



# Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School

## Term 2 Newsletter

### October - December 2023



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome to our end of term newsletter, as you can see once again, students have been very busy taking part in a whole host of exciting activities, trips and challenges across the school.

I would like to thank all of our tremendous staff who have worked so hard to make these events possible and I hope that you enjoy reading all about the multitude of events which have taken place in the newsletter.

The term started with our Spanish exchange partners visiting our school. This was the first visit by a group from our new partner school in Madrid and it was lovely to watch some really genuine friendships form between the students at both schools - you can read more about the exchange programme in the newsletter.

The whole school community united to commemorate Remembrance Day with a two minute silence and were able to purchase poppies to raise money for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - thank you to the Sixth Form students for leading and overseeing the sale of the poppies.

KS3 students were fantastic fundraisers when they organised their Charity Day for Children in need, more about this in the newsletter.

GCSE and A Level PPEs took place this term for Year 11 and Year 13 students, we are incredibly impressed with how hard both year groups worked to prepare for the examinations and how they conducted themselves during the assessments.

We have been overwhelmed by the interest in the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award and 108 Year 10 students have enrolled in the programme, which starts in the new year. I will be once again running the programme as this term we say farewell and good luck to Mr Staiano as he takes a new position as Head of Geography at Rainham Grammar School for Girls in January. I would also like to congratulate last year's cohort of DofE participants who successfully completed the Bronze Award - 95 students were presented with their certificates and badges this week, well done!

Following school tradition, this week we held our Carol Services in St Mary of Charity Church. Students from Years 7 to 11 attended an afternoon service and we enjoyed the company of parents, carers and friends of the school for the longer evening service. Both occasions were exceptional and beautifully performed with the choir leading the way, ably accompanied by the orchestra. My congratulations to all of the performers and readers for what was a splendid way to start the countdown to Christmas. At the end of the evening service, a retiring collection was held for the Sands charity and raised £368.79 - thank you for your kind and very generous donations.

The Christmas festivities continued when Year 7 visited the Marlowe to watch the pantomime Aladdin, (oh yes they did!) and Year 8 travelled to Arras or Aachen and spent time learning about the festive traditions in France and Germany and visited their Christmas markets. Christmas lunch brought the students together when they sat down and enjoyed a feast in the new dining hall - thank you to Cucina for working incredibly hard to produce nearly 700 delicious lunches to celebrate the festivities.

It is wonderful to witness so many acts of kindness and generosity this term, in particular the support shown for the wider community with all the fundraising activities - students were invited to decorate Christmas cookies, wear Christmas accessories and/or a jumper to raise money for a variety of charities. I would also like to thank our school community for their generous donations for our 'QE Reverse Advent Calendar' collection for Faversham Foodbank.

Lastly, I would like to extend my congratulations to Mrs. McIlroy, who has been appointed as the next Headteacher of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School and starts her new role in September 2024. I could not think of a more suitable successor to lead the school into its next chapter.

Before signing off, I would like to thank you all for your continued support and wish you all a very happy Christmas and we look forward to welcoming students back to school on Tuesday 2nd January.

D M Anderson MA FRSA  
Headteacher

The Annual Key Stage 3 Children in Need Day took place and was an amazing success. Our students came up with amazing stall ideas and had a lot of fun. Even Mr Anderson treated himself to a cake and a manicure!

Well done to everyone who helped make the day special.





Charlotte, Charlotte and Ruby started a Go Fund Me page and raised a huge £225 for spending the day being tied together. Well done girls.



James in Year 7 managed a whopping 1000 kicks for Children in Need at his karate class and raised a massive £140.00



**SEND @ QE!**  
**section of the school newsletter**

Term 2's focus is all about Therapy Dogs!

As part of our link with Meadowfield School and the Specialist, Teaching and Learning Service we have been very honoured to welcome a therapy dog into school for 6 weeks, to help support some of our students with communication and interaction.

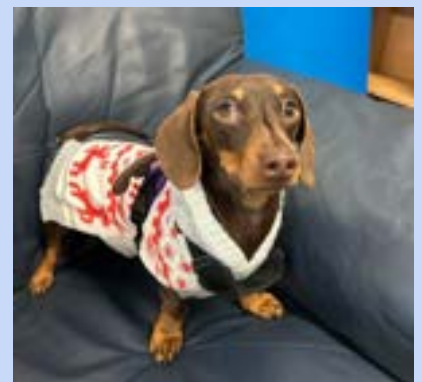
Lottie is a wonderful miniature Dachshund and has been in school every Wednesday for an hour. Not only have the children been highly delighted in seeing Lottie every week but she has spent many a minute in the school office saying hello to the ladies as well. Lottie is very easy going and has a very calm personality. She loves being played with and taken for walks - she even likes dressing up!

Did you know that therapy dogs are fantastic for releasing endorphins. They have an amazing calming effect which reduces stress and anxiety levels. Therapy dogs can also improve mood and help students to become more physically active. Studies have also shown that short term, unstructured interactions with a dog can significantly reduce distress and help children to learn how to regulate their emotions.

Having Lottie in school this term has been fantastic and it has been truly inspiring to see the difference in the student she has been supporting.

Having a therapy dog has enabled some of our students to be more vocal, helped them to interact socially and have day to day conversations that they would not normally do.

We will be very sad to see Lottie leave and move onto another school, however, we know how her charm and personality will help another student access school and maybe one day she might make another appearance - we do hope so!



With the long, dark nights and cold weather, students may feel more pressure with shorter days. The guide linked below may help your child by exploring some of the more common issues they may be experiencing and help them to keep thriving through winter.





# News from MFL

## The Spanish Exchange Leg 2

Following the highly successful first leg of this new exchange when 24 Year 11 students spent a very hot and sunny week in Villanueva de la Cañada, our Spanish partners arrived through Storm Ciarán on Thursday, 2nd November. During their stay, they spent a day visiting London and we had a joint excursion to Canterbury which included a session at Canterbury's Escape Rooms where students worked in groups with their partners to translate and decipher the clues - happily all members of the group did indeed 'escape'! The Spanish students spent the weekend with their host families who took them to many local attractions and events such as the firework display at Leeds Castle.

Our Spanish counterparts also had the chance to experience a day at Queen Elizabeth's, attending some lessons, and completing a series of bilingual speaking activities with a Year 11 Spanish class. Despite some initial shyness and nerves, the hall was soon full of enthusiastic conversations in Spanish, with all students participating and willingly helping each other in order to get their message across. When the group left at the end of their visit, there were a lot of tears and promises to stay in touch, with some students having established firm friendships and some even planning to visit one another over the summer holidays.

I would like to thank Mr Cowlam for accompanying the group to Spain in October and for assisting with activities during the Spanish school's visit. In addition I am very grateful to other members of teaching and administrative staff who supported the smooth running of this trip and to the students and their families who welcomed the Spanish students into their homes and helped to make it such a positive experience for all.

Mrs Hiabee





# The German Exchange



## Part 1 - Teil eins

On 9th of September, 43 German students from both Year 9 and 10, travelled from Germany to England for the 2023 Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School & Albertus Magnus Gymnasium German Exchange.

The attendants travelled over 10 hours by coach and ferry to meet their English exchanges for the very first time in person. They arrived late on Saturday in Faversham, where they were picked up by their Exchanges and their family. Experiencing new cultures and customs, for most, their first time in the UK, the Germans had to spend 5 days in a new environment, where they practised their English intensely. Lucky for them who have been studying it almost every day for over 5 years. Like octopi, they adapted fast to the new area and became better students than they could ever have hoped to be.

On their first full day in England, they spent most of the time with the families of their partners. A popular pastime was to go to Margate or to Whitstable and the beach. The second day was spent at QE where they got to partake in lessons and join in our school routines. The rest of the week was spent with many incredibly fun and memory-filled activities organised by our school's very own German department, including a full-day excursion to Canterbury where they undertook freetime to walk around the historical town, shop, and even an escape room! The majority voted this as the most fun day on the agenda.

Another day they all went to Whitstable and enjoyed a day full of walking along the beach and bowling! Anonymous quoter told us that this was 'a great bonding experience' between them and their German exchanges. To get some alone time, the Germans took the whole day off to travel to London! Returning with statements such as, "Really gorgeous, so diverse and packed, will definitely be back here again soon."

Unfortunately, the Germans had to make their way back home Friday morning, where they said goodbye to their English exchanges but hopefully not the last time. "I'm DEFINITELY coming back next year!"

## Part 2 - Zweiter Teil

On 18th of November, 43 QE students from both Year 9 and 10, travelled from England and Germany for the 2023 Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School & Albertus Magnus Gymnasium German Exchange.

The attendants travelled over 10 hours by coach and Eurotunnel to meet their German exchanges for the second time. They arrived late on Saturday in Köln, where they were picked up by their Exchanges and their family. Experiencing new and different cultures, the QE students had to practise their German every day for a week, learning new words that'll definitely help them in their study for GCSE.

The Sunday was spent however they wanted; going round Köln, baking Christmas cookies, or even watching a live ice hockey match! "Never went to anything like it, ticked off pretty much my whole bucket list in a week." On Monday, the Germans were accompanied to school with their exchanges where they got to partake in classes, compete in quizzes, and even take cool pictures where they stood in the shape of QE + AMG. They were also given some time to prepare a video of Germany's everyday school life (they presented these on Thursday night at an Oscar evening where the winners got lots of prizes!). The next day was spent at an adventure park, climbing, skateboarding, BMX, and aerobics. "Soooo fun! But my feet hurt the next day."



Afterwards, the QE pupils went around Köln by themselves. This included Christmas Markets, visiting the Köln Cathedral, a walk on a padlock bridge and “my new favourite food” spaghetti ice cream!!! Not to mention going to a Lindt factory and sampling loads of chocolate.

As well as all these amazing experiences, the German exchanges themselves, organised other activities, including, even more Christmas Markets and ice skating. Sadly, it had to come to an end on Friday morning, when goodbyes had to be exchanged for the last time. “An amazing experience I'll remember for the rest of my life”.

**A massive thanks to Mrs Chandler, Mr Larter and Ms Klein for organising such a memory-creating experience. Danke schön und Auf Wiedersehen!**

Emilia J



## In other news

**Congratulations to Richard (Year 13) for a commendation in the Stephen Spender Prize for Poetry in Translation 2023**

**STEPHEN SPENDER PRIZE**  
ENTERING THE STEPHEN SPENDER PRIZE 2023







# Year 8 Trip to Arras

On Friday 1st December at 6am, 60 Year 8 students supported by Mr Johnson, Mrs Higbee, Miss Newing, Dr Dedman, Madame Elders and Senora Leal-Palma set off for QE's first ever French Christmas market trip to Arras. Arras is a beautiful historic city in the Artois region of northern France, only 90 minutes from Calais.

We arrived into Arras at 11:30am and had a spot of lunch in the main square in front of the Town Hall overlooking all the stunning Baroque architecture. After lunch it was time for some culture! We divided into three groups and spent an hour and a half exploring all the main sights of the city. We saw the two main squares, the museum, the Cathedral and finally Robespierre's house. Year 8 had learnt a little about Robespierre last year - his is a name synonymous with the guillotine during the French Revolution and the Terror.

We left the tour a lot more knowledgeable about the place we were visiting and can now describe in detail the styles of houses in the Northern region, why the rat is a city symbol, the role of British soldiers stationed in Arras during the World Wars and why there are numerous 15 foot giants housed inside the town hall!

Next up, students had a few hours of free time to explore the region's famous Christmas market. They wasted no time at all in not only speaking French but significantly boosting the local economy by sampling the local French delicacies: *crêpes*, *waffles*, *melted cheese* and *hot chocolate* to name a few, and buying all manner of souvenirs.

Overall, we had a great time in Arras! Students were a credit to QE and we cannot wait to continue this amazing trip in the future. These students will get the opportunity to continue to explore the northern region of France if they choose to take part in the French exchange programme next year when they get to Year 9, so we hope this trip has been a nice taster of more French experiences to come.



# Year 8 Trip to Aachen



I was one of the many lucky students to attend Aachen this year. I made so many good memories.

At first I didn't like the idea of having to wake up at about 4:30am but it was so worth it. We arrived in Aachen about 14:30 (as we were travelling for 7-8 hours). Once we got to Aachen we went straight to the hostel, which was so much nicer than I thought it would be. I was put into a room with people I wouldn't have chosen on my own which I think was important as I made many new friends on the trip. Once we had all our bags in the hostel, we made our way to the Lindt chocolate factory. The factory was full of sweet-smelling treats. Once we had filled ourselves up with chocolate, we headed back via the Christmas markets to the hostel for dinner and quiz night. For dinner we had spaghetti and a salad bar which was really nice. Once we had eaten we went to our rooms for a friendly Christmas competition organised by our teachers.

On day two we had a tour of the markets and the town. We learnt many facts about the history of the town. After our amazing tour we had a look at the cathedral in the town. After the tour and our visit to the cathedral we were able to go shopping in the market, which is what I was most looking forward to. The market had everything from candles to *printen* (which is similar to gingerbread).

Overall I rate my experience a 10/10 and I highly recommend going to Aachen if given the chance.

Caycee W



# A French Christmas Poem

## Magie de Noël

Rues illuminées  
Sapins décorés  
Objets qui scintillent  
Nos yeux qui pétillent !

Odeur de cannelle  
Saveurs orangées  
Les petits sablés  
Seront vite mangés !

Musique de fête  
Bonnets sur la tête  
L'attente des cadeaux  
C'est sûr, Noël est bientôt!

## *The magic of Christmas*

*Lit-up streets  
Decorated trees  
Things that twinkle  
Our eyes that sparkle!*

*The smell of cinnamon  
Orangey flavours  
The shortbread biscuits  
Will be quickly devoured!*

*Party music  
Hats on our heads  
The waiting for presents  
It's certain, Christmas is soon!*

## In other news...



This week, students in 7E had a special delivery as they each received a letter from a similarly-aged student from our partner school in France.

After reading their letters and getting to know their new penpal, they then spent some time thoughtfully composing a letter back. In their replies, students impressively used the language they've learnt at QE so far, introducing themselves and their family, and describing in detail their likes and dislikes.

7E's letters have just been posted back to France. We are really looking forward to the next letters from our new pen-friends arriving in 2024!

# A German Christmas Poem



“Vom Christkind” by Anne Ritter

Denkt euch, ich habe das Christkind  
gesehen!  
Es kam aus dem Walde, das Mützchen  
voll Schnee,  
mit rotgefrorenem Näschen.  
Die kleinen Hände taten ihm weh,  
denn es trug einen Sack, der war gar  
schwer,  
schleppte und polterte hinter ihm her.  
Was drin war, möchtet ihr wissen?  
Ihr Naseweise, ihr Schelmenpack-  
denkt ihr, er wäre offen, der Sack?  
Zugebunden, bis oben hin!  
Doch war gewiss etwas Schönes drin!  
Es roch so nach Äpfeln und Nüssen!

Can you believe it! I have seen the  
Christ child.  
He came out of the forest, his hat full of  
snow,  
With a red frosted nose.  
His little hands were sore  
Because he carried a heavy sack,  
That he dragged and lugged behind  
him.  
What was inside, you want to know?  
So you think the sack was open,  
you cheeky, mischievous bunch?  
It was bound, tied at the top  
But there was surely something good  
inside  
It smelled so much like apples and  
nuts.



Scan the QR code to hear a  
traditional German carol



# A Spanish Christmas Poem

## Fue Nochebuena - 'Twas the night before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the casa, (house)  
Not a creature was stirring : ¡Caramba! ¿Qué pasa? (Good heavens. What's wrong?)  
Los niños (the children) were tucked away in their camas, (beds)  
Some in long underwear, some in pijamas.

While hanging the stockings con mucho cuidado (very carefully)  
In hopes that old Santa would feel obligado (bound/obliged)  
To bring all children, both buenos and malos, (good and bad)  
A nice batch of dulces (sweet things) and other regalos. (presents)

Outside in the yard there arose such a grito (shout)  
That I jumped to my feet like a frightened cabrito. (little goat)  
I ran to the window and looked out afuera, (outside)  
And who in the world do you think it era? (was)

Saint Nick in a sleigh and a big red sombrero (hat)  
Came dashing along like a crazy bombero. (fireman)  
And pulling his sleigh instead of venados (reindeer)  
Were eight little burros (donkeys) approaching volados. (shyly)

I watched as they came and this quaint little hombre (man)  
Was shouting and whistling and calling by nombre: (name)  
"Ay Pancho, ay Pepe, ay Cuco, ay Beto,  
Ay Chato, ay Chopo, Macuco, y Nieto!"

Then standing up straight with his hands on his pecho (chest)  
He flew to the top of our very own techo. (roof)  
With his round little belly like a bowl of jalea, (jelly)  
He struggled to squeeze down our old chimenea, (chimney)  
Then huffing and puffing at last in our sala, (room)  
With soot smeared all over his red suit de gala, (fancy suit)

He filled all the stockings with lovely regalos (presents)  
For none of the niños had been very malos. (bad/naughty)  
Then chuckling aloud, seeming very contento, (happy)  
He turned like a flash and was gone like the viento. (wind)  
And I heard him exclaim, and this is verdad, (true)  
Merry Christmas to all, and Feliz Navidad! (Merry Christmas!)



### **Chiste de Navidad**

¿Qué pasa si  
Santa Claus se  
queda atascado  
en una chimenea?

¡Le da  
Claus-trofobia!

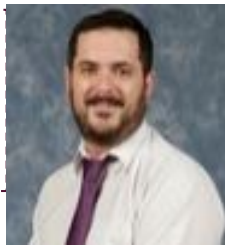


### Movie night

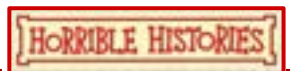
Next term Year 10 RE GCSE students will be invited to watch 'Hacksaw Ridge' which shines with religious themes and has many religious thoughts and teachings embedded throughout the movie.



Sadly we say goodbye to Mr Staiano this term who is leaving. We wish him the best of luck in his next adventure.



This term the History Department has given inquisitive Year 7s the opportunity to learn about the past outside of the classroom through storytelling, games, songs and marching about the school site! Yes, we're talking about Mr Sladden's Horrible Histories House Club. Topics such as "Suttoween" (a investigation into Sutton Hoo - on Halloween itself!), Guy Fawkes, Henry's II and IV and the Tower of London have all been explored and we are looking forward to seeing what more fun can be had in 2024.



These students have been awarded prizes and certificates to take home for their outstanding effort or achievement in either Geography, History or RE.



### The Great History Debate

has launched. Over 40 pupils across Years 7-9 have volunteered to get involved and have been assigned a debate to begin researching. Hopefully lots of speeches are being written behind the scenes! We have already seen Oceane and Ruby argue against James and Thomas, about the reputation of Richard the Lionheart, Jemima and Seren clash with Maki and Mark, over the identity of King Arthur and Daniel dispute who was to blame for a development of the Cold War with Eve and Hazel. We would like to give these students a grateful pat on the back for putting their necks on the line and testing themselves and hope that they have enjoyed the challenge.

**Merry Christmas  
from the  
Humanities Faculty**



### Term 2 2023

As we rush towards the Christmas break, the PE department continues to be as busy as ever! Year 7 & 8 girls have been taking part in swimming this term in their curriculum lessons and their endeavour to participate and enthusiasm has been second to none. They made all teachers very proud and the swimming instructors

from Faversham Pools commented on what a lovely, dedicated and talented bunch they are. Let's hope the boys continue with as much vigour next term!

We have been busy in our extra-curricular activities, with Badminton and Table Tennis clubs proving more popular than ever. Boys Basketball and Year 7 Rugby have also seen record numbers of students attending and we are really pleased to see so many students making the most of this opportunity. Our representative teams have also been busy, even with limited light throughout this term and some successes are outlined on the following pages.....





## Girls' Football

Having entered the Kent Cup for only the second time this year, I am very excited to say that the U14 girls remain in the competition. Early on, we travelled to Sevenoaks to play against Weald of Kent Grammar School in the last 16. Not being in our district we knew little about them, but after an amazing team effort, the QE girls came away with a 10-1 win. They really started to play better as a team, passing the ball and working for each other and the number of goalscorers showed just that. Goals came from Maddie M (2),

Miou L (2), Adrianna Z (2), Lucy B (2), Emma S and Sophie JM. This meant we had reached the quarter finals.

Being drawn against another school unknown to us, but another all girls' Grammar School, this time we travelled to Chatham to play against Fort Pitt Grammar School. It was a rather damp afternoon but the girls once again were in high spirits and can feel the momentum building in this team. Another great team warm-up and the game got underway. It took about 10 minutes for the minefield dynamo Adrianna to find the back of the net, before adding another shortly after. Some great overlapping play between Adrianna and Miou down the right proved that these girls were here to score more goals! Maddie M and Erin B both managed to score before the halftime whistle, so heading into the second half, we let Sophie JM out of goal and into the midfield. Another solid performance from the whole team, saw another 2 goals scores by QE (OG and Erin from a penalty) and we headed home, with a 6-1 victory and excited to be storming into the semi-finals.

Next term the girls will play Westlands at our home ground. Due to the light, these cup games are usually played in the afternoon, but hopefully we can find some supporters to cheer them on and (hopefully) secure a place in the well coveted Kent Cup final 2024. The whole squad deserve a mention for their efforts, their teamwork and their dedication to their Football - Sophie JM, Adrianna Z, Elif D, Miou L, Hazel G, Isla S, Ottie S, Eden L, Erin B, Zhana W, Maddie M, Emma S, Lucy B and Freya D.



## Boys' Football

### **Year 7**

This side went unbeaten in the district league and made it through to the last 16 of the Kent Cup competition. Outstanding players are Ethan B, who scored the majority of the team's goals and Frank B for making many excellent saves.

### **Year 11**

QE hosted Aylesford Sports College in the third round of the Kent Cup at the start of the term. Aylesford boasted a strong line-up of Charlton Academy players, but QE worked extremely hard to support and motivate their team-mates. The Year 11s were very disciplined throughout the game, frustrating Aylesford who resorted to foul play in what turned out to be a very feisty encounter from the visiting side. QE demonstrated total control in the... psychological aspect of their game and dealt with the situation perfectly, refusing to be drawn into confrontations across the pitch. It was the most complete team performance they have executed over the last 5 years. We progressed to the last 16 round, 5-1 thanks to a superb hat-trick from Tom S along with a goal a piece from Gabriel and Lucian T.

We then faced our former foes, Sir Roger Manwood's who knocked us out at the same stage last year. A much more respectful game allowed for good football between both sides, but once again QE's organisation and sheer determination (which was later hailed by the opposing manager) restricted the 2020 finalists to very few scoring opportunities. Josh D was pivotal in midfield, breaking up key attacks, but also producing some mazy runs forward himself, Noah C was unbeatable and Ed S at left-back had their best player in his pocket all game.

Cont'd.....



Lucian T calmly slotted in a 'Harvey CP' first time through ball for QE's first goal. Five minutes from time, Lucian weaved in and out of the Manwood defenders leaving a Kent centre back in his wake before sealing the game with one of the best goals we have seen for a long time. Another real team performance yet again.

Bring on the quarter-finals versus Norton Knatchbull in the New Year!

### First XI

These boys have toiled hard each week, during a difficult season. With available players restricted due to timetabling, Jamie B and Harry F have continued to lead the team by example. Nuha G has been outstanding in the midfield, but the boys have experienced some tough games, but have also earned 2 hard draws in what is a very difficult league.

### Second XI

The 2nd XI epitomised their 'never give up attitude' across the season in a very close game against Norton Knatchbull. Both teams played some very good football on a very sticky pitch in Ashford. Frank H produced some unbelievable stops from close range in both halves to keep the scores level for 50 minutes until Knatchbull scored a sloppy goal. QE were not afraid to commit players forward and produced some excellent one touch moves with some fine crossing from Will H and Charlie P who had a brilliant game at RB, but unfortunately the chances could not be converted. QE won a corner for one last chance in extra time and Derin A buried the ball in the back of the net with the last kick of the game causing jubilant celebrations from the whole squad! A well deserved 1-1 draw should give us some confidence going into the final game of the season. Keep going boys!

### Girls' Basketball

This term has seen the girls district Basketball and we entered just a U16 team, made up purely of Year 7 girls. They have been superstars, beating Herne Bay (twice), Abbey and narrowly losing to Barton Manor. The whole team have been superb, but excellent consistent play can be seen from Bethany S and Agnes BK. Some players have never played before and the improvement in their games has been wonderful to see. Once again, I am always proud to take these students to fixtures. Their enthusiasm, sportsmanship and effort is outstanding.



### Dance

Dance rehearsals have been in full swing this term in preparation for the annual showcase due to return in February 2024. This year's theme is 'Moments In Time', allowing the dancers to explore the connotation of 'Time' however they see fit. The students have been working hard to choreograph their set pieces for the show, with the addition of our KS3 students learning and performing the skills of 'Jive' and 'Bollywood'. Both genres will be making an appearance in this year's showcase based upon what they have created during their core curriculum lessons.

### University of Kent Academic Sport Science Competition

30 Year 11 students have travelled to the University of Kent's Sport Science department this term, where they took part in a number of different workshops from a variety of Sport Science disciplines. From learning about concentration of athletes in Sport Psychology to developing their own sports drinks, fitness testing and calculating the ground reaction force when running, they all enjoyed learning in a new environment. As well as a good day out, the students have now produced mini information research posters about an area of their own interest. These will be entered into a competition organised by the British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences and if successful will progress through the local round to regional level. The step beyond is a national competition from students of a similar age nationwide. Fingers crossed they can produce the research to win the competition! Thank you to Professor John Dickinson for inviting us to use the University's facilities and to all his colleagues for working with our students once again.





Are you a former student?  
Do you have a relative or friend who attended QE?

There will be a Reunion on **SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024** to celebrate the expansion of the school to six forms of entry.

It is open to all former students and staff of Queen Elizabeth's and its predecessor schools.

It will start at 2pm with an opportunity to visit the new sports hall, dining room and theatre and see the new landscaping at the front of the school.

Headteacher David Anderson will give a short presentation about the school today in the theatre at 3pm. David is retiring at the end August, so this will be an opportunity to wish him well in his retirement.

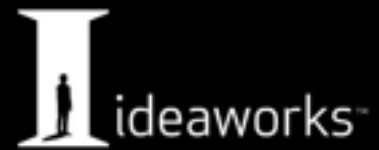
The reunion in 2017 was very successful and we would like this one to be even bigger and better. It is a great opportunity to meet up with fellow students and staff to share memories about your time at the school

Light refreshments will be available. To help with catering please contact Yvonne Wills (nee Martin) at [ygloriaw@btinternet.com](mailto:ygloriaw@btinternet.com) if you hope to attend.

The Year 12 Schools' Academy visit took place on **Wednesday 5th December at The Ideaworks Experience Centre on Great Portland Street, London**. IdeaWorks is a global design company specialising in Audio Visual and Lighting for high end homes and super yachts with its headquarters in Faversham. Year 12s learnt about the day-to-day role of running the experience centre. The centre is set up to host clients to demonstrate the lighting products including home cinema. In the home cinema students were able to watch a film

We travelled to London on the train and we walked through the city in order to reach the showroom. When we got into the showroom, we were given a tour around the entire building, of which there were a variety of immersive and enticing light fixtures, speaker systems and an incredible cinema room. During our time there we were exposed to many different elements of Ideaworks and what their brand entails, and we got to experience the technology and services that many of the brand's high end clients experience as a result of the Ideaworks services. Also during our trip we were able to experience the cinema room which had an ultra HD screen, as we were in the room, the showroom manager gave us a talk about all of the different systems within the room, and we also got to see a comparison of the ultra HD screen compared to the projector screen. Overall the trip was a very interesting and a useful experience as we got to have a further insight into Ideaworks as a brand on top of the fortnightly visits to their headquarters, and this has provided knowledge about the industry and how it can be tailored to many individuals interests and working styles.

Lauren W Year 12





### **Freeths Law Work Experience Talk - Attended by Evie C Year 11**



Freeths have over 1,000 colleagues spread across 13 UK offices and are listed in The Times Best Law Firms 2023. Evie C, Year 11, attended this talk which offered insight into career opportunities at this law firm.

In October, I joined the "Freeths Virtual Law Work Experience" talk. It proposed a 6 year apprenticeship following A-levels, where as well as gaining work experience as a solicitor and being paid, you study for a law degree and your soliciting exams. Whilst this was discussed, they also talked about what it is like being a solicitor with Freeths, even having someone who is currently on the program join the call, and discuss her day to day routine, and what an office lifestyle is like. They also discussed FAQs, including the fact that you won't miss out on uni lifestyle, as you attend virtual university once a week and the fact that there are many opportunities for students outside the workforce. This is a highly coveted opportunity for anyone, particularly Year 13s, as Freeths are one of the largest commercial law firms in the UK. This is definitely something I will be looking into as I have aspirations to study in law or finance one day. If you would like any more information on this event, or other upcoming virtual and in-person work experience offers, I would highly recommend following "youngprosuk" on Instagram, as they provide a variety of different experiences, almost everyday!!

### **Female Economists - by Libby C Year 12**

In recent years, we have seen an increase in female economists within the industry; however, even now, they are still significantly underrepresented in the field. Many female economists go unnoticed for their actions, despite their knowledge and courage changing how we go about our lives and think about the economy. A lack of female role models is one of the numerous reasons why women are less likely to enter the field of economics, as many women have had their ideas rejected or stolen by their male coworkers, who then take credit for the majority of the work and research, leaving their female counterparts to go unnoticed.

Even with the advancements, female economists continue to confront obstacles such as gender bias, unequal representation and limited opportunities to advance in their careers. Women are still underrepresented in leadership positions within academic institutions and policy-making bodies, as well as the gender pay gap remains very prevalent. Only 26% of economists are female, which is due to the many reasons that continue to undermine women's opportunities for success. To overcome these obstacles, a concentrated effort must be made to push for inclusivity and establish conditions encouraging female participation and success in the industry. This is why it is so essential to celebrate people such as Claudia Goldin, who won the Nobel Prize for economics in 2023 due to her groundbreaking research and contributions to the labour markets, not to mention people such as Janet Yellen and Christine Lagarde, who have shattered glass ceilings and hold top positions in places such as the International Monetary Fund and The Federal Reserve (US central bank).

Claudia Goldin, among many others, has shown that the role of women in economics has evolved substantially and more women are now making significant contributions to the profession. However, difficulties remain present; therefore, efforts to remove obstacles and encourage diversity should continue. Gender-based challenges must be acknowledged and addressed if women are to develop in economics and if the subject is to remain current in a world that is changing continuously.



Claudia Goldin

# CREATIVE ARTS & TECHNOLOGY



*The*  
**VILLAIN**  
*Awards*

A variety performance of the  
cruellest evildoers of all time.

23rd & 24th March 7pm  
25th March 2pm

WELCOME TO  
QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL



**in Schools**  
NATIONAL FINALS

UNITED KINGDOM | 2023

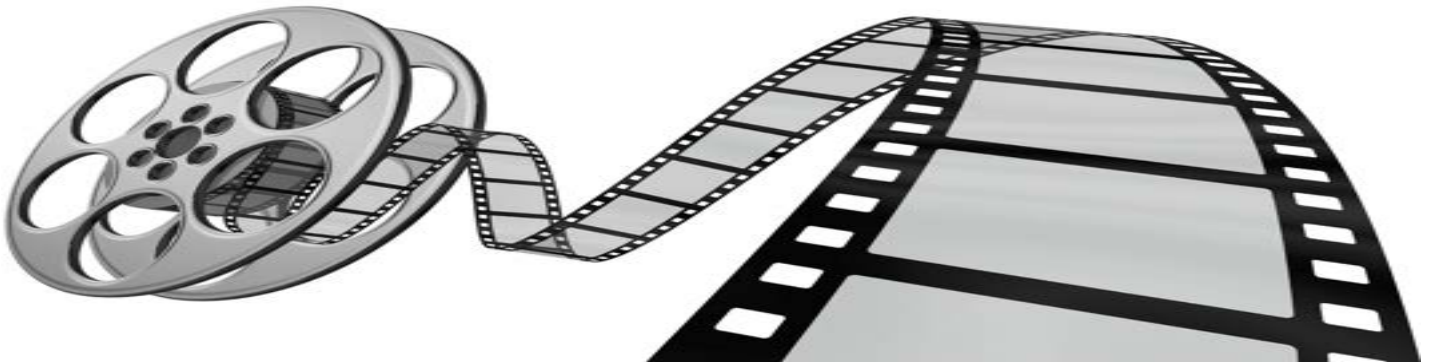
**NATIONAL FINALS**

**in Schools**  
NATIONAL FINALS

**TERM 2**

# FILM STUDIES

Year 8 filmmaking club started this term and there are already a few exciting projects taking shape. The aim is to devise and create films that can be entered for the national 2024 Into Film competition. Adam's idea for a documentary on extreme weather has a great deal of potential, while Elliot's script for his short fiction film has led to lots of exciting discussions from the group as to how this could be realised. Exciting times ahead!



A number of Year 13 students who finished their QE studies in 2023 have entered their work for consideration for the Eduqas Moving Image Awards, which is run in association with the British Film Institute.

Good luck to all of the entrants!



Josie Law

Paths into the creative industries are often not as straightforward as other careers, so QE's links to those working in the industry is a crucial and expanding aspect of helping students to prepare for their futures. Earlier this term we welcomed Josie Law to talk to students about her career to date. Josie is an executive producer at Route 24, an independent television production company and studied Film at university. The students were even given an exclusive preview of work from a recent project the company had produced in Italy. More talks with industry insiders will take place through the academic year.

## KS4 DRAMA

# Complicité

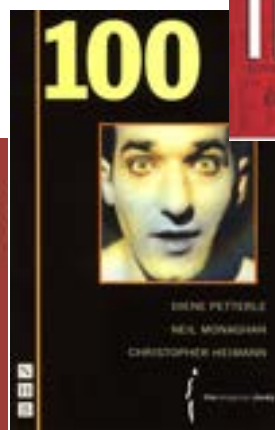
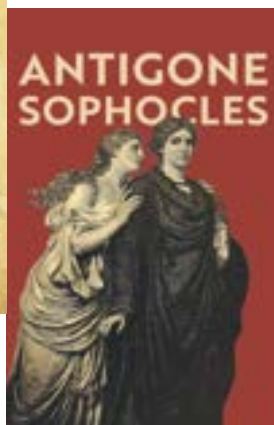
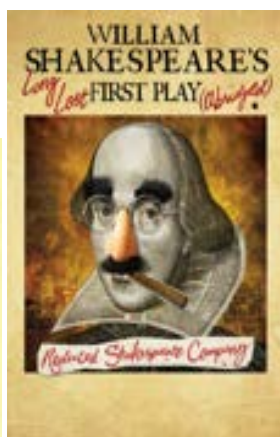
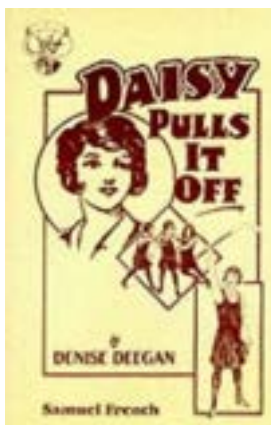
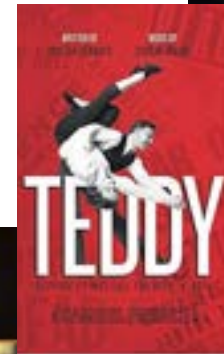


Year 10 Drama students experienced a devising workshop with internationally renowned company Complicité.

The company, who The Times deemed ‘...the most influential and consistently interesting theatre company working in Britain’ facilitated the workshop in our theatre focusing on their ability to create original work.

The group developed their own mini devised scenes incorporating Jacques Lecoq ‘7 Levels of Tension’ alongside experimenting with space.

Year 11 Drama students have received bespoke workshops from a professional actor this term. This developed their performance skills focusing on projection and presence on stage. Excellent progress has been made by the cohort, developing their understanding of character for their scripted exam. The facilitator commented on their passion and ambition for wide range of scripts the students are performing.



# KS3 DRAMA

## Year 7 Trip to The Marlowe Theatre Pantomime 'Aladdin'

On Wednesday 13th December, Year 7 students experienced an exhilarated and exciting pantomime at The Marlowe Theatre. The fun-filled family pantomime *Aladdin*, starring TV and West End star Kevin Clifton (*Strictly Come Dancing*, *Singin' In The Rain*, *Rock Of Ages*), children's favourite TV presenter, Phil Gallagher (CBeebies' Mister Maker), and Marlowe Legend Ben Roddy. Many students applied the work they had studied in Drama lessons this term, including slapstick conventions and stock characters.

The Drama department hopes this is the start of a new QE tradition for Year 7 students, enabling each child an opportunity to experience high quality, professional theatre.



# John Downton Awards





**Another successful year at the John Downton Awards with 12 students having their work exhibited at County Hall. The work looked fantastic surrounded by the best Art from schools around the county. A special mention to Flo (Year 13) whose work was highly commended in the 17-18 age group category.**





In November, students were set a house competition to create a bake inspired by their favourite fairytale. 5 students were selected to compete in the **Great QE Bake Off** final, with guest judge, Jane Beedle (a former Great British Bake Off finalist). Jane was so impressed by not only the quality of all of the cakes but the planning and thought processes behind the bakes and the students' ability to talk to a panel of judges. All of the finalists were fantastic, but there could only be one winner. The trophy was awarded to Lana (Year 7) for her Snow White inspired cake.



Lana's amazing cake



Bake off finalists showing their impressive bakes with Jane

# Christmas Cookies



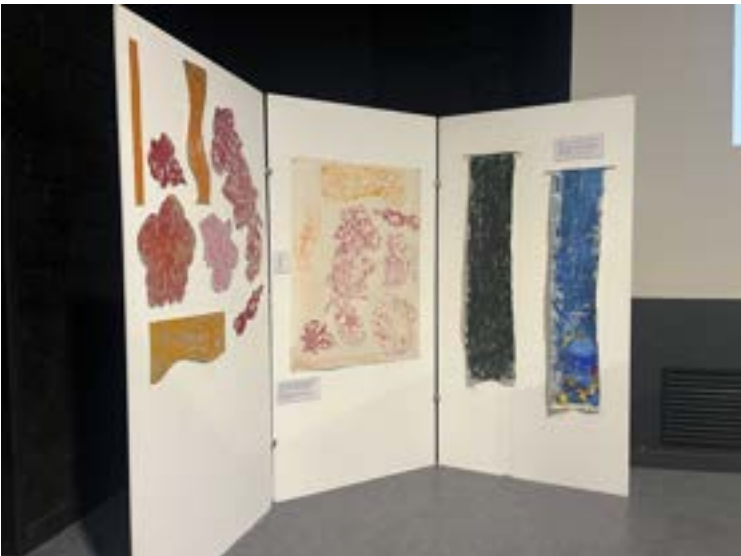
Students enjoyed decorating a Christmas Cookie. All proceeds from both bake sales this year went to the Cruse Bereavement Charity. Last year we raised £855 for Changing Lives charity. This year we have set a target of £1000. Thank you for your continued support with this.

# Sari Exhibition

On Thursday 30th November, Technology and Art students showcased their work in an exhibition inspired by the Sari. This event was held in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Canterbury. Rotarian Julie Reza kindly loaned the school eight of her own beautiful Saris for the students to use as inspiration.



Year 12 Art students created wall hangings, using lino tile prints and painting or embroidery. Year 12 Product Design students created laser cut mirrors inspired by their chosen Sari.



KS3 Art club created inspired collographs and printed these into large scale pieces. Year 8 Design and Technology students used a heat reactive transfer paint then a heat press to create their designs on fabric.



The school was delighted to have the opportunity to have Minal and her Bollywood Blast dance team join in with the evening. Minal enjoyed telling the audience a bit about the history of saris and explaining some sari colours, motifs and features before performing some dance routines. The dances ranged from classical to more contemporary, Bollywood-inspired dances. The dancing was a highlight of the evening!



It was a very successful event that was enjoyed by all in attendance. All the students should be very proud of the work that was exhibited. Well done everyone!

# DT DEPARTMENT HOSTS STEM DAYS FOR LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Term 2 has seen the DT department host 2 STEM days for our local primary schools. We welcomed students from Rodmersham and St Mary of Charity primary schools. The students participate in Queen Elizabeth's mini version of the F1 in Schools competition where in teams of 2, students spend the day designing the brand logo for their team, then design, develop and analyse a car, concluding with racing the cars in the theatre. There are different prize categories; fastest car, best design, best teamwork and best team overall. Sixth Form students help the primary school throughout the day and they all had a great time!





A huge congratulations to the over 90 Duke of Edinburgh Award participants in Year 11 who received their certificates and badges this term. They have collectively completed over 3,360 hours of physical activity, skill development and volunteering in the community as well as two very successful expeditions. The level of commitment and determination shown by our students is truly commendable and should be an inspiration to the younger year groups. Well done to each and every one of you.



# Highlight on Mental Health



Students and staff kicked off Anti-Bullying Week this year with Odd Socks Day to celebrate our uniqueness and followed by some informative assemblies.



Our Year 10 Wellbeing Ambassadors visited KS3 Assemblies this term to talk about friendship skills as they transition to secondary school and consider their GCSE choices causing much laughter and surprise with some crisp tasting to prove 'You Can't Judge a Book by its Cover'.



Peer Mentors and Mentees enjoyed a group Christmas party this week. This provided a great opportunity for students to get to know each other and get into the festive spirit!



We are delighted to confirm we have the opportunity to host Trainee Emotional Wellbeing Practitioners (EWP's) who will be with us next term.

The Trainee EWP's are hoping to get to know you and your child over the coming weeks and months, offering support when needed and finding out your ideas about how we can all work together to support the emotional wellbeing and mental health of students. You will receive further information from the NELFT NHS Team about this at the beginning of next term.

## Who is the Emotional Wellbeing Team?

We know, from time to time, people need support with their emotional wellbeing and mental health, so they are here to help.

They're specially trained to share ideas about looking after mental health, and to offer early help with low level emotional wellbeing and mental health difficulties.

## How can they help?

They can work with all students and the wider school community by supporting to promote emotional wellbeing and mental health.

They can work in groups or 1:1 sessions to support with more specific difficulties.

There's a number of ways they will support, including:

- Whole school activities and workshops to promote emotional wellbeing and increase understanding of how to take care of mental health
- Smaller group and 1:1 sessions for young people with difficulties such as anxiety, exam stress, problems with sleep, and low mood.



Jingles the Christmas Elf has been causing havoc this term and students have been working together to find him each morning.



# QuEST NEWS

## What's been happening in QuEST?

QuEST has been particularly active this term with the Year 12s getting heavily involved in their QuEST groups! We've also had a plethora of talks from many interesting experts in their respective fields, for example:

- Forensic Entomology by Devin Finaughty, University of Kent
- Volcanology talk by Professor Ed Llewellyn, University of Durham
- Pollution/Air Monitors talk by Dr Ashley Mills, University of Kent
- Neuroscience ("Are our memories stored in a binary format in our brains") by Dr Ben Goult, University of Kent

In addition to this, we have also been planning the QuEST Handover Meal! The Year 12s have put their names down for the roles that they want to be in the election for, including being the new SubQuEST Heads as well as QuEST President.

This therefore means that it is my final newsletter entry as QuEST President. It has been an amazing journey, I've had the most fantastic time in this role. I've been able to meet some extraordinary people, develop my skills in organisation and communication, and I've had access to some incredible opportunities and experiences as a result.

Thank you to everyone who took part in QuEST the past year and supported us in our time in the society!

- Helena R, QuEST President

Over the course of being Head of MedSoc we have completed a fair few interesting things- such as our dissection last year. I've thoroughly enjoyed being captain of MedSoc and have learnt some valuable lessons on organising and carrying through events. Thank you!

Tilly B, Head of MedSoc



Med Soc



QuEST



# QuEST NEWS

## SpaceQuEST



In the past term SpaceQuEST has been continuing to prepare for the year ahead. The Year 13 Ascension team has been preparing for their new launch due to the last launch date being postponed till next year. The Year 12 ASGARD team have submitted their application to the ASGARD committee in Brussels and are awaiting their decision at some point in December and we wish them luck in getting accepted to the project. The rocketry team are continuing to build and develop their rocket in preparation for a launch hopefully next year as well as preparing to possibly join an inter-school rocketry competition.

This will also be my (as well as the rest of the 2022-2023 committees) final newsletter. Due to this, we thought that each of us would reflect on our time helping to run this amazing group. Overall for me, this has been the most challenging yet rewarding experience of my entire life so far. It's had great highs as well as deep lows, from speaking at international conferences to frantically running up and down the science corridor collecting posters before a competition; there truly has not been a dull moment in all my time. In general, it has been an incredible experience helping to lead this amazing community of brilliant people and I hope that the new committee has as much fun as we all have. I also hope they will take one piece of advice that I believe all of us (...bar Helena) have learnt across our time which is that the world is not solely on your shoulders and others around you are more than willing to help bear the weight when needed.

For the last time

George H, Head of SpaceQuEST

## BioQuEST



This term in BioQuEST has been very busy. We completed a practical where we attempted to get E.coli bacteria to glow in the dark through using a transformation technique. The aim was then to be able to do art with the bacteria on agar plates for the lower school students. Unfortunately, this was unsuccessful but we are now working on hopefully using a different growing medium so hopefully we will be able to hold the agar art competition at some stage next year! We will also hopefully be offering another activity for the lower school students in the first few months of next year so keep a lookout!

Next year we will be focussing predominantly on our plastics project, where we will put what we have learnt about transformation techniques into a different application. We will be attempting to genetically engineer bacteria to decompose plastic. Our aim is to produce a poster with our findings ready for the IRIS Conference next year so this is something we are all looking forward to!

This is my last newsletter as one of the BioQuEST heads and this experience has been amazing! My favourite parts have been going to the IRIS Conference last year and also becoming finalists for the Big Stem Challenge which led to me giving a presentation about the research in front of experts in the industry. This, although at first seeming very daunting, really developed my confidence and was a fantastic opportunity. I am very grateful for all of the opportunities BioQuEST has given me. A big thank you to Mrs Stallard for the continued support with our research and I wish the best of luck to the next head of BioQuEST!

Amy B, Head of BioQuEST



# QuEST





# QuEST NEWS

## BrewQuEST



Unfortunately due to a lack of uptake by the Year 12s this year, Brew QuEST will regrettably not be continuing for this year. However that does not mean it is gone as it could come back in some form or another in the years coming.

However my time as Head of Brew QuEST has been amazing, I've had some of the most exhilarating experiences such as winning the Big STEM Challenge and presenting to the whole of IRIS London.

Isaac W, Head of BrewQuEST

## Eco QuEST



Over the past term, we have continued to work on our project introducing plants in classrooms. A few weeks ago, we received some samples of our plants, including aloe vera, snake plants and more, and we have begun to assess which of these are the most suitable for classrooms. We'd say we haven't grown attached to these plants, but they're all named and well watered. Currently, they're homed in A11 if you'd like to pay a visit!

This is also the final term of our current heads, Penny and Lottie.

EcoQuEST has been a wonderful way for me to not only further my knowledge and interest in the environment, but also to see a number of projects help improve the schools carbon footprint and environmental impact. During Year 12, it was just Lottie and I working on a number of projects, initially focused on carbon footprints, however this moved towards a more specific focus on understanding the schools biodiversity and ecology - this year we've started monthly monitors of the schools stream, which we hope will continue after we've left. It's truly incredible to see the number of new faces with similar passions in the environment, and I know that projects are only going to get better and better! - Penny

My time as a co-head in EcoQuEST has provided me with the opportunity to develop my own interests in the biodiversity of the local environment, from hands-on work in a stream to using a SEM microscope to analyse samples - all elevating my knowledge and confidence to formally present my work. Back at the start of Sixth Form I was very interested in joining QuEST as I knew a few things about projects and I enjoyed core practicals at GCSE, however I could not have anticipated the variety of conferences and workshops available to me. Penny and I are now looking forward to starting our degrees in ecology and conservation, and I hope that EcoQuEST will continue to help our school adapt to sustainable alternatives! - Lottie

Penny H and Lottie J, Co-Heads of EcoQuEST



# QuEST



# QuEST NEWS

## NanoQuEST



In the past term, NanoQuEST has been continuing to prepare for the year ahead. After deciding to reset our experiments and working area we have been running funding for our project to allow us to buy some new equipment as well as looking into creating an enclosed working space to improve the quality of our experiments. In addition to this, we have had increased communication with Dr Marcus Johns and North Penn High School.

This will also be our final newsletter, overall, this has been the most challenging yet rewarding experience in our lives so far and there truly has not been a dull moment in all our time. It has been an incredible experience helping to lead this amazing community of brilliant people and we hope that the new committee has as much fun as we all have.

Carys A and Maddie G, Co-Heads of NanoQuEST

## RoboQuEST



So far this year, our members in Years 12 and 13, as well as students in Years 10 and 11, have worked to teach younger students about robotics and hardware programming. We aimed to help them understand what they can do with hardware and software to enhance their science experiments and projects by aiming to create physical mini-games using microprocessors, buttons, LEDs and buzzers. We used Raspberry Pi Picos, a smaller, more compact and less powerful version of the hardware used in our primary tennis ball retrieval robot project.

Additionally, we have been joined by a new cohort of Year 12s, who have begun a project in partnership with Accessible Coders. The project is a robotic Boccia ramp, which allows those with limited mobility to play Boccia as independently as possible. So far, they have started an initial prototype to ensure it can be aimed correctly and that the height and slope of the ramp are suitable for the required distance. They are planning to take a trip to a Boccia court with charity members early next year. This exciting project shows the impact that robotics and computer science can have on the broader community.

Jacob B, Head of RoboQuEST



# QuEST



## Junior STEM



This term Junior STEM has been working on internal science fairs. The Year 7s have thrown themselves into making toothpaste for their eggs and different shampoos to present to their peers. For the last week QuESTMAS will take over Junior STEM with some very exciting challenges to start the Christmas cheer.

In term 2, we have done a lot in Year 8 STEM. We started off finishing the coding which the students enthusiastically engaged in. After this, we let the students build their own rockets and launched them on the school field to see which one went furthest. This activity was loved by all the students as it let them show off some of their creative capabilities, as well as some of their scientific knowledge. In previous weeks the students coded and uncoded both caesar and affine ciphers, as well as an amazing project on making prosthetic legs, where students were competing on stability and style, amongst many other categories. The students have had a great time in Junior STEM this term and they can't wait for what's to come next year!

Time as co-heads of Junior STEM has been one that both Maddie and I are very proud of and grateful to have been part of. Being able to help and support the younger years find their passion in STEM has been something we looked forward to weekly.

- Dara L, Co-Head of Junior STEM





# QuEST NEWS

## Volcanology and Earth Sciences Talk Professor Ed Llewellyn

On the 3rd November, Professor Ed Llewellyn of the University of Durham came to give a talk on his research as a volcanologist which includes the physics of volcanic eruptions, the formation and flow patterns of bubbles through lava and monitoring of the Hawaiian Volcano Kilauea.

Prof Ed Llewellyn also talked about being a past pupil at QE and his journey to becoming a volcanologist.



His talk included a soda bottle volcano demonstration in which salt was poured into a bottle of Irn-Bru and due to the large surface area of the salt crystals, the carbon dioxide is form more bubbles and cause the soda to fizz and cause a plume that is similar to that of a volcano when it erupts.

The talk was widely attended by science and geography faculty students and staff and was very interesting and gave me a good view into what area of earth science I may want to go into having applied to study Earth Science next year.

- Carys A, Co-Head of NanoQuEST



## QuEST



This term we received the results of the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge that 44 of our Year 12 and 13 mathematicians competed in at the end of last term. They achieved 18 Bronze, 12 Silver and 3 Gold Certificates. Congratulations to all that took part, and in particular to Jacob, Writh and Sean (Best in School) for qualifying for the second round.





## 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](mailto: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.



Online Safety Video - Please follow the link to watch Mr Cowlam's video. You will hear useful information about National Online Safety, Microtransaction, Internet Matters and YGAM (a charity supporting people with Gambling and Gaming addictions) Thank you for taking the time to watch this.

<https://youtu.be/K6Xg9oAbUe0>

**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*