

DECEMBER 2016 EDITION

QUEEN ELIZABETH NEWS



The Queen Elizabeth
Academy



Principal's Welcome

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The end of this term marks our first seven weeks in the new building. As a school and a community, we have been looking forward to this for a long time. Our new facilities add to the high quality education provided to our students and will support our drive for continued improvement.

We have many things to celebrate as a school. 2016 saw our students achieve the best examination results in the school's history. The closure of the old school buildings gave students past and present a chance to say farewell whilst enjoying a look round our new home.

Whilst this term has been one full of change and development, the school remains 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
Principal

The first day in our new building

on Tuesday 1st November, at last, the time came for our students to enter their new school. Whilst, as with any new build, there are a few teething troubles and snags to work through, the space, light and facilities will be second to none and are an excellent environment for teaching and learning. The future of TQEA is bright.



TQEA Open Event

on the 5th November Carillion allowed us the day to welcome the public, including students, existing and old, to come and reminisce around the old building which is now being decommissioned (ownership of the old lower school passed to Carillion when we took ownership of our new school) and to take a tour of our new facilities.

It was fantastic to welcome so many members of our community into school and during the course of the morning we raised a magnificent £238.50 for Myton Hospice through the sale of teas, coffees and lots of the old assembly chairs; to those that wanted to keep their own piece of TQEA history. A wonderful occasion and fitting goodbye to our old premises.



THE BOTANICAL GARDENS UPDATE

The Six Garden-eers have made a super start to their Model Community Garden.

They have met twice a day, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays, for a number of weeks. Sketches have been drawn and developed to take account of all ideas contributed by everyone. Materials for different parts of the model have been provided by the Art department, Science and mentor Craig. Some cardboard and plastics have been brought from home by many enthusiasts. Different parts of the garden e.g. benches, the shelter, greenhouse, path and flower beds have been made by different members of the group. A quick six questionnaire given to people in the community, has helped with ideas and suggestions for the garden.

The Head of Science has allowed our team to use the glue guns after undertaking safety training. They have used Google Sketch-up to help plan, identify problems and to pull together suggestions. A walk-through of the virtual garden is available. They are now starting to assemble the model garden and have thought about finishing touches such as crops in pots, flower beds and trellis.



Attendance Competition – January to April

Travel home in Style!

This terms competition prize will see you travel in a stretched Hummer Limousine! There is music, disco lights, drinks and snacks for the ride. We will pick five winners who then get to **choose a friend** to travel with them.



To earn your place in the draw you will need **either 100% Attendance OR have the most improved attendance from this term.** More info to follow!

Police Cadet Careers Day

In October, 14 of our students in years 9-11 gave up their weekend to attend the Warwickshire Youth Police Academy Event. They learned about the range of issues that police officers have to deal with and were able to experience some eye catching events. Highlights in particular were the road traffic collision scenario where the fire service cut someone out of a car and a police helicopter landing on site. The students have all said they got a lot out of the weekend and many of them said the most useful part was being able to speak to current police officers about their experiences and how they became involved in the police force.

In addition two of our students attended a Police take over day, here is a report from Mya Specht.

on the day we experienced what it would be like to work in the area of investigation and crime solving. There were ten students in total and we had to investigate a murder, we all had different roles to play. We all looked at the case and then we split up into twos. Sophie and I had the job to investigate the murder (suspect). We also observed the other interviews of the family members and neighbours. We were told different skills on how to investigate murders and problems. I found it really interesting and helpful in guiding me to what I want to do in the future.



PCSO Update - Jess Eales 6304

over the last few weeks Atherstone Safer Neighbourhood Team have been made aware of pupils from TQEA using the bridges over the A5 in a dangerous manner which may amount to injury or harm to themselves and/or road users. The issue has been addressed in school and our teams have been actively out patrolling at the key times to educate those who may be involved.

Jessica.Eales@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk



REMEMBRANCE

On Sunday 13th November 2016 Atherstone Troop Army Cadet Force (ACF) took part in a remembrance Parade. All of Atherstone came out to show their respects. For the first part of the morning cadets, members of the Police and Fire service and the public joined together for a service in St. Mary's Church. Hymns were sung and prayers said and the last post was poignantly played followed by a two minute silence.

After the service all involved marched down to the cemetery where the war memorial stands. The Vicar led with a prayer and the last post was played again on the bugle and another two minutes silence took place. Members from the Police Department, Fire Service, brownies, Scouts, the public and a member from the ACF laid wreaths at the memorial. Several pupils from TQEA took part in this event: Eleanor Sleat (y10), Adam Naylor (y10), Tony Pearson (y9) and Maisie Ramsell (y10) who are all members of Atherstone Troop Army Cadet Force.

This year was the first year where the parade was silent and didn't contain a marching band; this is because it was the 100th anniversary of the battle of the Somme. Former cadet Michael Lever led the whole parade.

The ACF is a youth organisation for children aged 12 to 18 and uses military based activities to help discipline and entertain youths who would otherwise be playing on computers or getting into trouble! We meet on **Monday and Thursday between 7pm and 9.15pm.**

It's great fun and a chance to meet new friends whilst developing lifelong skills. We always welcome new cadets so if you would like more information you should search Army Cadet Force.

Report by Ellie Sleat



TQEA Rem

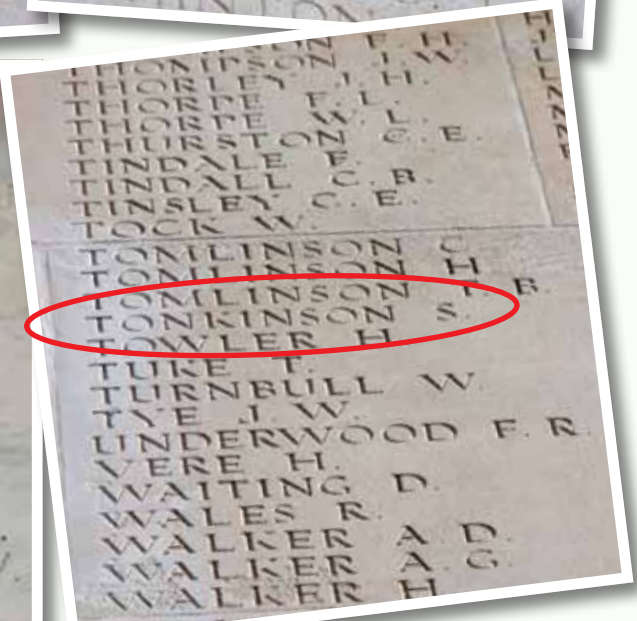
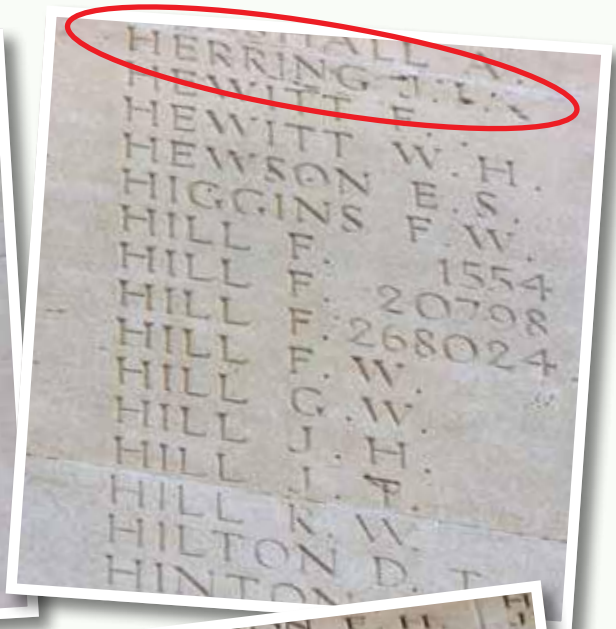
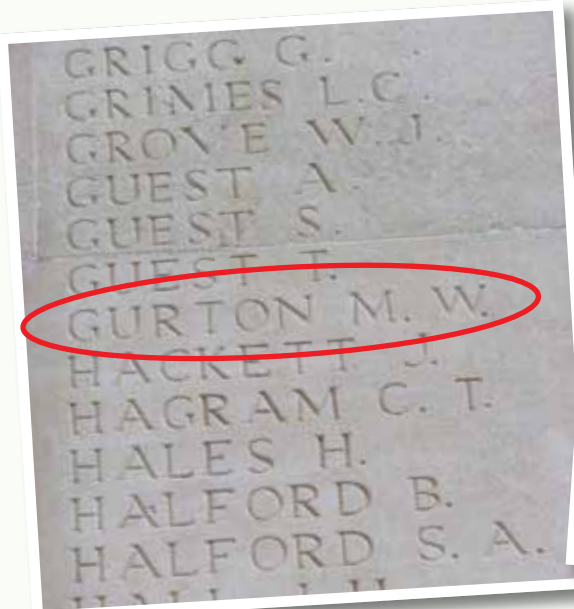
This year, once again, Mr Watts and I had the privilege of delivering the TQEA Remembrance Service to our students. It afforded staff and students the opportunity to reflect on those who gave their lives in the service of our country. The service began with Amy Farmer, Hannah Saunders, Indianna Lewis and Skye Wittey reading out the names of our 'Old Boys' who fell in the First and Second World Wars and then we held our two minutes silence.

It was appropriate that we fell silent at 11am to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice as this was the time and date in 1918 that the fighting of the First World War ended. Before the 1st World War we didn't have a remembrance Day and it was the loss of millions of lives and the damage through injury and loss to millions of others that meant people wanted to have a way to remember the sacrifice of a generation of Britons and today we remember not just those killed in the two World Wars, but also those killed in subsequent conflicts.

As we are in the centenary of the First World War I felt that that conflict has special significance so I wanted to talk about how it affected our school community a hundred years ago. It was in 1916 that the battle of the Somme took place which was one of the deadliest battles in human history with over a million men wounded or killed. It affected our community significantly as five of our 'Old Boys' were killed on the Somme. Their names are carved onto the Thiepval memorial in France. This memorial contains the names of 72,000 missing British and South African men who died on the Somme battlefields between 1915 and 1918 and who have no known grave. Those men being: Aubrey Bonfield (died 4th July), Stanley Tonkinson (died 14th July), Marcus Gurton (died 13th August), John Herring (died 3rd September) and Robert Mears (died 14th November). Last year myself and two students, Amy Farmer and Skye Wittey, had the very great honour of representing our school on a government funded First World War Centenary Tour where we walked in the same trenches as they lived and fought and we looked out over the landscape in which they died. We took a wreath and message from our school today and placed it at the Thiepval Memorial in remembrance of our 'Old Boys' of the Somme who fell.

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Memembrance Service



Above from the top:
Audrey Bonfield, Marcus Gurton,
John Herring, Robert Mears and
Stanley Tonkinson (no photo).

TQEA Remembrance Service

As part of the service I wanted to share some information about two of our past community who fell on the Somme, Robert Mears and Stanley Tonkinson.



Robert was the eldest son of an Atherstone doctor. He joined the army in June 1916 at 22 and was sent to France. Like many young men he had a promising career ahead of him. He had trained to be a banker and secured a job at the Midland bank in Nuneaton. He had just taken his final examination to become a full member of the Bankers Institute. It was when he was in France serving in the British Army that he heard that he had passed his final exam and that he had achieved one of

the highest marks in England so his dream of a promising career lay ahead of him when he returned. And, of course, that dream was never fulfilled as he was killed in action on 14th November in an attack on the German trenches.

The second of our old boys I want to tell you a little about is Stanley Tonkinson. He volunteered to join the army in July 1915. At that time he was only 16 years of age. He was sent to France. He was killed in action two weeks into the battle of the Somme on 14th July when he jumped into a German trench. He was 17 years old when he died. Stanley should never really have been there. By law you had to be 18 years old to join the army and soldiers could not be sent overseas to fight until they were 19 years old. We do not know Stanley's reasons for joining, they died with him, but we do know that many young men were keen to fight for their country out of a sense of duty.

We ended the service with a poem by Rupert Brooke read by George Andrews, Keelan Ford and Nicholas Shakespeare.

The Soldier, by Rupert Brooke

*If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.*

*And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.*

Mr Kinvig
(Head of History)



POETRY COMPETITION

recently lots of TQEA departments entered the English poetry competition. The winning class was **Mrs Jones'** Year 10 Science class, with **Miss Burns'** Year 10 History class in second place and **Mrs Patel's** rE class in third.

The individual student prize was very hard to award. All poems from English lessons are being entered into a national competition. The standard was very high, for example Emilia Reeve's (*right*).

The **individual whole school winner** for originality and creativity goes to **Tom Bond's** Computing Haiku (*below*). You'll need the following website to work out what it says:

<https://mothereff.in/binary-ascii>

It's me and my disability.

Eczema, allergies, asthma are all the things I hate,
That make me curl up and cry,
How it takes me to a depressing place,
With gallons of medication and name calling,
With these disabilities I'm drowning in disgust,
And how I walk to school with people looking,
It's like you're not there at all,
And when someone asks you,
Why are you red,
and why don't you eat that,
and why do you breath funny when you run,
They are all the things I hate and have to obey,
It's like a dagger in the stomach everyday,
It brings hatred and arguments,
And makes me heave,
But I need to believe,
That I'm me and I'm my own person,
With my disability.

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Excellent Home Learning

Year 9 have been working on a home learning project in English to support their understanding of the War with Troy.

Miss Burns has reported a very high standard of work presented by 914 who have had two weeks to complete the project. She was particularly pleased with some of the edible creations! Well-done to 914 for participating in this home learning project and for creating such unique pieces.



Year 11 After-school revision slots

So far, year 11 students have attended an amazing 2262 intervention sessions which is a real achievement and shows their commitment and hard work! our revision timetable is attached as a reminder of what sessions are on and when. If you haven't seen it yet check out our Year 11 video from success evening which can be found on the website.

Wk. 1 Mon	Wk. 1 Wed	Wk. 1 Thurs	Wk. 1 Fri
Art Drama Computing Child Dev.	English	Math (Foundation) Science (Higher)	Geography History RE Business

Wk. 2 Mon	Wk. 2 Wed	Wk. 2 Thurs	Wk. 2 Fri
Science	English	Math (Higher) Maths (Invite) Media	PE French Music Food

Bullying - **RIP**

Repeated. Intention. Power

Bullying causes suffering with the impact of in-school bullying being still evident in a person long after they leave school. Of a national estimate of **40%** of bullied individuals who don't report bullying: -

- **36%** don't want to be seen as a snitch
- **34%** fear the bullying will get worse
- **31%** feel they won't be taken seriously
- **29%** are too embarrassed

If students feel they have been a victim of bullying, they are not alone. Approximately **50%** of all young people perceive they have been bullied. This translates as: -

- **15** students in any class nationally has been bullied
- **7** students in any class have been bullied in the last year
- **3** students in any class is bullied at least once per week

Can we presume that **TQEA** is any different? We might be, we might not. How do we know if students are too scared to report incidents? What can we do to change this national culture?

We work hard to follow our policy which identifies bullying: A policy which protects victims: A policy which sanctions bullies but which also helps both victim and bully to recover and move on in a positive manner.

1 in 7 young people admit to bullying others on-line. If **TQEA** is typical of national trends, that means that 77 students in this school are capable of doing just that. Is bullying a hate crime? Is there a point at which bullying turns into a hate crime?

The students of **TQEA** need to recognise and address the potential of bullying behaviour which can be conducted by: -

- **Young Person to Young Person**
- **Adult to Young Person**
- **Young Person to Adult**
- **Adult to Adult**

A one off incident is a crime. Repeated incidents are Bullying

560 young voices are needed (that means every single student needs to speak up). As a result our current students have helped to rewrite the **TQEA anti-bully policy**. **We would also like parental feedback**. If you wish to contribute to the consultation please contact us to see a copy of the draft policy before Jan 15th 2017 (info@tqea.org.uk).



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).

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. 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>

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.

PARENT SUPPORT

TQEA is looking to gauge interest from parents/carers in support of a Parents and Teacher's Association for the school. A successful and supportive PTA can enhance the educational experience and future opportunities for all our children. This is a commitment that requires time, effort and dedication. If you are interested in being part of this and further enhancing our community links, please email pta@tqea.org.uk

Dates for
your diary

'Key Dates for 2016-17'
can be found on
the school website
under virtual office
(parents)/Term Dates.



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