

Winter 2018 edition

QUEEN ELIZABETH NEWS



The Queen Elizabeth
Academy



Principal's Welcome

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

i would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy new Year. i hope that 2018 brings success and opportunity for you all.

Last term saw many highs following our 'Good' Ofsted rating achieved in the summer, and our best ever GCSE examination results, which put us well above national averages in the government's performance measures.

In addition to our academic success, we have welcomed visitors from our link school in China and YouTube sensations Oli White and Caspar Lee. Take a look at the photos in our newsletter and on our t witter page @tQeA_Principal.

Providing educational activities outside of the normal lesson structure is an important part of our ethos. Students have enjoyed opportunities including, theatre visits, RHS Green Plan It, watching international football at Wembley, coaching from Wasps Rugby and Birmingham City LFC and even toasting marshmallows over an open fire in 'Survivor Club'. We believe that these activities help to support young people in becoming more rounded adults with a broader interest in life's opportunities.

We are an innovative and forward-thinking school in Atherstone, Warwickshire; providing high quality education for young people in the surrounding area and further afield.

At the Queen elizabeth Academy we are committed to:

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

If you would like to find out more about our academy, our excellent learning and teaching and our plans for the future, please feel free to contact us and we would be delighted to talk to you individually.

dan Watts
Principal

Local Authority "Getting to Good" Event

On the 8th November 2017, TQEA were invited to Stoneleigh Deer Park Golf Club, to receive an award from the Local Authority for achieving an Ofsted 'Good' rating during the inspection held in May 2017.

Principal, dan Watts, was accompanied by Deputy Principal Peter Ward, Chair of Governors Jackie Kay and students Paige Beard and Amy Ludgate.

The event marked a significant point in the school's continued development and sharing that success with other Warwickshire Primary and Secondary schools was particularly important to the local community at large.

it is important at this stage that we thank our dedicated staff, wonderful students and supportive parents/carers, who all played their part in this fantastic achievement. We now look forward to further success in the future.



Careers Trip

A number of our Year 10 students visited a local building site during October to take part in a number of activities and have a tour of the site including one of the newly built houses that was very nearly completed.

After a health and safety talk and equipment briefing everyone had a go at plumbing, plastering and brick laying; all of the site staff were extremely accommodating and spent time showing our students how to undertake the tasks and took time to chat about the different aspects of the building trade and careers within it.

Many thanks to everyone involved who gave our students a great insight into work on a building site and the range of opportunities available to them going forward after their GCSEs.



ATT Student Awards

We are always very proud of our students and their achievements. On 7th December 2017 two of our students won Academy Pupil Awards and celebrated with other winners and their families in style. Congratulations Nathan and Amy, your awards are extremely well deserved.

- Nathan Saunders - bravery and courage
- Amy Farmer - academic excellence



COLLEGE CELEBRATIONS

College Leaders rewarded pupils with a Christmas Celebration party at the end of the first term. Invitations were given to all pupils who had demonstrated excellent attendance, punctuality and behaviour since the start of the academic year. Pupils were treated to party food and drinks and had the opportunity to challenge their peers at some inflatable games.



Year 7 Concert

I think the Year 7 singing concert was amazing! I was so excited but at the same time I was really nervous. I was lucky to have been one of the soloists in the song 'When I Grow Up' from the musical – Matilda, and it was lovely to see all of the audience's faces smiling when I was singing.

Singing isn't just a hobby, it's a passion for music and it felt so good to be able to share and express my love for singing to all of the people watching and I hope they enjoyed it as much as I did! It was also incredible when all of Year 7 started to sing together, we sounded so strong and powerful; it was great.

By Isobel Sheffield

Mrs Deeley had worked really hard to organize an amazing Year 7 Super Stars Singing Concert. In lesson we would have fun practising all the many things that we needed to learn. Mrs Deeley had put it together really well, including: solos, duets, trios and small groups. All of Year 7 were dedicated to the concert, as we all went to two rehearsals after school, both lasting an hour and a half.

On the night of the concert, everyone was nervous, but Ffion the (peripatetic) singing teacher and Mrs Deeley were both stood at the front keeping us all in time. In the end, the concert turned out amazingly. Mrs Deeley and Ffion both deserve a massive thanks for making us the very best and producing a memorable night for everyone who attended. Thank you.

By Alex-Mae Taylor

We also shared our concert with the local care homes who travelled to see us. The residents all enjoyed watching our Year 7s singing to them whilst having refreshments and catching up with staff and students.



Year 7 & 8 Christmas Church Visit

This year's Christmas service was a celebration of the schools journey to becoming a successful and significant establishment within the community. A reference was then made to the journey that Jesus took Christians on, which led to the acknowledgement of Gods love for his people and peace.

Our Choir sang beautifully and at one point all of year 7 stood and sang a song from the Disney film Moana which was about the Journey the princess herself took, 'How far I will go'. The readers were fantastic and

read poems that were written by members of the school creative writing club; they also read passages from the Bible. A group of dancers performed a routine that the students really enjoyed, a big congratulations to Ayshiya Vassall who then performed a solo dance. The students really enjoyed this years' service and their behaviour was a credit to the school.



Anti-Bullying Week (12-16th November 2017)

The annual Anti-Bullying week competition required tutor groups to design a t-shirt to raise awareness of bullying and promote a safe and caring environment without the fear of being bullied. The idea, which came from a meeting with tutor representatives, was hugely popular with students, and resulted in superb entries from all 10 tutor groups from The Adders and The Bears College. **#AllDifferentAllEqual**

The winners of the competition were: DB-A, EVP-B, KT-A and NW/MPG-B



PTA News

The PTA have had a fairly busy autumn term supporting the academy open evening with refreshments, holding their very first Quiz Night and the first successful Christmas fayre (which was a joint venture with JLT) raising a fabulous £413.68 split between PTA and the Birmingham Children's Hospital.

We are also very proud to have been able to support the TQEA Gardening Club by purchasing much needed tools and storage, in the form of forks and spades, a wheelbarrow and a storage box, and the Learning Support Department in the purchase of some resources to support students with Maths in school.

the Pt A will continue to support the academy in the new Year and we are always on the lookout for volunteers to help with refreshments at PTA events. We hope to hold another Quiz night, as well as a Summer Fayre and this year we will be raising money to purchase some new PA and Lighting equipment for the performance area in the school hall. Your donations are very much appreciated and do go towards providing much needed equipment and services which will benefit the pupils.

Our AGM will be held at The Red Lion on 28th February at 7pm, we would love you to join us.



News from Science

Pub-Style Science Quiz

On the 2nd of November, Year 11 were invited to join the science team for a revision session in the style of a pub quiz. Fuelled with drinks, pizza and snacks, Year 11 completed a music round, picture round and "what words?" round. We had an excellent turn out and it was really pleasing to see all the students work so well!

And the winners were.....Tellurium Americium!

The Drama of Science!

Year 8 study coloured light and the effect it has on coloured objects. We are fortunate to have coloured stage lighting in the theatre and were able to use it to teach the concept and apply it to a practical situation outside the classroom.

Attendance Trip

Mr Butler and Ms Parsons had a lovely evening with the winners of the 30 Day attendance challenge at Tamworth Snowdome. Ten winners' names were picked from a hat and had a great time tobogganing, followed by dinner in the Aspen restaurant.

We're looking forward to the next Attendance Challenge where students have the opportunity to win a ride, with a friend of their choice, in a stretched Hummer!





HALLOWEEN DISCO

On 2nd November, students from year 7 and 8 came together and had a Halloween disco! With lots of help from the Junior Leadership Team, students had a great time dancing to their favourite songs and eating tasty treats. There were dance battles and catwalks that everyone had fun doing. Everybody made a big effort with their costumes with one student, Amy deeming, winning the Best Costume Prize!

All entrance fees and food money went to Macmillan and raised £81. Due to the great turn out, the Junior Leadership Team has decided to organise more events like this in the future.

*Written by Ellie Thorpe
Photographs by Lucy Taylor*



NEWS FROM PE

Wembley Trip: Students were part of a sell-out crowd at the England v Brazil friendly football match at Wembley recently. Students enjoyed watching the game; for some it was the first ever football game so it was their first experience of the national stadium.

Wasps Rugby: Students have been attending rugby training sessions with Wasps Rugby coaches this half term. Coaches have been mighty impressed with our students' attitudes, skills and endeavour. To reward the students Wasps donated them tickets to see a Premiership Rugby Game at the Ricoh Arena.

Girl's football is growing at TQEA with students participating in their first local tournament and spending time with International and Super League Football stars. Our girls' hard work and commitment to the sessions has recently seen them attend the Wembley trip and gain tickets to see the opening game of the Women's Super League.

Sports Leadership has seen students showcase the school and themselves as supportive, independent and caring young people working with primary events to support local schools access sport and physical activity. Schools and their pupils have been very complimentary of our students involved in these sessions.



STEM EVENT

The Queen Elizabeth Academy were honoured to host the Midlands meeting of the STEM National Network where people from education, industry and beyond, met to discuss STEM related issues.

Prior to the evening, all of the attendees visited our innovative STEM room, the only one of its kind in the UK, and spoke to our students about their learning in STEM. All of the TQEA students at the event were amazing and really impressed our visitors who commented on how mature and passionate they were about the subject. **Well done to everyone involved!**

STEM Student Reports

*It was so great to see so many women engineers in one room all so interested in STEM. As the percentage of women in engineering is only 18-20% I feel it was great to speak to so many and ask what encouraged them to become an engineer. Overall the event was an amazing experience and a great opportunity to speak to so many engineers. **Kay Evans.***

My STEM Night Experience: During the STEM night, I was accompanied by seven other students and Mr Grainger; we each got to pick a workstation that we were most fond of and talk and share our knowledge and ideas (based on that particular workstation) with: teachers, engineers, designers and lecturers; furthermore, I picked 'Video Production' because of how fond I am of making videos and editing them and how much knowledge I have on that certain topic. I truly enjoyed my time at the open evening, since I was able to talk to many people who are part of the STEM industry and learn new things and ways from these visitors which I never would have even considered necessary. In addition, this open evening has taught me what STEM has to offer and the variety of jobs that are out there to do with the STEM industry (for example we met people from car companies such as Range Rover). **Raphael Michail**



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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