



QUEENS' SCHOOL

Dare to be Humanitarian

Humanities faculty newsletter Summer 2023

What a fantastic year it has been in the Humanities faculty. Many thanks to all the parents and carers for their support and well wishes.

Humanities enrichment 2023/4

After the summer holidays, please keep an eye out for exciting plans, including trips to Iceland, Poland, Berlin and Brighton!



Amsterdam 2023

During May half-term, students in Year 9 and 10 visited Amsterdam. They visited sites including Kamp Vught and Anne Frank's House as well as having tours of Oosterbeek and the Jewish Quarter. It was an exhausting but wonderful experience. Many thanks to Mrs Charlton, Mr Millard-Healy, Mr Brothwood and Miss Sumpter for arranging the visit.



Year 8 visit to Six

On 8th June, 60 students in Year 8 went to see Six the Musical. It was such a fun night and definitely a show everyone should go and see! Many thanks to Mr Millard-Healy, Mrs Charlton, Miss Hall, Miss Styles, Mrs Hanson and Mrs Blake for taking the students.



Year 7 and 8 Humanities summer reading challenge

Please encourage your children in Year 7 & 8 to get involved in the Humanities summer reading challenge. It is open to all students in Year 7 - 8. Deadline is 30th August to Ms Watkins via email. Further information can be found through your child's Humanities teacher.



Year 12 Humanities essay writing competition

Please encourage your Sixth formers to enter the Humanities essay competition. The competition is open to all students in Year 12. The deadline is 30th August to Mrs Charlton via email. For more information, please contact any Humanities teacher.



Summer plans

Some of the Humanities staff have some top tips for keeping Humanities brains alive over the summer!



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- ★ Mrs Charlton “If you are able to go abroad over the summer, visit one place of worship in the area you are in. It is fascinating to see how different countries worship.”
- ★ Miss Thorn “Read, keep reading and then read some more!”
- ★ Mr Cohen “listen to these podcasts”
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006s6p6/episodes/downloads>
- ★ Ms Watkins “Join the Reading/Watching Challenge! Petrie Museum, London - Ancient Egypt - look out for Family Activity Days, same with the Grant Museum (Natural History/Zoology). Visit Berkhamsted Castle - local and free. Junk modelling - Tower Bridge. Learn all the words to a Horrible Histories song and create a dance routine to go with it! Take a walk in your local area and look out for buildings with dates on them - what is the oldest one you can find? Visit your local museum - what did your area look like 100 years ago? Interview an older relative to find out what they remember from when they were your age - has the world changed? Keep a News Diary - what are the big stories? Do you think they will be important in 100 years?”
- ★ Mr Brothwood “Interview a grandparent/older family relative to collect some oral history - what was the biggest event they have lived through?”
- ★ Miss Pearse “Get outside and experience the world.”
- ★ Miss Hall “Visit historical sites like Hampton Court Palace, Tower of London, Windsor Castle, Imperial War Museum”
- ★ Mr Mistry “Consult the reading lists we have or you can check news sites and the science and nature sections of those news websites e.g. BBC news.”



Geography News

It has been a busy term in the Geography department! Our Year 10's were brought out on their geography field trip. They visited St Albans to gather data on the characteristics of the city centre such as the types of shops, number of pedestrians and the quality of the environment. They also interviewed members of the public and completed field sketches of the city centre.

They visited the River Chess to investigate how and why the river changes as it travels further downstream. Students spent the day standing in the river measuring characteristics such as the depth and speed of the river. It was great to see them putting classroom theory into practice.

Year 9 has also been brought on a field trip a bit closer to home. Our students have been investigating wind speed and cloud cover around Queens school.

Geography club has been having fun this half-term investigating trees and wildlife in the outdoor classroom. It has been a busy year in the Geography department!

As this academic year draws to a close. We are looking forward to September and the exciting activities we have planned for our students.

We should never underestimate the importance of field work. Children are taught vast amounts of geographical theory in the classroom however theory is far more exciting when put into practice.

During the coming academic year, we are taking most year groups out on field trips. Some are going further afield than others. Our Year 12 and 13 are visiting Iceland, the land of Volcanoes. Year 10 will



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conduct a rivers investigation on the river chess and an urban investigation in St Albans. Year 7 are going to Brighton to investigate the beach. Year 8 are visiting Epping Forest an ancient deciduous woodland in Essex and Year 9 are practicing their fieldwork skills in Amersham.

We are getting ready to launch Geography club again in September amongst other things students will be making their own volcanoes and earthquake proof buildings.

We said goodbye to our Year 11 and 13 students. We wish them all the best for the future. We welcomed our new Year 7 on transition day. We are looking forward to our new geographers joining us in September.

History & Politics News

The History and Politics Department would like to send huge congratulations to all our GCSE and A-level students for their scholarship and tenacity during their exams. We'll see you at Results Day!

Congratulations also to the Year 12s for making it through their first set of mocks. We know it was a challenging experience - celebrate your successes and build on them for Year 13.

Year 7 have been reading historical fiction and non-fiction over the course of the year. There has been a range of fascinating topics - if anyone has something they'd definitely recommend for next year's Year 7s, please let Ms Watkins know. You can drop by Room 17 or email watkinsa@queens.herts.sch.uk. And don't forget to enter the Summer Reading/Watching Challenge!

We're busy preparing for next year already and hope to bring you more trips and activities. You can keep in touch over the Summer Holidays to let us know if you go anywhere of historical interest, perhaps you'll inspire us with more ideas!

PRE News

Year 7 and 8 have been involved in a 'Spirited Arts' competition this half-term. This is an annual, international competition run by NATRE, an association promoting the importance of Religious Education in schools. This is an exciting competition for the students as it calls for 'young artists and writers to explore spirituality and faith through creative expression'. In lessons students have been working on their artistic piece or a poem and a 400 word account linked to their piece. These pieces are based on 1 out of 6 themes they were able to choose from. As a school, we have sent off a selection of the entries.

Holocaust Beacon School: where next?

This year we were proud to see the Year 9 pupils engage with the questions of how and why the Holocaust took place. We have also seen a number of our students become "Anne Frank Trust Ambassadors", and 2 of them will be going on a 4 day event during Summer Break, with the author Tom Palmer - among other special guests. They'll be reporting back in September. The new Year 9 classes will take on the challenge of the Holocaust lessons, and meanwhile Mr Cohen will be exploring Queens' becoming a Beacon Quality Mark School to be a shining example to other school. The Library has added further books including stories written by survivors.

On behalf of the Humanities faculty, wishing you all a wonderful summer.

**Tanya Charlton
Head of Humanities**



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