

Winter 2018/19 edition

THE QUEEN ELIZABETH ACADEMY NEWS



The Queen Elizabeth
Academy



Principal's Welcome

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

As we launch into 2019, the work being undertaken at tQeA continues to support students in achieving the very best educational outcomes. This cannot be achieved without the fantastic support from our dedicated staff and wonderful parents. Thank you to you all.

At this time, the staff at tQeA would like to wish all our Year 11 students the very best for spring term and their upcoming summer exams. You have worked so hard so far this year and deserve the success that this brings. Remember there is still work to do and much to be gained. Keep your eyes on the prize and give your all. We all hope that 2019 will be the springboard to your future success.

Last term saw many highs following our best ever GCSE examination results last summer, which put us well above national averages in the government's performance measures and amongst the top 10 schools in Warwickshire.

In addition to our academic success, we have welcomed visitors from the music industry with artists including Ayo Beatz and Calum Foad. Back in September our whole school welcomed the ovo energy Men's tour of Britain which included superstars of world cycling Chris Froome and Geraint Thomas as they flew past our front door! Take a look at the photos in our newsletter and on our Twitter 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 netball, 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.

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**'*

Dan Watts
Principal

Staff Continual Professional Development

tQeA hosted the first of 3 planned TeachMeet events this school year on Thursday 29th November. The event, based around well-being, was well attended by staff from schools across the area. Local organisations supported @restbandit our keynote speaker with mini-keynote presentations. The chip butties, provided free on arrival, were clearly a draw to all on a dark and windy November night.

If you work in education, look out for our upcoming events and feel free to join. The events cost nothing but a little of your time. Great CPD and networking opportunities provided. Our thanks go to @HayseducationUK our partners for the events.



Remembrance 2018

this year saw the final Government supported Battlefields Project. once again we were lucky to have two students who went along:

Matthew Asson and William Bolton, along with Miss Shrigley, took part and were taken by coach along with representatives from 15 other schools to learn more about the global, national and local impact of the First World War.

they were very excited to be a part of this journey and to learn more about the real life consequences of the First World War.

over four days they were taken to numerous sites relating to this conflict. they saw places where soldiers fought and died, vast cemeteries containing thousands of deceased soldiers, the death cells where condemned British soldiers waited to be shot at dawn by their own side for their 'crimes' and various memorials to the dead. they were very lucky to be a part of the ceremony which commemorates the fallen at the Menin Gate in Ypres. William was also selected, with another student, to lay a wreath during the ceremony with the organisation's soldier guide. this greatly moved William as he was able to take part in remembering a truly important part of history. the memorial records 54,000 names of soldiers from Britain, Australia, Canada, South Africa and india who lost their lives and have no known grave in this part of Belgium. during the ceremony traffic stops and the memorial itself is cordoned off as trumpeters play the last post, wreaths are laid and eulogies given to those who participated in, and those who died, in the conflict. the Last Post Ceremony is a unique act of remembrance which is not seen anywhere else in the world and they felt privileged to be a part of it.

the most interesting part of the trip for the two students was visiting the war memorial museum where they were

able to experience the actual trenches made at the front lines in Belgium. they were also given the opportunity to see the machinery and weaponry made during this time which both students found fascinating and made the soldiers experience much more realistic to them.

it was a honour to be able to take part in such a trip, one which opened their eyes to the realities of the First World War and how the consequences of this war is still felt today.



What remembrance means to our students – The Poppy Challenge

After many excellent entries from all tutor groups the winner of the poppy challenge was Sharan Kaur. Her poppy reads:

What remembrance means to me. Remembrance means loads to me because I want to remember those who fought for my freedom. On Armistice day I take 2 minutes to remember the brave people. I remember all the British, Sikh, Hindu, Chinese and many other men who fought in the 2 wars. I shall remember those who sacrificed their life for my freedom. We shall not forget them but we shall thank them. Thank you.



Second place was olivia evans

OUR REMEMBRANCE ASSEMBLIES – *by Mr Kinvig*

it was a great honour to lead tQeA's remembrance Service this year. it was a particular privilege with it being 100 years almost to the day that the fighting of the First World War ended and it made it all the more poignant. i thought i would share some of my thoughts from the service with our wider community. As we know, every year on the 11th november at 11 o'clock people all across Britain and Commonwealth countries stop what they are doing and take a couple of minutes to remember members of the armed forces who died in war. it was at this time and date in 1918 that the fighting of the First World War ended, and many people in Britain buy and wear a poppy, a flower which had grown on the battlefields of Western europe. Poppies grew all over France and Belgium where so many men had fought and died and so it was adopted as a symbol. Before the First World War we didn't have a remembrance day, although we'd had plenty of wars. it was the loss of millions of lives and the damage through injury and loss to millions of others that meant people wanted to have a way to remember the sacrifice of a generation of Britons. today, remembrance takes on a new meaning – we remember not just those killed in the two World Wars but also those killed in subsequent conflicts.

And remembrance for different communities in Britain and around the world has its own meaning. When reflecting on those killed in the First World War people may remember the 8,000 South Africans who perished, or the 56,000 Canadians that were killed, or the 62,000 soldiers from the indian army which included Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims who lost their lives fighting on the side of Britain, or the Chinese who lost their lives on the Western Front.

over the last four centenary years there have been many tributes to the fallen. in 2014, the centenary of the beginning of World War one, the moat of the tower of London was filled with 888,000 ceramic poppies, each intended to represent one British or Colonial soldier killed in the war. these poppies were later removed and distributed around various historic buildings to form commemorative displays. in 2016 thousands of men dressed in First World War Uniforms and, remaining completely silent, appeared in shopping centres and train stations to remember those killed and injured in 1916 in an area of France called the Somme. Also in the week running up to Armistice day, the tower of London was the setting for the burning of 10,000 torches each night to recognise the end of the

war. And this year on remembrance Sunday, along with veterans of the armed services, ten thousand people marched past the Cenotaph to honour those who died in World War one.

the significance of the end of World War one is that it brought to an end four years of brutality and suffering that affected families throughout the UK and beyond. to really grasp the tragedy of the war, events that took place on the very last day always give me pause for thought.

it was finally agreed by the Germans and the Allies to stop fighting after 3 days of talks. the agreement to stop fighting was signed at 5.10am on november 11th and it was agreed that the actual fighting would stop at 11am so as to allow the information to be shared with all soldiers. At 11am the guns fell silent and one British soldier described what happened next. He wrote that "the Germans came from their trenches, bowed to us and then went away. that was it. there was nothing with which we could celebrate with, except biscuits."

Sadly, there was still a lot of fighting right up to 11am and almost 10,000 people lost their lives on that day. the last British soldier killed in World War one was Private George ellison who was killed in Belgium at about 9.30am. He had joined the war in 1914 but then lost his life 90 minutes before the ceasefire. the last French soldier to die was called Augustin rebuchon at 10.50 am. He was a messenger and he was running to his colleagues with a note informing them that the war would end at 11am when he was killed by a single bullet. the last American soldier killed was Private Henry Gunther who was killed at 10.59am and he was officially the last man to die in World War one. His unit had been told to capture a German machine gun post. When he did he was shot and killed. His comrades



said as soon as he fell, a whistle was heard and the war was over. those are just some of the tragic events that took place on the last day of the First World War in France and Belgium.

i would also like to share what remembrance means to me in relation to our tQeA community. over the past three years myself, Miss Chapman and Miss Shrigley have been privileged to take two students each to the First World War battlefields of France and Belgium on government funded educational tours. We were taken to various scenes of battle, cemeteries, monuments to the dead and were given the opportunity to look out over the landscape where our 'old Boys' fought and, ultimately, died. As for myself, the most significant place of remembrance for our community is a place in France in an area known as the Somme. it is here that five of our old Boys are remembered on the largest British war memorial in the world. their names are carved onto the thiepval memorial. this memorial contains the names of 72,000 missing British and South African men who died on the Somme battlefields between 1915 and 1918 and who have no known grave.

these five old boys all died in 1916 during what has become known as the Battle of the Somme when the British army launched wave after wave of attacks on the enemy over a period lasting several months. After several months over a million men had been killed or injured, some of our old Boys being amongst the dead. So we can make a direct link with our school and this memorial. our five old Boys recorded on this memorial were once part of our community and now we can see their names on our school's memorial plaque and on the memorial in northern France. those men being: Aubrey Bonfield, Stanley

tonkinson, Marcus Gurton, John Herring and robert Mears.

And to conclude, i would like to honour the memory of two of our 'old Boys' who were killed in this centenary year, in 1918, by sharing a little information about each of them. Private C W thompson died on 28th August 1918. He was the husband of rebecca thompson of 30 Stafford Street, Atherstone. He was 31 years old. He had joined the war on 1st november 1916 and served in France. He is also shown on the Memorial Plaque in the t rinity Church, Coleshill road. And Private Wilfred Megginson who died on 8th october 1918 in France. He was the son of Baker and emma Megginson of Atherstone. He was 21 years old. i know he served in France as part of the royal Animal Vetinary Corps, looking after the horses. He was gassed in March 1918 and recovered to go back to the fighting. He was killed in France at a battle where British troops along with their Canadian allies at the town of Cambrai.

i hope my thoughts have given our tQeA community some ideas to reflect on. thanks to Amelia Arundel, Bailey Warren, diana Clark rijo, Hannah Jackson, Katie Louch and Hannah Walker for contributing to our service.



Christmas Events

during december we held a number of festive events, a community concert for residents of the local care homes, a film night and Christmas jumper day both run by our JLt, a charity staff v students netball match, the amazing Christmas Jingle Mingle starring our talented music students and our annual church service for our Year 7&8s. All events showcased our wonderful students excelling, well done to everyone who organised and took part in our festivities and congratulations for raising monies for our nominated charities – £236.17 for the teenage Cancer trust and £322.89 for Birmingham Children's Hospital.





Johnny English

Year 7 students grabbed the opportunity to become a spy for a day (or two). In Maths students were given a mission to make a Cipher Wheel and test it with their fellow spy members and some even took it home and made family members to decipher codes. In Science, our secret agents used "invisible ink" to deliver their secret messages.



I Dare You!

Students were challenged to try exotic and unfamiliar fruit. Once again tQeA students rose to the challenge as they tried fruits like: Lychee, papaya, dates, physalis fruit and many more. Lychees and physalis fruit were clear winners.



Maths Roadshow

Towards the end of the term KS3 Maths students were invited to a Maths roadshow during their normal Maths lesson. Students were faced with various challenges around the school hall, in which students had to work in pairs, move around various stations and solved problem based questions which is appearing increasingly frequent in the Maths syllabus.



Re-start a heart

All of our Year 8 students were taught lifesaving skills as part of the restart a Heart campaign in October. Students learnt how to perform CPR and how to use a defibrillator by a St John Ambulance volunteer. These volunteers regularly practice CPR as part of the charity's intensive first aid training and have used their skills for real to save lives. Students engaged with the session and asked thoughtful questions. Jake Cairns stated he enjoyed using the 'baby shark' song to help with the rhythm when giving the CPR. Many students felt like they could use the acronym dr ABC to remember how to administer CPR in the future.



A message from our school nurses

Vision – Children may not always know that they have a vision problem. It is therefore recommended that children have regular eye tests. These should be carried out at least once every two years, even if there are no problems with their eyesight. These tests can be done at a high street opticians and are free for all children under 16 years old (and those under 19 years old in full-time education). You can speak to your child's optician if you have any concerns about their vision.

The opportunity to discuss any health issues relating to your child is always available and the School Health and Wellbeing Service can be contacted on **03300 245 204**.

Many thanks.

Warwickshire School Health & Wellbeing Service

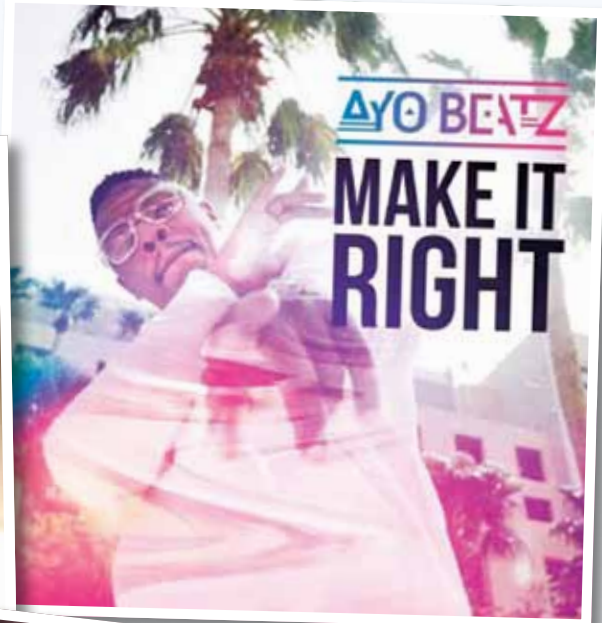
Compass

Base: Valiant office Suites, Lumonics House, Valley drive, rugby CV21 1tQ

Switchboard: **03300 245 204**

Ayo Beatz visits TQEA

At the end of November Ayo Beatz came along to talk to our music students and put on a show, the hall was bouncing as everyone involved enjoyed his music and production.





Please note that tQeA is now using the My ed app to communicate with parents/carers. Search for My ed in your App Store to download. open the app and allow the request for notification; search for our school name (the Queen Elizabeth Academy) or postcode (CV9 1LZ) and then complete the fields presented (name, Mobile number and email address) and tap the Link Account link. A security code will be sent to the mobile number given. this security code should be input in the relevant field on the App and the Create Account link should be tapped. After a short period of time you will then be able to see and access the public - facing buttons on your App.

if you have any queries, please contact Mrs Ford on 01827 712477. Also, if you have changed your mobile number recently, please update us at your earliest convenience by phone, or via email info@tqea.org.uk

Key Dates

Some of our Kay Dates have been amended. Please see the new dates on our website under parents/ letters...

Following a change by Warwickshire County Council the Year 6 Induction Day will now be on Thursday 27th July and

the Year 6 Induction Evening has been changed to Wednesday 3rd July. We also have a date for the Uniform Shop to be here in the TQEA dining hall during the summer holidays, this was still to be confirmed at the time of going to print so check the website for details.

The image shows a calendar titled 'TQEA - Key Dates 2018/19'. It lists various dates throughout the year, including school holidays, parent evenings, and other important events. The calendar is organized by month and includes specific dates for each event.

Information on our website

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



The Queen Elizabeth Academy

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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 8,895 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Autumn/Spring term during academic year 2017/18. This is an increase of 1,816 on the previous year.