



The Q. E. News

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3

FEBRUARY 2014

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Have you heard the story about the three legged stool?

Article by
Mr D Allsop, Headteacher

This term has seen us finally finish, and officially open, the eight classroom block and sports hall. The covered walkway between the changing rooms and the new sports hall is the final piece of the plan and our thanks go to Gelders Group, the main contractors, for helping us complete this last stage.

The icing on the cake was securing Benjamin Zephaniah as our VIP guest for the opening. He was just fantastic and I am sure that the students who got to meet him will remember that for many years to come. It was a great pity that we couldn't have all of the students involved but the large site and difficulty of a space to fit them all in meant that we had to restrict it to only a few. There can't be many sports halls which were opened with a flourish after the VIP guest has just completed 20 push ups. You can read more about the opening later on in this newsletter.

We had our annual senior presentation evening earlier this term and it is always lovely to hear the first term university or employment stories of our returning students. It is a source of regret again that we can't have more of the students involved in such events but sadly, our hall does not have the capacity to involve all of the students. We can only hope that over their 5 or 7 years as many students as possible will get to experience all of the things that QEHS has to offer.

This term has also seen us host two evenings for the parents of Year 11 in order for them to help their children when preparing for the summer exams. These have been well-attended and we hope that parents gain a great deal from the evenings. Should any

parent, in any year, want to know how best to support their child at home and they are unsure of what to do, please feel free to contact us and we will work together to support the student. I think virtually every student and parent of the school has now heard Mrs Pearson's analogy of the three legged stool where the legs are home, school and student. The stool only works when all three strands work together. I know that we are blessed at QEHS by parents who are ready and willing to do what they can, in conjunction with the school, to support their children.

The International Links that the school is making are growing all of the time and we are looking forward to hearing about Mrs Dunmore's visit to China in April. We are also making links with schools across the globe and of course we are maintaining our links with European schools. It was a little disappointing that we could not generate sufficient numbers of students to run the French exchange this year, but we do hope to offer it again next year and hope that there are more students wishing to stay in France.

The official opening for College House is 7 March and we are thrilled to be welcoming back Helen Allen, an old girl of the school who spoke at our speech night a few years ago. She was nurse of the year, a founder of the charity PEPAID and became one of Marks and Spencer's 'Britain's Leading Ladies'.

So we can now start to look forward to Spring, warmer weather and longer hours of daylight. At least this year we are using our new facilities rather than working around them.

House Activities for

Term 4

House Music Rehearsal Day
Tuesday 4th March

House Music (Lunchtime)
Thursday 6th March

Senior Netball – Football
Monday 10th and Thursday 13th March

House Swimming AM
Friday 21st March

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..



Key Stage 3 Book Club

Article by Mrs R Senescall, Teaching Assistant

The Key Stage 3 book club takes place monthly in the library on a Tuesday lunch. Check the board outside or ask the librarians for the next date, Everyone is welcome, whatever your taste in books. Any Questions? Email Mrs Senescall or the library. Look forward to seeing you there.

Readathon

In the Autumn term Year 7 students took part in the national Readathon, originally formed by Roald Dahl and to raise money for seriously ill children. Our students did us proud by raising £924 for charity! Well done to all involved.



Student News

Ethan Allenby (8B) passed his Grade 4 piano with Distinction in December.

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.

Year 10 Enterprise Challenge

Article by Mr J Kingdom, Assistant Headteacher

Year 10 students were set something of a challenge in the run up to Christmas. They were tasked with forming small teams and, along the lines of 'The Apprentice', creating a product to sell at the school Christmas market.

They responded with a level of enthusiasm and innovation that would have made Alan Sugar stand proud and rest assured that the country's future is in extremely safe hands. The air hummed with market research, budgeting sheets, prototypes, and pilot schemes.....some groups even managed to raise considerable amounts of money to buy raw materials by washing cars, running lucky dips and, if they were quick, selling cakes.

The big day was a runaway success. The standard of the products that the students created was awe inspiring. From Christmas trees fabricated from old magazines to a cd made by our very own 'boy band', stock simply flew off the shelves. Staff spent their wages on stocking fillers while students drove a hard bargain in BOGOFs for Christmas tree decorations, santa beards and model aeroplanes.

Once it was all over and costs deducted, a sum of £1032 had been raised for charity in little over an hour of selling (that's £17.20 a minute or 29 pence per second, in case you were wondering).

The students showed just what could be done with a little bit of rope and a lot of imagination, enthusiasm and effort.

If anyone would like to buy a CD, created by QEHS' very own boy band 'Zebra' then please contact Miss Soudanne (discounts are available for bulk orders).

Year 12 Young Enterprise

Year 12 students are, once again, taking on the challenge of Young Enterprise this year. In the spirit of 'Dragon's Den' the students have formed a company and are developing products to sell at trade fairs around the country. Inspired by the success of their 'pet logs' the team have developed a number of wood based products including candle holders and coasters. Sales have been good, boosted by visits to local primary schools and to a trade fair at Marshalls Yard in Gainsborough. The team are now exploring ways of increasing their product range and boosting sales.

The team would like to thank Mr Gudalajtys, their business adviser from EDF and the in school team (Mrs Thorpe, Miss Collingham, Mr Priest and Mr Kingdom) for all of their help so far.



2fast2soon

Article by Mrs Debbie Brown,
School & Operations Manager

A hard-hitting presentation, courtesy of the Lincolnshire Safety Awareness team, was in store for Year 13 on 21st January. A moving short play was followed by enlightening workshop sessions on the four deadliest mistakes any driver can make.

The play, based on the true story of 'Kirsty', showed the lead up to a fatal crash and the inevitable aftermath. Each turn of events highlighted the impact such an incident has, not only on those directly involved in the collision, but all those left having to deal with the life-changing consequences.

The workshop sessions, though slightly less harrowing, were equally informative. The director and actors from the play led discussions on the FATAL FOUR - the four main causes of road traffic accidents. Speed; mobile phones; drink/drugs and seatbelts were highlighted as the most dangerous yet arguably most obvious causes of accidents on our roads today. Advice was shared on how to be safe on the roads, whether as the driver, or passenger.

Excellent use of audio-visual technology; traumatic scenes; emotive images and thought-provoking statistics made this presentation hard to watch...but even harder to ignore.

Closely followed by Young Passenger Awareness

On Tuesday 28th January a representative of the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service came into school to give the annual Young Passenger Awareness presentation to our Year 11 students. Again this is a hard-hitting and powerful presentation drawing our young students' attention to the risks facing young drivers and passengers on the roads today.

Students' attention was drawn to the fact that so many tragic accidents happen to new male drivers and, even more often, to the young female sitting in the passenger seat alongside them, many of which could be avoided. One of the main distractions, apart from peer pressure, is the use of mobile phones by the drivers or their passengers.

The Fire and Rescue representative gave lots of good advice to our students on how to behave in a more responsible way and also how to remove themselves from a situation, or a vehicle, if they feel unsafe. The pitch of the demonstration was perfect for the age group and this is a presentation that we will continue to book for our Year 11 students.

Data Collection Sheets on Sims Learning Gateway

Article by Mrs S Magill,
Curriculum Support

at the same address as a student and are Contact number 1 or 2 will be able to see these details. When you log into Sims Learning Gateway, click into the My Children dashboard in the left hand column and underneath the Student Record link you will find the link to the Data Collection Sheet. Go into this and follow the instructions to check that the records we hold are correct and up to date, using the pencil symbol to make any changes. By going through to the final section and clicking on "Finish" we are able to see that you have checked the information even if there are no changes to make.

With more and more parents having access to Sims Learning Gateway to view assessment grades, we have taken the decision to let parents (subject to certain conditions) view online the data previously checked on Data Collection Sheets. As, for example, mobile phone numbers are changed more frequently nowadays it is important that details are always up to date. Only parents who live

If you are not sure of your password for SLG, please do not hesitate to contact our ICT department on ictsupport@qehs.lincs.sch.uk, who will be happy to provide you with a new one. However if you do not have access to a computer, and still need a paper copy of the Data Collection sheet, please feel free to contact the school and we will arrange for one to be brought home by your child as usual.

We would be most grateful if you would please take the time to check this information as it is important that student records are always up to date should we need to contact you in an emergency. Please ensure the telephone numbers you provide accept incoming calls.

Work Experience - Placement deadline fast approaching!

Article by Mrs J Thorpe, Work Experience Co-ordinator

“WELL DONE” to the sixty eight students in Year 10 who have handed in their work placement forms and a note of encouragement to “keep trying” to those whose applications have resulted in rejection - I know a lot of students have made a real effort to secure a work placement. However, for anyone who has NOT yet applied for a placement - time is running out!!



As mentioned in the Parent/Student booklet and in earlier newsletter items, it is the need for ensuring the safety of students whilst on placement, which dictates the deadline for the handing in of placement details for work experience places which students have sourced for themselves. As the Education and Business partnership look after over 8,000 student placements in Lincolnshire and Rutland in any one year, they have to put in place a lead time of 3-4 months to make sure every placement which needs it, has the necessary risk assessments carried out. As a result the deadline for QEHS students to hand in their placement forms, with a confirmation

letter or email is FRIDAY 7TH MARCH.

There will be some students who are sure their placements have been agreed but are waiting for this to be put in writing - these students need to let me know before the deadline so that I am aware of their situation and can assist in encouraging the employer to make their offer “official”.

For students who have NOT sourced placements by 7th March, the only places available to them (unless I can negotiate an extension from the Ebp) will be those which already have a risk assessment in place for the period of work experience from 30th June -10th July. These students will need to see me and tell me if they have a placement in mind, so that I can check whether their proposed placement is on the database and if it has a check in date for the first two weeks in July.

Placements not already on the database (this includes all out of area placements) would need checking and cannot be booked after 7th March.

It is also worth mentioning that the availability of a placement on the database only confirms that the employer has a risk assessment in date and has taken students in the past - it does not guarantee that they will take a student this year - so I must stress that students need to use the time between now and 7th March to find or confirm their own placements, so that as many as possible have their work experience placements organised by the deadline.

Please ask your son/daughter to use the holiday week to contact or chase up employers by letter, phone, email or even call in, if the firm is local. Employers who take students for work experience are aware of the lead time needed for risk assessments to be done and should not be surprised at students requesting a confirmation in February, for a work placement in July.

The medical questionnaires mentioned in the last newsletter, were sent home via the students on 24th January. These should have been completed and returned to school but if your son/daughter has had a reminder that this has not been done, please ensure the form is returned as soon as possible.

Thank you to all parents and guardians who have been supporting the students through the work experience process. Believe me, the end result for the student and employer will be worth all the effort!



BENJAMIN GIVES US 20!

Article by Mr D Allsop,
Headteacher

"This is going to be the most unusual unveiling you've ever seen!". So said Professor Benjamin Zephaniah just before giving a surprised audience a set of 20 press-ups in our new Sports Hall!

Staff and students were delighted to welcome Benjamin Zephaniah to our school as the official VIP opening guest on Friday 31st January, and he certainly embraced the opportunity. After giving guests and students an interesting and insightful journey into his former life, and how he became one of our leading poets, he performed the official opening ceremonies for both the new Teaching Block and the Sports Hall, and watched a range of students studying and playing sports. During a tour of the new teaching block, he also dropped in on English students studying, as it happens, one of his own poems, and after speaking to the class, he dutifully rapped the poem live to them in the classroom! When all the formal ceremonies were over, Benjamin then mingled with students, including 20 A level English students who, as well as speaking to him about his work, also managed to take quite a few 'selfies' to boot!

Our guests also included Councillor Patricia Bradwell, Lincolnshire County Council's Executive Councillor for Children's Services, and a range of other VIP guests without whose support and belief in our school the new building project would never have been possible and to whom we are therefore extremely grateful.

An excellent team of students helped look after and entertain our guests. Mrs Jones gave her Food Technology students a challenging project to prepare a range of refreshments, in particular to suit Benjamin Zephaniah's vegan diet. These were beautifully presented and absolutely delicious – they even got a mention on Twitter after the event, when Benjamin kindly tweeted "Went to Gainsborough to open new blocks 2day. Met great people, had good vegan eats & made friends". Guests were very professionally photographed by student Joanne Johnson (12C), a keen amateur photographer, and confidently interviewed by school radio presenters Beth Kelly and Rachel Holliday (9C). We were also ably supported by other students including our senior student leadership team, School Council members and senior Sixth Form prefects. As always, our students did us proud on the day, exhibiting confidence, maturity and a level of enthusiasm that I'm sure Benjamin will remember for a long time to come.



Cyber Bullying

Article by Mr
N Allan,
Deputy
Headteacher

As a Deputy Headteacher a major part of my role is student welfare. In recent weeks I have been promoting how we deal with bullying in school through assemblies and have encouraged our students to discuss this subject with me from their individual perspectives. I have enjoyed reading emails and discussing this topic with students from all age groups about different types of bullying and how the school reacts and more importantly how we educate our young people about bullying; what it is and how best to deal with it.

Bullying can take many forms and one the greatest areas of concern for some of our students is bullying through the use of social media. Many students, some as young as Year 7, are fortunate to have their own ipads/tablets and smart phones and are able to access the various messaging sites from the comfort of their own bedrooms. As a result students are engaging in long "chats" with a variety of different students from different age groups and on some occasions arguments or nasty comments break out of these chat rooms. Unlike the playground or classroom these sites provide instant viewing for potentially hundreds of our school community to comment on or simply read an insensitive comment. This of course can render the victim humiliated knowing full well that they are potentially a laughing stock at the centre of what can be a large audience.

From a safe guarding point of view we will always advise parents and guardians to make sure that their children access the internet in a busy part of the home and not isolated in their bedroom. Sites being used by our students include Skype, iMessage, snapchat, instagram and of course Facebook. Young people are not overly fussy about updating their privacy settings and unless you are doing this for them they leave themselves open to unwanted observers.

If your son or daughter uses any of these sites please remind them that once a message or photograph has been sent it is "out there" for all to see. We are a community and will always follow up any allegations of bullying regardless of when they are said to have occurred.

Please help us keep our young people safe online.

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

QEHS Presents:

DINNER AND DEATH

7pm 14th March 2014

The Weston Rooms

£23 for 1 ticket, £44 for 2 or

£210 for a table of 10

Proceeds to St Barnabas Hospice

Email staffme@qehs.lincs.sch.uk

for further details

Tickets can be purchased from the ticket office on tel: 01427 676655 or email tac@west-lindsey.gov.uk



Dates for your diary

Article by Mrs D Brown,
School & Operations
Manager

Monday 24 th February	:	Term 4 starts
Tuesday 25 th February	:	Challenge Plus all day
Tuesday 25 th February	:	Sociology Society trip to University of York
Thursday 27 th February	:	Challenge Plus all day
Thursday 27 th February	:	GCSE Music trip to Lincoln Drill Hall (a.m.)
Thursday 27 th February	:	GCSE 'Blood Brothers' theatre trip to Hull (p.m.)
Friday 28 th February	:	GCSE artists to Hepworth Gallery
Tuesday 4 th March	:	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 4 th March	:	House Music rehearsals all morning
Wednesday 5 th March	:	House Music rehearsals all morning
Thursday 6 th March	:	House Music – extended lunch
Friday 7 th March	:	Official opening ceremony for College House (a.m.)
Monday 10 th March	:	Senior Netball/Football at lunchtime
Tuesday 11 th March	:	Year 10 Hindu temple trip (1st group)
Tuesday 11 th March	:	Year 7 War play trip to Lincoln (p.m.)
Wednesday 12 th March	:	Advanced Entry Testing (a.m.)
Thursday 13 th March	:	Senior Netball/Football at lunchtime
Friday 14 th March	:	PE GCSE moderator in school all day
Friday 14 th March	:	School Tour : 10.55
Monday 17 th March	:	Year 12 Geography trip to Lincoln
Tuesday 18 th March	:	Year 8 girls' 3rd round HPV vaccines (a.m.)
Wednesday 19 th March	:	Year 10 Hindu temple trip (2nd group)
Thursday 20 th March	:	Year 11 Anthropology trip to Cambridge
Friday 21 st March	:	House Swimming (a.m.)
Friday 21 st March	:	Oxbridge trip to Lincoln
Friday 21 st March	:	Boulogne trip leaves at midnight
Saturday 22 nd March	:	Boulogne trip returns (22.00)
Tuesday 25 th March	:	Year 12 Edale trip
Wednesday 26 th March	:	Year 12 mock Technology exam
Monday 31 st March	:	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 1 st April	:	6th form Nottingham Galleries of Justice trip
Wednesday 2 nd April	:	German exchange students leave
Friday 4 th April	:	Ski trip leaves
Friday 4 th April	:	End of Term 4



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Ofsted
Outstanding
2008/2009