

Autumn 2017 Edition

# QUEEN ELIZABETH NEWS



The Queen Elizabeth  
Academy



## Principal's Welcome

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### *Welcome to the latest edition of The Queen Elizabeth Academy newsletter.*

this year marks a particularly exciting time for our school. once again we are celebrating our 'best ever' examination results where our students have performed above 'National Averages' in almost all key performance measures. 75% of our students achieved a grade 4 to 9 in English and Maths combined. This demonstrated a fantastic achievement given the additional challenges of the new examination structure and grading system within these subjects.

Other notable performances can be seen in Chemistry and Physics where 100% of students achieved A\* - C, Biology where 93% of students achieved A\* to C, and Art where students achieved 88% A\* - C. These results mention just a few

of the outstanding subject performances seen this year.

Earlier in the year we received a 'Good' Ofsted judgement with 'Outstanding' features, demonstrating the fantastic work conducted by our whole school community. When added to the move into our stunning new facilities, we can definitely say that 2016/17 was an incredibly successful year for our school and provides the foundation for many future developments.

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.

We have had a really positive start to the new school year and a busy open evening showing potential students and their families around our facilities. I am looking forward to the other events we have planned for this school year, meeting our new year 7 parents and catching up once again with our existing parents.

Dan Watts  
Principal

## Winterbourne House and Gardens

A number of our gardening Club' students went to the RHS 'Plan IT' launch event. Whilst there they met up with their mentor who will work with them throughout the project. Romney is a landscaped gardener and is very interested in sensory gardens and gardens to improve health. She has invited the team to Ryton Gardens in Coventry to have a look at the different garden ideas and areas there. The students also enjoyed a tour of the house and gardens as part of their day.



# Chinese Visitors

On Monday 9th October we welcomed guests, from our affiliated Chinese school, following their long journey here to the UK. We have a long and reciprocal relationship with the Chinese school and alternate visits; this year it was our turn to host. It is a special relationship and excellent for the cultural capital of TQEA students and the school in general.

During their visit with us they spent time teaching our students Chinese writing, made scones in Food Technology, attended lessons, had a tour of Atherstone and enjoyed a school BBQ. They also visited other schools, a football stadium, the Bullring shopping centre, Nottingham, Stratford upon Avon and London. During their three night stay in London they went on a walking tour and enjoyed some sightseeing including Greenwich Observatory, the London Eye and the British Museum.

We wish our new friends safe travels as they head home to China and look forward to seeing them on our return visit.



# Tree Planting and Bench Building with our Gardening Club

On Saturday 7th October volunteers came into school to help our Gardening Club plant lots of new trees and plants around our grounds and to erect new benches for our outside communal areas. With lovely hot soup and crusty bread provided by Food Tech and support from our PTA and staff, along with our wonderful volunteers from the community we had a very successful morning. A big thanks to all who came along and those who helped to organise the event.



# SUMMER CELEBRATIONS

On the last day of term we had a summer fete celebration and raised an amazing £600 for Birmingham Children's Hospital. Students and staff had great fun with lots of crafts, fruit kebabs, water rockets, ice-creams, inflatables, football, tennis, karaoke and soaking teachers.



supporting  
Birmingham  
Children's Hospital

BCH Charities, Registered Charity Number: 1074850



# Open Day

We had a very busy and positive Open Evening with 267 visitors looking around our classrooms, taking part in activities and enjoying demonstrations, our lovely PTA provided refreshments and students sang throughout the evening.



# Legally Blonde

**Rehearsals ended and it was finally show time. After months of long and stressful, but fun and exciting rehearsals, we were all finally able to put our hard work onto the stage.**

At the beginning; it all started with auditions being held, then as the cast ran to the notice on the door to see the part they had received, we knew it had all officially started. I had the honour to play Elle Woods and I can truly say it was the best experience I have ever had. We attended rehearsals twice a week and we came into school in the holidays to just make the show the best that it could possibly be. We first began to learn the songs, then we started to set the acting scenes and finally the choreography to the songs.

We then had the excitement of thinking about the costumes that we all had to wear and the different hairstyles and even wigs for some cast members! We then started finding all the props we needed and the stage crew started thinking of the stage layout.

As a cast member, I can say on behalf of the cast that the adrenaline which we all had before every show and after every show was outstanding we all sang Legally Blonde songs together to warm up. For us all, staff and cast to be stood in a circle dancing just a few minutes before the doors opened made our adrenaline start pumping. Most importantly the bond we created as a cast, pushed us to work so hard together on stage and off stage, to be able to show the audience our best performance and more importantly to make Mrs Deeley and Miss Dunn proud, which as a cast we were constantly whispering to each other before we went on stage. We became a small family and it made us realise how much we were all going to miss doing the shows together every night. Each rehearsal we would help one another and work together which showed us what it felt like to be a team and a cast.

A few memorable moments from those few months which I personally hold, watching us all grow from our first audition in Mrs Deeley's room, to us all throwing our hats into the audience for the last scene of the production, to know that the work we had all put in was worth it. Another memorable moment was the rehearsals, they had their ups and downs but a lot of memories were made in that hall, and my last memorable moment was the 3 show days. The amount of work for not only the cast, but all of the staff involved was incredible!!! To have been able to play the character of Elle Woods was my absolute honour and I would love to say thank you to Mrs Deeley and Miss Dunn for handing me the opportunity to be able to play her.

The commitment that everyone put in, not only the cast, but backstage crew and other members of staff, was outstanding and the compliments we received from the audience were incredibly rewarding and made us all thrilled to know that everyone enjoyed watching the production. To know that we achieved we wanted to achieve at the beginning made us all truly proud. From myself and the rest of the cast, I, just want to say thank you once again to Mrs Deeley and Miss Dunn for all the hard work they put into the whole of the production; thank you to all of the stage crew, the lighting and mic crew. And also not to forget Mr Watts for being so supportive of us all.

OMIGOD you guys I hope you all enjoyed the production!!!!

**Abby Holtom**





*More pictures overleaf...*





# PGL

**In July we took a number of our Year 7 students away for their PGL weekend.**

We were blessed with wonderful sunshine and blue skies from our arrival on the Friday carrying through to Monday morning when the inevitable showers started. With great camaraderie everyone had fun experiencing a number of activities including raft building, kayaking, high ropes, problem solving, evening games and the giant swing.

After a last trip to the shop, everyone climbed on board the coach or minibus with bags packed full of dirty clothes and a smile on their face. After a snooze on the way home all were happily re-united with family members and departed tired but exceedingly happy.



# KEEPING SAFE: A GUIDE TO SAFEGUARDING FOR OUR STUDENTS

We want to help keep our students safe. This means reducing the risk of injury or accidents in school but it means more than this too. Everyone has the right to be properly looked after throughout their childhood so they can develop to their full potential as adults. Most of us are brought up by loving and caring parents or carers, but some of us are not, and may suffer as a result. Some of us may be unfortunate enough to come into contact with other adults who take advantage or abuse us. We may need support to stop these things happening, or to overcome the problems that such behaviour causes.

At TQEA we have a responsibility to make sure you get the help you need if you are in this situation. This is called Safeguarding and this information explains what we will do if you need help.

## Safeguarding is the process of

- protecting children or vulnerable adults from abuse or neglect,
- preventing impairment of their health and development,
- ensuring they are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, enabling them to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.

## What do we mean by abuse?

**Physical abuse** may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm.

**Emotional abuse** is sustained emotional ill treatment causing severe and persistent adverse effects on emotional development. It may involve being told that you are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as you meet the needs of another person. It may involve making you feel frightened or in danger, or you may be being exploited or corrupted.

**Bullying** may also be classified as physical or emotional abuse. Witnessing acts of domestic violence may also be emotionally abusive. At TQEA we adhere to this definition of bullying:

*We agree that bullying is an act of unkindness or being forced to do what you don't want to do or feeling intimidated. If any of these situations happen once it may be a mistake or a misunderstanding, if it happens more than once it is classified as bullying. STOP: Several Times On Purpose.*

**Sexual Abuse** is the involvement of children in sexual activities that they do not understand and to which they are unable to agree to. The activities may involve physical contact including sexual contact. They may include involving children in looking at, or in the production of pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways. Although sexual activity in itself is not an offence over the age of 16, young people under the age of 18 are still offered the protection of Child Protection Procedures under the Children Act 1989. Young people, of course, can still be subject to offences of rape and assault. Young people over the age of 16 and under the age of 18 are not deemed able to give consent if the sexual activity is with an adult in a position of trust or a family member.

**Neglect** may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect you from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

# Keeping Safe: A Guide To Safeguarding For Our Students - *continued*

**Self-harm** is when someone deliberately hurts or injures themselves and includes, cutting, burning, overdosing, scratching or tearing. Research suggests that self-harm is not an indicator of risk of suicide. It can be described as a coping mechanism. People who do this are usually experiencing extreme distress. They are not usually attention seeking or mentally ill. Self-harm may be indicative of other protection issues, but it is of cause for concern in itself, and therefore should be treated as an indicator that protection procedures should be instigated.

**Radicalisation and Extremism** Students need to be suitably protected from the risks associated with radicalisation and extremism:

**Extremism** is vocal or active opposition to the fundamental British Values, which are defined as Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. Also included is calling for the death of members of the British armed forces. If you are worried that another student is vulnerable to being radicalised please contact **Mrs Shiv Ressel**, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). It's important to remember that anyone can experience abuse and anyone may be a perpetrator of abuse. Sometimes the school environment is a good place where you may receive support and guidance, perhaps from a trusted teacher or tutor. You may feel safe enough to share information about something upsetting or bad that is happening or has happened to you. We want to reassure you that if you need to tell us something: -

1) we will take it seriously and

2) we have a reliable procedure for getting advice, support and help for you. We don't claim that we can arrange everything you think you need or want, but we'll do our best and we'll try to make sure you are supported.

## What will happen next?

- the member of staff you talk to will check what you want to happen next,
- If you want help from Social Services or any other agency (MASH), they will make contact as soon as possible with one of our school safeguarding leads,
- They will pass on your concerns, the disclosure facts and any other details required, such as your date of birth, address and any other relevant details
- They can't promise complete confidentiality (to keep it secret) because the law says we have to share information if it is necessary to protect you but you will be kept informed about what will be shared and with whom.

**Myth:** Social services will automatically take children into care if they get an accusation of abuse. **Fact:** The law requires social workers to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need. Where possible this must be done while promoting the upbringing of children by their families.

## Safeguarding Officers:

- Will make the decision about referral to MASH (Multi Agency Services Hub)
- Will determine if any internal investigation or procedure should be followed
- Will arrange for ongoing support for you
- Will keep records centrally and securely

## Your Safeguarding Officers (DSLs) are: -

**Mrs Ressel:** s.ressel@tqea.org.uk

**Miss Parsons:** a.parsons@tqea.org.uk

# LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court recently reached a decision in the case of *Platt v Isle of Wight Council* which has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time. The parents of children of compulsory school age are required to ensure that they attend school on a regular basis. The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who are absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

Head Teachers retain the ability to authorise leave in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law. 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.

It is for the Head Teacher to decide what is '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.

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

Information  
on our website

Please see the  
parents area on our  
website for copies of  
letters, information  
and key dates.



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