

MAY 2016 EDITION

QUEEN ELIZABETH NEWS



The Queen Elizabeth
Academy

Proud to be a member of

Erudition Schools Trust



We Can and We Will



Principal's Welcome

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

This coming half-term will see an exciting period in the development of The Queen Elizabeth Academy. The opening of the brand new school building on 1/9/2016 moves ever closer, as does our final day in the existing building. Whilst this has been our home for many years, we are all filled with much excitement about the opportunities our new home will provide.

During our upcoming year 6 induction programme, we hope to be able to invite interested parents to view the new building to see the work for themselves. During induction day on 7th July 2016, year 6 students will get a tour of the building to help familiarise themselves with the layout for September.

I am sure you are aware that the oldest part of our site, located on the corner of North Street, has been sold. The new owners, Copsewood Educational Trust, who are just beginning to prepare the site for the next stage of its long history, hope to move in fully over the next couple of months. We at TQEA, wish them all the best in their new home.

Our Academy is growing. At present, we have students on the waiting list for September 2016 and are regularly receiving requests for students to join mid-year. If you are interested in joining us at this exciting time and would like to visit, please give us a call.

What is said 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:

TQEA intends to join forces with ATT (Academy Transformation Trust), replacing Erudition Schools Trust as our Academy sponsor. Together we aim to ensure that all students realise their full potential, whilst 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.

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

Schoolwear Centre website

The Schoolwear Centre has a new website for ordering uniforms.

1. The layout is similar, you can now use Paypal, the site will have the latest security features, will be responsive and work better on mobile phones, tablets and unusual sized computer screens.
2. Parents who are registered on the old site will unfortunately need to re-register.
3. Parents can access the new site using the web address **<https://www.schoolwearsolutions.com>**

Schoolwear Centre, 1-3 Abbeygate, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, CV11 4EH
Telephone: 02476 341682 Email: nuneatonschoolwearcentre@gmail.com

SEN News

Autism assembly

On Monday 18th April Sam Ramsey from the Curly Hair Project came to do an assembly about autism. She spoke to all of years 7 and 8 and explained to them the difficulties and stresses that are experienced by people with autism on an everyday basis. An example of such difficulty could be when the fire alarm goes off – this would be very stressful for someone with autism because it's very loud and frightening, it's also an unexpected change in their routine. People with autism might also think it's a real fire and not just a drill. Another daily struggle would be in the school canteen; this would be over stimulating and extremely stressful because people with autism often have a heightened sensory awareness so they can't block out background noise and can be very sensitive to smells.

Sam also explained that people with autism often struggle to make conversation and create friendships with neuro-typicals (people without autism), even after a long period of time.

The Curly Hair Project was founded in 2013 and grew from a Facebook page to 18 books by Professor Attwood. Alis Rowe, the founder of this project, IS the girl with the curly hair! All of these situations reflect her own experiences.

Over 1 in 100 people in the UK have a diagnosis of autism, although boys are more likely to be diagnosed than girls. At The Queen Elizabeth Academy, we have both girls and boys who are diagnosed with autism who, although they experience these and many other



struggles, are making excellent progress and achieving their goals.

If you want to find out more about autism you can visit the National Autistic Society's webpage <http://www.autism.org.uk/> or speak to the SENCo in school, Miss Burns.

Written By **Eleanor Sleat**, Year 9

Coffee morning

Learning Support coffee morning was well attended again on 5th May. It's a great opportunity for parents of SEN pupils to meet up, have a coffee and piece of cake, as well as to support each other. Miss Burns (SENCo) is available to discuss individual pupils in terms of concerns, achievements or progress. At the request of regulars, we will be considering increasing the frequency of coffee mornings from once a term to once a half term when we're in the new building!





The Queen Elizabeth Academy

Change of Academy Sponsor Consultation Events

The Queen Elizabeth Academy welcomes all parents and community members to visit the school for a consultation meeting with the proposed sponsor Academy Transformation Trust.



**The Queen Elizabeth
Academy**

To find out more
please visit us on:

**Wednesday 8 June
2016**

Meetings will take place
at 3:30pm and 5:30pm

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

www.tqea.org.uk

**You will be able to
find out more about:**

- > the proposed sponsor Academy Transformation Trust
- > academies
- > why this is being considered and what the benefits would be
- > how it affects your family and the community

Improving Education **Together.**

 academytransformationtrust.co.uk

 @AcademyTrust

CAREERS UPDATE

On Friday 29th of April six of our year 10 girls took the opportunity to visit George Eliot hospital in Nuneaton to gain an insight into careers in clinical roles in the NHS. The girls had eagerly expressed their interest in attending the trip and were very enthusiastic about the opportunity. Throughout the day the students participated in a series of workshops focused on nursing, radiology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, theatre practitioner and health care assistance. The activities were very engaging and the girls got involved and enjoyed participating in them. We hope that this will give them a good insight into potential career paths in their future.

Mr Webb



Twitter revision session

In preparation for their exams, GCSE PE students took to Twitter to aid their revision. Pupils participated in a live Twitter revision session between 7pm and 8pm where they responded to exam style questions. Whilst pupils were able to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding, they were also able to receive feedback to enable them to improve further in their forthcoming final exam.

Dan James @the1danjames · 20h
Weight bearing activities such as walking or running which increases bone density reducing chance of osteoporosis.

TGEA GCSE PE @TGEA_GCSEPE
Apart from diet, how else can a person increase their bone strength.

TGEA GCSE PE @TGEA_GCSEPE
Identify 3 fitness tests of Cardiovascular Fitness.
11:05 a.m. · 29 Apr 2016

Reply to @TGEA_GCSEPE

Henry @Henry2016 · 22h
@TGEA_GCSEPE Multi stage fitness test, 12 min Cooper run and Harvard step

TGEA GCSE PE @TGEA_GCSEPE
Identify a risk of injury in rugby and describe how it could be reduced.
11:05 a.m. · 29 Apr 2016

Reply to @TGEA_GCSEPE

Kaitian Hughes @Kaitian_Hughes · 20h
@TGEA_GCSEPE Fracture a bone if the ball hits your face. To prevent this, players could wear a gum shield.

TGEA GCSE PE @TGEA_GCSEPE · 20h
@Kaitian_Hughes Good! Remember to explain how this would work (gum shield absorbs the impact on teeth)

Kaitian Hughes @Kaitian_Hughes · 20h
@TGEA_GCSEPE I don't actually know that!

TGEA GCSE PE @TGEA_GCSEPE · 20h
@Kaitian_Hughes Good! Remember to explain how this would work (gum shield absorbs the impact on teeth)

Kaitian Hughes @Kaitian_Hughes · 20h
@TGEA_GCSEPE Good! Remember to explain how this would work (gum shield absorbs the impact on teeth)

TGEA GCSE PE @TGEA_GCSEPE · 20h
@Kaitian_Hughes Good! Remember to explain how this would work (gum shield absorbs the impact on teeth)

TGEA GCSE PE @TGEA_GCSEPE
If your resting heart rate decreases during a six week training programme, what does this suggest?
11:40 a.m. · 29 Apr 2016

Reply to @TGEA_GCSEPE

Kaitian Hughes @Kaitian_Hughes · 21h
@TGEA_GCSEPE A decrease in resting heart rate during a six week training programme would mean an increase in cardiovascular fitness.

TGEA GCSE PE @TGEA_GCSEPE · 20h
@Kaitian_Hughes a superb answer

Chio @HargraveChio · 22h
@TGEA_GCSEPE your cardiovascular fitness has improved

TGEA GCSE PE @TGEA_GCSEPE · 22h
@HargraveChio

Meg @MerlowMeg1 · 22h
@TGEA_GCSEPE that your cardiovascular fitness is improving

TGEA GCSE PE @TGEA_GCSEPE · 22h
@MerlowMeg1

Astronomy

Introduced this year, GCSE Astronomy is taught after school to a group of year 9s interested in the Universe and eager to explore further opportunities in STEM subjects. As part of this course, the GCSE group, joined by a group of year 8 students picked for their enthusiasm and effort in science, recently went to the National Space Centre in Leicester for a masterclass in Astronomy.

To support the observations of the local Galaxy we have been completing from the school field the focus of the day was the Solar System and the exploration of the Cosmos. On arrival, the students were thrown into the deep end with difficult calculations and concepts but impressed our hosts with answers usually only reached by

much older students. This led into an array of activities from traveling on a hovercraft to creating combustion rockets.

The day included a trip to the world famous Sir Patrick Moore Planetarium taking the group back to the Big Bang to watch the Universe grow and develop, taking us all the way through to the evolution of humans. The show followed the creation of all the atoms in our bodies, from the cores of stars where they were created. We were then given time to explore the Centre and all the exhibits they have.

At the end of the day we continued with the challenges from the Centre, making a protective outer layer for a rocket ship and an accurate model of a comet with dry ice. Several times throughout the day the Centre staff commented on how impressive the group was and that our astronomers were a credit to themselves and to QE.



Big Bang Fair

On Thursday 17th March 2016, all Year 7 students attended the Big Bang Fair 2016, held at the NEC in Birmingham. Students were able to take part in a number of hands-on activities and learnt about how STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) affected their everyday life, and will affect their lives in the future.

The aim of taking students to the Big Bang Fair was to show them the exciting and rewarding opportunities in STEM related careers, with the right experience and qualifications. Subjects covered at the fair included virtual reality, medicine, marine biology, film and TV, and space exploration; along with a range of other topics.

The students enjoyed the day and were actively engaged in the trip. Students represented the school in a very positive manner and were a credit to the staff who accompanied them, and to the school.





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.

Rocket Science - all systems grow as pupils plant seeds from space!

Pupils from TQEA Gardening Club are boldly growing where no one has grown before in a special science experiment organised by the RHS and the UK Space Agency. Space biologists are on a special mission!

Last September two kilograms of rocket seeds were flown to the International Space station on Soyuz 44S where they spent several months in microgravity before returning to Earth.

This is now a nationwide science experiment designed to enable pupils think more about how we could preserve human life on another planet in the future and what astronauts need to survive long term missions in space including the difficulties with growing fresh food in challenging climates.

The school has received a packet of 100 seeds from space and another packet of 100 seeds which has not been in space but

remained on earth. We will not know which is which until all the results are collated by the RHS and careful analysis has taken place. The seeds are all carefully planted and pupils are taking care and collecting data scientifically.



STUDENTS UP AND ABOUT

Staff and students enjoy getting up and about to reinforce the learning they are doing, here are some examples from the last couple of months: -

Mr Grainger took his year 7 English students out to develop short improvisations on the relationship between Bruno and his father....

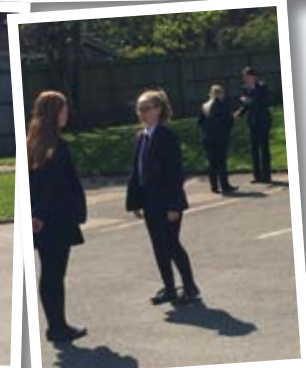
Year 7 English students completed presentations on different themes for World War 2, then shared their findings with the rest of the group.

911 English went out, students had to find something or take a picture of an item that they could link to Lady Macbeth. They then had to find quotes to prove the link.

914 English enjoyed the sun too recently, looking at how punctuation affects the pace of a poem by marching across the yard and freezing at the punctuation. They also did a relay race in class to revise key terms.

Miss Burns took year 9 Historians outside to soak up the sun and revise the topic of International Relations post WW1 for their exam. Pupils worked in pairs and used string to explain the links between the key points on paper on the floor.

In the middle of their exams week, 914 students were set the task of researching Of Mice and Men for their new topic. They were given key questions, a computer and resources and were asked to work as a team to produce something that they could teach Mrs Clare in their next lesson. Brilliant work supported by Mrs Smith and Mrs Todd.



China Trip

Continuing our cultural exchange programme, Mr Kinvig, Miss Elliott and 15 students visited Ruyuan Middle School in China, our exchange partner for 8 years. In conjunction with this exchange programme, we also created a further link with ELCHK Yuen Long Lutheran a secondary school in Hong Kong. Here is their report: -

After a long journey we arrived in the early hours in Guangzhou, after a good night's sleep, we were treated to a traditional Chinese breakfast - pancakes, dumplings and noodles! Our first visit of the trip took us to Chen Clan temple and the local park in Guangzhou. Here we were shown traditional buildings, gardens and art.

We then travelled to Ruyuan by bus where we were introduced to teachers from Ruyuan Middle School and students and teachers from Hong Kong. We were made to feel very welcome and our students were treated like celebrities, having photos, people asking them to speak English and lots of present giving. After settling into the hotel, we met the students and teachers for a large traditional Chinese meal included pork, beef, bamboo, donkey (yes I know what you're thinking), plenty of fresh

vegetables, rice and noodles. This was a learning curve for many of us, as we had to get to grips with chop sticks and the variety of food.

Over the first few days, we spent time in the school; our TQEA students were each linked with a Chinese and Hong Kong student, and were encouraged to use English skills to communicate with each other. However, I know some of our students learnt some handy phases to get by.

School life is very different to the UK, the students have longer days, larger classes, and a strict regime of work and subjects. Did you know they don't have detentions, any behaviour or lack of homework is dealt with by having to clean around school, using dust pan and brushes, inside and on the grounds of the school! During the day they have an extended dinner time and then at 5.30pm leave to go back home. Our students went with Chinese students and had meals with host families.

Also something else most people don't know is that all students have to take part in physical activities and when students are ready to progress to their high school (into year 10), they must pass a running test. So after school, we witnessed all students completing Kung Fu and running activities for half an hour!

We were able to visit a number of amazing places; Yumen temple to visit the monks and learn about their





religion. We then moved on to our big challenge, Yumen mountain. Here we had to climb a steep 1638 steps to get to the temple at the top. This was hard going, many of the students did extremely well and some made it to the top!! We took a scenic walk down past waterfalls and through the mountain range.

We also had a chance to experience the Yao culture; these are the original mountain people, in the area of Ruyuan. Here we were shown around museums, watched and joined in with traditional dance and games and were treated to a traditional meal with food caught, grown and made by the people in the town. In one of the pictures, you can see two men creating sticky rice by punching the rice and water with wooden paddles.

Towards the end of our trip, we had an exciting opportunity, travelling towards Hong Kong via bullet train, it was a very fast and smooth journey. After getting over the border, we arrived at the ELCHK Yuen Long Lutheran Secondary School in Hong Kong. After having lunch we played games and had a tour around their school, a very different one to TQEA and Ruyuan Middle School. Again, students have a long day, and the expectations are very high; so much so that the students take the majority of their exams in English and not Cantonese, their first language. Imagine taking all your exams in another language.

After spending time in school, we visited Hong Kong harbour, a very popular tourism spot. The weather was very much like the UK and it was a great place to see and experience. Hong Kong is very multi-cultural and has many aspects similar to England. They drive on the same side of the road and have many English style buildings amongst the high rise structures from when Hong Kong was part of the British empire.

We also managed to visit "the Peak; this is the high ground above Hong Kong providing great views of the harbour and city. In the afternoon we then travelled to Stanley, a smaller part of Hong Kong, where we explored the markets and small harbour town.

It was a fantastic experience which we would not have had, even if we went to China on holiday. We were lucky enough to have an insight into their lives, homes, families and culture. If you have the opportunity to join in one of the TQEA exchanges either hosting or visiting, please get involved; I have learnt so much from the visit, and I'm the teacher!

Thanks for reading.

Miss Elliott

Easter Celebrations

College Leaders rewarded pupils with an Easter party at the end of last term. Pupils were invited if they had 100% attendance, no late marks and no behaviour points. Pupils were treated to hot dogs, chips and sandwiches and were given the chance to win chocolate Easter eggs in a Freestanding Egg Tower task. Pupils said they had an 'eggcellent' time!



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.



The Queen Elizabeth
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