Headteacher’s Update

Dear Parents/Carers

A very warm welcome to our first newsletter of the year and as usual it is packed with information, updates and successes for you to read.

Life is never quiet here at QE and the last 8 weeks, as well as flying by so quickly, have been packed full of adventure, activity, achievement and unceasing application by our students. I hope that you enjoy reading about all the activities that go on here at QE and to be honest this newsletter is only a small snapshot of the hundreds of events that have taken place here since the start of September.

One small item of news which is not in the newsletter is that we are likely to become an Academy on 1st November. This is a fantastic achievement for the school and I would like to thank all the staff and Governors who have worked tirelessly over the past 2 years to make this finally happen. Our Academy status means that we will not only secure the long-term financial future of the School, but we will be able to benefit from the many freedoms that Academy status brings thus enabling us to ensure that our vision of securing a world-class education for the families of Wimborne and its district becomes a reality.

To ensure that we continue to improve I would draw your attention to the invitation on the very last page where details of our new “QE Family” venture is displayed. We wish to continue building strong relationships with our parents and we hope you will be able to join us on 4th December.

Best wishes for a safe and relaxing half term.

Martin McLeman
Headteacher
Exam Success Celebrated In School and at Westminster!

Impressive GCSE Results

Queen Elizabeth’s School is delighted with the success of its students who achieved an impressive set of results in their GCSE examinations. The overall pass rate for 5 A*-C inc English and Maths was 69%. This was a staggering 18% better than last years’ figures and is the best set of GCSE results that the school has ever achieved.

Excellent GCE Results

Our Sixth Form students also achieved a set of excellent results once again this year. The overall combined pass rate was 98 % with a record half of these grades being at A*/B equivalent and 75 % at A*-C equivalent.

Martin McLeman, Headteacher, says “our students continue to demonstrate their hard work and commitment – they thoroughly deserve their success.

I would also like to thank my staff for their dedication in achieving these excellent results.”
School Award
Our Results were recognised by the PiXL organisation at their annual awards ceremony in London recently. PiXL (Partners in Excellence) is a collaboration of school leaders from over 1100 schools around the Country that focuses on supporting and developing schools.

Queen Elizabeth’s was presented with an award for sustained progress in GCSE.

Student Awards
We were also very proud of our students at the PiXL student celebration event also held in Central Hall in Westminster recently. Three of our students received special awards for showing outstanding determination in achieving excellent success in their GCSE exams and proudly accepted their awards from Hannah Cockroft, double world champion and double London 2012 paralympic gold medalist.

The ceremony also included top class entertainment from students around the country and our ex-student vocalist group Capella auditioned at RADA and were chosen to perform at the event. The standard of the performers was extremely high and Capella rose to the occasion and sang beautifully.

Capella is made up of Jasmine Joyner, Beth Waker and Kate Wells and often play at local events.
Faculty Focus - Humanities

Sophie Dean is Head of Humanities and teacher of Geography. Sophie arrived at QE as an NQT thirteen years ago and still hasn’t left. She has an excellent, dedicated team working with her and she feels incredibly honoured. She loves her subject and gets very excited about all aspects of Geography, be it population statistics or a natural disaster. Any spare time she gets involves walking the Purbeck countryside or scrumping for a wide selection of jams, chutneys or jellies; well she has to do something with no telly or Internet! The Sixth form cake rota assists with her teaching and has been running for nine years now and there have been some real beauties, seriously.

Emily Willcocks is our lively and enthusiastic Head of RE who joined QE in September 2005 initially part-time when her boys were young and then full time from September 2011. Before joining QE she was Head of Department at Lytchett Minster School and also taught in Bournemouth. She believes that her position of head of RE is extremely important not only academically but also in supporting the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of students at QE. She is known for her talkative nature which is probably why she loves the discussion and debate of Philosophy and Ethics. She enjoys her job immensely and is a very proud member of the Humanities Department.

Lucinda Fry arrived back in Dorset as Head of Social Sciences this summer after 10 years away. She studied Sociology with Social Policy at Warwick and has spent her time teaching in Birmingham and London alongside lots of travelling around Europe and the States. Outside of teaching Lucinda is a massive Strictly Come Dancing fan and a Latin and Ballroom dancer. She loves to ski and occasionally you will find her in the gym – though this is rare as she much prefers to be out and about having adventures at Farmer Palmers or Moors Valley with her baby son Theodore. Her favourite artists at the moment are Sam Smith and Ed Sheeran though currently her form are tortured in morning registration by her renditions of Taylor Swift’s Shake It Off – tunes range from Clean Bandit to Rita Ora or whatever was the last thing to play on the radio!

James See joined Queen Elizabeth’s last year having taught in schools in Reading and Oxfordshire. He is Head of Geography. He lives in Dorchester with a menagerie of exotic animals including iguanas, chameleons, geckos, a wife and two young children. He is an avid collector of football merchandise associated with Dutch footballers who played for Ipswich Town in the 1980s, particularly Romeo Zondervan. He was East Dorchester Segway racing champion in 1998. He has a tendency to embellish information about himself.

Having left her Cornish homeland to study History with her fellow Celts in Wales, Tanya Barr started her career at QE as an NQT in 2005. Having battled her way through Citizenship, R.E. and Geography, she is now leading the enthusiastic History department through the Crusades via the Tudors to the twentieth century and beyond. Tanya has taken her passion for active History to the extreme and can often be found covered in mud climbing through trenches and dodging the fire in obstacle course races.
Sally Dean is an Assistant Headteacher and teacher of RE. She has been teaching since 2001 starting her career at Regents Park Girls school in Southampton, before moving on to Hounsdown a mixed secondary school in Totton where she became Head of RE. She joined QE in 2005 as Head of RE. She has two children Mary and Henry, and her husband Michael is a History teacher in Southampton. She loves to shop for clothes and shoes and spend most of her weekends doing just that. She is also a big fan of everything Disney, especially visiting Disney World Florida where she has been eight times.

Alison Banner trained to teach History at the University of Warwick in 2004, which to her seems like a long time ago! She is now in her tenth year of teaching. She moved to Dorset from Birmingham for her first teaching post. Four years later she started teaching at QE as Assistant Headteacher. In her spare time outside of school, she loves horse riding, although doesn’t manage to do this as much as when she was younger. She is also a film fan and goes to the cinema as often as possible. She is geekily looking forward to the release of The Hobbit at Christmas.

This Welsh ex pat, Bev Wood, studied Geography at Exeter University and graduated in 2004. Now living in the rural Dorset area she now spends weekends dodging ‘muddy puddles’ with her two boys. Before training to teach at Southampton University she worked for a year in the insurance sector specialising in ‘Events’. She landed her job at QE in 2007 and has been here ever since! Always a story to tell to make her colleagues giggle- or despair! She really loves teaching Geography and is full of bad puns to promote it to her students! After all- Geography rocks! As a bit of an all-round GCSE Humanities teacher, she can also be found delivering Philosophy and Ethics, Leisure and Tourism and Sociology. If you haven’t yet met this ex pat Welsh Valley’s girl (lady) no doubt you will soon!

Matt Oldfield is Head of Tudor House and Teacher of Sociology and History. Matt is originally from the Midlands and after graduating from the University of Birmingham and completing his PGCE at the University of Exeter he joined QE in 2007. He can regularly be seen appearing in different House competitions and is a keen participant in Staff Football. Mr Oldfield is always positive and this is a necessary quality, gained from years of following Birmingham City!

Amanda Leach grew up in Cheshire and attended the same secondary school as Gary Barlow (although he was 2 years below!). Whilst growing up she participated in a wide range of sports with the pinnacle of her sporting career being the UK Under 11 Standing Long Jump Champion – the record held for 5 years!! Amanda originally trained as a PE teacher at the University of Exeter and graduated in 1992. Her first teaching position was in a middle school in Hertfordshire. She then went on to become Head of Year and Head of Key Stage in a number of schools in Herts and Bucks. After a short break from teaching she joined QE in April 2008 as a Health and Social Care teacher. In her spare time she enjoys motorbiking, allotmenteering and walking Desmo-sidoggy.

Alex Kelley left QE as a student, only to return as a History and RE teacher some years later. The youngest of three siblings all to have passed through QE, he went on to study History at Royal Holloway. Whilst at university, he decided to join his brother in the teaching profession, first working as a barista and sous-chef (there are only so many times you can slice your finger). Previously teaching in Coventry, he decided that the Midlands was too far from the sea for his liking, and so made the return journey south. When not listening to Bob Dylan, he enjoys reading George Orwell and travelling around Europe.
Sue Mullins started at QE school in September teaching GCSE and A level Psychology. It is her first teaching job following the completion of her degree in Psychology from Southampton Solent University and a PGCE from University of Portsmouth. Prior to this she had a dancing school in Portsmouth which I ran for ten years, teaching all forms of dance to children and adults of all ages. She now hopes to get involved in future school productions. She is very much enjoying her first experience of teaching and hopes it is the beginning of a happy and successful career.

Mr Foyle was born in Bournemouth so long ago that it was in Hampshire. One summer holiday, he saw Hampshire take on The Rest of the World and win by 68 runs. He left school with some O levels and a Knight of the Road cycling proficiency medal. He left university with less debt than modern students but made up for it later. Another summer holiday, he saw Scotland, Brazil and Russia play in the World Cup, but not all at the same time. With nods to George Orwell, David Bowie and William Blake, he started teaching in London, 1984, and is still working at it. His philosophy of education is a mixture of Ludwig Wittgenstein’s “Whereof one cannot speak, thereof one must keep silent” and Tom Waits’ “You can’t unring a bell”. Mr Foyle possesses a full, if not clean, driving licence and has been known to drive the school mini bus through minor floods.

Zoe is a newbie to the Humanities department and is gradually finding her feet thanks to having a lovely welcoming department! She has been teaching RE for 7 years, and loves sharing her passion for other cultures, beliefs and spirituality with others. In her spare time, Zoe likes to go to see live music and go to festivals (when the weather is good!), enjoys creating and making all sorts of random things from ‘junk’ and random things she finds, and is currently in the process of planning her wedding for August 2015 – and yes of course, the whole of year 9, 10, 11 and the 6th form are invited!

Meg Smith has been at QE and in the Humanities Faculty for 15 years. She teaches Geography to all years and Leisure and Tourism at GCSE. She moved to Dorset more than 20 years ago and could not imagine living anywhere else now. The amazing scenery and coastline are particularly inspiring for Geography students and staff and she feels it is a lovely place to raise her family. She has introduced and lead a variety of fieldwork trips and visits, from local visits to Wimborne and Bournemouth to study tourism to Residential stays at Leeson House to prepare A level Geography students for their examinations. Leisure and Tourism trips have also included visits to Longleat and Bath. She feels lucky to work in a faculty with such hard working and friendly staff.

Melissa Helliwell - Head of Sixth form and Humanities teacher who has been in education for 12 years and joined QE in 2010. When she was little she wanted to work with either Michael Palin or David Attenborough to travel the world and see all the wildlife; they are still both personal heroes. Realising travel required many vaccinations and with a fear of needles, she instead went to study History and Classical Civilisations at university and then a PGCE. In between the marking, planning and teaching, baking and then exercising are the key ways to relax. She makes a mean Bannoffe Pie and Guinness & Bailey’s cupcakes; working this all off by dancing and partaking in Muay Thai.

Bob Richardson is Head of Lancaster House and teacher of Law and Sociology along with bits of Psychology, Geography and Business at QES since 2001. He has been teaching since 1990 having graduated from University of Birmingham. He is a keen racing cyclist; still smashing it up on the roads of Dorset to try to prove he’s still 21.
Music

FROM BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
2014/15 BSO Concert Season at The Lighthouse in Poole

We love to attract young people to our concerts and this year, again, under 18s can attend for only £1 under our “kids for a quid scheme”.

If you would like to take part in this event or meet anyone from the orchestra prior to a concert please contact us at lbeech@bsorchestra.co.uk

We look forward to welcoming you.

SERVICE OF WELCOME
Wimborne Minster
COMMEMORATION DAY

On Friday 10th October the weather was not in our favour and we had to take the decision not to walk our Year 9 students to The Minster to take part in our annual Service of Welcome. We did however hold the service in our Hall and it was a great success.

A delightful programme of hymns, prayers and readings took place and guests included the school Governors and the Minster Governors.
Music

Our Annual Michael James Bursary Winners’ Concert was a great success with guests being entertained by our very talented musicians in the beautiful surroundings of Wimborne Minster.

The Awards are provided annually by Mr and Mrs James as a way of encouraging classical music at school. They have been supportive for many years, creating a focus for many young musicians. Previous winners have gone on to study music at music colleges or universities around the country. Several past winners have established themselves as professional performers, gaining recognition in their chosen field across the land. The Trust has been a tremendous encouragement to so many young musicians both locally and nationally; many young classical musicians have benefited from the Trust’s kind benevolence.

Award Winners and participants were:

- Philippa Almond: Bursary Award, Flute & Piano
- Daniel Gray: Bursary Award, Trumpet
- Joshua Eaton: Brass Bursary Award (Peter Sheldon Memorial)
- Anna Whitehead: Cello and piano
- Anna Stokes: Piano
- Tamara Sullivan: Oboe
- Rebecca Smith: Flute
- Rebecca Jenkins: Flute
- Kate Miller Sparkes: Oboe
- Alex Sebire: Flute
- Ellie Trigger: Flute
- Alice Elliot: Violin
- Summer Hillyer: Flute
- James Wolstenholme: Clarinet
- Dylan Saberton: Double Bass
- Hannah Conway: Saxophone
- Poppy Jenkinson: Flute
- Amy Hornsby: Flute
- Ella Davies: Soprano

Hot off the press!!

Jazz Ashley gained a Distinction in her Grade 5 tenor saxophone exam in the summer. She worked hard towards her exam but parents report that the experience she has gained playing in Jazz Orchestra QE (JOQE) and all the opportunities that has given her, have helped greatly in her success.

New Students Flushed with Musical Success!

Over the summer, James Rampton achieved his grade 5 in drum kit with a Merit and Joshua Eaton also achieved a distinction in grade 4 Trombone.
The children and staff at St James First School, Gaunts Common, took part in a recording session Wednesday 23rd October.

Mr Glover, along with sixth formers Emily MacFarlane (vocal warm-ups) and Luke Woodison (recording assistant), held auditions for 12 youngsters to sing solo parts in the forthcoming Charity Christmas single ‘Do they know it’s Christmas? (Feed the World)’. The whole First School features in the chorus sections. This single will be available to purchase from December, with all profits going to charity. Await further details.

On the evening of 22nd October, QE’s Year 11 GCSE music students attended a concert given by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra at Poole Lighthouse. Our students were treated to a pre-concert talk by some of the BSO musicians, followed by a stunning performance by this world-renowned orchestra.

For only £1 entrance fee our students enjoyed Ravel’s La Valse, Prokofiev’s Piano Concertos no. 3, and Rimsky-Korsakov’s fabulously orchestrated Scheherazade.
Drama

Although there is no whole-school musical this year, things are far from quiet in the Drama department.

The Shakespeare School’s Festival concludes in November with QE students performing ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ at the Lighthouse in Poole on November 5th.

With one Festival ending, QE students are then to be underway with preparations for another – the National Theatre Connections Festival 2015. Connections gives young people the experience of professional theatre-making with brand new plays written especially for the 13-18 year olds. QE takes part in the NT Festival bi-annually, the last time being our production of the brand new play by Jim Cartwright ‘The Mobile Phone Show’ which was staged in school and then at the Salisbury Playhouse.

This time QE students will once again have a chance to perform at the Salisbury Playhouse (next April) and in school with the premiering of a new play by Eugene O’Hare called ‘Hospital Food’. The play is very different for QE students in that it is a character piece without a large cast; it focuses on a serious subject matter and is set within a teenage cancer unit.

The compulsory introduction to the festival takes the form of a Director’s weekend where the directors and assistants from all the companies and schools taking part in the festival, meet and take part in workshops to help them deliver and work with the new plays within their own schools and youth groups. This year joining Ms Elsden and Mr Smith in directing and putting on the new play is Year 14 student Anna Lovering. Anna also came on the weekend, and here is her account of the event:

“Having been an actor involved in the ‘Mobile Phone Show’ two years ago, it’s great to be working on the other side of the process this year as an assistant director. To help me with my role I took part in four workshops over the weekend at the National Theatre and its studios next to the Old Vic. This included, for almost the whole of Saturday, being involved the Writer’s Workshop with playwright Eugene O’Hare. Meeting director Phillip Breen and writer Eugene was inspiring because it was fascinating to see the way they worked. What’s more Eugene wasn’t precious about the work he’d developed, which helps us as directors to freely interpret the work in our own way.

The Writer’s Workshop took place in one of the huge rehearsal rooms at the National Theatre, which was a brilliant experience in itself. Throughout the weekend I moved between the National Theatre’s main venue and their studios. It was exciting to work in spaces I have only previously seen on videos on their website. I also saw a completely crazy but awesomely acted performance of ‘Ballyturk’ with Cillian Murphy in the evening.

The weekend has also prepared me for any audition I do in the future. Before I knew what was happening I had volunteered to perform a monologue in front of the 30 directors in the final workshop of the weekend. The feedback was unexpected. All the comments were unbelievably generous and complimentary. It has built up my confidence which adds to the independence I have gained from the weekend. Thank you so much to my drama teachers who allowed me to be involved with this incredible opportunity.”

Year 9 History students produced some excellent work recently in response to The Holocaust topic in their final history lessons of the year.

They clearly thought about the topic in great detail and each artistic response shows real reflection.

Well done Year 9 history students!

Luke Morris  Katie Robinson
Sixth Form Destinations

We are very proud of our Sixth Form students and hope that we prepare them well for life after QE. This is the breakdown of destinations this year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russell Group</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gap Year</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apprenticeship</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We are delighted that so many of our Sixth Form students went on to attend Russell Group Universities this year as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Russell Group University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barker, Tim</td>
<td>Southampton University Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryant, Chloe</td>
<td>Bristol University- Pathology and Microbiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crighton, Luca</td>
<td>University of Birmingham- War Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dawson, Laura</td>
<td>Nottingham University- Medical Physiology and Therapeutics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gruhn, Antonia</td>
<td>University of Exeter Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hayter, Richard</td>
<td>Southampton University- History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenway, Alice</td>
<td>Southampton University- Criminology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piesing, Hilary</td>
<td>Southampton University- Paediatric Nursing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittwood, Rosie</td>
<td>Bristol University- Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shier, Emma</td>
<td>University of Southampton- Adult Nursing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rimmer Chris</td>
<td>Gap Year Volunteering-Durham University-Ancient Medieval and Modern History</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FIRST CLASS HONOURS

Congratulations to one of our ex-students, Jonathan Mannouch, who has just gained a First Class degree in Chemistry from St Catherine’s College, Oxford.

The Professor at St Catherine’s particularly wrote to let us know about Jonathan’s achievement and finished by saying “please keep sending more like Jonathan to us”.

Another one of our ex-students, Joe Parvin, achieved a 1st class honours from Plymouth university in biomedical sciences this summer. He also achieved the academic achievement and research excellence award from the University mainly because of his dissertation.

He is taking a year out to work in research at Poole hospital after which he is hoping to study medicine.

Joe was a lovely student who worked very hard to get the A-levels that he did. This has clearly extended to his studies at University and we know that his parents are extremely proud of him!
Martin McLeman, Headteacher at QE said “It was a great honour for us to host such a high profile business man as Mark, allowing our students to gain a real insight into the business world from an award-winning business leader who has been running a highly successful UK retail business since 2007. This fits perfectly with our strategy for the school to reach out to both the local and business community to provide real-world experience as well as academic excellence in our teaching and learning throughout the school.”

Mr Price enjoyed his gentle grilling, stating “QE students are definitely a force to be reckoned with! They asked insightful, intelligent questions and I’m most impressed by their interest in what goes on in business generally and in the retail sector. I definitely met a number of future business leaders this morning.”

Mark Price, Managing Director of Waitrose, Deputy Chairman of the John Lewis Partnership and Deputy Chairman of Channel 4 visited school on Friday 17th October. He spoke at assemblies and hosted a question and answer session with aspiring business leaders of the future at the school, currently studying a range of business-related subjects including Business Studies, Enterprise, Economics and Law at the school.

Mr Price was put through his paces in a Question Time-style debate where he fielded many challenging questions from the floor with great aplomb and wit.

He attended the school as part of the Speakers for Schools Initiative.

HUMANITIES PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION:

Students were challenged to take a photograph of something Geographically related and the winner was Alexandra Mallace (Year 13). Here are a few of her stunning winning shots:
We recently received a visit from our NACE representative to look over our provision and we are pleased to publish his statement:

_This is a school that has a clear vision of excellence in provision and outcomes for its most able, gifted and talented (MAG&T) students within the context of excellence for all. It benefits from excellent leadership of MAG&T education._

_It has made significant progress in improving provision for MAG&T pupils, particularly so in the last academic year. It has moved beyond good basic provision to a personalised offer which meets the needs of students and sits very comfortably in its unique context._

We are now in a position to apply for the full NACE challenge award based on the assessors feedback. We will be aiming to do so in the latter half of the Autumn term of 2014.

This has been an 18 month whole school project that we have all been accountable for and one in which every single faculty performance representative and member of staff have made an invaluable contribution to.

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**POOLE & EAST DORSET NETBALL**

The U14 netball team played in the Poole and East Dorset Tournament – which is the first round of the National School Netball Tournament

They did really well, beating the following schools and winning the tournament!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St Edwards</td>
<td>8-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swanage School</td>
<td>25-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poole High</td>
<td>18-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canford</td>
<td>12-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parkstone GS</td>
<td>10-6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

They will now go on to represent the Area in the County Competition in November

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lauren White</td>
<td>Wessex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly Fall</td>
<td>Tudor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Hillyer</td>
<td>Stuart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dani Till</td>
<td>Lani Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hannah Craig</td>
<td>Camilla Bailey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Samantha Doherty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amber Slate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ellie Stark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lauren Salt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Well done girls!
**Duke of Edinburgh Gold Expedition**

Over the summer holidays eight students completed their Gold Duke Of Edinburgh Qualifying Expedition on the Brecon Beacons. They camped and walked for 4 days and 4 nights, finishing with a climb up the highest point in the Brecon Beacons, Pen Y Fan.

The students said “it was the most rewarding and amazing experience which we will never forget and we would strongly recommend it to anyone. We would like to say a big thank you to Land and Wave who provided us with the equipment and knowledge to complete the expedition and also to Mrs Heighway who made this whole experience possible.”

Emily Trim, Stephen Ackrill, Harriet Thomas and Olivia Clarke

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**Sports Days**

This year’s sports days were by far the best we have ever experienced. Staff and students were on top form and the atmosphere seemed full of aspiration based on a desire to succeed through relentless team work.

We are also delighted to announce that QE has won the annual town sport athletics championships for the 7th year in a row. Well done to our teams:

**Year 9:**
- Matt Barnaby
- Leon Troffigue
- Conor Carpenter
- Josh Stannard
- Rhys Whitter
- Ben Harvey
- Tom Pain
- Joe Partridge
- Aaron Hunt
- Jamie Love
- Jordan Kearn
- Pippa Hine
- Annabel Yates
- Beth Riley
- Amy Rolf
- Abi Rutter
- Lucy Ballam
- Caitlyn Hooper
- Laruen Perrett
- Lucy Saunders
- Olivia Patrick
- Bria Jukes
- Emma Harris
- Amy Cully

**Year 10:**
- Ryan Long
- Charlie Pallister
- Matt Coombes
- Ben Palmer
- Ollie David
- Harry Drewitt
- Annabel Ross
- Natalie Atkinson
- Charlotte Wilson
- Kelly Snook
- Dexter Read
- Charlie Bonnington
- Kofi Anjorin
- Callum Diaz
- Jacob Elliott
- Luisa Calvert
- Connie Fearon
- Abi Deeble
- Charlotte Talbot
- Fran Camp
British Olympian Presents Year 9 Sports Day Awards

At the end of last term we were privileged to welcome Guin Batten to present our Sports Day awards. Guin Batten is a British rower who won silver at the 2000 Summer Olympics in the quadruple scull with her elder sister Miriam Batten, Gillian Lindsay and Katherine Grainger.

In 2003, she set the record for the fastest solo crossing of the English Channel in a rowing shell (Olympic Class) and became the first solo female crossing, in a time of 3 hours and 14 minutes. This was eight minutes faster than the men's record set by her friend Bob Gullett on the same trip.

On 3rd June, 2012, Guin was amongst the rowers (with her sister) on the Gloriana (barge) with the Olympic Torch at the start of the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant.

Guin gave students an inspirational talk about her life and achievements before presenting the trophies and awards to our proud students.

Back left to right: Maya Gully, Will Burry, Rhys Whitter, Matt Yates, Sophie Nightingale, Pippa Hine, Lucy Ballam
Front right to left: Caitlin Hooper, Abi Rutter, Eddie Trim, Christopher Parsons, Nathan Brook

Beach Volleyball

On a beautiful sunny day in July, twelve Year 9 QE students participated in a beach volleyball tournament as part of the RNLI Beach Safety week launch day.
CAREERS FAIR WAS GREAT SUCCESS

We were fortunate to have 46 organisations represented at the Careers Fair on 16th October covering a variety of business sectors, universities, apprenticeship and further education providers. A huge number of students and parents attended and the exhibitors were very impressed with the interest shown and the quality of the questions asked by our students. Here are just a few of their comments:

‘Excellent Careers Fair with lots of interest from some fantastic, enthusiastic students.’

‘A busy fair with students and parents asking challenging questions.’

‘What a pleasure, and I ran out of booklets within 10 minutes of arriving – unheard of!’

Enormous thanks go to the following organisations:

JP Morgan  Dorset Police  Dorset Healthcare NHS  RNLI  Coles Miller Solicitors  LV- Insurance
University of Exeter  Institute of Civil Engineers  Arts University College at Bournemouth
Teachers Building Society  RAF Careers  Heatric (Meggitt Group)  Rockley Watersports
Aish Technologies  Kingston Maurward College  Ward Goodman  University of Winchester
Apprenticeships Bournemouth & Poole College  Land & Wave- Dorset Adventure
Construction Industry Training Board  Marden Edwards Limited  Royal Navy & Royal Marines
Dorset School of Acting  Damory Veterinary Clinic  Bournemouth University  Superior Seals Ltd
Chartered Association of Building Engineers  Ultra Sonar Systems  Accident Car Repair
Royal Agricultural University  East Dorset & Christchurch District Council  KDC Group
Southampton Solent School of Art & Design  AECC Chiropractic College  Care Ambassadors
HM Forces Army  University of South Wales  Aspire Training (Hadland Care)  University of Bath
Paragon & ITE Training Group  Yeovil College  Camps International  Orchard Day Nursery
Bristol Maid/Hospital Metalcraft  Inspire Accountants  Plymouth University

Hedge Project  30 September 2014

On one of the warmest days in late September Mrs Gardiner, Mrs Lawson and a small team of Y10 students volunteered at the HEDGE Project, gaining insight into work skills as well as developing a greater understanding of conservation. The HEDGE Project (Heathland in East Dorset, Grazing Enhancement) is restoring 500 Acres of SSSI Heathland on four Forestry Commission-owned sites in East Dorset in order to improve the natural habitat for a number of rare heathland species of plants, birds, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates. The students worked in pairs to clear an area of gorse which could not be cleared mechanically. It was warm work but the students pressed on, with some so keen that they were reluctant to even take their lunch break. Everyone found it satisfying to see the difference they had made, and the students all agreed they had learnt a lot about teamwork.
Poetry Competition

This year saw the launch of a new Poetry Competition where students were invited to submit poems on a subject of their choice. All entrants received House points and both the winning poem and the runner up will be published in a book.

The response was excellent and the Winner was Bethany Allan (Year 10, Lancaster House) with Zoe Burford-May (Year 13 Wessex House) in second place.

The drums beat on
A silent song
The lyrics lost
The tune has gone
The hands have perished
Where they beat
Through winter chill
And summer heat
Across the deerskin stretched
taut
And in the light of day was
cought
Stripped of dignity
Of pride
So gracefully alone
It died.

The drums beat on
A slion song
The lyrics lost
The tune has gone
The hands have withered
No old, not young
And through it all
The song was sung

One for Sorrow, one so free
One gone away, so easily.
Soaring out, collecting shine,
Medals, keys, will all be mine.
While Joy fades, sent away
No reason good enough to stay
Trained to work for special shine.
Not nibs, not jewels, not hemming twine.
A pin, a shell, a loading spring.
Here’s a constant high-pitched ring.
Sorrow waits, and hopes and prays,
That he will dodge the sun’s fierce rays.
Don’t soar too close or fly above,
I hope and pray you’ll find a dove.
All this time will Sorrow wait,
For the birds, all used as bait.
Joy Naive, while in his flock,
Friendship, family, his life, his rock.
All fly over hills, through the bush,
One last time, the final push.
All eat well, their beaks stained red,
Never knowing what’s ahead.
Sorrows know. Intuition.
While Joys complete their final mission.
The call sirens, every year
Sending flights so far from here.
Magpies soar, magpies fly,
All magpies have to say goodbye.
Then forces in cages
Males all ages.
While Sorrows stay,
While Joy’s away.
I vow he will be home someday.

Bethany Allan

Zoe Burford-May
Student Information

Club Italiano
Begins Wednesday
5th November at 13.30
Room C208

Learning Resource Centre

Well done to all students who are taking part in the various reading rewards we run.

The QE Reading Challenge offers numerous ways to earn house points; read from one of the lists displayed in the LRC which include the LRC Top 20, Suggested Reading, Classics, eBooks. Other challenges include writing a book review, reading non-fiction, joining the local library, reading a parent’s favourite childhood book, plus many more!

‘Author of the Month’ - this month there are two to choose from, Ally Carter and Chris Ryan; read a book by either of these authors to double the reading reward from 5 to 10 house points.

‘The Reading Trail’ – read eight books of differing genres to receive house points, a certificate and a gift voucher.

Bargain Books!

Great News! We are running a Scholastic Book Club in the library to earn free books for our school. Leaflets have been distributed via tutors with extra copies available to collect from the LRC; you can also find details of the discounted books at the website http://schools.scholastic.co.uk/queen-elizabeths. Please place orders online by November 30th and as soon as the books arrive in school we will distribute them to students.

Mrs Potter
LRC Manager
**NEW HOUSE SYSTEM FLYING HIGH**

Head of House:
Mr R Richardson

Head of House:
Mrs T Mynard

Head of House:
Mr M Willis

Head of House:
Mr M Oldfield

Head of House:
Mr C Buller

The new House System introduced in September is flying high. All QE students are now allocated to a House and tutor group where they will remain for the duration of their full time education as school. Tutor groups are organised vertically with students from all year groups and a mix of boys and girls.

Students have enjoyed getting to know their older and younger peers in their tutor groups and getting involved in house competitions across the school curriculum. Students gain house points for all sorts of things including the competitions, smart uniform, attendance, good work and progress, representing the school and taking part in sports events. House Points can then be redeemed through the House Office with students being able to select which reward they would prefer to take from the “rewards shop catalogue” on a half termly basis.

The Heads of House and tutors maintain an overview of the welfare and academic progress of all students in their care.

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**Student Photographs**

As you may be aware we do take photographs from time to time of special events which we would like to use for purposes like our website, our newsletter, press releases and advertisements for our Open Days etc.

If any parent has concerns about us using their son/daughter’s photograph then please let us know, otherwise we will assume consent. We will not name individual students in external documents without express permission.

Thank you in advance of your cooperation.

Martin McLeman
Term Dates 2014/15

**Autumn Term 2014**

Monday 1st September **Staff Training Day**

Tuesday 2nd September Start of term for Year 9 & 12

Wednesday 3rd September Start of term for all

Thursday 25th September Open Evening – early finish at 12.50pm with buses leaving at 1.00pm

Friday 26th September **Staff Training Day (Following Open Eve)**

Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October HALF TERM followed by:

Monday 3rd November **Staff Training Day**

Thursday 18th December Last day of term – early finish at 12.50pm with buses leaving at 1.00pm

Friday 19th December **Staff Training Day**

Monday 22nd December to Monday 5th January 2015 Christmas Holiday

**Spring Term 2015**

Monday 5th January First day of term

Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February HALF TERM

Friday 27th March Last day of term – normal finish time

Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April Easter Holiday

**Summer Term 2015**

Monday 13th April First Day of Term

Monday 4th May **Bank Holiday**

Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May HALF TERM

Friday 17th July Last day of Term - early finish at 12.50pm with buses leaving at 1.00pm

Monday 20th July **Staff Training Day**

**School Uniform**

School Trends, our online uniform shop, have advised that they have discounted all uniform by 50% for the next few months.

See their website [www.schooltrendsonline.com](http://www.schooltrendsonline.com) for details
Children in Need

QE’s annual Children in Need concert was held a little earlier this year, and as always it had a different theme to entice the audience and raise money for the national charity.

‘Talent@QE past-present-future’ was the sub-title to this year’s concert and as the tagline suggests, in the extensive line-up faces from the past joined with current familiar favourite performers and newcomers to the QE stage.

QE welcomed back singers and musicians who left us just recently, such as Tom Williets, Breanne Webb and Mitchell Greengrass, all of whom have featured greatly on QE’s stage in musicals and concerts over the past years. It was lovely to see them back. Their ease and confidence as performers, and their helpful and positive manner backstage as well was really inspiring for those taking to the stage for the first time. There were also brilliant sets by students who left us further back than just this July. Jasmine Barker – who once played the role of ‘Scarecrow’ back on the old QE stage – came back after three years away. Josh Baum was once Prospero in our production of ‘Return to the Forbidden Planet’ and is now at University, but he found time to come and remind audiences what a distinctive and powerful voice he has. Finally in the ‘familiar faces’ or ‘past’ returners there was Sam Merrick who started his musical performances at school in Year 9 by playing one of the leading characters in Grease back in 2003. From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow, and so it is true for Sam who moved on from our stage to study Jazz at The Guildhall School of Music in London. Having graduated, his performance and studio work to date is already extensive and diverse, from performances at the Swanage Jazz Festivals to the Royal Albert Hall. He has recorded music for American television and films and also worked under Oscar-winning directors including iconic British director, the late Ken Russell. More recently, he has been working closely with rising A Cappella Sextet VIVE, the ‘Backstep’ Collective, and has become the featured guest vocalist for the Nick Ross Orchestra. For more information on his career since leaving QE check out his website: http://www.sammerrick.com

The return of these former students shows just what amazing talent we have had through the doors in QE’s history, but it also shows the sense of family and community that makes QE so special.

From past to the well represented present in terms of talent at QE: there was so much to admire from every musician and singer during the evening that it is hard to leave anyone out in a review. From the Year 12 BTEC bands, to Yr 11’s Crimson Waters, from Anna Stokes on piano singing Emile Sande’s ‘River’, to Hannah Nash giving us some Ed Sheeran – every piece was of the highest quality. There were also a large proportion of instrumentalists with a great selection of ‘stringers’ taking part. Brass was also well represented by Chris Coomes on saxophone and early on from Josh Eaton on trombone.

Josh was one of many Year 9 students who performed on the night and each student from the year group, whether it was vocals from Ella Davies or Dylan Saberton on the mighty double bass, all proved that whilst talent has moved on from QE, and whilst we have great musicians that will leave at the end of next year, the future of performing talent at QE is very bright.
CAROL SERVICE

at

WIMBORNE MINSTER

Monday 15th December 2014
7.30pm

Mince pies and refreshments will be available following the service

All welcome
Parents/Carers, Staff and Students are invited to attend the next meeting of our “QE Family”

On Thursday 4\textsuperscript{th} December at 6.30pm in room A204/205

Q What is the ‘QE Family’?
A A flexible and informal group of QE staff, students’ families and people from the local communities covered by the school’s catchment area – even students if they wish! All are welcome to contribute.

\textit{The aim is to strengthen links between QE School students, staff, students’ families and the local communities in order to enrich the life of the school, and ensure it’s seen as a hub for local communities.}

Q Why is there now a ‘QE Family’?
A The school doesn’t have a Parent Teacher Association, but when consulted parents volunteering for the QE Family much preferred the model above to a traditional PTA approach – many involved would run a mile from one of those!

Q How will the QE Family achieve its aim?
A By a wide range of actions - planning has just started. All contributions from as wide a range of people with different skills, knowledge and experiences as possible will make the outcomes better – if you feel you’re not the ‘type’ it’s probably you who’s needed!

Q When does the QE Family meet?
A Meetings will be once a month at QE School, at 6.30pm for about an hour. The next is on Thursday 4\textsuperscript{th} December at 6.30pm. Why not try it out?
Wimborne
Dorset
BH21 4DT
01202 885233
Email—office@qe.dorset.sch.uk
Website—www.qe.dorset.sch.uk