



**QUEENS' SCHOOL**  
*Dare to be Humanitarian*

Humanities faculty newsletter December 2024

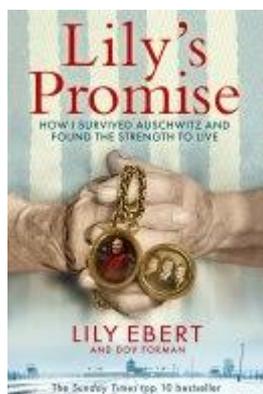
**Meet a member of the faculty**

Name: Mr Mistry

Subject taught: History & Geography

Favourite food: Lamb Shank

Degree studied: Ancient History



**Reading recommendation for Christmas**

Mrs Charlton recommends 'Lily's Promise' by Lily Ebert and Dov Forman

**Cut your Carbon Month**

Throughout November Year 7 Geographers were challenged to cut their carbon emissions through a series of 6 challenges with the form who completed the most challenges winning a prize and the house competition.

**Year 7 Festive card Competition**

We had lots of wonderful entries to our competition. Year 7 had to produce a festive card made out of recycled paper and materials. The winner will be announced after Christmas. Well done!

**Lessons from Auschwitz Project**

Congratulations to Mia B & Rhys T in Year 12 who were selected to represent our school on the Lessons from Auschwitz project run by the Holocaust Education Trust. They will be involved in an education programme that will culminate in a visit to Poland in March.



## Model European Parliament

On Friday 8th November, a group of ten Queens' students attended a Model European Parliament at Watford Boys Grammar School. Students represented countries from across the European Union and were required to debate with other member states, including students from Watford Boys and Girls Grammar Schools, Parmiters and Northwood College, on a number of key issues. This is the first time that Queens' students have participated in a Model European Union, but it did not show as students debated using well researched data and understanding of European political affairs. Students impressed other delegates so much that they have been invited to attend similar events in the future, including a Model UN in February! Special mention to Jess in Year 13 whose delegation (Poland) won best delegation.

## Anne Frank Ambassadors

This is now the third year of "Voices for Equality" workshops with the Anne Frank Trust and a group of Year 9 students. As a result, we have a number of Ambassadors who spend time in and out of term-time showing how important it is to stand up and speak up for those who are felt discriminated against. Mr Cohen has been invited to showcase the work of our students at the Anne Frank Trust's Annual Lunch in London in January 2025. We are especially proud of Maya in Year 10 who was videoed for the AFT because of her selfless attitude and support of other students when she was visiting Auschwitz last summer. Our new group of Ambassadors will be announced soon and we look forward to their altruistic work in school and beyond which links across so many aspects of our Queens' Curriculum.

## Department news

### **Geography**

Year 10 have ended their ecosystems unit exploring our outdoor classroom to investigate deciduous woodlands – there was some great teamwork displayed by our geographers! How many species of trees can you name in our ecosystem?



Further afield, Year 12 visited the University of Sussex and took part in an interesting lecture about measuring coastal erosion using drones and new technologies. Later in the day, they spent some time in Brighton – despite the rain, there were lots of smiles on the pier!



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Year 7 will also have the opportunity to visit Brighton this year in the Summer term, albeit with hopefully much nicer weather! This is such a lovely day out to practice some geography fieldwork, catch spectacular views on the i360, and maybe get an ice cream treat. If you would like to sign up for this trip, please look out for emails from Mrs Charlton.

Finally, we would like to wish the best of luck to our Year 11s with their upcoming mocks. This can be quite a stressful time, but try your best and give it your all – we are all rooting for you!

**Key Stage 4 STAR: Aleena G.**

**Key Stage 5 STAR: Matt P.**

### **History**

Year 11 students have been preparing for their mock exams in December, we wish them the best of luck in what is a stressful time of year.

Year 13 continue to progress with their coursework ahead of their post Christmas deadline; they too will face mock exams in December.

Revision sessions for Year 11 and 13 will begin after Christmas, keep an eye out for revision timetables.

**Key Stage 4 STAR: Marcey W.**

**Key Stage 5 STARS: Apple-May S. and Izzy B.**

### **Politics**

There has been a lot to digest and discuss in the world of Politics these past few weeks. We have been very impressed at how across the whole student body there has been clear interest in events ‘across the pond’ and following our assembly it has been a pleasure engaging in spontaneous political discussion whilst walking around our school.

Subsequently our Year 13 students have spent some time trying to unpick the various explanations for (soon to be President) Trump’s decisive victory on the 5th November. Was it a poor candidate in Kamala Harris; Biden’s bad timing; or to quote one former Presidential campaign ‘the economy stupid!’?

Meanwhile our Year 12 students have been considering developments in the UK, in particular the first Labour budget for fourteen years. As ever our lessons have been lively and filled with debate!

**Year 12 STAR: Mia 12TC**

**Year 13 STAR: Reed 13SW**

### **Philosophy, Religion and Ethics**

Year 7 students have been getting on well with changes made to the PRE schemes of work with a focus on the difference between Dharmic and Abrahamic religions. Equally, they are understanding that everyone has a worldview; a perspective in life be that religious, non-religious/secular/humanist, ethical or spiritual. Year 8 have also been enjoying a change to the PRE schemes of work with a first unit studied on Judaism, learning about the Mitzvot and key practices such as Shabbat. The Year 9 scheme of work has been unaltered for the time being, students have been working on an outline of law, justice and punishment within society.

All Year 10 and Year 11 students have had their first ‘CorePRE’ lesson outlining important ethical perspectives in society and appreciating the religious and non-religious consideration of these issues. All Year 12 and 13 students are on rotation with ‘CorePRE’ taught at different time periods throughout the year. These lessons focus on philosophical questions with the students understanding the religious underpinning of these views as well as the perspectives of philosophers such as Socrates and big thinkers

throughout history such as Marx. Students are asked to reflect on their views linked to these thought-provoking philosophical questions as a foundation for further academic study. Year 10 GCSE Religious Studies students have on the whole settled in well to the course, enjoying different interactive activities in lessons as well as a chance for discussions. Year 11 GCSE Religious Studies students are now preparing for their Religious Studies mock exam with lessons focusing on revision materials and ways to answer exam questions. Year 12 A-level Religious Studies students have settled well into the course, learning topics related to the three strands of Philosophy, Religion and Ethics. Year 13 A-level Religious Studies students show great focus in lessons and are gearing up to finish the remaining topics in time for the mock exams in the new year.

**Key Stage 4 star of the term - Immogen 10AE**

**Key Stage 5 star of the term - Thandi 12TC**

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year.

## The Humanities faculty



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