



Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School

Term 5 Newsletter

April - May 2024

Welcome to our Term 5 newsletter. Term 5 is always busy and energetic with trips, activities and examinations. I am very impressed with how the school has managed to squeeze all these enriching activities and events into the last 6 weeks and I am sure you will be equally impressed when you read through the newsletter.

Year 8 spent an exciting week in Cornwall for the annual residential trip to Bude, where they had an action packed week filled with a whole host of activities - you can read more about this in the newsletter. Thank you to the staff for supporting the residential trip, it is a fantastic experience for our students and would not be possible without staff volunteering their time.

Next term will see our Year 10 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants undertaking their practice and assessment expeditions. We are grateful to parents and carers for supporting their child with the award and I am delighted with the commitment and dedication all 100 students have shown to completing their sections. I hope that they have an enjoyable time on the expeditions and hope the weather is kind!

During Term 5 we had a fabulous few days with our Year 11 and Year 13 students as we celebrated their time at the school before they departed for study leave. As you will be aware, GCSE and A level public examinations are now in full swing and we know our students have all been preparing hard and we wish them all the very best. My thanks to the staff for supporting and helping to prepare our students for these important assessments and we are looking forward to seeing their results in August.

As you already know the school was awarded the Kent School Award for Resilience and Emotional wellbeing - well done to everyone involved with the application process. This term we once again marked Mental Health Awareness Week and invited students to take part in activities to inspire action to promote the message of good mental health for everyone. You can read about this and other opportunities available to students to support their mental health within the newsletter.

In April, the Faversham Elizabethans organised a reunion event for former staff and students. The reunion was incredibly well turned out and it was lovely to reconnect and share memories with some familiar faces. It was the first time that many guests had returned to the school since leaving and they were amazed with how the facilities had improved, in particular the new sports hall and theatre. The Faversham Elizabethans will be holding their Annual Lunch in October and by then we will be able to showcase the new teaching block to guests.

Finally, I realised that I have not recently shared an update about the building works taking place in school. We are currently working hard on the teaching block which is looking very complete, we hope to finish the exterior next term. Once this is complete, we will be able to access some of the rooms to add the furnishings well before the start of the Autumn term. Our faculty heads have been tasked with the important job of choosing paint colours for their rooms!

I wish you all an enjoyable and restful half term break. Term 6 resumes on Monday 3rd June when we will welcome you back for what is sure to be a busy and productive final term.

D M Anderson MA FRSA
Headteacher



GOOD LUCK YEAR 11



We waved a fond farewell to Year 11 on 7th May as they embarked on their Study Leave before their GCSE exams. It has been an absolute pleasure and a privilege to watch our students blossom over the years and we are delighted to see how much they have achieved over their time at QEGS. We wish them every success for their GCSEs and in their future studies.



Adventure Bude 2024

Our Year 8 students had the best time in Bude despite the grey weather. Activities included mountain boarding, caving, bodyboarding, kayaking and high ropes amongst others. Students enjoyed the hearty breakfasts with discos and other fun activities in the evenings.



A big thank you to all the staff who went along to look after the 152 students that went. A well deserved half term break for them all.

News from MFL

Teaching and promoting languages through football.



On 23rd April, QE welcomed Steve Eadon from Mingalaba to speak to pupils about where languages can take you. After 11 years at Arsenal Football Club, Steve was able to engage our students by connecting his global football experiences with many well known players to everyday opportunities that could be available to our young linguists. Many of his anecdotes related to the world of football, which not only linked brilliantly to languages, but kept our spectators engaged throughout his talks. He showed that it isn't just international football stars who need another language when they change teams, but that knowledge of languages is a valuable asset in a huge variety of careers associated with sport; physiotherapists, coaches, nutritionists and player managers to name but a few!

In addition to delivering these inspiring talks, Steve provided practical sessions for Year 7-10 in SPANISH, FRENCH and GERMAN! How amazing to combine sport and languages! The warm up drills were fun and interactive, with participants having to listen to commands in the target language and react accordingly - a test of both mental and physical agility! There followed a short match, with players using command words they had learnt to communicate with their teammates. The feedback we have received from pupils involved is extremely positive, and we hope to invite him back next year so even more pupils can get involved in and be inspired by this incredible opportunity.

Very informative, inspiring



It was really fun and interactive, the warm-up helped me learn some new words and phrases and overall it was amazing

It talked about how to get into sport careers and how languages can help on that journey

"It was very motivating and engaging."



Year 12 Spanish students, who have been studying the traditions, festivals, gastronomy and languages of Spain's different regions, have recently had the opportunity to sample some of these cultural highlights without even leaving Faversham!

On Saturday 11th May, they sampled a range of tapas at **Jittermugs** café - it was a great way for them to try new food without committing to a large quantity of anything, having said that all plates were returned to the kitchen empty! After a plate of churros con chocolate, we headed to the Arden theatre for a performance by Flamenco Express. It is quite difficult to do the show justice in words - it really needs to be experienced! With just four performers, the energy, noise and visual spectacle they created was incredible - and it was all improvised! There was guitar playing, singing, clapping, dancing, stamping, cape twirling and castanet clicking ... After the show, Joaquina and Emilio came to talk to the students and explained the origins and traditions of Flamenco.

The students and staff enjoyed both experiences a great deal:

'A mí me gustaron las lentejas que eran muy ricas pero me gustaron menos las aceitunas cocidas porque tenían un sabor extraño.'

'A mi me encantaron el chorizo al vino, el pan plano y la tortilla española, especialmente el chorizo porque estaba lleno de sabor.'

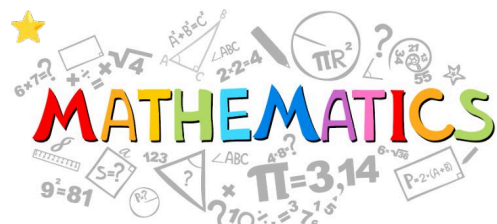
'Quiero cocinar la tortilla española en casa pero es probable que sea muy difícil cocinar.'

'Estaba muy impresionado. Especialmente porque la actuación es improvisada.'

'El baile con la capa, que se origina de las corridas de toros, porque crea las formas bonitas cuando se utiliza para bailar.'

'Me impresionó mucho el baile con las castañuelas, y cuando el hombre bailó con la capa. Además el ritmo de sus zapatos en la tierra era muy rápido!'





This term our KS3 students who took part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge received their results.



They took part in a 1 hour challenge which consisted of 25 questions designed to test their logical thinking and problem solving skills. The students did brilliantly, with 25 Bronze (top 50% nationally), 22 Silver (top 25% nationally) and 22 gold (top 8% nationally). 11 students also received an invitation to participate in the Junior Kangaroo, which is a follow on round in June. Congratulations to all students who took part and their brilliant results!

STUDENT SHOUT OUT

This section is dedicated to students who have achieved some special recognition outside of the hard work they do at Queen Elizabeth's. If you have anything you'd like to add to the Newsletter about your child, please contact:

office@queenelizabeths.kent.sch.uk

Luca W H (Year 12) competed in the South East Gymnastics Floor and Vault competition and won the gold medal in the men's gold category after only competing at this top level since late last May!

Parents and school are so proud of his achievement.

Well done Luca.



QE SCHOOL FETE

SATURDAY
6TH JULY
12PM - 3PM



THIS YEAR, THE FÊTE IS GUARANTEED TO BE A WONDERFUL OCCASION WITH LIVE MUSIC, ACTIVITY STALLS RUN BY STUDENTS, AN ART DISPLAY AND ALL THE USUAL FIXTURES. GUESTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE SCHOOL GROUNDS WHILE ENJOYING REFRESHMENTS, MEET OTHERS WITHIN OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY AND GET INVOLVED - WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS.



Humanities



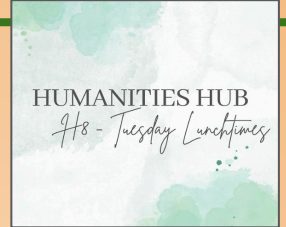
Year 10 RE GCSE competition

We had 36 students take part in this year's 100 day challenge which is exceptional. Thank you to all those who took part, this would have really helped in preparation for your exam.



Humanity Hub

A reminder to all Humanity students that every Tuesday lunchtime in H8, Humanity teachers will be present for any students who wish to ask for support or would like a space to complete tasks.



Humanity Heroes

KS3	KS4	KS5
Siena	Alexander	Ava
Elsy	Leah	Annie
Olly	Tilly	
Jacob	Stanley	
	Darcy	



The second round of the Great History Debate took place this term with all of the winners from Round One going head to head. Disputes ranged from nuclear bombs to Napoleon, from Henry V to Hitler's rise to power and from the Magna Carta to the Suffragettes. It was heartbreaking to wave goodbye to all of those who were defeated but, ultimately, only a few quarter finalists could be permitted to emerge. We very much look forward to what Jemima, Seren, Emma, Caycee, Ollie, Nari, Edward, Eva, Mary, Emmeline, Milly, Ilse, Jude and Zayan can present the judges and audience with after half term as the race to the final heats up.



We would all like to wish all the Humanity students good luck and all the best in their upcoming exams, we know how hard you are working.



News from the Telfer Library

Next time you visit the library you are in for a surprise! You will notice some changes, all thanks to a great team effort from students and staff. We have a new software system (thanks to PTFA funding), purchased around 500 new books and updated our magazine subscriptions. The Premises Team has been busy too: they've painted the walls, changed the shelving and layout, created a new Sixth Form study zone area and are in the process of laying a new carpet. The IT team has installed a new digital interactive whiteboard for library displays and are currently working on a self service point. Many thanks to all the staff, students and PTFA who have supported this rejuvenation, the end is in sight!

Book Club

We are very excited in the book club to follow the Yoto Carnegie awards again this year. The Yoto Carnegies are the UK's longest running children's book awards, recognising outstanding reading experiences created through writing and illustration in books for young people.



A national reading for pleasure initiative, the Yoto Carnegie Shadowing Scheme engages thousands of young people to read the books nominated and are invited to vote for their favourite books to win the Shadowers' Choice Awards, which are announced alongside the Medal winners at the annual winners' ceremony,

The Book Club has set up its own shadowing committee to read, review and vote on the books in the shortlist. Books have been purchased with prize money awarded by the Faversham Literary Festival for all the wonderful entries from students for their short story competition. Book Club is held in C5 Monday lunchtime, all KS3 students are welcome.

We will stream the ceremony live in the library on 20th June.



PE News - Term 5 2024

Yr 7 Athletics

Wow! What a talented bunch of Year 7 students we have! In their first competitive athletics event they showed the school just how amazing they are with great attendance and some super performances. Oliver W has been practicing hard and won the High Jump with a performance of 1.30m - only 3cm away from his Personal Best. Ethan B smashed a new Year 7 school record in the Long Jump - a record that had been held since 2011, with a jump of 4.47m. Will K won the boys 100m and shot with again, some outstanding performances.



Cricket

The Key Stage 3 Cricket Club has been in operation every Tuesday after school for the whole of Term 5. It has been really well attended by Year 7 with lots of students showing great promise -

Oliver and Agnes are showing some great potential at batting, Ellis and Harvey are both bowling really well. We also have some established club players that attend; Henry, Ruben, Rory, Oliver H and Isla S are already excelling at their trade and happy to share their experience with the others. Practice sessions will turn into more competitive opportunities in term 6- all are welcome to attend!

Rounders

The rounders season has begun with training sessions across both key stages being busier than ever. Year 7 to 10 are working increasingly hard toward the up and coming fixtures in Term 6. The hard work and commitment from all teams will continue through to next term, culminating with the district championships.



Tennis

The use of our Tennis facilities has been in full swing every lunchtime throughout Term 5. Connor and Charlie in Year 11 have made full use of this opportunity throughout their time at QE and are playing superb Tennis as a result. Next term will see the launch of the annual QE Tennis tournament 'The David Smiley Tennis Open' where students and staff compete to be crowned the very best tennis player in the school. Last year the tournament was won by Harry P in Year 9. The question is, can he retain his title?

Junior & Intermediate Athletics

Unfortunately, the weather has been playing havoc with our Athletics this term as it always seems to rain at 3.30pm on a Tuesday! We have had one mixed event at SLBS with some brilliant performances from Years 7 & 8 and eventually the competition was rained off.

The Year 9 & 10 team have had slightly more success with some sunshine and again, some great all round performances. Oceane has been dominating in both the Long Jump and 300m, Jessica P has found a new love for middle distance running and is excelling in the 1500m, Grace T has discovered the Triple Jump and won the last event and Sunee R continues to be a throwing force with the Javelin. In the boys team, Logan is developing into a fantastic all-rounder whilst Tom H, Monty, Felix, Mark H and Jack T are working really hard to develop their throwing skills.

Mr Charlton and Mrs French are both very excited for the forthcoming district Athletics Championships next term, where we hope to retain 2 of the big overall titles.



Jessica P (Year 10) received her invite to compete at British Summer National.

This is a huge achievement for Jessica as when will race against the best swimmers in the UK. Many congratulations Jessica, Mrs French is really looking forward to watching you race in Sheffield very soon.



Sailing news

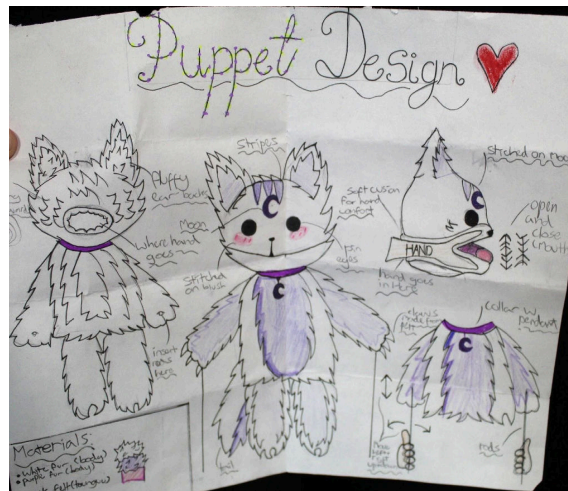
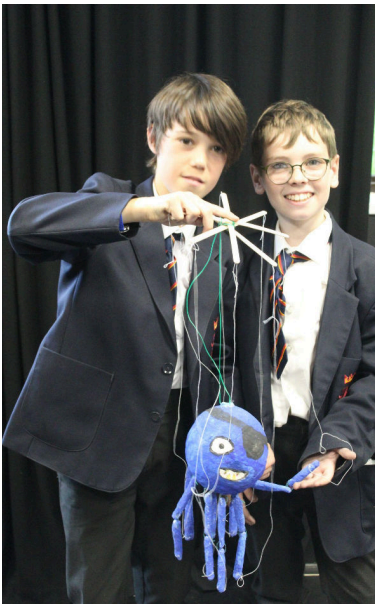
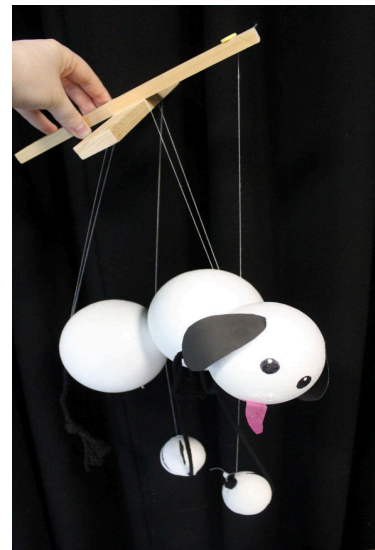
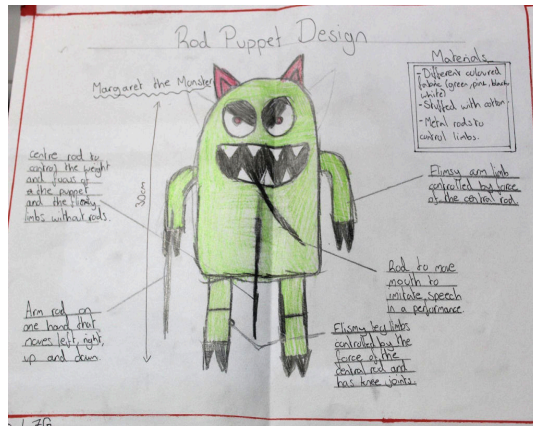
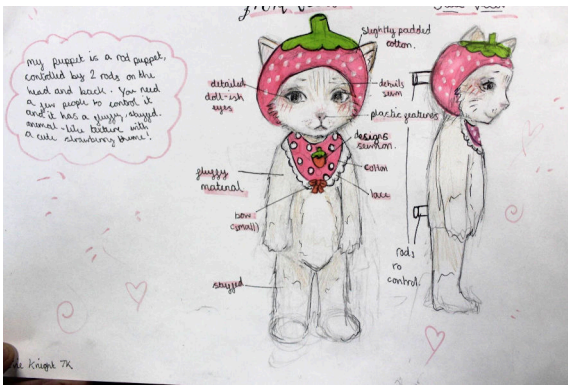
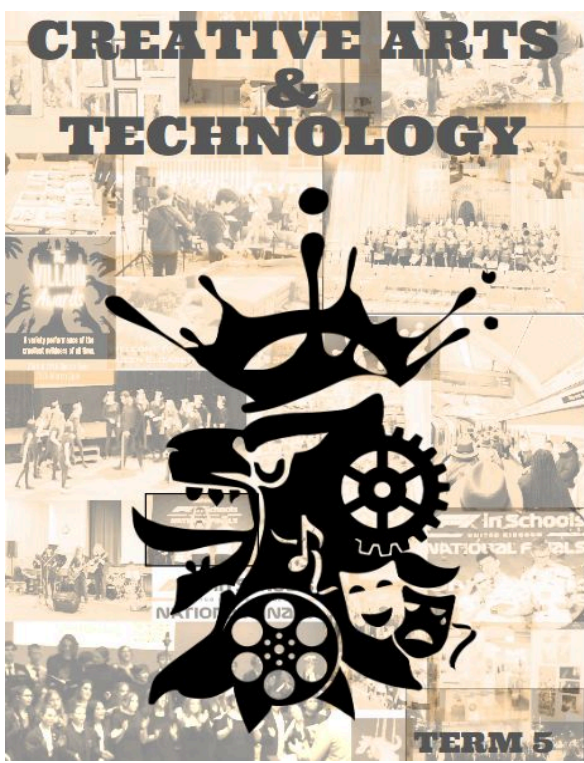
Ralph H in Year 8 has been working very hard over the winter months, training in his sailing class. Last weekend he attended the Coastal Championships in Poole for a tough weekend of racing. We are delighted to announce that Ralph achieved 5th place overall, including a 1st on the second day of racing in the 4.2 class on a very tricky tide change. He was struggling on Saturday after spending the week in Bude, but by Sunday he was nearly back on form! We wish Ralph the very best of luck in his forthcoming races, including the World Championships in Spain, closely followed by the National Championships this summer.

CREATIVE ARTS & TECHNOLOGY

Drama

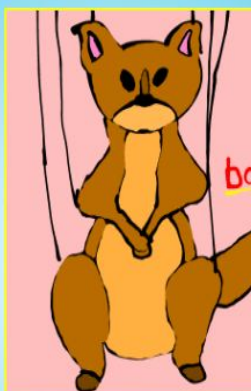
Year 7 Puppetry

This term Year 7 have been researching different types of puppets including marionettes, rod puppets, shadow puppets and hand puppets. They have submitted a fantastic array of designs with some students even making them! A prize for best design will be awarded next term, some excellent work so far.



My Marionette Kangaroo

My puppet has got seven strings located on his ears, elbows, knees and the tip of his tail, because of this it is also harder to use. I added more strings so it is easier to make him look more alive and make it easier to get him to jump.



Year 8 Costume Design

At the end of last term Year 8 presented their costume design for an original Roald Dahl character. Students created their own character inspired by characters in 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', then worked in groups to present their costume design and mood boards.



School Musical 2025 announcement



Next year's school musical will be Lionel Bart's classic 'Oliver!'. This special school edition will feature familiar favourites from Charles Dickens most notorious and beloved novel.

Auditions will happen in Term 6 ready to start next year. Students who are interested should join the Performing Arts Opportunities Google classroom, class code: **65376f4**

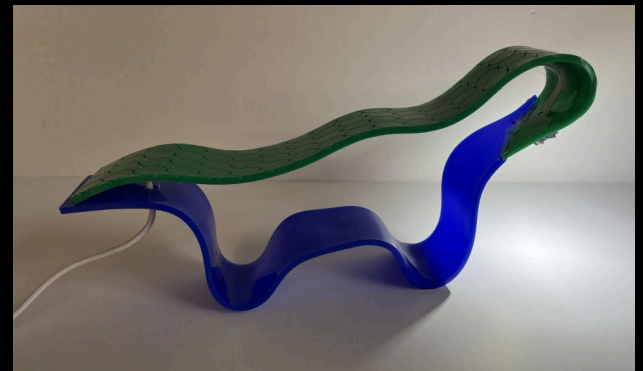


At the start of term 5, a group of 11 finalists from year 9 and 10, competed to win the Masterchef trophy.

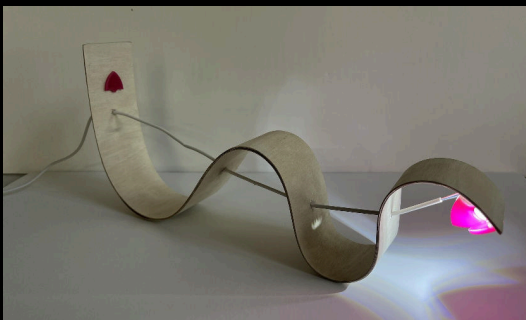
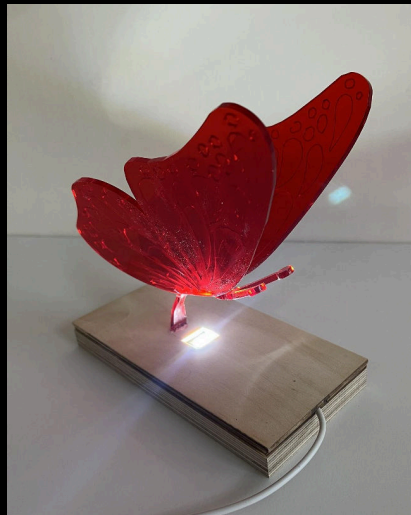


Judged by Stephen Harris (Michelin star owner of the Sportsman) and Mr Anderson, students had 2 hours to recreate a vegetarian starter, main or dessert. Niall P won the trophy, with his delightful sticky toffee pudding and homemade custard. Stephen said that he would quite happily serve this at his restaurant and commented on the lightness of the sponge. He awarded it 10/10 for taste.

Year 10- Design & Technology Lamps



Year 10 DT students have been looking at the processes of laminating plywood and thermoforming plastics to create these great lamps this term



● PRIZE WINNER

Congratulations to Keeley
in Year 9 for achieving
2nd place in the
Canterbury Art Prize with
this beautiful lino print!
Well done Keeley!



● PRIMARY ART DAY

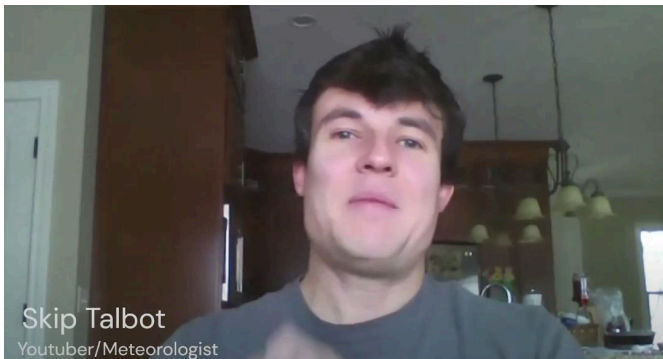
The Art Department ran a
primary printmaking
workshop with St Mary of
Charity Primary School.
Some great individual
outcomes and final group
print. Well done!



FILM STUDIES

Adam B in Year 8 entered the INTO FILM young filmmakers' competition with his extreme weather documentary "Mesocyclone."

This national competition has a high calibre of entrants, and Adam did extremely well to get through the first round. Unfortunately his work did not make the shortlist. The award usually goes to A Level students, so for Adam to even get through the first round is a huge achievement and shows the skill of this promising young filmmaker. Well done, Adam!



Adam's "Mesocyclone"

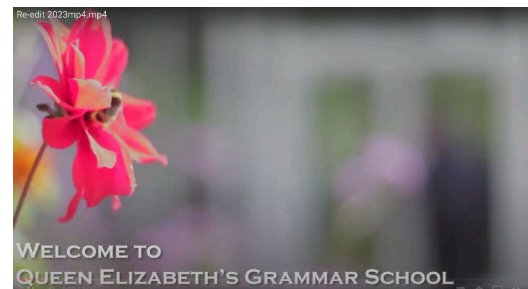


Dance showcase

Our Year 12 film crew are busy starting to devise the QE promo film for 2025, as well as putting the finishing touches to the edit for the 2024 dance show.



QE promo film



The date for the 2024 Clapperboards - QE's film awards evening - will be announced soon. The shortlist of entries from this year's students will be revealed by the end of this school year, and a panel of judges, including industry insiders, will decide the winner of the Golden Clapperboard for best overall film. All are welcome to this event held in the Elizabeth Quinn theatre in early September - ticket news coming soon!



The 2023 Clapperboard winners

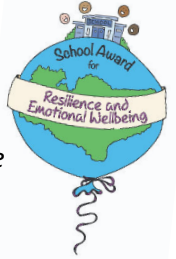
Highlight on Mental Health



This term, we were delighted to be awarded the **Kent School Award for Resilience and Emotional Wellbeing** which is a testament to our wonderful team and our whole school community ethos of supporting each other.

The awarding body commented, *'Reading your application form and supporting evidence, I was particularly struck by how embedded supporting emotional health and wellbeing is throughout the school from the Senior Leadership Team, teaching staff and curriculum, pupils and parents. It is great to read how invested you are as a whole school community to provide training opportunities and events, across the whole year, to raise awareness of mental health and wellbeing. I'd like to congratulate you all at the school for such thoughtful, proactive and innovative ways that you are supporting emotional health and wellbeing across the school including the transition work that you do for Year 6 pupils, navigating what can be a very challenging time for many children.'*

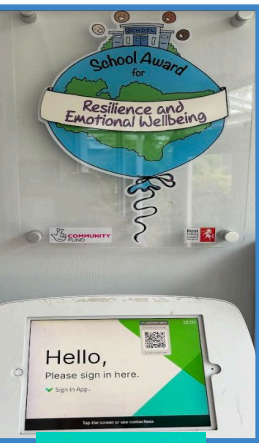
You can find out further information at <https://kentresiliencehub.org.uk/>



Students and staff enjoyed incorporating this year's Mental Health Week theme of 'Movement: moving for our mental health' through form time activities and year group assemblies.

Being active is important for our mental health, however, so many of us struggle to get enough exercise. We know there are many different reasons for this, so through the Mental Health Awareness Week aimed to help people to find moments for movement within their daily routines. If you would like know more, please visit their website at:

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/public-engagement/mental-health-awareness-week>



You can watch Kooth's latest parent & carer session on 'Supporting your child with Exam Stress' by following this [link](#). KCC have updated their exam support guide sway, which can be accessed by following this [link](#).



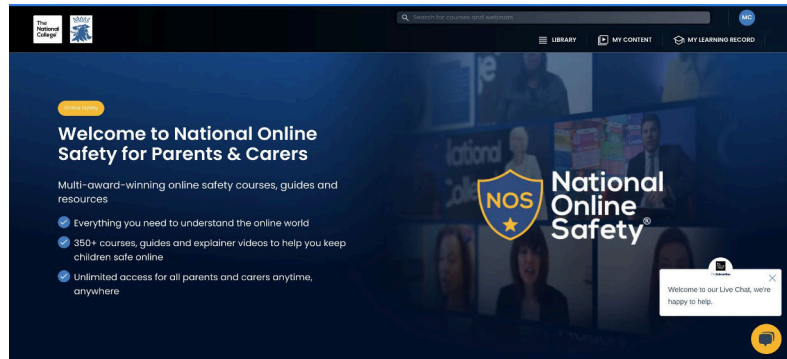
Online Safety Update

A quick-fire guide on what you need to know



Engage • Endeavour • Excel

Here at QEGS we take Online Safety very seriously. A key aspect for us is making sure that parents and carers feel they are able to find the information needed to support their children whilst they are online. Our subscription to National Online Safety allows you to have an account with access to videos, webinars and guides covering a variety of topics including Gaming, streaming, AI, scams and much more.



To register an account please email Mr Cowlam mzc@queenelizabeths.kent.sch.uk

Online Safety Videos

To make some information more accessible, we have created Online Safety Update videos. The videos highlight some key issues, valuable advice and guidance, and discusses what is happening in the world of online safety.

To watch the videos, or download the slides and the transcript, please follow this link to the school website - <https://www.queenelizabeths.kent.sch.uk/support/online-safety/online-safety-video/>.



Parent Guides

You may have seen on the weekly bulletin that National Online Safety provides a weekly #WakeUpWednesday guide that can be handily downloaded from their website in an easy to read guide. We have added a lot of these guides to the [school website](#) so you can download for your reference. The guides range from specific apps or games to how to have conversations at home about online safety.



QE PTFA School Uniform Recycling Project

The PTFA at QE run a school uniform recycling project where used clothes are donated, sorted and stored.

If parents need uniform for their children, they can

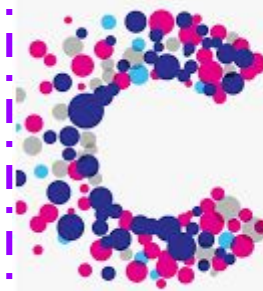
- make an email request to QEGS-UNIFORM@outlook.com
- get in touch through the Facebook page QE Faversham PTFA-Uniform Recycling Project
- Contact the school office, leave your contact details and we will get back to you.
- We have a stall at the summer fete, year 7 open days and transition events.

Suggested Price List for September 2022

Item	Suggested Donation
Blazer	£10
Jumper	£5
Tie	£3
Sports top*	£6
Shorts*	£5
Rugby top	£10
Hoodie *	£8
Old logo hoodie	£4
Training trousers*	£8
Girls leggings*	£8
Holdall	£3
Skirt	£5
Skort	£8
Shirts	£1
*New style kit	

When you get in touch, we aim to have your items with you within a week.
If you qualify for PUPIL PREMIUM, the uniform will be supplied free of charge.
If you would like to donate items, please leave them at the main school office

The uniform store is well stocked, so please get in touch.



CANCER RESEARCH UK

Year 11 - Charity Day

On the last day of term, Year 11 organised some fabulous and fun activities to raise money for their chosen charity, Cancer Research.

An amazing total of £944 was raised through fun games including a tombola and 'sponge the teacher'. Students and teachers alike took full advantage of the ice creams on offer during the break and even managed to get their fortunes told at lunchtime.

A big thank you to all those who organised and attended.

REMINDER - all Chromebooks must be kept in their protective case for insurance purposes. Please also ensure the device is fully charged each day.

2023-2024

Term 1 Staff Development Day – Monday 4th September

*Tuesday 5th September (Year 7)
Wednesday 6th September (all Years) to
Friday 20th October*

Term 2
Monday 30th October to Friday 15th December

Term 3
Tuesday 2nd January to Friday 9th February

Term 4
Monday 19th February to Thursday 28th March

Term 5
*Monday 15th April to Friday 24th May
Bank Holiday – Monday 6th May*

Term 6
Monday 3rd June to Friday 19th July

2024-2025

Term 1 Staff Development Day – Monday 2nd September

*Tuesday 3rd September (Year 7)
Wednesday 4th September (all Years) to
Friday 25th October*

Term 2
Monday 4th November to Friday 20th December

Term 3
Monday 6th January to Thursday 13th February

Term 4
Monday 24th February to Friday 4th April

Term 5
*Tuesday 22nd April to Friday 23rd May
Bank Holiday – Monday 5th May*

Term 6
Monday 2nd June to Friday 18th July