

EASTER 2016 EDITION

QUEEN ELIZABETH NEWS



The Queen Elizabeth
Academy

Proud to be a member of



We Can and We Will



Principal's Welcome

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

Welcome to The Queen Elizabeth Academy, an 11-16 mixed comprehensive academy with a vibrant learning atmosphere, a dedicated and supportive network of staff and exciting plans for the future including, the opening of a brand new school building on 1/9/2016.

What do people say about us?

"The learning environment at The Queen Elizabeth Academy is extremely friendly and supportive: every member of staff works together to ensure the best possible outcomes for all students. I feel extremely well supported."

The Academy:

The academy's vision is for all students to realise their full potential, equipping them with the skills and qualities required for success in the competitive 21st century. We are committed to raising standards and providing students with exceptional opportunities to support learning.

We look for a number of outstanding qualities in our staff: an innovative and creative approach to their work; enthusiasm, positivity and an unfaltering commitment to our students' success, and an open-minded, proactive attitude to working within a team. We want individuals who want to go the extra mile for our community.

Teamwork is at the heart of everything we do and by working together we aim to secure a successful future for all. We encourage those interested in joining our school to spend some time with us to gain a real understanding of our ethos and what we have to offer.

The dedication of the staff and the enthusiasm of the students, coupled with the support of our parents and carers, makes this a special place.

Dan Watts
Principal

The Atherstone Ball Game

Representatives from The Atherstone Ball Game visited our PE department here at TQEA on Wednesday 3rd February 2016 to offer pupils the opportunity to take part in a modified version of the 817 year tradition.

Pupils from Year 7 and 9 were first given an introduction into the history of the Ball Game and how the game has evolved over time. Students were relieved to learn that one development since the game began is that an inflated pig's bladder is no longer used as the 'ball'!

Pupils were split into teams and took part in a modified version of the Shrovetide Game. The session proved to be a big hit with pupils, particularly those who had never previously attended the game. Pupils felt very privileged to play with the official ball, which was used for the real game on Tuesday 9th February 2016. Pupils were commended by the Atherstone Ball Game representatives for their enthusiasm and positive attitude.



Beth Fox for Parliament!

First and foremost, I would like to thank everyone who voted for me as without your votes I wouldn't have been given the opportunity to represent the county on a national level. Your votes got me elected as a MYP (Member of Youth Parliament) from which only four people were chosen out of twenty candidates. As this is my first year, I didn't expect to get elected, let alone as an MYP, so I'm ecstatic and forever grateful to everyone who supported me and continues to do so.

As a member of youth parliament, I can ensure that all voices of TQEA are heard, whether it be a student, parent/guardian or teacher. The role of an MYP requires monthly meetings, a residential training trip and a visit to the House of Commons. This amazing adventure I shall be embarking upon will begin on March 1st, but any concerns/ queries can be brought to me at any time before and during my time as an MYP.

My main focus is raising awareness for self-harm and suicide among young people and to guarantee better help and support for those affected by these issues. If there are any questions or points you would like me to raise in the meetings, please don't hesitate to approach me. These points don't have to be directly linked to my focus as there are many others who are representing as MYPs or as VOX members and therefore, your point could come under their main focus.

This role means a lot to me and I am certain I will put everything I can into it and ensure that every point brought to me is raised; changes will happen and students of TQEA should feel safer and better protected.

Once again I cannot thank everyone enough for the continued support and votes; I promise I won't let you down.

Beth Fox



YOUNG WRITERS COMPETITION NEWS

Congratulations to the 41 TQEA students who entered the Poetry Trials competition and whose poems have been chosen for publication.

This certainly tested their creative skills as they had to write a 'lipogram', meaning they couldn't use the letter 'a' throughout their poems. Well done to everyone! The book containing their work should be in the school library in April.



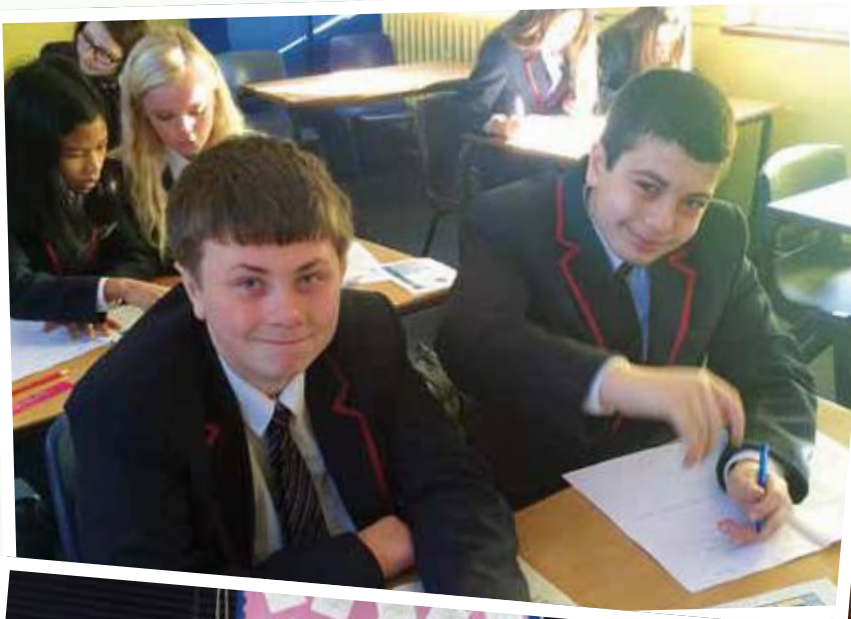
Also, well done to an incredible 100 TQEA students whose 100 word Spine Chiller mini sagas have been chosen for publication within a special anthology. A copy of this will be in the library during May.



Year 8 Options

This year we have given our students much more support in choosing their GCSE Option Subjects. We started back in January with information assemblies and 1-1 meetings to give the students the help they required in making a decision about their future studies. This culminated in the taster sessions held at the end of February where students got to experience five different GCSE option subjects in order to make a more informed decision.

The photos show students having fun experiencing the different GCSE subjects. The following evening we invited our year 8s along with their parents and guardians to our GCSE Options Evening; we had an outstanding attendance with over 250 people there. Students and parents got their final opportunity to see Curriculum Leaders and ask questions about the courses, on show were examples of GCSE work, and a number of our current GCSE students came along to discuss what it is like to study each of the GCSEs. A brilliant effort from everyone involved.



REVISION WORKSHOP

Year 11 Historians attended a Revision Workshop in Solihull on 8th February 2016. This was an invaluable opportunity for students to undertake some intensive revision in the run up to their GCSE examination.

This event opened with an exam-busting workshop in which the workshop leader explained the thinking behind the examination specifications, and showed pupils how to improve their performance in their GCSE course and final examination. The workshop was followed by a play which featured a series of characters from the History of Medicine.

This workshop allowed our students to develop their understanding of change and causation by looking at the factors of change, and to assess the medical progress made in each period of history. It was a very insightful workshop which our students found enjoyable and informative.



THE MORE THAT YOU **read**
THE MORE THINGS YOU WILL **KNOW**
THE MORE THAT YOU **LearN**
THE MORE PLACES YOU'LL **GO**
--**DR. SEUSS**

Never stop learning, because life never stops teaching....

TQEA teachers model the importance of life-long learners. Ever dedicated to providing our students with a first class education, we regularly stay up to date with new initiatives and changes to education through our comprehensive training programme.

All teachers in the school follow a different route of training to suit their needs and that of their students. Our recent training day (which took place whilst our students enjoyed The Ball Game!) and twilight sessions have shared ideas on ensuring all students make progress, the inclusive classroom, quality intervention, challenging the more able and pupil premium. We have worked with Caludon Castle School in Coventry to raise standards of learning and teaching and have links with many other schools both locally and nationally.

To ensure that our teachers are at the top of their game, we support them in working towards nationally recognised accreditations such as leadership courses (NPQML, NPQSL and Future Leaders) and courses in learning and teaching (ITP and OTP). We also currently have several members of staff that are working towards Masters degrees.



Many congratulations must go to Mr Butler and Miss Watts who have worked hard to successfully complete their NPQML leadership programme. Also, a big well done to Mr Armishaw and Mrs Clare, who after several years and thousands of words later graduated in January with a Masters in Education.

Always remember...the wisest mind has something yet to learn (George Santayana).

Dates for your diaries: Next training days – Monday 4th April 2016 and Monday 27th June 2016.

Carillion Careers Project

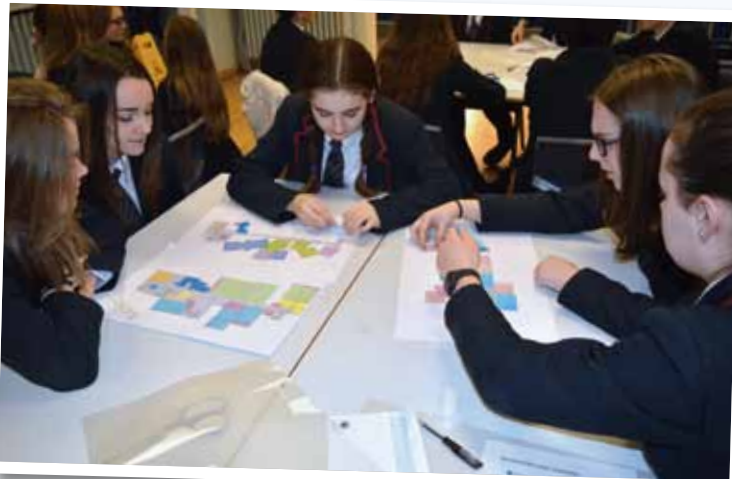
Our students have benefitted from the co-ordination of a new careers related programme in partnership with Carillion, RightStep and North Warwickshire BC. Year 9s have spent the last 3 weeks learning new project management skills and taking part in a competition to design and build a school with the expert support of Dave Elson and the Carillion Team. The winning 3D model will receive a reward for following the design brief and team work. Their teacher, Michelle Jenkins, who leads the SPaCE programme was thrilled to be able to take the first group to see the new school and explore the site.

Students at The Queen Elizabeth Academy have enjoyed the project, Josh Stokes stated, "It was fun because we designed a school that we would like. Also it was a different sort of lesson". The children feel they have developed new skills. "It helped me find out about how Carillion have designed our new school. It gave me an insight into the construction industry" Ben Matthews.

Students also mentioned how the project has added to their understanding of a career in construction. "when we went onto the construction site I found out how to work my way up and become a construction manager"

Georgia Lees. Also Anneliese Hargens stated, "It helps you visualise how progress in construction takes place and how every worker has to be cautious and safe on the construction site."

The project will run until the 11th April, when all year 9 students will have visited the site and completed their school models.



What to do if...

Students have an appointment (doctor, dentist, hospital etc.)

We expect all non-emergency medical, dental or optician appointments to be booked outside of school hours. If this cannot be done, please try to book the appointment so that your child can complete most of their school day as normal. Parents or Guardians **MUST** either: -

- **Write a note (on paper or in the student's planner)**
- **Send in a copy of the appointment letter/card or**
- **Inform attendance of an upcoming appointment.**

Ensure that you make it clear what time you are collecting your child, or that they can make their own way to the appointment and what time you expect them to return to school. If school have not been advised of an appointment, reception will call parents/guardian to confirm and children will not be allowed to leave school premises until contact has been made.

Public Scrutiny Meeting

Niall Ford, Head Boy, and Yasmin Wood, Head Girl, did an amazing job representing TQEA at the Police Commissioners Public Scrutiny Meeting in January where both of them put detailed questions about the young people in the area to the panel. The event, open to the public, was held here at school and also streamed live on the internet. Pictured with Yasmin and Niall, from the left, are Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Dr Eric Wood, Police and Crime Commissioner Ron Ball, Deputy Chief Constable Karen Manners and Chief Constable Martin Jelley.



Reminder for Parents *Leave Of Absence During Term Time*

As you will all be aware, current attendance regulations stipulate a Head Teacher may not grant a leave of absence during term-time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

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

It is for the Head Teacher to decide what he/she views as 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. If the leave is granted, the Head Teacher is able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent.

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).

Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is issued and 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.

Parents are asked to respect the new regulations under which the school must work and if there is a need to take a child out of school during term-time, an application or request must be made in advance and make clear how the circumstances are exceptional.

<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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