



The Q. E. News

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Good progress being made in all areas

Article by
Mr D Allsop,
Headteacher

We have focused our efforts this year into two main areas on the School Improvement Plan (SIP); teaching & learning and feedback & assessment. One of the most visible outcomes of these has been the new grade cards and reporting system that parents have been receiving each term. The feedback from this has been very positive in the main and both parents and students have felt that they are now more informed about the engagement and progress they are making in the various subjects. We tried to simplify the grading system down to those two grades, each of which can only be either +, - or * in order to make it more understandable. As with any new system, there have been teething problems and tweaks that we have made along the way. We are now engaging in a more substantial evaluation of the system in order to make improvements to it for next year. If you have any thoughts about this system then please let us know either by contacting myself or Mr Kingdom.

The focus on teaching & learning has also had an impact on our practice although possible less visibly so. Students might have noticed senior members of the teaching staff with another teacher wandering into their lessons on a regular basis. We have also had training for the teaching staff on the use of theories such as Bloom's taxonomy in the classroom. As we approach Easter we will start to consider what our priorities for next year will be and indeed we have already started to focus on particular areas of our work.

We have made good progress this year and I look forward to continuing this core part of our business in the future.

Speaking of the Easter holidays, they will mark, as usual, two trips abroad; the ski trip to Bormio and the Spanish trip. We wish staff and students on both trips all the best. I am sure that each of us would have a preference for either the snow of Italy or the sunshine of Spain!

Easter also marks the start of the final run up to exams for Years 11 and above. The annual Easter revision school will be running again and

it is as popular as ever with the students. Good luck to all students taking external exams this summer.

Looking back at the Term 4 newsletter from last year we had just received the news regarding the £2million grant from Lincolnshire County Council. It still doesn't seem credible but we now have the footings in the ground and hopefully by Easter we will start to see the steel-work going up. The plan remains that we will be using the sports hall and 8 classroom block by September this year.

So we are looking forward to the Easter holidays and a hopefully warm and sunny summer term along with the excitement of seeing the buildings rise from the ground and College House complete its renovation into a sixth form centre. I would like to wish everybody a restful Easter holiday.

QEHS the never-ending bench

Article by Mrs Muir (Head of Creative Learning)

Hopefully by the time you read this the next bank of names will be 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.

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.



House

Activities for

Term 5

Junior Table Tennis

Mon 15th April
Tue 16th April

House Swimming

Friday 19th April (a.m.)

Lost Property

Article by Mrs C
Turner (Head of
Elgar)

We would be very grateful if parents could keep an eye out for a large black rucksack which has been lost since the last day before half term. It has a pupil's name stitched on the front of it and contains a number of books, a planner, a lunch box, calculator and a pair of spectacles. We have searched school to no avail and wonder if a pupil has taken it home in error, thinking it to be theirs.

Red Nose Day Cake Sale

Article by Emily Credland, 12A

A cake sale, held on Friday 15th March for Red Nose Day, raised £135.31 for Comic Relief and the QEHS Cooking Club. Thank you to everyone who helped and all those who bought cakes!

Student News

- Alice & Ben Skelton (10E) and Georgina Tomlinson (9C) attended the British Schools Judo Championships at the beginning of March. Georgina brought home a bronze medal, and Ben came fifth in his category. Special congratulations goes to Alice who won gold in her category and was crowned British Schools' Champion 2013.
- Ricky Lee, a former student, has been elected as President of Stevenson College at Durham University. Presidents at Durham are highly fought-over positions, and we would like to congratulate Ricky on this achievement.

If any other parents have information about successes and achievements of their sons or daughters outside of school we would be delighted to report them in this newsletter.

Challenge Plus! February 28th

Article by Mrs J Hill (Gifted & Talented Co-ordinator)

We again hosted a Challenge Plus day for this area and were able to welcome back schools that join us every year for this event. Students from Years 8 and 9 are selected to attend, and we are able to offer free places to approximately twenty students every year. Challenge Plus has been running successfully all over the country for about twenty years and is an overseas event as well. We have been involved with it for about fifteen years.

In addition to providing opportunities to develop communication and teamwork skills alongside students with similar abilities from other schools the event helps students to address relevant issues to help them prepare themselves for a successful future.

The aims of the day are:

- to make students aware of their potential and responsibilities
- to promote direction, purpose and self understanding
- to seek a means of turning dreams into reality through education, planning and seeking experience
- to boost confidence in self and others
- to improve communication and other interpersonal skills required for teamwork
- to have an enjoyable day

We are pleased to be able to offer this opportunity to students and look forward to next February when we again will be hosting the event.

World

Book Day

Article by Mr N Allan (Deputy Headteacher)

World Book Day, 7th March 2013, was a very successful and busy day indeed. We had a whole host of literary characters ranging from the various professors and students from Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry to the Hungry Caterpillar and several versions of "where's Wally?". The more serious amongst us were influenced by the likes of Shakespeare, Austen, and Bronte which added to the truly mesmerising sight at lesson change over and break time.

I would like to thank our staff and students for embracing the day and capturing the spirit of the event. I look forward to next year!

BREAKING NEWS

GROUND!



Article by Mr C Williamson (Site Manager)

The new build is now well under way. The foundations have been laid and the eight classroom block and the new Sports Hall are now starting to emerge out of the ground. So far there has been very little disruption to classes and the students have had to fine tune their shortcuts between classes. As you are reading this the steel work for the classroom block is being erected and the bricklayers will be setting out ready to lay the bricks. So far so good with everything going to plan ready for an August move in.

The refurbishment of College House for use by the 6th Form is gathering pace. All of the windows on the ground and first floor have been unblocked. This has turned back the hands of time to when the building was last used, and seeing the sunlight flooding in (yes the sun did shine last week for a day) has already given it a fresh breath of life. The building work will now carry on over the coming months with an optimistic finish date of September 2013 which will then allow us to kit out the IT rooms and classrooms ready for use in Term 2 (fingers crossed).

Elsewhere in the school we are remodelling the current English block into the new Music Suite. Stood alone they can make as much (musical) noise as they want! We are also busy planning extensive refurbishment of a further nine classrooms and other spaces such as the corridors.

This is clearly a very busy time and extremely exciting for the school.....roll on September when the students will benefit from all the hard work.

Give as you Live

Here's a new easy way to raise money for school that does not involve parting with extra cash.

QEHS PTA have signed up to "Give as you Live". It means you can raise money for the school every time you shop online at no cost to you. Thousands of brands have signed up to donate a percentage of whatever you spend online.

Our special address is <http://www.everyclick.com/queenelizabethpta>, where you just fill in a few details and click Download. Once you've downloaded Give as you Live, you can search for the products you want on your usual browser and the stores that will donate to us will be highlighted in your search results, or visit your favourite online store and if they're signed up a Give as you Live bar will appear at the top to show what percentage of your spend will be donated.

It's easy to set up, secure and once you get started you'll be amazed how quickly it adds up!

Discover the new way to give to QEHS PTA. Give as you Live.

Thank You!

Article by Donna Wright (Secretary to PTA)

Thank you for helping us to raise enough money in the past 4 years for:

- New curtains & blinds for Upper School Hall (£4,600)
- New stage curtains...(£4,000)
- A new sound system for Upper School Hall (£350)...
- Two sets of mobile football goal posts..(£3,000).
- £800 donation towards a peer listening garden
- Outdoor shelters and many other things.

We, at the PTA, are very grateful. We have enjoyed supporting numerous events at the school from Quiz Nights to barbecues to Parents' Evenings over the last year. We would love you to join our happy band of volunteers. It does not have to mean a permanent commitment. If you are able to help out at any of our events please get in touch. My email address is donnamariwright@btinternet.com.



Parent Governor Representatives

The 3 elected Parent Governor Representatives who sit on Lincoln County Council Scrutiny Committees are elected to provide a voice for all parents across Lincolnshire. The 3 representatives and corresponding e-mails are;

Mrs Emma Olivier-Townrow - Emma.Olivier-Townrow@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Dr Emile van der Zee - Emile.VanDerZee@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Mr Craig Miller - Craig.Miller@lincolnshire.gov.uk

The representatives sit on 2 committees; the Children & Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee and also the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee. The former covers all matters child & young persons related, including education, health, leisure and employment. They have full voting rights on this committee and are there primarily to represent parent views. If you have a matter that you feel should be presented to County Councillors on your behalf please feel free to e-mail them on the above addresses. If you want further information please go to:

<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/local-democracy/how-the-council-works/overview-and-scrutiny/the-scrutiny-committees/children-and-young-people-scrutiny-committee/56547.article>

Sixth Form Dress Code

Article by Mr N Allan (Deputy Headteacher) & Ms A Brown (Sixth Form Manager)

A new updated version of the sixth form dress code can be seen below. The students are aware of the changes so I would ask you to discuss them with your son or daughter.

Queen Elizabeth’s High School has a Sixth Form dress code designed to promote a positive and respectable image of the school. All sixth formers are expected to adhere to it.

Boys	Girls
Suit Jacket * Shirt – plain or striped Trousers – sober colour Shoes (black or brown leather) Tie	Tailored jacket* / waistcoat* with full length trousers OR skirt which should be appropriate, smart and of decent / modest length (no extremes of style eg mini-skirts) OR Smart dress with tailored jacket* Blouse / smart top (No low neck lines) Shoes / boots (black or brown leather)
Examples of what not to wear: Sports tops / hoodies / track suit bottoms / no logoed clothing Trainers / converse / canvas / doc martin type boots Jeans / denim / tight trousers / shorts No facial piercings, ear spacers, visible tattoos, extremes of hairstyles (cut or colour).	Examples of what not to wear: Sports tops / hoodies / track suit bottoms / no logoed clothing Trainers / converse / flip flops / UGG boots / doc martin type boots Jeans / denim-look / skinny or tight trousers (eg leggings) / shorts Strappy / revealing tops or bare midriffs / backless clothing No extremes of fashion (eg mini-skirts) No facial piercings, ear spacers, visible tattoos, extremes of hairstyle (cut or colour).

*May be omitted when summer uniform is instigated for the remainder of the school.

If you attend school dressed in what is judged by staff to be an inappropriate manner, you will be referred to a member of the Sixth Form Team and sent home to change, thus wasting valuable lesson time.

NFER survey: Parental responses

Article by Mr D Allsop, Headteacher

I would like to thank all of the parents who completed the NFER survey before Christmas. It has provided us with a wide range of really useful information about the school and we will be using the results for a few months to come yet as we look for other ways to continuously improve what we do here at QEHS.

330 parents completed the questionnaire which when you take into account siblings, makes up around half of our parent body. The picture is immensely positive and I am humbled that parents are so appreciative of our continuing efforts to support their children through their education. 95% of parents are entirely satisfied with everything that we offer compared with 85% nationally which is a real achievement. However, we also need to address the concerns that the 5% of parents have with what we offer and I would encourage any parent who indicated they were not satisfied with the school to write to me outlining in a little more detail where their areas of concern lie.

The main areas of concern that were brought up in the survey were around after school clubs, support for some of our most vulnerable students and the buildings. I am hopeful that the new build will start to address the issues with the buildings and we also have some plans around after school opportunities for students. That being said, we already have the library available for study until 5:00 Monday to Thursday.

A full summary of the parental survey outcomes can be found in the parents’ section of the website. One of the quotes that sum it up for me from a parent is; “Children are encouraged to be independent, freethinkers. The staff are enthusiastic and dedicated. Overall, my child receives an excellent education.” Who would want more than that?

Lunchtime Activities

A detailed list of the lunchtime activities that are currently on offer within school can be found on the school website.