



QUEEN
ELIZABETH'S
HIGH SCHOOL

Morton Terrace
Gainsborough
Lincolnshire
DN21 2ST

Telephone Number:
01427 612354

Fax Number:
01427 612856

Email:
office@qehs.lincs.sch.uk

Website:
www.qehs.lincs.sch.uk

Twitter: 
@QueenElizHigh



INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

College House Opening	3
QEHS Never Ending Bench	5
Subject, Exam and Curriculum Changes	6
National Cypher Challenge/Service Childrens' Day out	7

The Q. E. News

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2014

Everybody's Chance to Shine

Article by
Mr D Allsop, Headteacher

This time of year is always busy for QEHS. As usual during the Easter holidays, our school doesn't stand still and we have staff and students visiting places across the world. The annual ski trip leaves and the German exchange are doing their visit to Germany. Mrs Dunmore is also heading out to our link school in China to meet the staff and students of the school. Back here in the UK, our annual Easter Revision School for the examination years is as popular as ever with some subjects already being full.

Years 11 and upwards will be looking towards the summer with a huge mixture of emotions. There will be anxiety of course, but also excitement and anticipation as they get the chance to show what they can do and know. There are two ways to look at things at this time of year. I would encourage students and parents to see the summer exams as an opportunity to shine and show themselves and those around them what they are capable of. Self-belief is a huge part of this and students need to get as much as they can from their time in school in order to gain confidence in their abilities. Fundamentally, just by being here at QEHS, that should tell all students that they are amongst the most able candidates in the Country. Finally, adding the word 'yet' onto sentences such as 'I can't do Physics' turns the whole thing into a positive.

Staff are as keen as students that they do well and we are all here to help and support so I really do encourage students to ask questions and take advantage of the expertise our teachers have.

This spring term has also seen us officially open the three new buildings which we have been in for most of this year anyway. It has been a long road to get to this point but I think that the students here at QEHS now have some excellent facilities to enjoy and to help and

enhance their learning experiences.

Spring also sees growth and a number of our staff are being successful in gaining promotion in other schools as well as here at QEHS. We are always sorry to see staff leave but it is a necessary part of building a career in teaching. Full details will come in the summer edition of this newsletter.

We have been expecting Ofsted to visit this academic year and if they haven't been by the time this newsletter is published, I am sure we will see them in either term 5 or 6. Rather like our exam year students, this is an opportunity to show what QEHS can really do. I know that there is a huge amount of love for this great school in the school community and I know that the students will do everything that they can to show the inspectors just how great a school we are. So taking my own advice, I am looking forward to any future inspection so that we can show the inspectors just what we can do; I am sure that everybody will 'shine' in the summer and that isn't just in what I hope is the lovely summer sun.

Polite Reminder

Please can we ask that school gates are not blocked when picking up/dropping off your child at school. There are many potential hazards when this happens and we want to ensure the safety of all those in and around QEHS.

Study and Exam Leave 2014

Year 11's last day will be Friday 2nd May. They will finish at 3:35 p.m.

Year 12 start their exam leave at 3:35 p.m. on Friday 2nd May. They will return to school on Monday 9th June.

Year 13's last day will be Friday 23rd May. Finish at 12:35 p.m..



Trips Day 2014

Trips Day will be on Tuesday 22 July this year; we have lots of exciting trips planned for students as a reward for all of their hard work throughout the year.

Letters will be coming home soon with all the details.



House Activities for Term 5

Junior Table Tennis
 Tuesday 29 April @ Lunchtime
 Wednesday 30 April @ Lunchtime

Grades

The next set of grades for current performance and engagement were released on the SIMs Learning Gateway at 3.30 p.m. on Friday 28 March. Please log on to see how your child is doing at school.

AN INSPIRATIONAL GUEST FOR AN INSPIRATIONAL BUILDING!

Article by Mr D Allsop, Headteacher

Once again, our students have done us proud in supporting staff and guests at a prestigious event to mark the formal opening of the newly refurbished College House



On 7 March we were delighted to welcome ex Head Girl Helen Allen as our VIP guest for the event and she in turn was thrilled with the opportunity to make a welcome return to the school she speaks so fondly of. Since leaving us, Helen has enjoyed an impressive career, including receiving the Nurse of the Year Award in 2011, founding the UK Charity Pepsids and becoming a face of M&S's 'Britain's Leading Ladies' campaign.

Sixth Formers met guests on arrival, escorting them into the building, where they were greeted and offered refreshments by members of the staff and student leadership teams. Once again, guests were very professionally photographed by student Joanne Johnson (12C) and confidently interviewed by school radio presenters Beth Kelly and Rachel Holliday (9C).

After sharing some special memories of her time at the school with 30 VIP guests, Helen performed the official opening ceremony, unveiling a plaque in the beautiful entrance hall. Sixth Form students then helped leadership team take guests on a tour of the building, when they visited offices and classrooms, before enjoying an impressive selection of canapés prepared and served by Mrs Jones and her team.

Helen summed up our own thoughts on College House, and the opportunities it will present for our students. *"It was a privilege to be invited back to officially open College House and hear its inspirational story! I was so impressed with the vision, passion and perseverance of everyone involved in making it the fantastic resource that it is today. QEHS is a wonderful school and I have every confidence that College House will help it be an even better springboard for launching exciting futures!"*

QEHS Officially Opens College House

Student Article by Sam Sherburn 13S and William Holliday 13E

It has been an exciting year to be a sixth former at QEHS. Alongside A-Levels, and planning for the next stages of our lives, there has been the opening of a fully refurbished sixth form centre, housed in the grand and imposing setting of what has become known as 'College House'.

Fresh from the excitement of meeting the infamous Benjamin Zephaniah just weeks ago for the opening of the new English and Sport facilities, senior staff and students gathered once again to meet the great and the good of Gainsborough for the ceremony to open College House.

The campaign to save College House involved the efforts of the Headteacher, local businessmen, parents, students, staff and alumni of QEHS. Indeed, a highlight of the opening ceremony was guiding the Old Girls' Association around College House, a building to which they had tearfully said goodbye only a few years ago, when it was earmarked for demolition. As sixth formers who now have the use of this excellent facility, the history of College House is fascinating - the kitchen was once the silver store when it was in residential use, and one of the classrooms was once a bathroom for the use of students of the Girls' High School.

The cutting of the ribbon and unveiling of the plaque were carried out by Helen Allen, a QEHS alumna who has gone on to a career in nursing, founding her own charity, PEPAIDS, which aims to reduce poverty and HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa, and who was awarded the prestigious title of 'Nurse of the Year' in 2011. In addition, we were joined by local councillors, businessmen and parents, who were instrumental in raising awareness, and the all-important funds, to save College House from the bulldozer and restore it to educational use.

The Sixth Form is privileged to have the use of College House, and we know we are only the latest in a long line of beneficiaries of an inheritance from a remarkable act of philanthropy, which took place generations ago. The celebration of this incredible building, not just its history, but also the exceptional people who have been educated in it, it was a memorable morning for all those who were fortunate enough to be involved.

Rainforest Talk – 'The Heart of Brazil'

Student Article by Lewis Sain 9A



Last week Sue and Patrick Cunningham came into our school to discuss their trip to the Amazon rainforest and to also promote their charity to save the tribal people's community and the area in which they live.

Sue explained how the couple travelled the Xingu river, which is the main tributary of the 2,500km long Amazon river, and along the way met 48 tribal communities. These tribes had many different cultures which were fascinating to listen to but also observe, the couple handed out various foods and equipment for members of the audience to pass around and look at. The cultures included body paint, seasonal food, mensats (where the men discuss important decisions in the centre of the village), festivals (they were there to witness the festival of the humming bird after the rainy season), the sacred bamboo flute used in most festivals and how they beat their feet to remember their culture. We also learnt about how only one tribe can make the pan to cook manioc and so it is traded heavily, how boys go through scarification (their legs being scraped and not being allowed to cry out) and much much more.

We also learned of the deforestation that is going on and got to understand just how much is being cut down. The churned up mud from this (when it rains) is washed away into the river, making it filthy meaning that the tribal people cannot drink from it and also when loggers are finished they set the area on fire, causing a real risk to the natives.

Sue then went on to say how logging is illegal there but still done en-mass and also the deforestation being done will have a serious effect on our lives if it continues because the trees are regulating our current climate and also there are lots of plants in the rainforest with medicinal qualities which are vital for our life. She also spoke of the brutality shown to natives in the forest by loggers and miners for absolutely no reason.

The third largest dam in the world is being built on this river and deforestation is also still going strong. Sue and Patrick's charity, 'Tribes Alive' aims to help support tribes in the Amazon and aid them in developing whilst still staying true to their culture (for example they have supported tribes that make honey to sell for a small profit). Donations were collected at the end of the talk and lots of people contributed which shows just how many people care about their environment and how well they got the message across.

All in all a riveting and thought provoking presentation about the contrasting lives in central Brazil.



QEHS the Never-Ending Bench

Article by Mrs M Muir—Head of Creative Learning & Head of Art



The next bank of names have been safely installed onto the never-ending bench.

The bench was the result of the Creative Partnerships initiative and was designed by students as a way to record the students of QEHS.

The current Year 7 are the latest set of names to be placed onto the bench making the total number of names approximately 720. The bench has been designed to hold 7 full Years at any one time, so it will be at full capacity in 2017!

I am confident that once the weather improves students [and staff] will have the opportunity to sit and ponder what it is to be a member of the QEHS community.

Would you enjoy making friends with someone from another part of the world?

There are international students at universities in the UK who would love to spend one day or a week-end getting to know a family and experiencing 'real life' in this country.

They are happy to talk about their country and culture with you, and will travel to wherever you live.

This is a safe, fun way of helping your children to become caring citizens of the world. HOST has been linking students with volunteer hosts for 27 years. Contact www.hostuk.org or call regional organiser: Mike Talbott 01472 851084.

11+ Testing

Registration is now open for 11+ testing for entry into Year 7 in September 2015.

Practice days will take place at the end of June/beginning of July.

Test dates are 13th & 20th September 2014.

Download a registration form from www.qehs.lincs.sch.uk

Subject, exam and Curriculum Changes on the Horizon

Article by Mr PW Russell,
Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum & Standards)

Many of you will have noticed the plethora of statements and directives coming from the government and reported in the media about changes in school exams and subjects. Governors have asked me to summarise these changes for parents. With regards to the curriculum we deliver and the exams your son or daughter will take the changes can be divided into three main areas:

The New National Curriculum

From September 2014 all State schools will have to deliver the new national curriculum. In most cases this will involve modifying our Schemes of Work, but the changes to content are not substantial in most subjects. What may change is the grades we report. This is because there are no longer any national curriculum levels linked to the content teachers have to deliver. We are currently consulting with staff on how to best report student grades and progress in these circumstances. Once we have decided we will provide you with further information.

Changes to GCSE's

Some changes have already come in at GCSE in the last few years. For instance students can no longer take modules early, now all the exams and controlled assessments have to be submitted in one go. From September 2015 new GCSE's will be introduced in English Language, English Literature and Maths. These will be graded from 1-9 with 9 being the highest grade. In 2016 New GCSE's will come in for Sciences, Geography, History and Modern Foreign Languages. These will also use the new numbered grading system. All these exams are meant to be more challenging than the current GCSE's. We do not know yet when or even if the other subjects we teach will change and we do not know how the numbers match to the grades currently used. This means that for our current Y7 and Y8 students they will have some subjects graded in numbers and using the new GCSE system and some graded in letters using the current GCSE system.

Changes to A levels

New A levels will be introduced in September 2015. These will be two year linear assessments with all the exams taken at the end of the two years. Initially these A levels will be in English Language and Literature, English Literature, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, History, Computing, Psychology, Art, Sociology and Business Studies. In September 2016 Maths, Geography and Modern Foreign Languages will be added. It is unclear when or if other subjects will also move across to these new A levels.

Currently students take AS exams at the end of the lower sixth. Their marks in these count towards their final A2 grades. With these new A levels A/S marks will no longer count. This means that for our current Y10 students some of the A levels they take will have A/S exams at the end of Y12 that count towards their overall A level grade and some will not. All this will depend on which subjects the student chooses. For our current Y9 students most of the A levels; possibly all; will be two year linear courses. We do not know yet whether students will be able to take an A/S at the end of the lower sixth as a separate qualification.

As a school we will make sure that the latest information is available to parents at the time students are making options choices. However, parents need to be aware that things tend to move fast with little notice, or consultation. What you can see here is the latest information I have at the time of writing and there are still a lot of unanswered questions. The fact that these changes will be midway through their implementation when we have the next general election and that the Labour Party have not committed to them all and say that they will reverse some of them adds a further level of uncertainty to the mix.

National Cipher Challenge 2013

Article by Mrs Haldenby,
Maths Teacher

The National Cipher Challenge is an online code breaking competition, delivered by Southampton University, that runs between October and January each year with 8 rounds of codes to decipher.

Pupils from all Years can join in, working as a team or on their own, though it is much better to work as a team as there is quite a lot of collaborative team work required.

The codes start off quite easy with, say, a simple caesar shift code and then get harder as the competition progresses.

This is the second year pupils from QEHS have taken part, with a total of 15 teams from Years 9 to 13 with 60 students involved.

Nationally, there are cash prizes to be won - £1000 for the overall winners!! – as well as spot prizes through the course of the competition. This year Chris Fogg was the winner of a £25 spot prize! Within school we had a cumulative leader board after each round and a chocolate prize for everyone. I am very proud to announce that the overall QEHS winners this year, who came 24th nationally out of 1436 teams, are ...

'For a good prime call the pi-oneers'

consisting of Fred Seeley, Will Holliday, Will Bland, and Rory Fish all in Year 13.

Well done to everyone who took part and we look forward to a new challenge in October!



Service Childrens' Day Out

Student Article by
Stephanie Booth 12B



On 28th February, eight of the service children from QEHS took up the opportunity to visit the Red Arrows at RAF Scampton and received a guided tour around the hangar where the Red Arrows are housed, along with visiting the RAF Scampton Heritage Centre and the Museum of RAF Firefighting. The RAF base is probably best known as being the home of The Dam Busters during World War 2, so to be able to go and visit was a great honour.

At QEHS there are 13 service children ranging right through from Year 7's to Year 13's, with parents currently serving in the various military services. The day was organised by the Service Children's Coordinator, Andrea Lowe, who saw the day as a good opportunity for all the children to get to know each other and bond. The morning saw us tour the Red Arrows hangar, along with looking inside a Red Arrow; we got to see them lined up on the runway preparing to take off for one of their six daily practices!

We then had lunch in the Junior Ranks Mess before making our way to the Heritage Centre; whilst at the centre we had the privilege of visiting the office of Wing Commander Guy Gibson who was the first commanding officer of the Royal Air Force's 617 Squadron, which he led in the Dam Busters raid in 1943, resulting in the destruction of two large dams in the Ruhr area of Germany.

After a look around the museum, which houses a great deal of Dam Busters memorabilia, we visited the Museum of RAF fire fighting, which was conveniently just across a hallway from the Heritage Centre. Our tour guide around the museum was a currently serving RAF Fire-fighter who had collected such a huge range of RAF fire-fighting memorabilia that he has turned it into a museum! I think the whole group can agree that the best room at the museum was definitely the one home to a collection of nearly 2000 miniature fire engines! We all had a lovely day and would like to send our huge thanks and appreciation to Miss Lowe who organised the whole day.



Oxbridge?

Student Article by Adam Vaughan 12A

After attending the Oxbridge day last year, I decided going to Oxford or Cambridge might be something I want to do, and something I could do. As a Year 11 who was just beginning to think about the prospect of university, I didn't even know what Oxbridge meant and it was useful to have all the workings of Oxford and Cambridge explained as they are so different from other universities; the collegiate system being one of the main differences.

Now in Year 12 with the UCAS deadline getting closer, this year's Oxbridge day confirmed my desire to apply to Cambridge for medicine. We had the chance to talk to current Oxbridge students to find out about student life, and as medicine is competitive at all universities, it was helpful to learn about making a competitive application and the interview process, where we watched a mock interview take place. I now feel a little bit more relaxed about the interview stage, whereas before, I had no idea what questions they would ask and what sort of person they're looking for. The best thing I learnt was just to be yourself and if they want you, they'll have you.



Duke of Edinburgh Scheme

Article by Mr J M Kingdom

Students in Year 10 are busy preparing for their Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. The practice expedition is on Friday 16 – Saturday 17 May in Clumber Park and the assessed expedition is Monday 21 – Tuesday 22 July in the Lincolnshire Wolds.

Students have already completed their route cards, prepared menus, practiced cooking on Trangia stoves and had a go at putting up their tents. They are also getting stuck into their other Duke of Edinburgh tasks, the volunteering, skills and physical components of the award.



**QUEEN
ELIZABETH'S
HIGH SCHOOL**
Morton Terrace
Gainsborough
Lincolnshire
DN21 2ST

Telephone Number:
01427 612354

Fax Number:
01427 612856



Email:
office@qehs.lincs.sch.uk

Website:
www.qehs.lincs.sch.uk

Twitter:
@QueenElizHigh

