

OCTObEr 2016 EDiTioN

QUEEN ELIZABETH NEWS



The Queen Elizabeth
Academy



Principal's Welcome

i would like to extend to you, a warm welcome from The Queen Elizabeth Academy. We are an innovative and forward-thinking academy in Atherstone, Warwickshire; providing high quality education for the young people in the local area and further afield.

This summer, our school achieved its 'BEST EVER' set of examination results and we are extremely proud of our students' achievements. At this point, I would like to thank our dedicated and professional staff for their hard work in supporting the students' success. In addition, I would like to thank our parents and guardians who supported both the school and the students in achieving these very impressive results.

A full break down of this year's results can be seen on our website at: www.tqea.org.uk

The key performance measures demonstrate how well we did last year:

- 5A* - C including English and Maths results were, 66%. This is a 25% increase on the previous year and is above national Average.
- Progress 8 figures show that we are well above the National Average and that our students do better than most given the same starting point.
- English, 75% A* - C which is well above national Average.
- Maths 75% A* - C which is well above national Average.
- in addition, the following subjects also achieved above national Average and above 70% A* - C; Art, biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, iCT ECDL, Physical Education, Physics and Science bTEC.

The Queen Elizabeth Academy is committed to:

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

We are extremely proud of the partnership with our sponsor, Academy Transformation Trust, who will be assisting us on our journey towards becoming an "Outstanding" school in the near future.

Dan Watts
Principal

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.

Sports Awards July 2016

The annual Sports Award hosted by the PE department was held for the fifth successive year to celebrate the achievements of individuals and teams during the last academic year.

Vicky Macqueen, a former England Rugby international who had just been recognised by Her Majesty The Queen in her 90th birthday honours list for her services to women's and youth sport and charity work, joined staff, students and their families as our guest speaker to give a real insight into the personal challenges and commitment to professional sport.

Over 50 awards were given out to over 70 students, with the prestige awards going to the following:

Year 7 Sportswoman of the Year	Year 7 Sportsman of the Year
Lucy Martin	Ewan Williams
Year 8 Sportswoman of the Year	Year 8 Sportsman of the Year
Sian Lewis	Liam Carty
Year 9 Sportswoman of the Year	Year 9 Sportsman of the Year
Yasmine Klucis	Josh Stokes
Year 10 Sportswoman of the Year	Year 10 Sportsman of the Year
Amelia Loveridge	Matthew Wyant
Female Team of the Year	Male Team of the Year
Year 10 rounders Team	Year 10 Football Team
Key Stage 3 Female Leader of the Year	Key Stage 3 Male Leader of the Year
ruby Morris	Jack Field
Key Stage 4 Female Leader of the Year	Key Stage 4 Male Leader of the Year
Morgan-Leigh Barry	reise Smith
Female Sporting Excellence Award	Male Sporting Excellence Award
Erin Cameron	George bance

The PE department would like to thank all students and their families for attending the awards ceremony, as well as the Year 10 dance troupe for their performance at the beginning of the evening.



Geography Field Trip

Over two days in July, our Year 11 students set their alarm clocks early, dug out their wellies and travelled to Carding Mill Valley in Shropshire located on the Welsh border.

The students first went to the Field Studies Centre, where they spent an hour in the classroom researching the theory behind their Controlled Assessment title. After this, they were kitted out with waterproofs and set off to the river.

Throughout the day, the students had to measure a range of variables including the width and depth of a river, the river's velocity and identify how the bed load had changed. All of our students worked really well together and collected some excellent data to be used for their Controlled Assessments.



The Botanical Gardens

Six of our students recently visited The Botanical Gardens in Birmingham to find out about a project to design a garden; they were all extremely well behaved, enjoyed the tour, listened to all of the information and history of the plants kept there and took pictures to input into their project. All of the students represented TQEA very well.

Since then, back at school, they have been working with both the iT and Art departments to structure their project plans and to produce digital and 3D models of their garden vision as it takes shape.

Our team has had Craig Leddington, assigned to their group as the mentor for the rHS challenge, he is a senior groundsperson at Webb's Garden Centre in Wychbold. Craig started there 15 years ago for weekend work, got a chance to move to the ground's team for summer help and was offered a job when he was finishing university, so took it whilst deciding what to do, and that was 10 years ago! Wychbold is a 50 acre site, where Craig's main duties include planning and maintaining the bedding displays along with the general gardening duties in the upkeep of 5 acres of gardens, play area, car park and the grass entrance areas. This means lots of watering, hedge cutting, mowing, pruning and weeding!

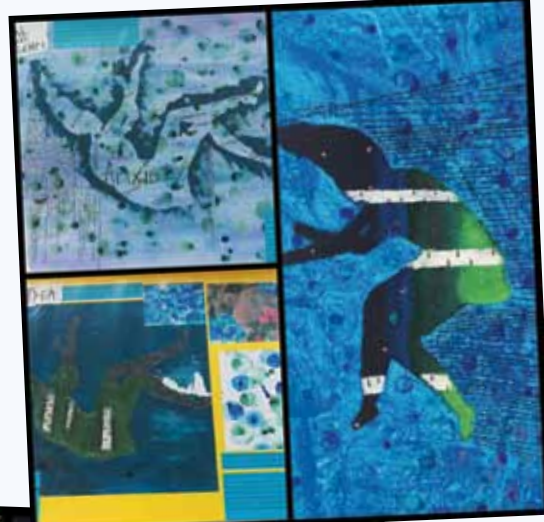
Together with Craig and our gardening club leaders Mrs Hale and Mrs Knight, the team are hoping to design a prize winning garden planned and modelled to perfection over the next few weeks.



ART

These images are examples of the GCSE work that was produced by two of our recent leavers. They show examples of their preparatory studies and the final outcomes produced. The year group were extremely successful with 90% of pupils achieving their target and an overall pass rate of 10% A* - A and 88% A* - C.

The success of the last year group has really inspired our current GCSE groups to up their game and the level of work being produced is getting better and better. The media that is being explored is outstanding and their confidence levels are developing as they practise. We look forward to the new building where the state of the art facilities and the magnificent view from the art room balcony will inspire artists for years to come.



Requests for Holidays in Term Time

The recent and highly publicised case of *isle of Wight v Platt* has not changed the law in relation to authorising a Leave of Absence (LoA). This is still a matter for the school's discretion, and **LoA can still only be authorised where there are deemed to be exceptional circumstances relating to that application.**

The school will refer all unauthorised absences to the ACE service at the Local Authority and they, not the school, will then make a decision on whether a Fixed Penalty is to be issued.

Please be aware that the Local Authority **ARE** still issuing Fixed Penalty notices of £60 per parent, per child. There have been two issued already this academic year. Please also be aware that all monies claimed by the local authority are retained by them.

if you have any questions about Leave of Absence please contact our Student Support Manager, Angela Parsons.

PCSO

Safer Schools PCSO Jess Eales 6304

Jess is our on site PCSO, she is regularly in school engaging with pupils as well as out in the local community. Jess has been with us since May and some of you may have already met her. Jess is happy for any queries to be sent to her work email address which is:

Jessica.Eales@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

Jess is actively encouraging children and parents to report out of school incidents (such as bullying over social media, or incidents that may happen in the local park) on the non-emergency police number 101 to create an official log. However in an emergency please continue to dial 999.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME 2016-17

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Education (Pupil registration) (England) (Amendment) regulations 2013, govern all requests for leave within term-time. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law.

The amended regulations removed references to 'holiday' and 'extended leave', as well as the statutory threshold of 10 school days. It is now clear that 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.

The Government has not defined 'exceptional circumstances' as referred to in the 2013 regulations. 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. 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 Attendance, Compliance and Enforcement Service 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.

Warwickshire Secondary School pupils recorded 15,291 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Academic year 2014/15. This is a decrease of 7,629 on previous years. This is a positive outcome as it means that 3,814 days of education was achieved.

We greatly appreciate parental support to reduce the total amount of days lost due to holidays. We are committed to working in partnership with you to enable your child to reach their academic targets and to support their social development. For this to happen we need to keep individual attendance as high as possible - we all need to play our part.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority

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>

Results Day

Our outgoing Year 11 students gathered together in the school hall, bright and early, on the 25th August to wait for their exam results. After receiving their individual well-earned successes, all part of the best set of GCSE examination results the school has ever achieved, they celebrated with their friends and ice-creams. Well done to last year's students for all of their fantastic achievements.



Dates for
your diary

'Key Dates for 2016-17'
can be found on the
school website under
Parents/Term Dates.



The Queen Elizabeth
Academy

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

T: 01827 712477

E: info@tqea.org.uk

www.tqea.org.uk

