

SPRING 2018 EdItIoN

QUEEN ELIZABETH NEWS



The Queen Elizabeth
Academy



Principal's Welcome

.....

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

I am Principal at the Queen Elizabeth Academy and am very proud to lead a school with such fantastic students and staff. our reputation locally is good and growing fast, with an oversubscribed year seven intake for the third year running, following our school's best ever results again last year.

At this time, I would like to thank the parents/guardians of our new intake for entrusting their child's education with us and welcome them to our extended family. We are looking forward to working with you to support your child's development and achievement over the coming years.

opportunities to develop at this school are ever present. I am a firm believer in growing talent and consequently we reap the rewards of being innovative and enthusiastic. Because we never stand still and are always looking to do our best for our students, staff development is a priority. We invest heavily in professional development internally and externally to ensure we are constantly improving our skills and abilities at all levels for the benefit of our community as a whole.

Our students are fantastic and really buy into our 'We Can and We Will' ethos, where effort and engagement really matters. our job is to drive student aspirations, motivate them to be the best they can be and to help them leave us with the best possible future ahead.

the Queen Elizabeth Academy and your child will continue to benefit from outstanding, brand new state of the art facilities as a result of being part of the Government 'Priority School's Building Programme'.

Our recent Year 8 Options Evening was a fantastic example of the way TQEA support the learning key stages with over 300 people in attendance. over the coming months, our new students and parents will be invited to a number of events to help support their transition, development and progress and we look forward to welcoming them all in person at the Year 6 Buddy Evening on the 17th of May 2018.

dan Watts
Principal



Attendance Trip

Last term's attendance award winners enjoyed a luxury limo ride for their consistent efforts. Congratulations to them all.

This term's attendance competition will give all qualifying students an opportunity to win one of two iPads. **Good luck everyone!**



Battlefields Trip

At the beginning of February, Miss Chapman held a competition for 2 people to go on a WW1 Battlefield tour to France and Belgium (after writing the winning letter, we went to a variety of important landmarks with students from other schools, current serving soldiers and our great tour guide Barney). From this we have learnt a great deal about what happened in the First World War.

We visited the Memorial Museum in Passchendaele where we discovered lots of new information. We entered a trench that had been recreated to show us what it was like to be there. It was very small, and was very hard to move in. Inside the museum, we were also shown the dug-outs that would have been made in a real life trench. We saw and tried the beds that soldiers would have had to sleep on, which were very uncomfortable! We also had the chance to look at all the different shaped shells and the machinery used to fire them. It was quite extraordinary. We also learnt about how the Americans would send pop up wooden houses over for people that had lost their homes in World War one. they were very small.

As we visited many different cemeteries, we found that many of the gravestones didn't have names on them; they just read 'A Soldier In the Great War'. This showed us that the body they found was unrecognisable and they couldn't identify that soldier. The German cemetery was very dull and looked like no one cared about the German soldiers, but we learnt that this was the German way, and was in no way disrespectful. However, the British cemeteries looked very different; they were bright and looked peaceful.

All of the soldiers that went missing were engraved in thiepval Memorial. this was a beautiful place that was filled with different soldiers names that had most likely died and/or were missing. during our visit, we found the names of 5 soldiers that went missing from our local area.

Perhaps the most poignant moment was attending the Last Post at Menin Gate in Ypres. this is something that has been done every night at 8pm since WW1 ended. It still draws crowds every day and seeing the level of respect that is still shown was overwhelming.

We had a lot of fun on this trip and would like to thank Miss Chapman for taking us there. We had a great time even though it was very cold; we made many friends and memories that will never be forgotten.

Libby Garner and Leah Cooper



Sport Relief and The One Show

A number of TQEA students joined in with BBC presenters', Becky Wood and Richie Anderson, on their 'Peaky Pentathlon' canal walk challenge as part of Sport Relief 2018. #PeakyPentathlon #SportRelief2018 and were interviewed by BBC staff for the programme.



THE RESTORE COLLECTIVE

The Restore Collective is a community organisation based in North Warwickshire. Currently they run two projects: -

1. A youth project (called Youth-180) in Nuneaton, delivering mentoring services at Hartshill School and youth activities at Nuneaton Methodist Church.
2. A family support project in Atherstone and Mancetter. this consists of running events and activities for families, providing additional support to some families.

their purpose is to be part of *"enabling individuals, families and whole communities to thrive"* and they achieve this by;

- Identifying and addressing social needs, through delivering transformational projects (often in partnership with others, who share our values)
- Partnering with schools to support them and young people to thrive academically. Encouraging learning, positive value, self-worth, affirming positive citizenship and aspirational thinking
- Promoting hope, unity and peace, affirming **North Warwickshire** and **Nuneaton & Bedworth** and **Hinckley & Bosworth** borough councils as positive places to live, work and belong to
- Enabling and mobilising volunteers (from churches, other third sector organisations and businesses), to strategically serve their communities with purpose and commitment

- Equipping and supporting inspired individuals and groups to outwork vision for social change
- delivering projects that strengthen the whole person; physically, spiritually, emotionally, intellectually and socially, assisting people to develop, progress and flourish
- Modelling healthy communities, where all are welcome and anyone can belong
- Developing chaplaincy and pastoral care support services in various contexts
- Referring individuals and families to other agencies and specialist support services (for example; financial planning, mental health, counselling etc.)

the charity is currently called the Sycamore Trust (519317). For more information visit their page at <https://www.facebook.com/restorecollective>



Year 11 Revision Trips

English, History and French

Year 11s have been attending revision workshops/events which have been invaluable opportunities for students to undertake some intensive revision in the run up to their GCSE examinations.

The History event opened with an exam-busting workshop in which the leader explained the thinking behind the examination specifications, and showed pupils how to improve their performance in their GCSE course and final examination. The workshop was followed by a play which featured a series of characters from the History of Medicine; this allowed students to develop their understanding of change and causation by looking at the factors of change, and to assess the medical progress made in each period of history. It was a very insightful workshop which our students found enjoyable and informative. And we even got to take a 'Doctors Show' work book home to build up our knowledge and appreciation of History!

the year 11 French group had an interesting and useful time at the French PiXL conference. the conference covered some key elements of the exams and some tips for revision which everyone found useful – even Miss Poole! they threw themselves in and participated fully, with some even answering questions in front of over 100 students and teachers from other schools! they left the event with not only a boost in confidence and some fantastic ideas for revision, but also a pack full of useful resources to help them prepare for their exams!

Double double, toil and trouble... During the Easter break teachers from the English and MFL department, as well as support from the Learning Support department, took 80+ Year 11s to see the National Production Company's performance of 'Macbeth' at The Old Rep theatre in Birmingham. The rendering of the play was skilful and it was true to Shakespeare's text with the key themes of guilt and paranoia portrayed well by the actor paying Macbeth.

As one of four key literature texts, this was a unique revision session for our students. For some it was also their first professional theatre experience too. Staff from the theatre commented on the impeccable behaviour of our students and they were a credit to the school. Thanks need to go to The Queen Elizabeth Academy Charitable Trust for their support in this educational visit.



News from Humanities

Students that have worked extremely well get a postcard from their teacher; last term Humanities awarded anyone with two postcards from across their department prizes. Here are some of the students that had achieved two postcards and have collected their prize. Well done to everyone who won a prize, more prizes are available this term for all students who get two postcards from any of the following subjects - Geography, History, RE or Business Studies.



Careers

this half term has been a very informative one for students at tQEA in terms of careers advice. All our year 7 students had the opportunity to visit local business 3M to explore what they do there and participate in some interactive StEM activities.

Year 8 have been given access to and training on how to use Kudos, an online careers advice program to support them with selecting their GCSE option subjects. Prestigious apprenticeship providers, local colleges and 6th Forms, namely MTC, Higham Lane, KEGS and NWHC have visited to deliver assemblies.

The highlight of the term was the Careers' Fair held at the National Agricultural Exhibition Centre (NAEC) attended by all our year 10 students. Organised by Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership, there were over 30 stalls representing local businesses, 6th Forms, Colleges, apprenticeship providers, the NHS and many more.

Students were given time to explore the event and ask as many questions as possible of the exhibitors to gain a better

understanding of the education opportunities available to them when they leave school and potential career paths beyond that.

the most pleasing aspect of the trip was the willingness and confidence of our students to approach the exhibitors and ask them important and challenging questions. Many of the exhibitors fed back to our teachers how impressed they were by the eagerness of the students to find out about the careers that they are interested in and what they need to do to get there.

to coincide with these events, all year 10 students are being given a 1 hour meeting with a qualified careers guidance adviser. during the meeting students are offered impartial advice and guidance about what post 16 education and training options are available to them when they leave school. they are provided with an action plan to take home as part of the meeting that will help work towards their goals.

Business Studies

A team of Business students have successfully reached the semi-final of the Student Investor Challenge. This is the UK premier online investment game for students aged between 14-18 years with a top prize trip to New York and additional prize money. Team members include Jack Peters, Gary Tang, Joseph Jenkinson and Charles Townsend. These students have successfully invested and managed their virtual money into a set of stocks and additional investment instruments to position themselves in 23rd place out of 4856 teams. They will now battle it out in a four week online challenge to compete in the live national final.

James Morton, Samuel Cooper and Stephen Murphy have set up Sam's Super Stationary shop using the funds they have received from the tenner challenge. Business is booming with their best selling product being their car pens and pocket sized diaries. Samuel Cooper, the founder of the enterprise, has said he plans to use the profits to reinvest into the business and expand the product range.



Gardening Club

News from Mrs Hale, Mrs Knight and Mrs Johnson

We held another successful Community Garden Morning despite the unfavourable weather conditions on 17/3/2018. We managed to assemble four benches and plant thirty more trees. Many thanks for the help and expertise from all those who assisted in the cold snowy blizzard.

We have been awarded The Schools Constant Garden for achieving RHS Level Three School Gardening Award. In April a delivery of growing baby plants will arrive to develop a healthy living Spring School Garden. We will be organising raised beds and erecting the poly tunnel during this term's Community Morning. (Timing and details to follow). We will be harvesting from April to August.

In the Autumn we will have another delivery, as part of the Constant Garden, for children to plant when they return to school after the summer holidays. We also hope to organise the school pond and plant some privet to resource Biology. Next January a fantastic collection of soft fruit bushes will complete the Constant Gardening Project and we will be planting over twenty bushes and 2 Rhubarb crowns.





Year 7 Spring Concert

– raising a final total of £311.31 for Birmingham Children’s Hospital

My favourite part of the concert process was practicing the performances with the choir and teachers as we all improved on the performance together and worked as a team leading up to the concert. We also consistently attended choir every week to work on the song we performed and everyone worked very hard to perfect it before the performance. On the night of the concert, we all helped each other stay calm. After our part, we were all really happy of how it turned out and carried on enjoying the concert together.

By Tierney Swami

.....

this year I was lucky to perform in the tQEA Spring Concert as a soloist. For the show, in my singing lessons with Ffion, I practised and practised to try and get it just right. I managed to perform in front of a class first before the real thing. When I got on to the stage I was really scared and a bit excited. Even though I lost my timing in the first verse, I tried to go on and by the last chorus I’d forgotten the audience was there so I just enjoyed it. As for all the other acts, they were brilliant to watch and I know my family enjoyed the show too and were happy to support Birmingham

Children’s Hospital. I’m so glad that I had the opportunity to do it and I would do it all over again.

By Isobel Sheffield

.....

The music concert for me was very nerve wracking, however the build-up was very fun and enjoyable. The rehearsals with my peripatetic teacher, James, were very useful and full of advice such as how to get around making a mistake without making it noticeable to an audience. I also practiced a few times in front of my peers with a band of musicians and felt very happy and comfortable doing so. This contrasted a lot from when I did my final performance in front of a large audience at the concert. Although I was a nervous wreck, my friends and teachers gave me reassurance that I would be fine and that I could only do my best; which I did! I am very glad I took this opportunity to play in a music concert to build my confidence in playing the drums, especially for a brilliant cause, Birmingham Children’s Hospital.

By Ellie Thorpe

.....

Personally, I found the music concert to be a brilliant experience for me. Not only did it help massively with my confidence but it also gave parents of students at tQEA the opportunity to see what we do as a music department in school. I thought that each act performed exceptionally as a school and as a group, and did Mrs deeley and our peripatetic teachers proud, just as much as they make us proud. during school time and outside of school time, we were given multiple opportunities to rehearse our performance piece Havana and Shape of You remix as a group. This benefited me massively, as I’m sure it helped others too.

By Katie Louch

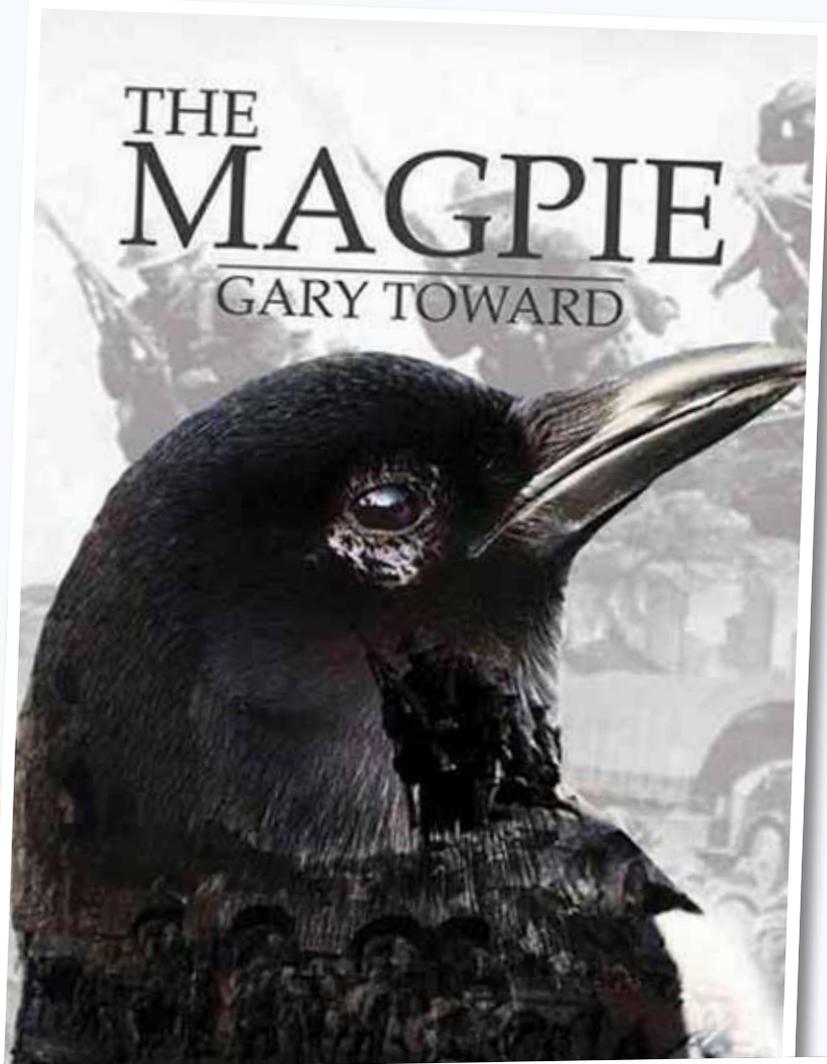


VISIT BY AUTHOR INSPIRES PUPILS.

Gary Toward, author of the historical crime novel set in WW1, *The Magpie*, visited the Queen Elizabeth Academy in Atherstone on Wednesday 21st March. His presentation took pupils on a journey through time, incorporating the history of the period his book is set in, and then inspired pupils to stretch themselves with their own writing. Gary said, *"Writing and reading are key skills in life and I want to inspire youngsters to become the best writers they can be. While I wrote this book for adults, I deliberately made it fit the key stage three curriculum for English and History as I both wanted youngsters to not forget the struggles of the period, but also to enjoy reading fiction."*

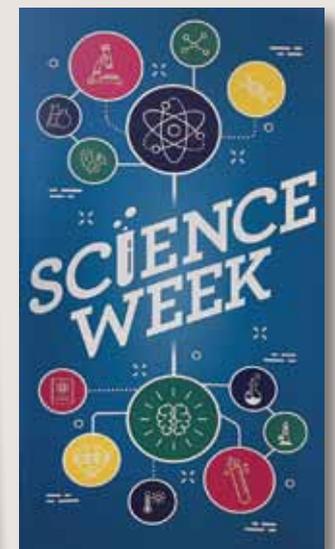
The Magpie is set accurately in the period of WW1 and Gary explained to the pupils how he developed his main character based on his own experiences as a child in a mining family, and how they can use their own knowledge and experiences to make their writing more realistic. *The Magpie* begins in the north east and ends in the hell of the trenches, so Gary was able to illustrate with pictures and artefacts how research helps to increase your knowledge and allow your writing help the reader to see, hear, feel, taste and understand the story. Principal of the Queen Elizabeth Academy, Daniel Watts said, *"It was great that our pupils got to meet an author and to take inspiration from him that writing and reading are super important tools for life. Not everyone will become a writer, but these are skills that everyone needs, no matter what jobs they do in the future."*

One of the pupils taking part in the presentation was clearly inspired and said, *"I loved being able to hold some of the things he brought in. It made things seem real. I'd love to write a book sometime and he made it seem possible."* tQEA would like to thank Gary for his inspirational presentation and for taking the time to visit our school.



Science Week

the top attaining students from each Year 8 class had a science workshop with Dave Bickley, Att Science Guru. Standing on eggs, putting out flames with vinegar and bicarbonate of soda, and fireballs in mid-air were only a few of the highlights!!



PE Spring Term News:

Leicester Tigers Training: tQEA students continued their rugby development skills this term with Leicester tigers coach supporting year 7, 8 and 9 PE lessons and running a lunch time club. Students enjoyed learning new skills and linking sport to topics such as bullying, acceptance, inclusion and respect.

Netball Experience: Some of our netballers were lucky to be invited to a Wasps netball event to try new skills/activities and experience elite sport facilities and practices. the girls were trained by some of the Wasps' elite netballers and gained use of the fantastic Ricoh facilities, even gaining an informative tour of the Wasps' netball and rugby team changing rooms, recovery rooms and nutrition support regions.

Wasps Netball Trip: As part of our reward trips to support students with accessing elite sport, our netball boys and girls were rewarded for their hard work and commitment shown in netball training this year, with the opportunity to see 2017 Netball Champions Wasps take on the Celtic dragons at the Ricoh arena. to celebrate the

school's commitment of providing opportunities to students, the school were guest guard of honours welcoming the players onto the pitch and enjoyed watching the champions demonstrate a superb performance to see Wasps win 74-32 and remain league leaders.

Atherstone Ball Game: Students experienced an important town tradition with a visit from the event organisers and the actual 2018 ball. Groups tried a slightly school friendlier version of the game and gained an important history lesson on the roots of the game and its reason for survival, understanding key rules and components of the game. Students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and looked forward to attending the main event.

Cancer Charity Netball Game: JLt provided a unique opportunity for students to help raise money for World Cancer Day with a staff vs students netball game. the students performed well and raised over £300 towards a great cause, however the talents of the staff, on the day, were just too much.





STEM Events

our Year 7 students recently had a great day at 3M as part of National Science week (pictures on opposite page). We took 3 groups down to the factory in order for them all to have the same experience. Students were involved in two different tasks utilising the equipment. the company put on a great day for us, with 11 staff involved in delivering StEM sessions to our students. there were prizes and competitions for the students to get involved in, and all were buzzing when they left.

A big thanks to everyone involved at 3M.

All of year 7 have also been involved in a StEM day about renewable energy (pictures on this page). they were tasked with building and racing electric cars and as always, they were impeccably behaved. There was excellent work throughout the event and some really interesting ideas that the students were came up with.





LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME 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).

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.



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

