

QUEEN ELIZABETH NEWS



The Queen Elizabeth
Academy



Proud to be a member of



We Can and We Will



Welcome from the Principal

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As the build continues will we keep you posted on developments and, at an appropriate time, we will invite you to come and look at the new school. The first pieces of steelwork for the new school were erected at the end of November. This marks the next and exciting phase of building work where we can start to see the shape and size of the building in real terms.

This term has been one full of change and development. The school is in a strong position to move forward and will continue to do so.

I would like to thank the staff for their dedication and professionalism, the parents and carers for their continued support and our students for the positive way they have equipped themselves to date.

I wish you all a happy Christmas and a successful New Year.

Dan Watts
Acting Principal

Christmas Trip to the Local Church on Friday 18 December

On the last day of term all students in years 7 and 8 will be visiting the church in Atherstone to enjoy a Christmas celebration. The reverend Michael brandsma will be leading the service, with students from TQEA also participating. The service will start at 9.30am and last until 10.15am. Parents are more than welcome to join us.



Remembrance Day RAF Presentation

We were joined on Remembrance day this year by Squadron Leader Carrie Rossi of the RAF.

The whole school service was delivered by our Curriculum Leader for History, Damian Kinvig and two students who accompanied him on an educational visit to the World War 1 battlefields in Belgium. The Remembrance service was moving and very poignant to our school and students past and present. Squadron Leader Carrie Rossi made a presentation at the end of the service for the schools continued work with the RAF. We were all very proud to receive the award and the comments shared.

TQEA Students visit First World War sites in France and Belgium – October 2015

Two students, Amy Farmer and Skye Wittey, along with their History teacher, Mr Kinvig, took part in a government funded First World War centenary project.

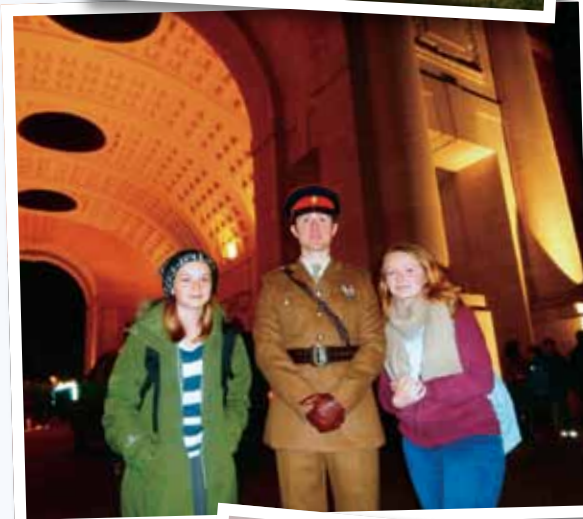
We were taken by coach along with representatives from 15 other schools to learn more about the global, national and local impact of the First World War. We were very keen to engage with this project and it has given us deeper understanding of the experiences of soldiers during this conflict.

Over four days we were taken to numerous sites relating to this conflict. We saw places where soldiers fought and died, vast cemeteries containing thousands of deceased soldiers, the death cells where condemned british soldiers waited to be shot at dawn by their own side for their 'crimes' and various memorials to the dead. We were moved by a ceremony commemorating the fallen at the Menin Gate at Ypres (a ceremony which takes place at 8pm every night). This memorial records 54,000 names of soldiers from Britain, Australia, Canada, South Africa and India who lost their lives and have no known grave in this part of Belgium. During the ceremony traffic stops and the memorial itself is cordoned off as trumpeters play the last post, wreaths are laid and eulogies given to those who participated in and those who died in the conflict. The Last Post Ceremony is a unique act of remembrance which is not seen anywhere else in the world and we felt privileged to be a part of it.

The most poignant part of the trip was when we visited Thiepval Memorial in France. This the largest British war memorial in the world and records the names of 72,000 missing British and South African men who died on the Somme battlefields between 1915 and March 1918 and who have no known grave. This memorial had added significance to our small group from TQEA as on this memorial are recorded the names of five of our Old Boys, five former pupils whose names are recorded on our school's commemorative plaque.

We found the five names of our Old boys and paid our respects to these men to whom we have a connection by laying a wreath which we had brought from TQEA.

It was a sobering experience and one which has certainly given increased perspectives and insights into the history of the Western Front.



Music Department Vision:

“THINK. PLAY. BE” “Directing learners to sing, play and appreciate the universal power of music” “Mind the Cultural Gap!”

It's no secret that government cuts to the Arts, which some perceive as non-essential services, have resulted in the severe erosion of cultural experiences available to young people. The cuts have led to an increased cost of music lessons; meaning that some families, especially low income families, are unable to access instrumental tuition or group music classes. Uptake and participation in instrumental lessons and musical activities has dropped in the UK from 55.3% in 2009, to 37.2% in 2014. The impact of this loss of cultural experience will not be clear until our young people are adults. David Poutney, Chief Executive of the Welsh national Opera writes for the Guardian: *“Well-being is not something that can be segmented into physical health alone. There are many kinds of health, and a lively mind stimulated and nurtured by cultural experience is one very important kind of health – a kind of health that can inspire and energise a new generation. We urge all parties to wake up to the reality, before that new generation becomes a lost generation.”*

How are we ‘narrowing the gap’ at TQEA.

Year 7 Focussing on the key skill of having ‘Rhythm’, pupils have learnt to play tuned and untuned percussion in whole class ensemble work. Every pupil has been able to play on African Drums known as Djembes and on tuned percussion; Glockenspiels. Singing has also played an important part in our education with songs such as Wonderwall and Starlight being sung in harmony.



Year 8 Experiencing the vast history and development of the blues, Year 8s have listened to and compared the music of Robert Johnson and Muddy Waters. They've performed small group '12 Bar Blues' using

Ukuleles, Keyboards, Flutes and the Drum Kit. Of late, the festive season calls and work has begun on Christmas pieces.

Flute Choir This is a free group open to any pupils, of any ability. This group was set up last year to encourage pupils to learn an instrument for free. The school provides Flutes to use in the sessions and it is led by Mrs Blaxhall our resident Flute teacher. We have a regular attendance of about 8 pupils and we have just prepared our Christmas pieces in three part harmony! The group meet on Monday and Thursday lunch times and is supported by our Year 10 percussionist, Chloe King.



Ukulele Band This is another free group open to any pupils of any ability. This group has been going for a year and has a mixture of abilities. Recently, the department purchased 30 new Ukuleles and these are for use in the sessions. It is led by Beth Fox, a Year 11 Music Leader and we meet every Wednesday lunch time. We have a regular attendance of 10 pupils from a mixture of year groups and we even have some teachers coming along to learn too! We've learnt chords and melodies and are ready for our Christmas performances of Frosty the Snowman, This Little Light of Mine and Good King Wenceslas.

KS4 GCSE Music Pupils in Year 10 have been putting their creativity to the test and composing their own choice music for their GCSE. More recently, they have been working towards a new qualification called VCERT. This qualification will utilise not only their performing skills, but their abilities to be performance organisers and create shows. It's a busy time of year as they are working really hard planning and

organising the Christmas performance. Pupils in Year 11 have visited one of our local colleges, King Edwards nuneaton, to use their outstanding facilities to support improved performances at GCSE. Several pupils have had the opportunity to use the professional recording studio. Performing in this environment has helped create high quality performances and enabled pupils to rise to the challenging requirements of the GCSE, whilst gaining insight into studying Music at A Level. Other pupils have used a programme called LOGiC to create 'sequenced' performances and worked with A Level pupils to create high quality pieces that demonstrate a significant level of musicality.



Parents! How can you help 'narrow the gap'....

- You can support your child with his / her music education by encouraging attendance to any of the free lunchtime clubs or by signing up for instrumental lessons. Currently, we have space for Vocals, Drums, Violin, Flute, Clarinet, Keyboard and Guitar. We know that instruments can be expensive, but we are able to loan, for free, some school instruments to help you along. if you would like to sign up for an instrumental lesson perhaps for one academic term as a taster, i can offer a reduced price for shared lessons of £20. (This offer applies to new recruits only). Please email me if you would like your son / daughter to take up a regular instrumental tuition.
- Inspire them with an instrument for Christmas. What about a Ukulele? They start at £12 and are a very versatile instrument that can always be used in the classroom. Try Argos or Amazon.....
- Lead by example! Do you want to lead a music group after school, or showcase your own performing skills to help inspire young people to take up musical instruments? Perhaps you would like to come and learn an instrument yourself?? Email me your ideas or thoughts if you feel that you have a spare evening or morning and you could help to inspire and improve the musical experiences for our young people.

Contact Mrs Jenner-Veasey on i.jenner@tqea.org.uk

KEEPING YOUR TEENAGER (AND YOU) FIT AND HEALTHY THROUGH THE WINTER MONTHS!

Student Support have been doing some research via the NHS on ways you can keep healthy and avoid winter colds – here are some great tips.

Eliminate your sleep debt

"On average we sleep six-and-a-half hours a night, much less than the seven to nine hours recommended," says Jessica Alexander, spokesperson at The Sleep Council, which aims to raise awareness of the importance of a good night's sleep for health and wellbeing. but in winter, we naturally sleep more because of the longer nights. "It's perfectly natural to adopt hibernating habits when the weather turns cold," says Jessica. "Use the time to catch up."

Try new activities for the whole family

Don't use the cold winter months as an excuse to stay in and lounge around. instead, get out with the whole family to try out a new activity – maybe ice skating, or taking a bracing winter walk along the canal or through the park. regular exercise helps control your weight, boost your immune system, and is a good way to break the tension that can build if the family is constantly cooped up inside the house.

Have a hearty breakfast

Winter is the perfect season for porridge. Eating a warm bowlful on a cold morning isn't just a delicious way to start your day, it also helps boost your intake of starchy foods and fibre.

These give you energy and help you feel fuller for longer, stopping the temptation to snack mid-morning. Oats also contain lots of vital vitamins and minerals.

Make your porridge with semi-skimmed or skimmed milk or water, and don't add sugar or salt. Add a few dried apricots, some raisins, a sliced banana or other fruit for extra flavour and to help you hit your 5 A DAY target.

**Don't forget
Breakfast Club is available
free every morning!**

Eat more fruit and veg

When it's cold and dark outside, it can be tempting to fill up on unhealthy comfort food, but it's important to ensure you still have a healthy diet and include five portions of fruit and veg a day. If you find yourself craving a sugary treat, try a juicy clementine or satsuma instead, or sweet dried fruits such as dates or raisins.

Winter vegetables such as carrots, parsnips, swede and turnips can be roasted, mashed or made into soup for a comforting winter meal for the whole family. Explore varieties of fruit and veg that you may not normally eat.

Drink more milk

You are 80% more likely to get a cold in winter, so making sure your immune system is in tip-top condition is important. Milk and dairy products such as cheese, yoghurt and fromage frais are great sources of protein and vitamins A and B12. They're also an important source of calcium, which helps keep our bones strong.

Year 10 Skills Show Visit to the NEC

On Thursday 19th november we took the whole of year 10 to the nEC in birmingham for the National Skills Show. The nation's largest skills careers fair was an excellent event and provided students with the opportunity to explore different potential career paths, ask questions to potential employers and even try their skills at different challenges. Students actively explored different areas of the exhibition based on their areas of interest. it was clear that they really enjoyed the day and was great to see so many of them getting involved in the activities available and asking some excellent questions. As ever they were impeccably behaved and a credit to the school.



G&T Enrichment

in October 27 able pupils were invited to participate in the World Education Games. This is a 3 day online competition involving more than 5 million young people all over the globe. High achieving pupils were selected from years 9, 10 and 11 to participate and the competition was a great success for TQEA pupils. Pupils competed in three disciplines: literacy (spelling), maths and science to achieve an overall score. There was a real buzz in the room as pupils competed against other pupils on line and against the clock. i also had a parent get in touch to thank me for offering her son (a year 11 pupil) the opportunity and explained that "it had done wonders for his confidence." Having never entered the competition before, i deliberately kept it quite low key but hope to improve it next year!

The highest scoring pupils were:

Ellie Foster (yr 9) 3643 points

Scarlett Jary (yr 9) 3408 points

Jack Peters (yr 9) 2838 points

WEG only publish the top 100 players - where a score in excess of 5000 got placed in the "hall of fame," with the overall winner achieving a massive 6207 points. Pupils will be given certificates and the top 3 rewarded with token prizes. All contestants have also been rewarded with vivos.

Miss V Burns



Spelling Bee

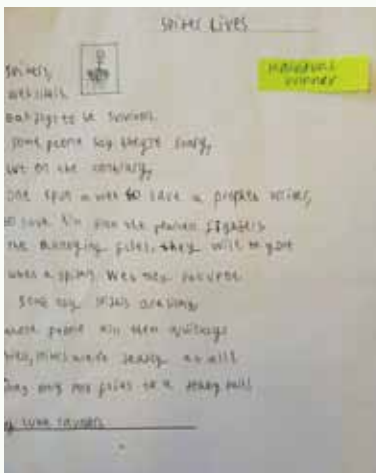
Following three qualifying rounds, 16 finalists were selected. The finalists represented pupils from years 7 - 10 and included a range of ability. The event was well supported by parents and family of the contestants. During the final the contestants competed well and managed to spell some very difficult cross curricular words including "persecution", "quadrilateral" and "photosynthesis". Lewis Farmer (Year 9) and Oscar Busby (Year 7) were the final two contestants in the spell off! Lewis spelled his word "myoglobin" incorrectly and to be crowned champion, Oscar was asked to spell "ambiguity". He did this successfully and with remarkable confidence for a year 7 pupil and was announced as the winner of this year's Spelling Bee! Great sportsmanship was demonstrated when the finalists shook hands before all of the finalists received their certificates, medals and prizes.



Many congratulations to all finalists and thanks to staff and families for their support.

National Poetry Day

Thursday 8 October saw national Poetry Day. Poetry has the power to inspire, grow writers intellectually, experiment with language and articulate thoughts. To mark this event the English department ran competitions across the school. Well done to Luke Saunders from Year 7 who won individual poet award. A special mention also to Finn Aherne who made up a poem that Mrs Jones uses when teaching genes. Also well done to Mrs Adams, and Child Development, who won best department. Thank you to everyone who participated.



North talk Nov/Dec 2015

Project will ensure students take the right steps in the world of work

Young people at The Queen Elizabeth Academy in Atherstone will benefit from specialist careers advice and links with employers, thanks to a £20,000 pilot project.

The borough and County Councils, on behalf of the north Warwickshire Community Partnership, commissioned rightStep to run the scheme. As part of the project, rightStep representatives will offer careers advice to students in Years 10 and 11, build links with local businesses and appoint business Champions.

The business Champions will create opportunities for the students including work placements and visits to the workplace, traineeships, apprenticeships and the chance to volunteer. There will also be a programme of assemblies with visiting speakers from key businesses, CV writing workshops and mock job interviews.

The project is running until June 2016. For more information on rightStep go to www.rightstepcareers.org.uk

Operation Christmas Child

Again this year TEAM QE got involved in with the Operation Christmas Child. This charity project sends Christmas presents to children all over the world who would not have received any presents on Christmas day! The enthusiasm and team work shown by the whole of our community to support such a worthwhile project is amazing. Yet again we have had a very successful year, and have sent a 147 boxes. That's a 147 children getting presents at Christmas.

Well done TEAM QE!



Leave Of Absence During Term Time

As you will be aware, current Government attendance regulations stipulate a Head teacher may not grant leave of absence during term-time unless there are exceptional circumstances. It is unlikely any holidays in term time will be authorised.

Each application for leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.

PLEASE SEE THE SCHOOL WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

<http://www.tqea.org.uk/attendance>

Dates for
your diary

'Key Dates for 2015-16'
can be found on the
school website under
Parents/Term Dates.



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