Queens' School Newsletter

QUEENS' SCHOOL
Dare to be Great

October 2023



It has been immensely pleasing to welcome all students back to Queens' following the summer holidays. I would like to extend a particular warm welcome to our new Year 7 students and their families who have been absolutely fantastic.

We were extremely proud of the successes of our students at GCSE and A-level this summer and their outcomes are richly deserved. Provisional data released by the DfE confirms Queens' School as one where students not only achieve well but progress well. At A-level, we averaged a Grade B, compared to the national average of a Grade C. At GCSE, 86% of students achieved a 9-4 in English and Maths, a standard pass, our best result to date and 20% above the national average.

Extra-curricular and enrichment activities return to their former glory and it is wonderful to see so many of our students benefiting from the huge range of opportunities available. In sport we have many early wins at District, County and National level for most teams, boys and girls alike.

Over the summer, extensive work was undertaken by our Estates Team to improve the quality of the learning environment. This work can be seen on our X (formerly Twitter) page. Over the October half-term work commences on the demolition and replacement of our English mobile classrooms. We look forward to our first new build for some years being completed in August 2024.

I would like to thank the Queens' Parents Association for their ongoing support of the school. Students have benefitted enormously from their fantastic fundraising efforts. Contributions to the QPA can be made directly through the Development Fund found on WisePay. Donations can also occur indirectly through Easyfundraising. We are currently raising funds for an Outdoor Canopy with a target figure of £59,000. Thank you to all those who have contributed already, with donations of £13000.

We sadly say goodbye to Owen Abderrakib who completes his IT apprenticeship and Brittani Oldham who is joining the Police force. We wish them both well and thank them for their contribution to Queens' School.

Thank you for your continued support and kindness. I do hope you enjoy the October half-term.

Jonathan Morrell
Headteacher

United Kingdom Mathematics Trust

Maths Whizzes and Quizzes!
You can read **here** about the Maths department.



Book reviews & news!
Find out **here** what the English department have been up to.



Picture perfect!
Find out **here** what the Art students are up to

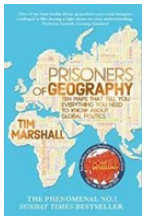


Queens' Teams Shoot for Victory!
The year's just got started and we are seeing success for Sport. Read all about it **here**.



Reaching for the stars!
Read about Drama **here**.

Humanities!
Find out **here** what the department got up to!





Music to our ears!
Read the Music news **here!**

Celebrating Student Achievement: STARS

This half-term, we applaud the following students, who have gained the most **STAR** achievement points for **Scholarship, Tenacity, Altruism and Respect:**

Joseph N. 7FX Anaiah F. 8TA Divyansh G. 9SH Lottie D-S. 10AB

Ayesha M. 11SN Theodoros K. P. 12FX

Other highest STAR point achievers:

Josh P. 7AE Diya A. 7FD Isabella T. 7TC Jasmine S. 8AE Sé S. 8FX Melissa C. 8SW

Arjun C. 9AB Domas K. 9FD Kian H. 9TC Toby A-H. 10FX Lucy D. 10SW Ali A. 10TC

Tarun M. 11AE Eloise K. 11FR Kajeevan Y. 11TM Andrew M. 12AB Beth P. 12SW Lula S. 13TM

News from the Queens' Parents Association

We are delighted to welcome some new Year 7 Parents to the QPA and look forward to their fresh ideas and support. We started the new school year off with a healthy bank balance so requested bids from the various departments and have awarded funds to each House and Year Group, Art, History, Maths, Science, Design Tech and Modern Foreign Languages already following their requests. Thank you so much to all the generous parents who supported the Maths, Food Tech and English Departments by purchasing their required books, chess sets and cooking equipment from our Amazon Wish Lists.

Once again we were amazed by the talent showed by the bakers we have at Queens'. Judging was tough at the recent QPA Cake competition, because as you can see from the photos below, all the cakes were amazing (and delicious) but congratulations to Abbie (1st), Nathan (2nd) and Marwa (3rd). Thanks to everyone who entered and for all your donations of cakes for the sale afterwards. We raised an amazing £350.00 after prize money and we will be sending half of this to Great Ormond Street Hospital.





By the time you read this, we will have had another cash for clothes collection, so thank you for bringing in your bags of clothing. We have packed up and sent off another full box of used printer toners and cartridges so please keep bringing these into school as this continues to be such a worthwhile re-cycling initiative. Please remember we can only accept branded products as per the empties please website www.emptiesplease.com

We are excited to launch this year's Christmas Raffle with £100.00 cash to be won, vouchers for haircuts, beauty treatment, activities and restaurants, a children's day camp, hampers, plus lots of other fantastic prizes which we are currently busy gathering, If you can offer a raffle prize, please contact the QPA at qpa@queens.herts.sch.uk.
Tickets cost £1 per ticket. Please support our Christmas Raffle and buy some tickets via the link below.
https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/ticket/ZZE8OeOSs1/detail/id/6093

We will be selling Queens' School Christmas Puddings again this year and introducing a new Lemon flavoured one. Details how to purchase via wisepay will follow soon.



We are holding a Year 7 Disco on Friday 3rd November and selling refreshments at the School Show at the end of November so please come and buy a drink or snack from us.
With Christmas approaching please keep online shopping via Easy Fundraising, making Queens' School Parents' Association – Bushey your cause. Please see the Queens' website for details **About Us> QPA>Easy fundraising.**
Keep supporting and donating to the Development Fund toward the next big project which is a covered area on North Side giving the students additional cover during lunch time. For more information on the Development Fund, please see the Queens' website for details **about-us>the-development-fund**

If you have any ideas or questions, please contact us on **qpa@queens.herts.sch.uk**. We are on X **@queensscch_qpa** and facebook **https://www.facebook.com/groups/730227757885485/?ref+share**







- No referrals, no judgements – just an open door and a safe welcoming space to talk
- Professional workers to support you with your wellbeing
- Practical help at your fingertips - coping strategies, stress management techniques and more!
- Emotional support tailored to your needs

For more information scan the QR code

Opening times and locations

The cafes are open in Watford and Stevenage across the week.

Day	Time	Location
Mon	3:30 – 8:00pm	Watford Palace Theatre
Tue	3:30 – 8:00pm	Bowes Lyon, Stevenage
Wed	3:30 – 8:00pm	Bowes Lyon, Stevenage
Thu	3:30 – 8:00pm	South Oxhey Youth Centre

T: 0208 189 8400 E: cyp@hertsmindnetwork.org W: www.withyouth.org

Miss Westgarth's Wellbeing Words.....

Hi all,

Last week I had the pleasure of delivering assemblies to Years 7-11 for World Mental Health Day hoping to raise awareness about mental health. The following are the key points shared with students:

- Mental health is part of everyone and encompasses our thoughts and feelings.
- Anyone can experience challenges with their mental health.
- We should all strive to care for our mental health the same way we care for our physical health. If we feel there is an issue, we should approach someone who can offer support.
- Checking in regularly with how we are feeling can enable us to spot changes in our behaviours or feelings which may indicate our mental health is being negatively impacted.
- Mental health can be changed.
- Spending time with those we care about, making time for hobbies, doing a form of movement we enjoy, eating a balanced diet, prioritising sleep hygiene and practicing some form of self-care can promote positive mental health.

Key signposting links:

- ✓ Your GP.
- ✓ Miss Westgarth (Queen's Mental Health Lead). If appropriate your child can be referred to the Mental Health Support Team for support.
- ✓ Websites: Anna Freud Centre, Young Minds, Mind.
- ✓ Text service: SHOUT 85258

I wish you all a lovely half term break!

Beth Cullen

Trainee Educational Mental Health Practitioner

Hertsmere Mental Health Support Team

MHST
Herts & West Essex Mental Health Support Teams



A specialist CAMHS crisis clinician is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on **0800 6444 101**, to provide advice to families and professionals about children/young people in a mental health crisis and/or to arrange an assessment if required. **If you, a friend or a family member are experiencing a mental health crisis, call: 0800 6444 101 in the first instance, unless you have a physical health emergency, in which case, call 999 and ask for an ambulance or go to A&E.**

Upcoming Events

Below is just a taste of the exciting events and key dates for your diaries over the next half-term. Those in red are intended for parents to attend. Please keep up to date with all our events by visiting our online calendar.

Half-Term:	
Monday 30th October:	**All students**
Monday 30th October:	**Year 11 MFL Mock Speaking Exams**
Tuesday 31st October:	**Attenborough Hallowe'en Fair**
Wednesday 1st November:	**Year 8 Spanish Movie night 3-5pm**
Thursday 2rd November:	**Sixth Form Options Evening 5-7.30pm**
Friday 3rd November:	**Year 7 Disco 6-8pm**
Wednesday 8th November:	**Year 11 Food trip to WHC**
Thursday 9th November:	**Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening 4.30-7.30pm**
Wednesday 15th November:	**Year 11 Revision Evening 6-7pm**
Friday 17th November:	**Year 11 GCSE Art all day Mock Exam**
Tuesday 21st November:	**Early closure for staff training, 1.55pm**
Wednesday 22nd November:	**Year 11 Food trip to WHC**
Wednesday 22nd November:	**Year 12 Geography trip to Brighton**
Thursday 23rd November:	**Year 10 Drama trip to see 'The Play that Goes Wrong'**
Tuesday 28th November– 1st December:	**School show 'Matilda' 7pm**
Wednesday 29th November:	**Year 13 Psychology & Business study trip**
Tuesday 5th - 19th December:	**Year 11 Mock Exams**
Tuesday 5th December:	**Year 13 Spanish Theatre trip**
Thursday 7th December:	**Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening 4.30-7.30pm**
Thursday 14th December:	**Year 13 Psychology trip to the Old Bailey**
Thursday 14th December:	**Year 7 Pantomime trip to Watford Palace Theatre**
Wednesday 20th December:	**Last Day of Term, school closes 12.15pm**