

WINTER 2020 EDITION

THE QUEEN ELIZABETH ACADEMY NEWS



The Queen Elizabeth
Academy



Executive Principal's Welcome

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

Welcome to the Winter edition of our newsletter. It has been especially busy here at TQEA, with some of the highlights being our production of Matilda in December showcasing our wonderfully talented students and the great news that the Trust Christmas card design competition, celebrating the talent within our Academies, saw one of our Year 8's, Mckenna Gallemore, chosen as a winner. Her card was used by the Academy Transformation Trust and was sent to a wide range of partners across the country.

When we returned after the festive season we welcomed senior leaders from other schools in our trust into TQEA to review our work and I'm delighted to report that the team were very positive about our Academy and the work that we are doing. The team judged us to be good in all aspects of our work and noted emerging aspects of "outstanding".

We are entering the final crucial run for our Year 11 students who recently sat their Mocks and some had their first taste of final year exams when they sat their PE paper. Results from this external examination were excellent and demonstrate that, with absolute commitment alongside an unwavering focus over the remaining weeks, they have every opportunity to achieve an outstanding set of GCSE results in the summer.

In my role of Executive Principal, I also hold responsibility for two other secondary academies and a further education college. TQEA is entering a new and exciting phase of our development with increasing numbers of students looking to join us as we move from strength to strength. In order to ensure that we have a Principal who is able to focus solely on our Academy, I am delighted to announce that we have recently appointed Neil Harding to the role. Neil joins us at Easter and you can read more about him in this newsletter. I will continue to be very much a part of TQEA and look forward to working with Neil to continue our commitment to an outstanding education for our students.

TQEA is an innovative and forward-thinking Academy in Atherstone, Warwickshire; providing high quality education for the 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**'*

News, updates and current information can be found on our Twitter page @TQEA_Principal and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1769515883351228/>.

Andrew Wilson
Executive Principal

Introducing our New Principal

Neil Harding was born in a local North Warwickshire town and he has spent his career working in North Warwickshire schools. If you have been connected with The Queen Elizabeth Academy for a while, you may remember him, since he started his teaching career here in 1994. He spent 5 rewarding years at The Queen Elizabeth School working as a History and Geography teacher during which time he became a Head of Year.

Since leaving in 1999, Mr Harding has worked in several middle and senior leadership positions and he is currently Vice Principal at St Thomas More School in Nuneaton. He is delighted and proud to have been appointed by the Academy Transformation Trust as Principal of the Queen Elizabeth Academy, starting after Easter. He is passionate about every child at TQEA receiving an exceptional education in a safe, happy and thriving learning environment. He is looking forward to meeting and working with parents in the near future.



ATT Christmas card design competition

Congratulations to Mckenna Gallemore from Year 8 who won the ATT Christmas card design competition. Her card was chosen from all the secondary school entries across the whole of our trust and was used as the Academy Transformation Trust Christmas card, sent out across the UK. Well done Mckenna!

Early exam excellence for students

We were delighted to receive the news in the summer that Diana Clark-Rijo and Daniel Rodriguez-Alvarez both achieved a Grade 9 in their Spanish GCSE. This is an incredible achievement for students who are in Year 11 however, it was extra special for the pair as Diana was only in Year 9 and Daniel in Year 10.

They both studied in their own time with the help of Mrs Harris during lunches and after school and worked hard on improving their grammar and written accuracy of their work. They showed great resilience when facing difficult tasks and thoroughly deserve this high achievement. We are a very proud MFL department, well done to both!

Mrs Harris



Matilda The Musical

Over the past few months many students worked hard in perfecting our school's December production of Matilda the Musical. We all learned how to work together as a team, developed our confidence and most definitely improved our performance skills.

One of the best things about the show was that, even though not everyone was confident with every aspect of the performance, people have improved in things they didn't think they could e.g.: singing, dancing and acting. Nearly all of our dances were choreographed by the students which added character to the show as well as giving us the opportunity to lead others during rehearsals.

Not only did Matilda help us become more responsible, but we met some amazing people from different year groups. The atmosphere backstage before our first performance was exciting, yet nerve-racking and a bit manic; but in the end we were all there to support each other.

The backstage crew were incredible and made sure all the props were where they needed to be; this helped the show run smoothly on the night. The music production and lighting crew shone like true professionals, adding the finishing touches which made the overall

performance come to life.

Performing in front of Outwoods and Racemeadow primary schools and Bracebridge Court residential home for our final dress rehearsal helped prepare us for the two consecutive performance nights. We were thoroughly spurred on to give our final performances our all after Miss Kiteley shared some of the kind comments made by residents from Bracebridge Court who stated that: *'it was hard to believe it was a school production...very professional!' and 'it was funny, sad, and emotional all rolled into one- definitely worth seeing'*. Performing in front of an audience was exhilarating, and it was uplifting to see them clapping along to the dances.

Students who had not previously considered joining TQEA's Wednesday drama club are now eager to join us (if you'd like to join, just come along on a Wednesday 3.05 - 4pm in the drama studio).



Evie Benton (Year 7) commented that her and her family thought the performance was *'flawless' with every dance 'choreographed perfectly'* - *'You could tell how well rehearsed it was as it looked effortless and relaxed - you only get that if you put in that many hours!'*

After the shows everyone was buzzing with joy, pride and excitement. It would be great to do another show again in the future, such as Hairspray. We hope that if there is another show that more

students get involved, and enjoy it as much as we did. Matilda the Musical is 100% our benchmark for next time...it's going to be a tough one to beat!

Reviewed by Isobel Sheffield and Ella Jenkinson

New College Captains and Vice Captains

Towards the end of the Autumn Term, TQEA staff and students all voted for their College Captains. It was done as part of the UK General Election day with candidates putting forward a mini manifesto about themselves and ideas they had.

Congratulations to:

Adders' College

Captains – Phoenix Whitehead and Jack Carroll

Vice Captains – Lily Finlay and Harvey Billington



Bears' College

Captains - Jack Richardson and Diana Clark Rijo

Vice Captains - Phillip Ludgate and Keri Ann McGonagle



They will be leaders in all aspects of school life, so far they have decided which charities to present the Christmas Jumper collection to, they have been involved in new staff interviews and they are currently organising another charity event. The team meet weekly with their proactive manner and maturity being something that all students should aspire to.

Congratulations to all, we look forward to all the wonderful things you will do this year.

Mr Saye
Pastoral Leader



TQEA Borrows the Moon!

Pupils had an out of world experience just before Christmas, thanks to a loan from NASA and the Science and Technology Facilities Council they had the opportunity to view and handle a selection of rocks from the moon and space.

Between 1969 and 1972, six manned Apollo missions successfully landed on the Moon, allowing the Astronauts to collect samples and bring them back to Earth for study. Some of these samples have been preserved in acrylic disks and along with a range of meteorites, tektites and fossils are available for a week long loan to schools.

Pupils and staff were fascinated by the rocks which included amongst others samples; orange soil collected by Apollo 17 (you can find the exact site on google.co.uk/moon); a large iron meteorite from Argentina with a recorded history dating back to 1576; an ammonite fossil 65 million years old and a 14.7-million-year-old Moldavite impactite (glass formed when a meteorite landed in Germany). A number of students commented on how amazing it was to see something that had travelled so far, and were almost as old as the Earth itself. The students treated the samples with incredible respect, and realised how lucky they were to have access to such rare specimens.

Staff were as fascinated as the students were, with some (un-named) members of the science team being almost ancient enough to remember the moon landings 😊. On a totally unrelated note, the total geekiness of Mrs Trewin come out full-bore!

Massive thanks to Mr Slinn who organised the loan; with my role simply being to ensure that as many people had the chance to see them as possible, and ensure that none went missing!

It reminds us all we are a small part of space, and in the scale of time of the Universe we should be humble about our position. Hopefully the students were inspired to look more at astronomy, and realise that we can all appreciate the night sky, and the incredible things that pass through it. To infinity, and beyond!!

K Rowan
Head of Science



Nicaraguan Ambassador Visit

On the 9th of December 2019 we were fortunate to have been invited to meet with the Nicaraguan Ambassador at North Warwickshire Borough Council's council house along with Arley Primary School and several other councillors. It was a very exciting opportunity to form new friendships with pupils in Nicaragua (which is a country in Central America). Having never met an Ambassador we were unsure what to expect and a little nervous however the ambassador was incredibly friendly when she was introduced by Councillor Brian Moss and we were instantly warmed by her kind expressions.

The Ambassador informed us about many interesting facts about Nicaragua. One that stuck out to me was the fact that they have a lake that is so wide that when the Spanish came over to Nicaragua they thought they had reached the sea, however, the horses started to drink the water. They knew that the horses would not drink the salty sea water and when they tasted the water it was sweet so the lake got its nickname the "sweet sea". Another amazing fact about the lake is that in the centre there are two volcanoes which is very unusual. Nicaragua has also been listed high up in the countries affected by climate change because they have two shore lines. One on either side and rising sea levels is affecting their coastal areas. Nicaragua has the 2nd largest rainforest after the Amazon. The country has been very vocal about climate change and how it is affecting their local area.

Nicaragua doesn't have large towns as such so there are no 'proper' street names or addresses. The Ambassador explained to us how they find addresses. She said, you have to remember the lake is south, the mountains are north, the east and the west. The Ambassador's aid who was with her gave an example of an address she sent things to and this was: Road to Resiah, 10.5 kilometres, gas station, 1 1/2 blocks south, and address on the north. Everybody in the council chamber laughed. I think our postmen would struggle over there.

We all sat in the mayor's board room having drinks and chocolates with the Ambassador. She explained to us about cocoa beans. That Nicaragua is one of the largest exporters of cocoa beans. The Nicaraguan beans are used in some of the world's finest chocolate across the world. They won silver last year and gold the year before for the quality of their cocoa.



We all thought the visit was a really useful and informative visit, something quite special almost. The Ambassador gave us a small 'goody bag' to bring into the school. This contained some handmade items from Nicaragua. The tiny worry dolls are meant to tell your worries to, place under your pillow at night and your worries will disappear. The friendship bands are made to share the love. We hope that this gives a small insight into our visit and thank the Council, Councillors and our school for allowing the visit to happen.

By Shaun, Chloe, Dylan and Hazel

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 is 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 Warwickshire Attendance Service, part 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

Warwickshire Secondary School pupils recorded 10,017 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Autumn/Spring term during academic year 2017/18. This is an increase of 1,122 on the previous year.

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

