

# THE QUEEN ELIZABETH ACADEMY NEWS



## Principal's Welcome

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

Welcome to the Spring edition of our newsletter. It has certainly been an interesting year to be a Principal of any academy, but I truly feel settled and part of the community once more. In these turbulent times the value of community has been crucial and we have certainly felt a huge wave of support from our parents/carers. This has been much appreciated and has given our staff a boost as they have continued to deliver high quality remote learning provision.

What is clear is that our character values have come to the forefront at TQEA and this edition of our termly newsletter represents each of those key tenets of our vision. It has become ever more important that we show our pride in our academy, the resilience to keep going when things get tough, endeavour in working hard to achieve to meet our ambitions and kindness to others. Within these pages you will see examples of how we live our values and lead our students to do the same.

Of course, our amazing students continue to “wow” us over and over again. Their commitment to remote learning and their participation was fantastic. I was privy to observing a number of lessons and I was totally impressed by the very positive teacher-student relationships and the way in which students, understanding how challenging teaching on a laptop is, responded with support, encouragement and kindness. On many occasions I witnessed students asking after the well-being of their teachers and being kind in the process. It was so heart-warming to see the level of care for one another in our community albeit through technology.

Students are now returning to the academy and we are so happy to have them back with us! They have been missed and the academy now feels like a school once more. With life, laughter and energy, for sure; but also with each student living each day exhibiting our values of pride, resilience, endeavour and kindness. By doing this our students will achieve our vision that whatever challenges or barriers they may face in life, that they will be able to compete nationally and globally with anyone in their chosen careers and to contribute positively and morally to society.

Enjoy our Spring newsletter as we look forward to a bright future in a world resembling the normality we knew before #We Can and We Will

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/>.

Neil Harding - **Principal**

# Running into the New Year

Everyone goes into the new year with the 'New Year, New Me' mentality. I wanted to take this mind-set one step further and really challenge myself. I decided to sign up to run 50 miles over 30 days as part of the Alzheimer's society charity run for dementia, which raises money for research into the prevention and treatment of Alzheimer's and dementia.

Now I am the first to admit I am not the most 'Proactive runner', in fact some might say I proactively try to avoid it. However, with millions of families including my own affected by this disease, I decided to get out there and raise money for such a worthy cause. With that in

mind I have been out pounding the pavement whatever the weather has thrown at me, which has even included snow. It has been truly worth it, not only to be able to say I've raised £180 for this wonderful cause but to be able to say **"I did it"**. *Mr Gibson*



## Staff Squats

Throughout February two of our staff Mrs Deeley and Miss Pargeter have taken part in the 2800 squat challenge to raise money for the incredible charity 'The Teenage Cancer Trust'. Every day, seven young people aged 13-24 hear the words "you have cancer". They will each need specialised nursing care and support to get them through the toughest times they may face.

Mrs Deeley said "I chose to raise money for this charity as I have worked with teenagers for 15 years. Our young people are truly amazing and resilient and inspire me every single day. As a teacher I have had the pleasure of working with the most incredible young people who have overcome the toughest and biggest hurdles life can offer and they continue to fight every single day".

They used a variety of squats to complete the challenge like squat jumps, Sumo's, Squat lunges, narrow, lateral and even weighted squats, Mrs Deeley even used her baby as a weight for these.



To date Mrs Deeley raised £667 and Miss Pargeter raised £200 for this amazing charity, they should be as proud of themselves as we are of them.

# Denise the Dinosaur

Denise the dinosaur- or 'what Miss Rowan gets up to when left unsupervised'

It started with an hour outside to get exercise in lockdown 1.0 dressed as a dinosaur. It is now a 'T-Rex Tuesday' each week, for as long as it takes to tour the area, we play music and dance outside to entertain the neighbours.

We launched The Denise the Dinosaur Facebook page which beams Denise's escapades live via Facebook for those who do not live on the estate to still enjoy the fun. People watch from as far away as Scotland, Ireland and even Brazil!

One of the videos currently has had over 10,000 shares

On the Facebook page, we also set weekly tasks for children, such as drawing a picture of a dinosaur and posting it in a visible spot on the estate, or we post instruction videos such as

how to make a dinosaur puppet from an old sock for youngsters to have a go at. We have also successfully named the park in the centre of the estate 'Jurassic Park'.

We have also been doing food drops in collaboration with Humanities Unites UK, medication runs and checking on the welfare of vulnerable people in our community. We have now been nominated for a Trent and Dove Covid Hero award, and await the 23rd March when we find out how we have done!



## Resource Bus

During the first week of the January lockdown we started to notice that due to the quick nature of the government's decision to close schools many of our students were without not only their exercise books but also stationary and other equipment that would make their online studies easier and more fruitful, yet we had these resources in the academy building. How to connect the two.....and thus the resource bus was born.

Within a very short time frame the staff worked together to pool department resources. Mr Bovington wrote a risk assessment to ensure that the journeys would be Covid safe for everyone and individual departments were able to get creative and branch out with the resources on offer. This meant that our students could continue to study the practical elements of their STEM

learning thanks to Mrs Trewin and the STEM packs and year 9 food tech were able to cook from home using ingredients donated from our partner's Edible links.

The first week we went out, over 86 families came to visit the resource bus and over the following weeks over half our school community visited at one point or another. Mrs Gibson and Mr Armishaw had the privilege of taking the bus out weekly and really loved seeing so many of our students enthusiastic to talk to us about their learning at home and the positive feedback from families on the support the school were offering. The bus, the resources on offer and everyone involved or who visited helped to bring together the community and enable the success of our students during difficult times.



During this pandemic our children have endured the most change to their lives. At a time where they should be out socialising with their friends, seeing family or even attending school to learn and grow has seen them having to stay indoors, learning online and

seeing loved ones on a screen. It's been hard for everyone. We are proud of all our students they have taken this in their stride. Here are just a few impressive examples of them embodying resilience

## Vaulting into a new normal

Catherine is a competitive gymnast and uses a local club. The pandemic and subsequent lockdowns have not stopped her or her club. Since the beginning of the first lockdown last March, her gymnastics club have put together 6x 2hour zoom training sessions a week to help them maintain not only their fitness, flexibility and strength but also to keep them going.

Even with a change in venue (Catherine's current gym is the living room) the coaches have encouraged and expected her to work as hard as she always has. Throughout the lockdown Catherine has pursued additional zoom sessions not only so her fitness levels

remain high but also because she enjoys it, it helps her general health and wellbeing. If this hasn't already shown Catherine's amazing determination and resilience she also plans out and delivers training sessions to the younger gymnasts in the club as well.



## A Horse of Course

The Friday before the students returned to school they were given an 'off screen' day, during this day they were given tasks that embody our school ethos. Liv not only completed these challenges but she went above and beyond, she regularly volunteers at an Equestrian disabled riding and therapy centre helping to take care of the horses as well as being an accomplished rider herself. On the Friday morning the centre had some staffing difficulties and no volunteers. Liv jumped straight at the opportunity to help, she basically ran the yard with the help of one member of staff, this is a job that usually requires two staff and two adult volunteers, she mucked out stables, filled hay nests, groomed and health checked 12 horses as well as filling water, putting on their rugs and turning them out. The horses weigh 350-600kg each and Liv moved them two at a time. She was meticulous with her work and took great

## A Singing Success

During lockdown Sophie took her very first signing exam. The exam was her grade 2 singing exam with the Associated Board of the school of music. We are delighted to hear she passed with a merit. **Well done Sophie.**



pride in a job well done, she was resourceful and worked well under pressure. Taking on such a challenge of her own free will truly showed she fully embodies our school ethos.



At a time where everything has seemed so bleak, we at TQEA have been lucky to experience some real acts of community kindness.

## Ediblelinks

The support we have received as an academy from Ediblelinks in these difficult times has been and continues to be amazing.

We returned to school in September in a 'bubble' system with no way to run our breakfast club in the way we had done previously, but we were also aware that the need was even greater. Ediblelinks stepped in immediately to help us provide a snack bag to students at breaktime to fill this gap. From this we moved to a pre-packed breakfast approach, providing sandwiches, fruit and drinks to students in their bubble areas in the morning before school. We continued to provide this for the key worker and vulnerable students throughout the lockdown, always aided by the donations of food and drinks we receive from Ediblelinks.

There are many other ways in which they have supported our academy and our community:

This Christmas between staff and Ediblelinks we provided, packed and delivered 40 Christmas hampers to families throughout our community.

They provided extra food to improve and supplement the free school meals hampers for our families in the first weeks of the lockdown.

During the lockdown the year 9 Hospitality and Catering students were given the opportunity to take part in a bread project and once again Ediblelinks stepped in to help us provide ingredients.

Sonya, Gavin and the team at Ediblelinks are always prepared to help us, whether its treats for students for good attendance or extra stationery for our students, they always provide the support we need. Without them we would not be able to offer many of the things we do as an academy.

**Facebook - @ediblelinks**



## Gayton WH and Son Bakery

A local bakery Gayton's were kind enough to donate cakes as a treat to all our keyworker children who were in school throughout lockdown. This was a lovely treat for them and it really gave them a lift. We are so thankful to them for their generosity and kindness.

Facebook @whgaytonsbakery

Website: [www.whgayton.co.uk/specialistbakery](http://www.whgayton.co.uk/specialistbakery)



# Our Wonderful Charity Trust

At TQEA we are extremely fortunate to have a charity trust that looks after our students and has provided much assistance and support from behind the scenes throughout their years with us.

The Objects of the Trust are to help provide facilities, equipment and vehicles for education, which would not normally be provided by government funding and to promote the education of those under 25 years of age who need financial support. In addition, they help fund out-of-hours enrichment activities, transport and mental health support.

The Trust has been a brilliant support in funding several unexpected costs caused by the Covid 19 pandemic and additionally supporting our families who have been adversely affected during this time.

Some of the things that they have kindly supported us with over the last few years are:

- Class sets of iPads and more recently laptops for home learning and in school digital learning
- Funding for FareShare provisions for breakfast club and vulnerable family food parcels
- Sets of Goal posts for our PE department
- Uniform and shoe provision for vulnerable families
- Washing machine and tumble dryer for PE to be able to wash spare kit after every use
- Counselling services for in school support for students
- New cookers for Food Technology
- Learning books for students without internet in Lockdown 1



- Music books
- Drama digital subscription / MFL learning subscription / Science learning platform subscription.
- STEM laser cutter
- Reading books for all students
- Coach costs and contributions towards enrichment trips to reduce costs for student families

The Charity Trust is looking for 2 new members who have time to support the charity through attendance at meetings and administration duties, parents, grandparents and local community members are all welcome to apply. Accountancy skills would be an asset. If you are interested please send a letter with details about yourself, your experience and why you think you would be suitable for the position, addressed to:

**Mr H Nethercot** at the schools address or via email [info@tqea.org.uk](mailto:info@tqea.org.uk) .

Please contact **Jo Bickley** via **01827 712477** if you would like any further information.

## Friendly Plaice

During January we were nominated to win a fish and Chip lunch on Facebook for all our staff. This was a welcome surprise and a lovely treat for us that made us feel deeply appreciated within the community

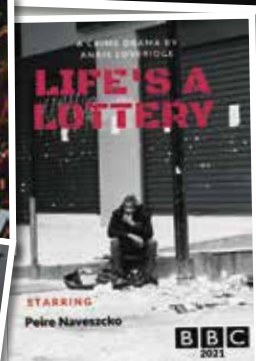
Facebook [@thefriendlyplaice](https://www.facebook.com/thefriendlyplaice)



## We did / We have

Mrs Gibson's Year 9 media class were given an assignment during their home learning. This was a part of their Crime drama unit, which allows them to study the theory behind a crime drama, alongside camera work and sound analysis. The task they were set was to produce a 30 second TV advert and an advertising billboard, however before they could do anything they had to create the finer details, drama name, plot line and character profiles.

The works they produced were outstanding. As this newsletter doesn't feature holograms you will have to take our work for how good the videos were (some of our staff were disappointed they were not real programmes 'Coming soon'). Here are some of the fantastic billboards we received.



## Food Glorious Food



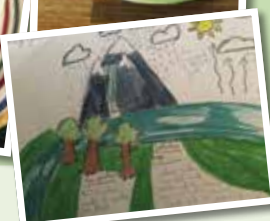
With all the Covid restrictions, practical lessons have been hit the hardest. However, that hasn't stopped Mrs Johnson and her food students. Throughout the whole pandemic the students have been sending her images of all the wonderful food they have been cooking. Mrs Johnson (who has missed cooking in class as much as

they have) decided with the help of the ever-supportive Ediblelinks, who donated the ingredients, she set about recording a cooking class showing them techniques and a how to make bread and cinnamon buns. The results have been amazing the effort and passion they have shown has been wonderful to see.

## Screen Free Geography Challenge

During the half term holidays our KS3 students were set a Geography challenge that they had to complete without the use of a computer. They had to show how rivers work. Some used

paper, pencils, craft supplies, and others got highly creative and used food. Here are a few examples of their hard work.



Despite the hurdles COVID-19 has thrown at us we have still managed to provide students at TQEA with a great deal of careers advice and education opportunities.

On Wednesday March 3rd The Coventry and Warwickshire Enterprise Partnership Careers held a virtual careers fair. The event was held in place of our regular in house careers fair which we hope will return next year. It served as an excellent opportunity for students and parents to view presentations by and ask questions to local businesses, colleges and universities. There were upwards of 40 representatives present to offer advice and information alongside a series of interesting and informative live presentations on a range of careers education topics.

Students in years 10 and 11 were invited to attend an exclusive free webinar, to explore the incredible apprenticeship and career opportunities available for them in the RAF. The RAF offers a wide variety of apprenticeships, which have great benefits and long-term career opportunities. With diverse and challenging careers available in everything from Communications and Intelligence to Technical and Engineering, the RAF remains one of the largest providers of apprenticeships in the UK.

During this term several local 6th forms and colleges have held virtual open events. Students have been provided with the information regarding each event and offered support in registering for them. Some of these institutions have also held taster sessions for students who have already applied to college. These sessions have given students the opportunity to speak directly to course leaders and teachers as well as find out exactly what their chosen course will involve.



Students have been given support in applying for the Warwickshire police cadet scheme. This scheme is a fantastic opportunity for students to gain an understanding of the knowledge and skills required for careers in the police force.

Students have been made aware of the Manufacturing and Technology Center Engineering Apprenticeships programme and supported in completing applications to this excellent programme. TQEA has a history of students being successful in this program and going on to fantastic careers in the industry.

Students have been made aware of the Midlands Group Training Services Engineering Apprenticeships programme and supported in completing applications to this excellent programme

Students have been made aware of the BMW apprenticeships programme and supported in completing applications to this excellent programme.

Students have been made aware of the Birmingham Ormiston Academy Stage & Screen Production Academy, a new post-16 academy opening in September in central

Birmingham.

BOA Stage & Screen Production is a specialist academy focused on creative and technical production for the Film, TV and Performing Arts industries. Here students will gain practical training in creative and technical roles including costume design, hair and makeup and set design, to lighting, sound design and camera operating, administration, and management.

Students in year 11 were invited to attend a national university fair. The event was an excellent opportunity for students to find out more about what was available to them if they choose to apply to university, they found out about how to apply, financial support if required, what courses are available and the entry requirements as well as what to expect from university life.

Students in year 11 have been given the opportunity to meet via Teams with Mr Webb to gain guidance and support in choosing the right course(s) for them next year. They were then supported in filling out the relevant application forms to ensure they have a clear idea about where they want to progress to when they leave TQEA.

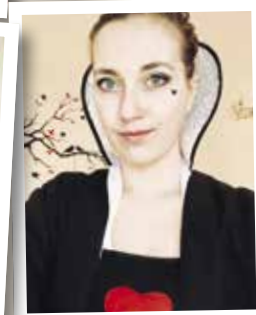
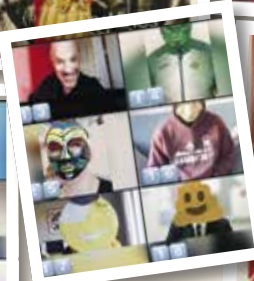
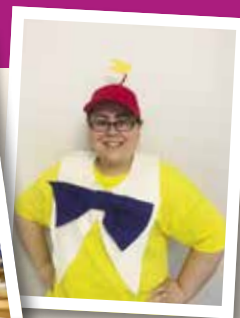
**Mr Webb**

# World Book Day

The time once again came on 4th March 2021 to celebrate World Book Day at The Queen Elizabeth Academy!

True to tradition, the students and staff across the school put their all into making the day a resounding success for all of us. This year saw the introduction of 'The Masked Reader' competition in which 18 members of staff masqueraded as a fox; a dinosaur; Black Panther; two Incredible Hulks; and even famous Brummie comedian, Matt Slack... In the virtual lessons, all subjects were celebrating literacy and promoting a love of reading for pleasure. The English department took to looking at greek myths (the topic of last year's theme) with years 7 & 8. The art lessons focussed on the illustrators of some of our favourite books, students were even encouraged to create their own book covers! The MFL team prompted discussions about students' favourite books in both French and Spanish.

It's clear from the excitement of students and staff that lockdown didn't dampen the spirits of World Book Day at all and we're all massively looking forward to next year's celebrations already!



## Pastoral Competitions

Throughout the lockdown our pastoral team have been working really hard to offer the children a fun way for them to engage in non screen activities in which they can win prizes and earn rewards. They have ran a variety of competitions, starting with a self portrait with items they have around their , decorating a bottle with what they are most looking forward to when we leave lockdown and even inventing a tiny sandwich. Here are some of the fine examples of what has been produced.



# TQEA Student Leadership Team

## Student Senior Leadership Team (SSLT)



### Head Students



Alex - Mae

*'A bend in the road is not the end of the road unless you fail to make a turn'*

Jay

*'Kindness makes the most beautiful person in the world, no matter what they look like'*

## Deputy Head Students



Bobby



Bethany



Lewis



Tiegan

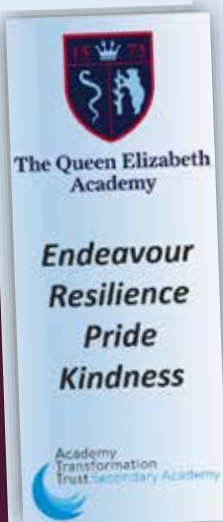


Kacey



Matty

## Junior Leadership Team (JLT)



Harrison



Imogen



Tara



Ben



Chloe



Imogen

# GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE: ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS FROM 8th MARCH 2021

The Department for Education has recently released to school's guidance for a full return from March.

From 8th March, we intend for our usual attendance rules to apply. We expect all students to attend full time unless in the case whereby a statutory reason applies, i.e. sickness, an exceptional circumstance etc. or where a student is complying with clinical and/or Public Health England advice.

The DfE have confirmed that the following responsibilities will resume:

- parents' duty to ensure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence;
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.

All matters of unauthorized absence will be referred to Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire Country Council. Fixed penalty notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire Country Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

**It is important to note, Fixed Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child (for example 1 child and 2 parents, means each parent receives a fine for £60, totaling £120, this is reduced to the single £60 if paid within 21 days).**

Where a Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire Country Council's legal services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

We recognise that some students will be anxious about returning to school. We will work with all students who require additional specific provision in order to facilitate a smooth return.

We also recognise that social contact during this time has been significantly reduced – especially amongst those shielding or in homes with a family member shielding.

If you believe your son/daughter is not able to return to school as they are complying with public health and/or clinical advice, we will work with you to complete a medical education continuity plan. You must speak to the attendance team at TQEA to check the guidance and the legal requirement.

## What does good look like?

Government research shows a correlation between low attendance and low attainment. Students who attend regularly will typically achieve higher grades in examinations, have greater social skills and have the benefit of a full bodied education.

Our attendance target for the school is 96% and we expect all students to aim to reach 100% attendance throughout the year.

### 100% Attendance

This is where all of our students aspire to be. 100% means no days off throughout the year.

### 96% Attendance

This is around 6 days lost throughout the year. Your child's attendance is below 100% and they should try to attend every day moving forward.

### Below 90% Attendance

If a pupil's attendance falls below 90% (19 school days of absence), they will be classed as a persistent absentee.

Information  
on our website

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



The Queen Elizabeth  
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