

THE QUEENS' QUARTER



QUEENS' SCHOOL
Dare to be Great

If you wish to send your ideas or any topics you would like us to cover, you can email:

queensnews@queens.herts.sch.uk

Or speak to us or any of the Heads of House or Directors of Learning in person:

- Olivia G. (Turing Arts Prefect)
- Olivia W. (Attenborough House Captain)
- Amelia D. (Seacole House Captain)
 - Miss D'Anna Brown (Turing)
 - Miss Little (Franklin)
- Miss Walker-Smith (Seacole)
- Mrs Thomas (Attenborough)
 - Miss Polson (Year 7)
 - Mr Mistry (Year 8)
- Mrs Padgham (Year 9)
 - Miss Besse (Year 10)
 - Mr Smith (Year 12)

Welcome to the school newspaper!

Our aim is to provide you with the latest updates on school events and news as well as feature stories on students and faculty members who are making a positive impact in our school community.

We believe in the power of journalism to inform, educate and inspire. Our team of talented writers, photographers, and editors are dedicated to bringing you thoughtful and thought-provoking content that helps you learn about the world around you.

We'll cover a wide range of topics, from school news and sports to culture, arts and politics. Our goal is to foster a sense of community and encourage dialogue and debate, so we welcome your feedback and suggestions for our further articles.

So sit back, and enjoy the first issue of the new school newspaper!

Global News

- Lioness Leah Williamson is out of the World Cup due to a torn ACL she said "Unfortunately the World Cup and Champions League dream is over for me and everyone will think that is the main focus, but it's the day to day of what I am about to go through that is the most draining of my thoughts. I had my tears and made my peace with it the night it happened and since then I have been following the steps I'm told to, in order to best help myself in the sport and long term."
- The Women's world cup starts the 20th of July, with the first England match on the 22nd July. Good luck lionesses!
- Wimbledon is now over with Djokovic's reign on centre court brought to an end by Carlos Alcaraz, a 20 year old Spanish player. Marketa Vondrousova won the women's championship, making her the first unseeded player to win the title.
- On the 5th of July the NHS marked it's 75th Birthday but workers are still calling for a change.
- 'Tiger King' Joe exotic has thrown his hat in the ring for president for 2024 and intends to run despite currently serving a 21 year prison sentence.
- It's predicted to be one of the hottest summers on record, so stay safe everyone!





THE GYM AND DANCE SHOW TAKES QUEENS' BY STORM

By Olivia W. 17westol@queens.herts.sch.uk

The annual Gym and Dance Show took place last term and is designed to allow students to show off their skills and what they are passionate about in front of a live audience.

The process of getting into the show is a rewarding one where students have to audition to get a place. When asked, Mrs Marks (Head of PE and organiser of the Gym and Dance Show), told us that students audition,



“After the Christmas break and are asked to perform a 30 second to one minute piece/ floor routine”. Anyone from any age group is encouraged to audition with people from different levels taking part. Students who attend the extracurricular Dance and Gymnastic Club perform pieces that they have worked on and do not audition.

The Dance Show has run for many years at Queens’ and first started when Mrs Battersby joined the school. And while this was an amazing opportunity Mrs Marks wanted to ‘give the gymnasts an opportunity to showcase their amazing talents too’ and so the first annual Queens’ Gym and Dance Show came into being, with the first one taking place in 2018. Now five years later, over 300 students have taken part and some amazing shows have happened with another scheduled for next year.

This brilliant opportunity provides a platform for students to show off their talents as well as their abilities and represents a unique opportunity for them “To express themselves creatively, empowering them to unleash their creativity, choose their own choreography, and design routines

that reflect their unique personalities.” Many students find that performing in front of people is a scary experience but when they take part in this show it provides an opportunity for personal growth. Some students over the years have come face to face with their fears and have learnt to overcome stage fright, manage their anxiety when it comes to performing, and developed self assurance.





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When asked about her favourite part about the show, Mrs Marks said that “One of the most rewarding aspects of organising the Gym and Dance is witnessing the transformation of students who may be reserved or have limited opportunities to showcase their talents elsewhere. I am so proud when the students take the stage and flourish, revealing their true potential. The nature of the show has always been so supportive and inclusive to provide a platform for every student, regardless of their personality or circumstances, to shine brightly and be celebrated.”

NEW FRIENDS AND RAVING REVIEWS

Many different groups, from dancers to gymnasts, in all of the year groups performed lots of different routines. One trio of Year 10's who performed were interviewed about the show as a whole, as well as their routine and they said “It is a great place to allow everyone from different dance schools and with different levels of experience to perform together.” This trio are all friends from Queens' yet don't belong to the same dance school, making this show a place for all to enjoy. They also said “We were nervous but the audience was great and the lighting and dancing together was great.”

The support from the audience is a key element when putting on this kind of show and each year they do not disappoint with the ‘applause and recognition received’ encouraging many students to re-audition the following year.

After the show concluded many audience members were overheard raving about all of the performances, with one stating “I can't wait for the next” and with another show scheduled for next year, we can't wait either.





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SEACOLE STORMED THE COMPETITION FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW

By Olivia G. 17griffiol@queens.herts.sch.uk,
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With its soaring melodies, electrifying performances and a surge of collective passion for the music industry, House Music is a true celebration of the talent and dedication our students have, while transforming the potential of the music education. On the 22nd of March 2023, House Music made a return to Queens' school after two years of being 'postponed' since Covid 19.

We witnessed strong performances across the board from all houses, but in the end Seacole came out on top. In a world often captivated by sports events and academic achievements, it is vital not to overlook the incredible impact of artistic endeavours in shaping young minds; and in the world of music nothing captures the essence of pure talent, passions, and creativity as much as a good music competition does. One such remarkable testament to the power of musical education was the recent House music competition that took place at Queens' school. Seacole's victory continues their winning streak allowing them to claim their third win in a row. Attenborough started the competition off with a bang, with an incredible rendition of the 'classic' song 'This Charming Man' by The Smiths, which ultimately lead them to an incredible fourth place. This was followed by our amazing second place winners Franklin and Lujain's incredible solo that touched the hearts of the audience. Our winners performed next with their mind-blowing choir that contained the most performers we saw this year. Seacole pulled together a team of over 30 people to perform in their band and choir, creating a beautiful piece full of harmonies and a tonne of incredible voices, ranging from year 7 to year 13, displaying the true talent and excellence our school has to offer.

Turing closed the show with their stunning ensemble piece 'Honey Honey' by ABBA which turned out to be a breathtaking performance that helped earn them the third place spot.

House Music served as a platform for young musicians of all skill levels and across a range of backgrounds to showcase their extraordinary musical abilities. From the beautifully intricate notes of classical compositions to the infectious rhythms of pop and rock genres, it embraced all forms of musical expression. One of the most inspiring aspects of the school music competition was the emphasis on collaboration and teamwork. Ensembles of all sizes, ranging from small chamber groups to full-fledged orchestras, demonstrated the power of collective effort. Students worked tirelessly, synchronizing their talents to create harmonious performances that transcended individual abilities.





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Through this process they not only honed their musical skills but also learned the value of cooperation, communication, and mutual respect. Not only did they learn important lessons and start to work closer as a house, but trophies and winnings aside, the competition made a profound impact on everyone, forging long lasting memories and connections among participants, helpers and the audience.

INTERVIEW WITH A PERFORMER

Anonymous~ performed

Tell me about your personal experience this year at House Music.

~ I think that this year's performances were a lot stronger than other years which I think was down to how excited we all were for the competition to be back on after so long. The rehearsal process was so much fun and the team spirit that was shown really united us as a House. I am really proud of what we achieved and the feeling of working together makes me believe we should have more house and team events like this in the creative subjects in future because it really brings everyone together to enjoy ourselves in a subject that isn't represented as much in the school.



BARONESS BENNETT PAYS US A VISIT

By Olivia G. 17griffiol@queens.herts.sch.uk



Baroness Bennett or Natalie Bennett is a British politician and former leader of the Green party of England and Wales. She led the party from 2012-16, focusing on raising its profile and promoting policies related to environmental sustainability, social injustice, and economic reform. She is an advocate for climate change action, renewable energy, affordable housing and reducing social inequality. She is also a journalist and writer, having worked for the Guardian and written many books on environmental and social issues. While she is no longer a member of the House of Lords, she has had a great influence on the government and policies of the UK today.

What is a lord or Baroness?

Members of the House of Lords examine issues and ideas that affect all UK citizens and look in detail at new laws. They are called 'lords' if they are men and 'baronesses' if they are women.

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| Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Good | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Satisfactory | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| OK | <input type="checkbox"/> |

On the 28th of April, Year 12 Geography and Politics students, and the whole of Year 9, had the pleasure of listening to the former leader of the Green party, Baroness Bennet of Manor Castle. It was an insightful experience for both years as they from an active politician about what really happens in the House of Lords and the House of Commons. Throughout the one hour talk, Baroness Bennett seemed extremely enthusiastic and passionate about being able to spread her knowledge of every aspect of the job, even sneaking in some behind the scenes information about how political debates work, cracking a joke about the member's 'old knees' when explaining how they would have to leap up and shout loud to get their opinion heard.

Not only did she explain her political experiences, but she also brought light upon the issues of sexism and discrimination within the political system. She told the Year 12's about her experiences in the House of Lords as a female and how she manages to voice her opinion in a predominantly male environment. She also asked, "Does the system need evolving and should the younger generation be more involved?" This question was then backed up by her funny stories about how they dealt with the House of Lords going online. Due to the average age of peers being 70 years old, and with the oldest member aged 92, it's no shock to anyone that many online meetings were spent 'looking at foreheads' with children and grandchildren constantly making appearances to fix the technical issues.

At the end of the presentation there was an opportunity for each of the students present to fill out a mock ballot where they got to choose how well they thought the speech went, based on how much they learnt and how enjoyable it was. Many present said that the talk was filled with interesting information that "pulled the whole experience together" and made them feel more "involved" allowing them to have a more physical chance at understanding the different aspects of politics and voting.





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THE RACE FOR HEAD STUDENT IS NOW OVER

By Olivia W. 17westol@queens.herts.sch.uk

New leadership roles have been allocated at Queen's and the school's new Head Student has finally been chosen. This role is brand new this year, replacing the old roles of Head girl and Head boy, meaning there is now just one position.

Four Year 12 students were in the running for the position: Isabella Purnell Hutchins, Lula Samuels, Aisha Khan-Aziz and Keira Small. All four presented to Years 7, 8 and their fellow Year 12 students about their favourite leaders, and then they sent out a statement of their individual campaigns to all teachers, which can be read here:

'I'm a new student at Queens' so I learn something new about the school everyday and as I continue to learn and grow I hope to allow us all to grow together. In my presentation I spoke about the Queen of Rock 'N Roll, Tina Turner, and how she represents both my own values and school values. As head student I hope to be a listening ear for both your concerns and your achievements. I would love to hear any new ideas and suggestions you have for the new school year and how I can implement these ideas into your school life. I'd love to establish ourselves with more charities too and host many more charity events. I hope this next school year with or without me as your Head Student will be an amazing one and if voted in I will work my hardest and do my best to become a Head Student that can do this for you.'

Isabella P. H.



Lula S.

As I highlighted in my speech, as Head Student I would be dedicated to representing the student body and going above and beyond to ensure action is taken and issues are rectified. My key areas of focus would be reforming the club system at Queens' (offering more organised management and a wider variety of clubs for the student body) and focusing on our school environment and the steps we can take towards sustainability. Thank you so much for all the support throughout this chaotic voting/husting process and I know for a fact that whoever is elected will make a great head student and take it upon themselves to deliver and devote themselves to the student body.





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'In my speech I chose to talk about three historical figures because the needs of each year group are different: Malcolm X for his scholarship, Salahuddin Ayubbi for his respect and altruism and Anne Boleyn for her tenacity. If I do become Head Student I want to take that into account and embody all the qualities of these people to tailor-make specific policies for each year group, including cultural / religious parties as well as other fun events throughout the year!'

Aisha K-A.

Keira S.



In Keira's speech she spoke about the Queen being her inspiration, emphasising how her kindness and continuity as the 'Grandmother of the Nation' got us through multiple decades, including wars. In her statement she writes that 'Becoming Head Student would mean so much to me, as I would unite students from all years, making the student voice stronger than ever. My vision is to enhance our school community spirit and ensure everyone at this school is heard. To do this, I will organise teams of prefects to liaise with forms and report back any issues or ideas for the benefit of the school.'

The voting system was rigorous, with students all over the school being sent a Google Form which sent their votes off to be counted. Statements, like the ones above, were sent to teachers to give them a chance to vote and after weeks of counting and choosing, the results came in and the new Head Student at Queen's schools is Lula S. Congratulations to Lula and commiserations to the runners up who have been offered other positions amongst the student leadership team. The new student leadership team is listed below:

Head Student: Lula S.

Attenborough House Captains: Flynn B-G. and Olivia W.

Franklin House Captains: Lujain A. and Nelson N.

Turing House Captains: Patric T. and Lula S.

Seacole House Captains: Amelia D. and Georgia H.

Faculty Captains: Kiera Small and Rosie Alexander

Pastoral Captains: Isabella P. H. and Aisha K-A.



TEN TOP TIPS FOR GETTING WORK EXPERIENCE



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By Olivia W. 17westol@queens.herts.sch.uk

Work experience has just finished for Years 10 and 12. As a student myself, I know the difficulty of trying to find a place that will take our age group. Here are a few top tips on how to get potential work experience.

1. Find out what you would gain from work experience. Do you want to find out more about something you have an interest in or to make contacts in a career you wish to follow in the future? Do you want to find out if you are suitable for this kind of work?
2. Make a list of top places that you would like to apply to and do your research, find out the age range that they take for work experience so that you are able to narrow down your list.
3. Don't always think big, instead find smaller businesses in your local area that are more likely to take you.
4. Instead of putting 'Work Experience' in the subject of an email, put 'Careers Advice'. While it may not always lead to work experience you can still get some other top tips like these from experts of the field you are looking into.
5. Create a cover letter specifically for that company or role, this makes you stand out from other applicants and gives you a higher chance of getting a placement.
6. Download LinkedIn. On here you can look up companies and find someone in a managerial position/ senior role. Once you find them, send them a friendly email that introduces yourself along with your CV (and a cover letter from above.)
7. Ask some of your friends for advice. Telling your friends what you are interested in can help as they may know a family member of a friend who has ties in with this area of interest.
8. Once you email a place a few times you can follow them up with an email or even a phone call.
9. If you get rejected don't be afraid to ask for a call with them instead of a placement. For this you should prepare some questions in advance and, while it may seem scary, convey your genuine interest in their profession so that they take you seriously.
10. Below are some examples of potential places that may take you for work experience:
 - Art- Museums, galleries, art magazines, community centres
 - Economics- Banks, accounting firms, finance departments
 - English- Newspapers/ magazines, book publishers, libraries, schools.
 - Geography- Local councils, schools
 - History- Schools, museums, libraries, archives
 - Law- Law firms, police, universities, and colleges
 - Maths- Accountancy firms, banks, finance departments
 - Politics- Government, MP's local councils, some newspapers/ magazines
 - Sports Science- Sports charities, different clubs, community centres
 - Sociology- Youth clubs, community centres, schools.

