

Summer 2018 edition

THE QUEEN ELIZABETH ACADEMY NEWS



The Queen Elizabeth
Academy



Principal's Welcome

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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 congratulate our outgoing year 11 students who did an incredible job during the recent GCSE examination period; we are extremely proud of their efforts and the fantastic example that they

set to the rest of the school. We all wish them the very best for the GCSE results day on the 23rd of August 2018.

our year 10 students have recently started the transition into year 11 and the preparation for their GCSE exams in a year's time has begun. I have been incredibly impressed with the positive attitude that our students have shown coupled with their desire to do well. this will stand them all in good stead for the year ahead!

it has been great to begin the process of welcoming our new year 7 students into the tQeA family. the huge attendance at our transition events shows the positive levels of support from both our incoming students and their families. it is important that we build a strong partnership to ensure that we get the very best out of every student that attends our school.

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.

Allow me to take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable summer. i hope you all take the opportunity to recharge your batteries before returning on the 5th of September to #BeAmazing!

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter https://twitter.com/TQEA_Principal @TQEA_Principal for all the latest news.

dan Watts
Principal

STEM – Bloodhound project, races and visit to RAF Cosford

on a very wet Wednesday, we took 4 students - Anya Parry, Sharanjit Kaur, Jack Brickley and Ashton Reeves to the regional Final for the Bloodhound Competition that all of year 7 were involved in. It is a national Competition based around the Bloodhound Project to break 1000 mph land speed record. <http://www.bloodhoundssc.com/>

the four involved had the joint best times at our school from the race day we held here at tQeA, and so progressed to the final at RAF Cosford. It was a great learning experience for them, building their own cars as a team under an RAF fighter plane with guided missiles pointed at them was a very different learning environment. All of the students were an absolute credit to our school, their behaviour and manners were impeccable, and were mentioned by the organisers.

there was some tough competition with older students and technology colleges taking it very seriously. Whilst their car was by far the best looking, it wasn't quite as fast as the others, but was a very credible 5th place out of the 24 finalists there, managing to travel at a top speed of 34.5 mph.



Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh

Between may 11th and 12th, the youngest ever duke of Edinburgh's Award cohort from TQEA stepped out in the Peak district on their practice expedition. Prior to this they have been attending weekly workshops led by mr Bovington as an extra-curricular class and did a one day navigation training workshop in the local area.

using their new-found map-reading and compass skills two groups navigated themselves over two days, carrying all the equipment and food they needed for survival with them. despite rain and cold temperatures, sore feet and broken bags they did very well indeed. there were times they got lost but all stayed calm and managed to get themselves back on track, losing little time. With their confidence intact they are now preparing for their assessed expedition on the Long mynd.



GCSE PE YEAR 10 INTERVENTION TRIP

Year 10 GCSe Pe pupils travelled to the Brecon Beacons to partake in a Kayaking and Climbing assessment to aid their practical grades towards their final GCSE grade. All pupils were outstanding ambassadors for the school, receiving numerous commendations for their positive attitude and growth mindset towards two challenging and demanding activities!



Careers

North Warwickshire Aspire Programme

during the previous half term, 14 year 10 students took part in the north Warwickshire Aspire Programme. the exciting new initiative aimed to raise the aspirations of young people and provide a better understanding of the job opportunities and career routes open to them.

this six-week programme, jointly delivered by nWBC, dWP and Civil Service Local, provided engaging activities to help students understand employability skills, the benefits of work, plus help with CV writing and interview techniques.

The aim was to make a difference to young peoples' employability prospects whilst combining volunteer mentoring opportunities for both Local Government Officers and Civil Servant employees.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the programme and spoke very highly of the experiences and opportunities they were given.

Year 10 Careers Guidance

over the current academic year all of our year 10 students have benefited from a 1 hour Career independent Advice and Guidance meeting with Carl Drewery, our qualified careers adviser. Through discussion students are given the opportunity to share their ambitions and given impartial advice and guidance about how they could work towards their goals. An action plan is drawn up as part of the meeting which is then printed and given to students to take home. if any parents would like an additional copy please contact mr Webb at school who will be able to provide you with one.

Kudos online careers advice and guidance program

over the next few weeks all year 10 students will be given additional training on how to use Kudos, our online careers advice and guidance program. once they have created an account on the program they can then use it

as often as they like at school and at home. the program contains a lot of very useful information about potential career routes, labour market growth in those areas and the qualifications required to access different jobs.

Apprenticeship Guidance

over the next few weeks all year 10 students will be taught how to create and account on the apprenticeship.gov website and use it to search and apply for apprenticeships. more and more of our students are progressing into apprenticeships every year when they leave school. Whilst it is a very competitive process there are many positives to students if they chose this route for the right reasons.

3M STEM workshop

We recently had 7 engineers from the 3m headquarters in Atherstone come and do some work with both of our GCSe Stem groups. the idea was to give the students an opportunity to see what Stem looks like in the real world, and how Stem careers could be a pathway that our students could take.

the 7 graduates delivered an excellent session on production, and how to make it more efficient using a pizza making task. the students really enjoyed this and were able to link some of the theory we have covered in school to real life practice.

Afterwards students had the opportunity to question the employees on careers and how to move forward in the field of STEM. As ever our students were a credit to the school, and we received a lovely email from the staff at 3m to say what a great time they had.



PE News

Wasps Rugby tournament

After a busy year promoting rugby with the help of tigers and Wasps some of our students who participated in the rugby schemes this year were offered the chance to attend a tour of Wasps home stadium and play our first rugby touch tournament. the students thoroughly enjoyed the day getting to meet and question Wasps and england legend Paul Sackey and received some very helpful coaching tips too. the students looked at how the fields of media, nutrition, training and therapy were part of the athlete's day to day lives. the tournament saw tQeA students play a range of schools enjoying some great wins, tough losses and hardworking draws.

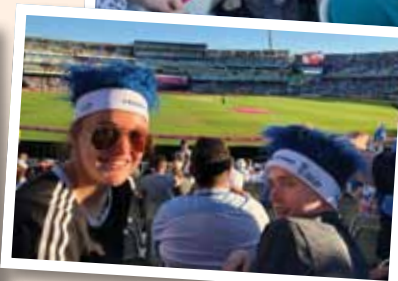
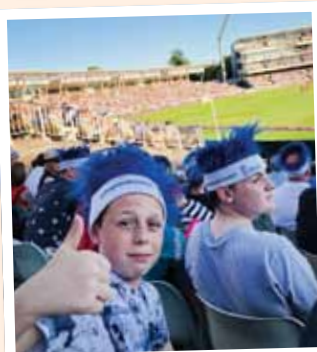


Cricket and Athletics season

A busy extra-curricular season has seen a number of trips to the Pingles for various year group athletic competitions this year.

Cricket is a popular sport in Atherstone and with high numbers training each week this has seen some great success during local competitions. Great school club links have been continued with local Atherstone coaches training with our students on a thursday and a number of those students going on to represent the town.

As a final reward trip for students involved in extra-curricular sport we took 26 lucky students to edgbaston to see england take on Australia in their t20 match at the end of June.





Sports Leaders

thursday 21st June saw a selection of our year 7 sports leaders volunteer to help with the north Warwickshire active tri-golf event at Lea marston golf club. during the day students were required to set up a range of golf activities, explain the rules of each activity, coach the primary school students on how to improve their technique and record their scores. the event was a huge success with over 10 teams competing from 7 different primary schools. the feedback we received about our year 7 leaders was incredible.

'We just wanted to write to you (and the school) to let you know how impressed we were with your students. not only were they all incredibly polite but they were all extremely patient with our children, taking the time to explain to them how they should be doing the activity and encouraging them. our children had a fantastic time despite the fact that they didn't win!'

'They all conducted themselves in a mature and responsible way, demonstrating excellent leadership and communication skills, as well as all being terrific representatives of TQEA. We could not have delivered the event without them and this enabled 120 primary aged pupils to experience tri-golf, many of whom are typically less engaged with sport as are not attracted to the traditional activities on offer. Please pass on my thanks once again to the leaders involved and i hope that there are more opportunities like this to work with your young leaders.'

We are incredibly proud of them and hope to be able to give them more opportunities like this in the future.



St Georges Park Real Madrid Trip

t wo extremely lucky students were rewarded with a once-in-a-lifetime footballing opportunity to be trained by real madrid Academy Coaches. the session was held at St Georges Park, the home of the england national football team, where students and staff enjoyed working with high calibre coaching staff and gained many helpful ideas and skills to develop.

Women's International Cycling returns to Atherstone

on Friday the 15th of June, we took students out to watch the beginning section of the second stage of the Aviva Women's cycling tour. Whilst this is a short and speedy event for us to support, it is a great opportunity to see elite athletes perform and also a positive set of female role models, all promoting and highlighting equality with this year being the first in its history where women will be receiving equal prize money to the men in their equivalent event. Students will also be fortunate to see this in action at the start of the new school year as the Men's Race will pass at speed through here too.



MUSIC NEWS

Tom Peckett aka 'Loop Dogg' came into school to deliver an interactive workshop to existing and future music GCSE students. Tom demonstrated to the students how they can use music technology in their performances and compositions, taking the music department to a whole new level! Music production lessons will be starting in September which will be beneficial for our 'non instrumental' students taking music as a GCSE.

Tom Peckett has been working as a musician for well over a decade performing all over the UK, Europe and America. Having a love for old-school hip hop and reggae music from his youth, Tom decided to merge the two in a live performance that he calls 'Loop Dogg'.

Today, Loop Dogg is a regular feature at venues across the Midlands as well as publishing self-made videos on his YouTube Channel. The workshop was very interactive and extremely current which thoroughly engaged our students as young fledgling musicians.



YEAR 11 LEAVERS' ASSEMBLY

Our Year 11 students celebrated at school together for the final time on Friday 22nd June 2018.

Pupils gathered in the dance studio to enjoy a buffet and to sign each other's shirts with their messages of best wishes before heading into the school hall for the final time as a year group for their Leavers Assembly.

After enjoying a short film of photos and videos of their time at TQEA, and taking part in a teacher quiz, pupils were dismissed for the last time following words from Head Boy reise Smith, Head Girl Paige Beard, their College Leaders and their Principal.





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.



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