



# Queens' School Newsletter

QUEENS' SCHOOL  
Dare to be Great

December 2023



Christmas is quite literally around the corner bringing an end to a very exciting term with many reasons to celebrate. Last week our school production of Matilda demonstrated the immense talent of our students whose collective and individual performances impressed and wowed the audiences. Our annual Carol Service at St Luke's Church also highlighted their great musical aptitude. It's always uplifting to see the future stars from the younger years. We of course look forward to House Music at the end of February. Extra-curricular and enrichment activities continue to flourish and over the last term students have benefitted from having access to a wide variety of clubs and trips, including to our biennial sports trips to Valencia. In the New Year, we have a Geography trip to Iceland, Business and Economics trip to Berlin and our annual ski trip.

Queens' students remain committed to raising money for charity and our annual Christmas Jumper Day in support of Save the Children raised over £500. We will be holding a non-uniform event on the last day of term with donations divided between the QPA and House charities.

Parents are a vital ingredient in any school and we are incredibly lucky to have a hugely supportive and committed parent body. A particular thanks to the QPA who have been inspirational in their commitment and support of Queens' students. As we finish the term, I would like to acknowledge the commitment, hard work and dedication of Queens' staff who go the extra mile to give students a broad and enriching learning experience, both inside and outside of the classroom. I would especially like to thank Alice Kapoor who retires after 18 years working in a variety of support staff roles, initially setting up the Cover Department. I would also like to thank Sima Sadif and Claire White who move on to pastures new and wish them the very best of luck in the future.

Next term I intend to hold parental surgeries each Tuesday from 5.30-6.30. These will be for parents/carers to discuss Queens' in general, rather than individual students. They will be by appointment only. [office@queens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:office@queens.herts.sch.uk) Finally, please keep a watchful eye on the Queens' X feed (formerly known as Twitter), @queensSch. We are continuously updating our social media with news about our school community.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year and look forward to working with you all again in the new term. We start back on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

Jonathan Morrell  
Headteacher



**All About English!**  
It's been a busy term in English. Read all about it [here](#).



**A Foreign affair!**  
Find [here](#) the MFL news!



**Careers!**  
Read all the Careers news [here!](#)



**Maths Whizzes and Quizzes!**  
You can read [here](#) how our Mathematics department can help!



**Queens' stole the show!**  
Find out [here](#) how 'Matilda' went down a storm!



**House News!**  
Read all the House news [here!](#)



**Humanities!**  
Find out [here](#) what the departments got up to!



**Picture perfect!**  
Find [here](#) the Art news!



**Social Science Faculty!**  
Read about the Social Science Faculty [here!](#)



**Queens' Teams Shoot for Victory!**  
We are seeing success in Sport. Read about it [here!](#)



**Computing!**  
Read all the news [here!](#)



**Back to the future!**  
Read the Alumni newsletter [here!](#)



**Support each other!**  
Read the SEND News [here!](#)



**Music to our ears!**  
Read the Music news [here!](#)



**Hertfordshire Fire Newsletter!**  
Read about winter safety [here!](#)

Daring to be Great by pursuing our values of Scholarship, Tenacity, Altruism and Respect



## 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:



**Beverley K. 7AE Nikash B. 8SN**  
**Divyansh G. 9SH**  
**Deeya V. 10TM Blake B. 11TM**  
**Ethan B. 13FX**



**Other highest STAR point achievers:**

**Jack C. 7FX Nicole P. 7SN Mia H. 7TC**  
**Chanakya K. 8AE SÚ S. 8FX Anaiah F. 8TA**  
**Arjun C. 9AB Naiya P. 9FX Reka K. 9TC**  
**Iqra A. 10AB Toby A-H. 10FX Matilda K. 10SN**  
**Ezi I. 11AE Lexie B. 11FX Yoana Z. 11SN**  
**Bella D-S. 13AE Athena De-B. 13SN Mary R. 12TC**



[Here](#) are the Roll of Honour students chosen by departments as the best students in the Autumn term.

## News from the Queens' Parents Association

We have had a very busy and successful term, hosting a Year 7 Disco on Friday 4th November which was themed 'Day of the Dead', it was the best attended to date with 160 students and some amazing outfits celebrating 'El Dia de los Muertos'. What a great year group we've welcomed to the school.

We loaded 540kg of clothes into the Cash for Clothes van so thank you to everyone who bought in their unwanted bags of clothes as this raised £270.00 for the school. We have booked the next collection for Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

We sold refreshments over the 4 nights of the brilliant school show Matilda, with the mulled wine going down a treat, so thank you to everyone who came and purchased a drink and/or snack from us.

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December, we drew the raffle so congratulations to the 42 winners. You should now have all received your prizes. A list of winners is available on request. We sold a fantastic 2056 tickets so thank you to everyone who entered and a massive thank you to all the people and businesses who donated a prize making the raffle possible - Vitabiotics, Rejuva-Skin, Stem Den, West Herts Golf Club, Sorella Hair Salon, PowerLeague, Blue Check Restaurant, Kandy Cafe, LE Crammer, The Metropolitan Club, Redpath & Hoss Photography, Team Sport, Heriots Patisserie, Flourish Craft Bakery, The Snow Centre, Sadie's Massages, Ninja Warrior Watford, Tesco's, Asda, Café de Lisboa, Hairport, QUFitness, The Flower Shop, Watford FC, Boom Battle Bar and some wonderful parents within our school.



Back by popular demand, we launched the sale of Queens' Logo Christmas Puddings introducing a new Luscious Lemon flavour as well as the popular Sticky Toffee Puds and Traditional Christmas Puds. They all sold out and were left in the school offices to be collected. We hope you enjoy them.

At the AGM on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November, we signed off a healthy bank balance having awarded £5871.00 of bids during 2022/2023 to a variety of departments including PE, PRE, Maths, Houses and Year Groups, Geography, Science, MFL and English. The English Department were so grateful to all the wonderful parents who purchased the English workbooks that they requested on their Amazon Wishlist.

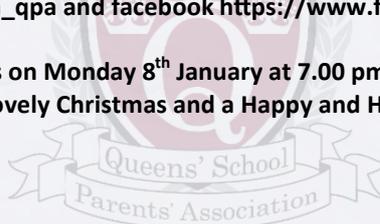
In January we will be launching the 2024 Challenge which is a challenge for every student to raise £20.24 by doing jobs at home or in the community. Details to follow in the new year.

So, on behalf of the QPA team, thank you for supporting the QPA by attending events, buying refreshments, puddings and raffle tickets and bringing in your unwanted clothes. You can continue to support the QPA by shopping online via EasyFundraising, making Queens' School Parents' Association – Bushey your cause. Please see the Queens' website for details About Us> QPA>Easyfundraising. Keep bringing in your used branded ink and toner cartridges for us to re-cycle via [www.emptiesplease.com](http://www.emptiesplease.com)

If you have any ideas or questions, please contact us on [qpa@queens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:qpa@queens.herts.sch.uk). We are on [twitter@queenssch\\_qpa](https://twitter.com/queenssch_qpa) and facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/730227757885485/>?ref+share

Our next meeting is on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00 pm in the PRE block.

Wishing you all a Lovely Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2024



Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been a very busy term with lots of events taking place. We have organised numerous mental health workshops and assemblies across all year groups. Herts MIND network delivered 'emotional wellbeing & coping strategies' during Life Long Learning to years 8, 9,10 and delivered exam stress & coping strategies to sixth form. We will continue to work with Herts MIND network throughout the academic year and look forward to more sessions. In addition, Safe Space, Services for Young People, Coaching Direct, Herts Mental Health Support Team continue to offer interventions to support out students with their individual mental health.

I wish you all a restful break and look forward to seeing everyone back in January!

Miss Westgarth (Mental Health Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Lead)



### Supporting Mental Health over the Holidays

Below is a list of some insightful and meaningful resources that can help students and parents over the holidays.

[Christmas and Mental Health - Mind, the mental health charity - help for mental health problems](#)

[Looking after your mental health at Christmas - Mental Health Foundation](#)

[Top tips for staying mentally well during Christmas and New Year \(charliewaller.org\)](#)

[5 steps to mental wellbeing - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

[Mental Health at Christmas - Health Assured](#)

[Coping at Christmas - Looking After Your Mental Health - Priory group](#)

[Looking after your mental health at Christmas - YoungMinds](#)

[Tips for Looking After Yourself at Christmas - YoungMinds](#)

[Cost of Living Support – Hertfordshire Council](#)



**Spark**  
A Creative Space for Young People's Wellbeing

Our informal drop-in group is for anyone aged 12-17 who would like to explore using creativity to support their wellbeing. To come along, email us at [cyp@hertsmindnetwork.org](mailto:cyp@hertsmindnetwork.org)

When: Tuesday's from 6pm-8pm  
Where: Watford Wellbeing Centre  
W: [www.withyouth.org](http://www.withyouth.org) T: 020 8189 8400

**WatfordPalace Theatre**  
20 Clarendon Road,  
WD17 1JZ  
Every Monday  
3.30pm - 8pm

**Herts Haven Café**

**If you are a young person seeking support, we're here to help**

T: 0208 189 8400 W: [www.withyouth.org](http://www.withyouth.org)

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 are the 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:

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January:

First day of term

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January:

Senior Presentation Evening

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January:

QPA 7pm Meeting in the PRE block

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> January:

Year 13 Mock exams

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January:

Year 10 Parents' Pre Trip Auschwitz meeting

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January:

Year 9 DTP/MEN Immunisation

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January:

Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening 4.30-7.30pm

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February:

A-level English trip to see Othello

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February:

A-level Drama trip to the Lyric Theatre

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February:

Early closure for staff training, 1.45pm

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> February:

Year 10 trip to Auschwitz

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> February:

A-level Business Trip to Berlin

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> February:

A-level Geography trip to Iceland

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February:

Year 8 Parents' Consultation Evening 4.30-7.30pm

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February:

INSET day school closed to students

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> February:

HALF-TERM Ski Trip

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February:

Students return after Half-term