

JULY 2016 EDITION

QUEEN ELIZABETH NEWS



The Queen Elizabeth
Academy



Principal's Welcome

The Queen Elizabeth Academy joins Academy Transformation Trust

The Queen Elizabeth Academy (TQEA) is now the latest school to join the Academy Transformation Trust (ATT). We transferred to ATT from our previous sponsor on 1 July 2016 following a successful consultation period.

Ian Cleland, CEO of ATT, said: *"I would like to welcome The Queen Elizabeth Academy to the ATT family. We have been working closely with Dan and his staff for some time and we look forward to the academy joining ATT and to the opening of their brand new building in September. Our mission and values are closely linked and we are confident that we will be able to support Dan, his staff and, most importantly, the pupils to be the best that they can be. We passionately*

believe that every child deserves a first class education and the very best chance in life and we will work together with Dan and everyone at The Queen Elizabeth Academy to make this a reality for their pupils."

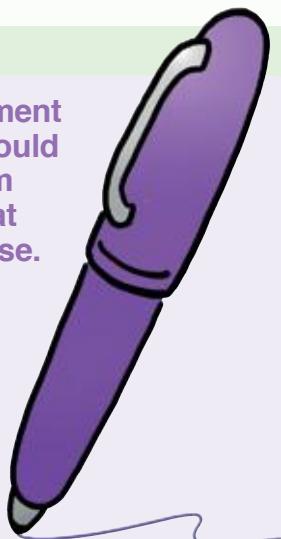
Jackie Kay, our Chair of Governors, is excited by the opportunities that lie ahead and believes that ATT will support the continued improvement of the school following an already successful year. I will remain Principal of the academy and feel very positive about this new start for TQEA. We are looking forward to being a part of the ATT and to working together with other academies within The Trust. We have worked closely with ATT throughout the transfer process and are now keen to start our journey together.

Our ongoing aim is to support all of our students to realise their full potential and to equip 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. Teamwork is at the heart of everything we do and by working together with ATT we aim to secure a successful future for all of our pupils. I would like to thank our staff, parents, pupils, governors and the local community for all of their continued support.

Dan Watts
Principal

As you stock up on new equipment over the summer holidays, it would be really useful if you could arm your child with a purple pen that they can keep in their pencil case. Next year, we will be using purple pens to self-assess our work and peer mark in order to develop learning and reflection further.

Many thanks in advance for your support.



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: -

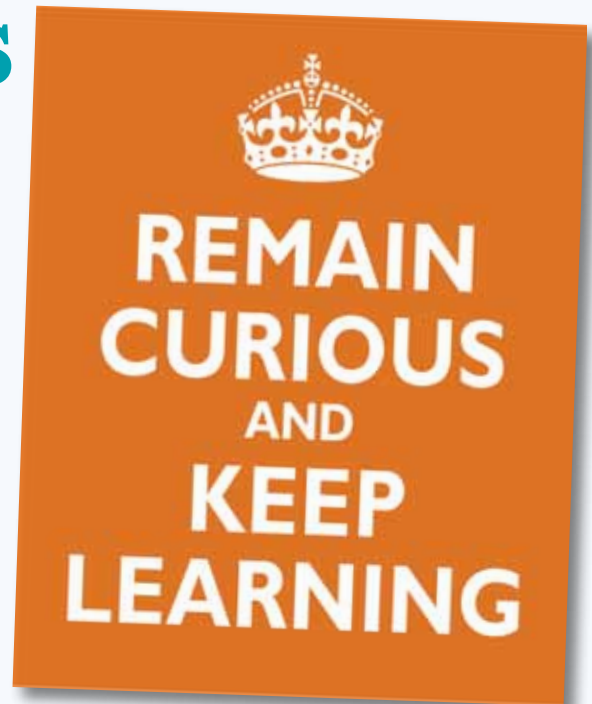
- Write a note (on paper or in the student's planner)
- Send in a copy of the appointment letter/card or
- Inform attendance of an upcoming appointment.

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.

Continuous Professional Development for TQEA Staff Learners

Our recent staff training day saw us really learning on the job as teaching staff visited 26 different schools in several counties to share good practice and learn from what others are doing. Our teachers are always keen to stay at the forefront of education and continue to strive for excellence in the classroom. We visited a range of different schools in Warwickshire, Coventry, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and even London, finding out about many strategies and ideas to improve learning at TQEA. Some staff even taught lessons in other schools. Focuses for the day included visiting primaries to ensure that we challenge our Y7 starters when they arrive with us, visiting Universities to consider how we challenge our more able and sharing discussions with colleagues about the huge changes in education that we are all embracing.

To develop ourselves further in terms of assisting learners at TQEA in reading and writing skills, Teaching Assistants took part in a bespoke session on this day aimed at just that. An external trainer visited the school and trained TAs in an active and enjoyable day enhancing their knowledge and skills in improving Literacy at TQEA.



Overall, the day was extremely useful and will hugely benefit the education of your children in the future as we implement what we have learnt.

Music concert

Mr Maskalick and some of our musical students performed in a concert at lunchtime in the sunshine at the end of June. They did a fantastic job and the watching staff and students thoroughly enjoyed the show. A big well done to everyone that took part.



YEAR 10 YOUNG ACHIEVERS CONFERENCE 2016

On the 21st June 2016, 7 members of year 10 were invited to attend an event for high achieving students at Medicity in Nottingham. Following a Keynote presentation by Dr Glenn Croker (MBE, CEO BioCity) students were given the task of researching and developing a new drinks product for the company Snap Nutrition.

Our seven students quickly got to work and appointed Matthew Wyant as project manager. The rest of the team were split and given roles in production, design, marketing, nutrition and advertising. All the students worked fantastically hard both as individuals and as a team and created a great product produced by Skye Wittey.

The pitch from Oliver Bursnell and Matthew Wyant was judged to be one of the best from all of the attendees, with the student's video advertisement, produced by Liam Sargent and Harlon Brandrick starring Becky Wardle and Tudor Smaranda being judged as the best overall advert.

The whole day was based around building student's aspirations and making them aware of what they are capable of. Having come out on top and achieving success on the day, it was clear that students from TQEA are capable of anything and are destined for some great things in the future.

A fantastic day, well done to all those involved.

Miss Hill



ROMANIAN GROUP VISIT

On the 13th of June we welcomed a group of 12 Romanian pupils and 2 teachers from 'Sf Constantin si Elena' school in Bucharest. The Romanian group was hosted by families of pupils in our school and together we had fun visiting cultural places in Warwickshire such as Shakespeare's house in Stratford-upon-Avon, The Transport Museum, Coventry Cathedral and then relaxed at Drayton Manor Park.

These school exchanges are very important to us as a school as it gives us the opportunity to share our lifestyles with people from a different country. Last June, we visited the Romanian school and we were made very welcome and hosted by pupils in their school - so by now, we know each other very well! We hope that a group of our pupils will go to Bucharest next June as a return visit staying with pupils we hosted this year. Again I would like to thank the families and pupils who hosted the Romanian pupils - without your help and co-operation, these visits would not be able to take place! We had a lot of fun together!

Mrs C Smith



Farewell Year 11

Last day at TQEA and TQEA Prom 2016

Our Year 11 students celebrated together for the final time on Friday 24 June 2016.

Pupils congregated in the quad to sign each other's shirts with their messages of best wishes for the future before heading into the hall for a buffet. After having a chuckle at their year 7 photos, and taking part in a teacher quiz, pupils were dismissed from the Lower School Hall for the final time following words from their Head Boy and Girl, their College Leaders and their Principal.

Then on the evening of the 29th June 2016, a night most of Year 11 thought would never come, after anticipating the event for the whole year, it was time for the Year 11 Leaver's Prom!

Dapper suits, sophisticated gowns, stretch limos, and even a couple of supercars!!

The traditional trappings expected by students on their prom nights were all to be seen. The terrible weather of the day even dried up just as all the students arrived for their event of the year.

The Prom took place at Oakridge Golf Club and was attended by students who were all 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. The evening finished with students releasing balloons, filled with messages into the sky.

At the end of the evening the Prom King and Queen were announced, this year the winners were Ben Sansome and Olivia Arnold.

From us all at TQEA, best wishes to the #TQEAClassOf2016





Aviva Women's Cycling Tour

On the 16th of June we had a unique opportunity to experience a professional sporting event passing our school.

The Aviva Women's British Cycling Tour, is part of the UCI Women's World Tour, hosting some of the best female cyclists from around the world. This tour took place over five days, with the second stage of the event starting in Atherstone and finishing in Stratford-upon-Avon. All students got to experience the atmosphere and see the professional cyclists at the start of their gruelling 91 mile stage.

A number of members from the TQEA Girls Sport's Council, a new group set up to be a voice for girls promoting sport, attended the event with staff at the official start line in the town square. Here they got to experience a variety of activities; they visited stalls including Get Cycling Roadshow, Unicycle and Circus Skills Workshop, Bike Safe Roadshow, BMX display and they also got to see the team introductions.

There was a great atmosphere and it was a brilliant opportunity to celebrate some aspects of our British Values such as mutual respect of others, individual liberty and the laws linked to the event. It was also a celebration of female sporting success and promoting female role models in sport. It really prompted our female students at TQEA to ask questions about the event and the background of the cyclists which really deepened their understanding of the size and importance of this event within the world of cycling.

We even managed to get a selfie with Lizzie Armistead, the eventual winner of the tour and one of Britain's top female cyclists, which the girls were very proud of! This was a great start to an enrichment day encompassing British Values at TQEA, through Sport, IT, Drama, Food Technology and Art.

Miss Elliott



CRICKET

On Friday some pupils from TQEA went on a trip to watch England v Sri Lanka at Edgbaston in the One Day Series.

Before the game started I and a few of the others had a wander around the ground and couldn't believe how many people were in fancy dress. There were groups dressed as bananas, wrestlers and the army; they all seemed to be having a good time so we had our picture taken with them! We also managed to have our picture taken with former England International Jonathan Trott.

So it was Sri Lanka who batted first and set England a target of 255. While the Sri Lankans were batting we blew up our wickets and were clanging them together as the atmosphere grew. When England came out to bat things began to get very exciting as England started to dominate, the atmosphere was getting nosier and whenever England hit a boundary, the music blared out, everybody started singing and it felt like we were at a football match not a cricket match.

By now we knew something special was happening because Alex Hales and Jason Roy were smashing it to all parts of the ground. They ended up setting a record stand of 256 (Alex Hales 133 not out & Jason Roy 112 not out) and England won by 10 wickets with 15 overs to spare. On the way back the bus journey was even louder than the game as everybody was singing all the way home. All in all it was one of the best days of my life and a memory I will never forget!

Ewan Williams - Year 7



Inter Tutor Football

During the Spring Term 2016, a TQEA Inter-Tutor Football 5-a-side competition was launched.

Tutor groups from the Adders and the Bears Colleges were invited to enter a team of pupils from Years 7 to 10, to pit their skills against other tutor groups. Tutor groups were placed into one of 6 groups, with the top 8 teams going through to the knock out stages. The pupils involved competed in the highest spirit with superb sportsmanship being shown throughout.

The final was won by form NMP-B, who defeated DB-A in a thrilling contest which was won 4-1



French Project Exchange: TQEA and College de Villeneuve

Our school has taken part in a funded project by Lefevre Trust for which we researched and produced articles and a play on children's lives in Victorian times/Industrial Revolution compared to children's lives nowadays in Europe and in countries where children still have to work to support their families and themselves. It has been a successful exchange of pupils, experiences and we have also learnt a lot about our own lives, teaching styles and learning styles in the process. Whilst in England, we visited the Black Country Museum and the National Museum of Childhood where pupils and teachers took part in a Victorian lesson where the Victorian style teacher was very strict making our pupils aware of how good their own school life is!

I would like to thank all the families who hosted the French pupils for their hospitality and generosity. We need more parents to be part of school exchanges as this has a massive impact on our children's discovery of the wider world and helps them understand what being a global citizen means.

Mrs C Smith - Head of MFL Department and International Co-ordinator



A Reminder of our Uniform Policy

All Students

- School Blazer (To be worn at all times unless directed by a member of staff. No item worn between shirt and blazer).
- School tie. Worn at all times appropriately attached to the top button of the shirt.
- Plain white long sleeve shirt. (Tucked in and fully buttoned at all times)
- Black socks or tights (black or flesh).
- Plain all black sturdy shoes (No logo). No plimsolls, trainers, canvas or coloured trim or soles. Shoes should be appropriate for all weathers. Black laces only.
- Plain, full length, black trousers (no jeans, corduroy, combat, chinos, Lycra, denim trousers or tracksuit bottoms). Girls may choose instead plain, black skirt no shorter than 5cm above the knee (no body-con).
- A waterproof coat for winter use is strongly recommended.

PE Kit

- Shorts with TQEA logo. Girls may choose TQEA logo skirt.
- Navy blue sports polo with TQEA logo (fitted option for girls if desired).
- Plain navy blue football socks.
- Blue tracksuit bottoms with TQEA logo.
- Fleece lined outdoor ¼ zip TQEA top.
- Trainers (Not fashion or canvas).

Hair

Hair should be one natural colour with no patterns or shapes cut into it. No shaved / No1 heads either all over or part. We find that hair colours / cuts that do not conform to our requirements distract from learning.

General

- No excessively wide or coloured belts
- No facial / cartilage / body piercing to be worn for school. (refer to Uniform Policy – have piercings of this nature done in Summer holiday to allow for healing). One single pair of stud earrings / one discreet ring / one small discreet necklace, bracelet and watch. All jewellery must be removed for PE lessons.
- Chewing gum, canned or energy drinks are not allowed in school.
- Boys to be clean shaven at all times.
- No nail varnish.
- Discrete small amount of make up in years 9-11 only.
- No headwear, hats or caps to be worn on school site.

All parents should ensure the school uniform policy is followed fully by their son or daughter.

With regards to shoes and anticipating that many students will return to school, with new shoes in September, please remember that, as stated above, all shoes must be completely black leather shoes, with no obvious logos or air bubbles.



Author Visit at Atherstone Library

Our 712 English class, along with teacher Mr Grainger and Librarian Mrs Berrow, visited Atherstone Library to meet the children's author Ben Davis. Ben read from his latest novel about an unlikely super hero. He then set the class the task of identifying the features of a superhero and creating one of their own. They all worked together in groups and presented their ideas to Ben and the rest of the class. A fantastic and enjoyable literacy time was had by all.



Dates for
your diary

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

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>



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