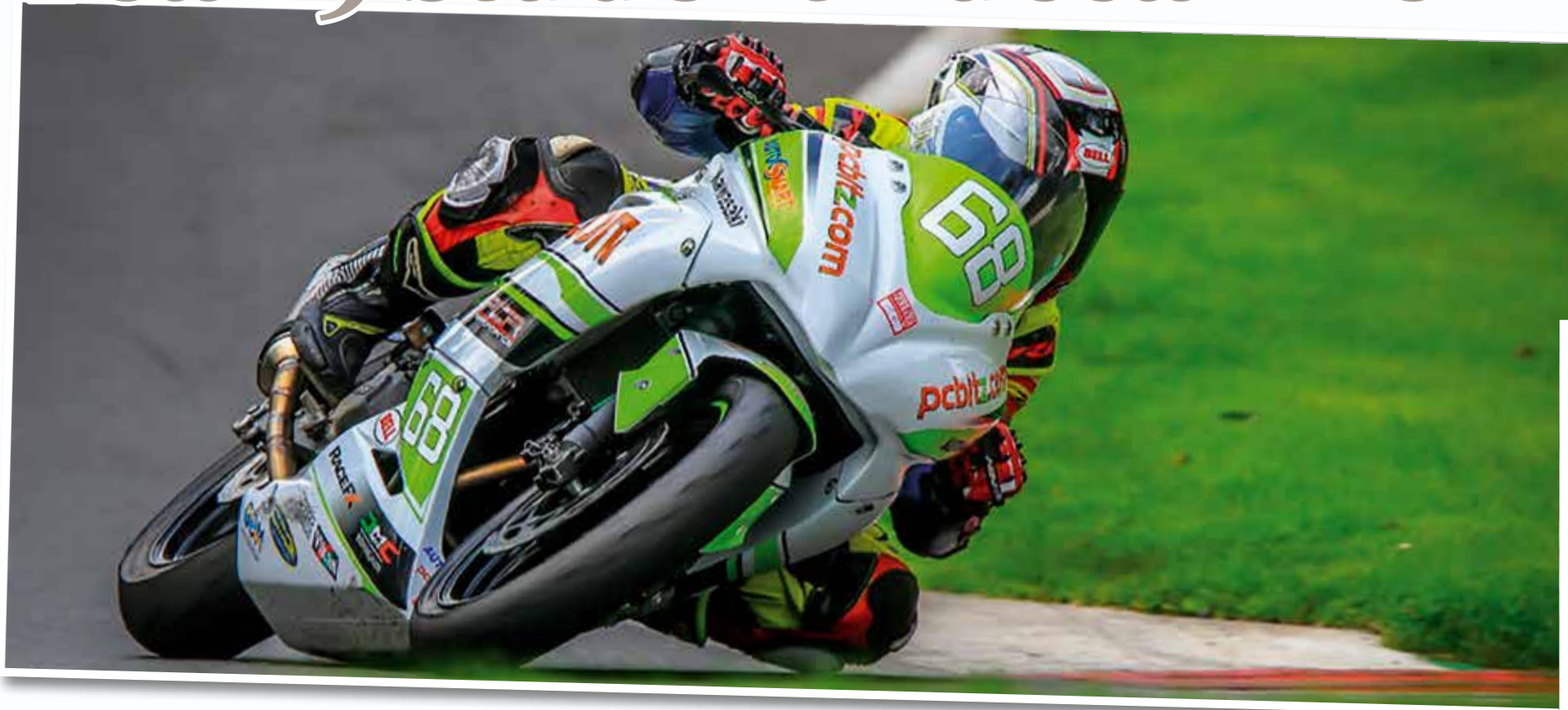
In a nutshell, from a student, "I really enjoyed partaking in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. The expedition is certainly a challenge, but with the right group of friends; the right equipment and abilities, it is a really great time. I would 100% do it again, and I will be doing the Silver DofE for sure - anyone reading this should seriously consider the idea".





# TQEA supports the sporting career of Year 9 student Lucca Allen

## *Chasing the dream....*



that he is unstoppable in this class winning every race entered with the exception of the two he took part in seven weeks after breaking both his legs - he still managed to pull out two second places. Unfortunately, due to missing a couple of rounds and having a mechanical failure during his second race at Whilton Mill (which he was set to win) he remains frustratingly second in the championship.

At 12 years old Lucca put on a set of leathers for the first time and slung his leg over a Super moto 140 Pit bike and took part in his first year on the tarmac, entering into the British Mini Bike Championship which features races at the larger karting circuits throughout England and Wales. He came fourth in the championship missing out on third place by only 28 points and took the Rookie of the Year cup with BMB.

**2019** - It was time for Lucca to make the leap to bigger full-size motorbikes - he joined the other young talented riders on his Kawasaki Ninja 300 with BEMSEE Racing Club, taking part in the

Kawasaki Team Green Ninja Junior cup. It was a decision not taken lightly as he had such a small amount of time and experience riding tarmac, but it was the right choice as Lucca made the transition look easy.

### **Kawasaki Ninja 300 – ACU Team Green Junior Cup**

At his first race meeting at Brands Hatch Lucca took two second and two third place trophies, it was an amazing start to the year. Unfortunately, the year has not been

without its hurdles and following a successful weekend at Oulton Park Lucca went out for a bit of fun on his motor-cross bike and broke both his legs - meaning he

could not take part in the up-coming race meetings. This set-back would ultimately

affect his track time and his points position. After not competing in two rounds and having mechanical failure and an off at Cadwell Park Lucca is currently running Fifth in the ACU Team Green Junior Cup. We are looking forward to the final round at Brands Hatch at the beginning of October, hoping to get some more points and track experience ready for the next challenge of 2020.



### **Mini GP 140 – British Mini Bike Championship**

Lucca is also taking part in the Mini GP 140 BMB championship, he is currently running Second in the championship with the first place rider being 27 points ahead. With only two rounds to go and a maximum point scoring of 100 means it will be very difficult to take the lead. If he does not manage to secure first place championship trophy it will not be due to him not having the talent or the wins; Lucca has proved

### **Onwards 2020**

Although no final decision has been made for next year, he will definitely be leaving the Mini Bike scene behind and concentrating on the full size larger capacity machines. He is still playing with some ideas but will certainly be looking at BSB for 2020. TQEA are proud of Lucca's achievements and deeply impressed by his resilience in still attending school regularly despite being wheelchair bound with two broken legs. A star in the making.



# LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

## UPDATED 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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