



The Q.E. News Student Supplement

EDITORS: HANNAH LEEK AND RICHARD BILTON

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QUEEN
ELIZABETH'S
HIGH SCHOOL

Morton Terrace,
Gainsborough,
Lincolnshire,
DN21 2ST

Telephone
Number:
01427 612354

Fax Number:
01427 612856

Page On

- **Battlefield Trip**

Page Two:

- **German Exchange**
- **Fame**

Page Three:

- **Barbados**
- **Disko!**

Page Four:

- **House information**
- **French Exchange**

Battlefield Trip

By Hannah Brown 12B

A coach full of upwards of forty teenagers would be a nightmare for many and, indeed, at five o' clock in the morning tensions inevitably run high. Yet, as we took our seats on the chilly morning of the eighteenth, a sense of optimism glimmered through our moody exteriors and the excitement, which had been building with eagerness for weeks, kept us going on the long journey ahead.

The annual Battlefields Tour is one of the most anticipated trips offered by QEHS; no other can have such a deep effect on the individual, with extremes of emotion on both ends of the scale being commonplace. This year, a number of students, myself included, were visiting the fields of Flanders a second time. After around nine hours, we arrived at our first site: 'the windmill' – a former German stronghold now marked by an Australian memorial. In that first day alone unforgettable memories were made, and the first few tears were shed as we held a memorial service at the graveside of an old boy of the school: Lance Corporal Charles Reginald Forrington of Stow, who died on 30th May 1916 at the age of twenty.

The next three days followed in a similar, eye-opening manner. We stood in trenches and walked among the vast white, eerily beautiful Commonwealth and French cemeteries. One of the most poignant moments was the emotional ceremony we held at the Thiepval memorial for the old boys of the school, whom we honour every year, made all the more moving by the number of students who were visiting relatives whose names were amongst those of 72,203 missing of the Somme.

Being an English Literature trip, poetry of the First World War was a running theme, so, as we followed the course of the Grimsby Chums, most of us were given the opportunity to read a poem of the War. This year we were lucky enough to visit the grave of Wilfred Owen, possibly the most renowned of the war poets, and sit in the foggy cellar from which he wrote his so oft read letters.

Of course, with days full of such seriousness, opportunities for comic relief and light heartedness are embraced with open arms: sing-alongs on the coach, dance competitions in the hotel corridor, fort building in bedrooms and a rap battle on the Euro-Tunnel being some of the stand-out highlights.

For anyone interested in studying history or English



literature, this trip is invaluable; never again will you have the chance to delve so deep into these subjects and form such a strong personal connection with

the past that will aid your learning no end. For everyone else, this Battlefields Tour is an eye-opening, irreplaceable experience. When you sit aside Wilfred Owen's grave, say 'hello' to a soldier from a Lincolnshire Regiment though he cannot hear you, find a shrapnel ball newly turned over by a French plough, the war suddenly becomes very suddenly and vividly real.

Thanks of course must go to the people who made this trip and to whom the memories are owed: the other students who provided laughs aplenty, the staff who accompanied us and undoubtedly had an equally fantastic time, the lovely Kevin – our coach driver, and of course Andrew Spooner who, for our benefit, dedicates his life to his passion of World War One and arranged what was once again an unforgettable four days. The impact that this trip has on students is irrefutable, our respect for those who sacrificed their lives strengthened immeasurably by our own experiences of the Somme and I can say, without a doubt, that we will never again be able to hear the timeless words of Laurence Binyon without a hearty reply: *'We will remember them.'*

Fame– School Musical

Finally the school musical is returning this March in the form of Fame! - The Musical from 26th- 29th March. **Fame – the Musical** is a stage musical based on the 1980 hit musical film *Fame* which starred Irene Cara and featured the famous title song. 'FAME provides an open look at the New York City's High School of Performing Arts, where sweat and hard work are the key factors to a successful life as a performer. The plot follows a group of students across the acting, dancing and music faculties from 1980-1984 as they learn to master their craft and grow up alongside each other, rising to the various challenges that face them'.

This musical is run for students by students and our aim is to get performing arts back into the school tradition. Auditions will be in November and we're looking for all types of people to help whether you want to be on the stage as a performer, backstage or technical etc.

By Rob Lee 13D

German Exchange

Thursday, 17th March – the day of the Germans arrival. Butterflies fluttered in my stomach from the moment I awoke that morning. Never having met my partner before, many different thoughts rushed through my head but everything was fine once I'd met him. Franz came across as a thoughtful, chilled-out kind of guy and one who could attract any girl with only one look in her direction. I had to keep tabs on him daily, as he would be off, trying to woo yet another girl!

After the Germans' visit in March, it was the turn of Mr & Mrs Pearson, accompanied by 22 Year 10 students, to venture into deepest, darkest Bavaria for nine days in mid-July. Having no sleep on the 13 hour journey, after setting off at midnight, is something I need to warn future exchanges about! (*I did tell them to get some sleep! Mrs P*) The journey may be long, and tedious

Blencathra

By Alice Bunn 12D

Our 'step-up to AS-Level geography' trip in July this year took us to Blencathra, near Keswick in the Lake District.

Our visit included a stop off at Leeds to learn about the growth of the city from a mere 3 streets, originally a livestock market, to one of the largest cities in the UK, and also the regeneration of the CBD and inner city.

We then continued our travels up to Keswick, arriving at the Blencathra Fieldwork Centre, where we were to spend a further two days learning about glacial landscapes and rivers. Our first night was filled with settling in, dinner and then an evening lesson on glaciers to prepare for the following day, when we would be walking in a U-shaped valley, once a huge glacier.

The next day we all piled into the minibus and travelled the 20 minute journey to the village of Grasmere, famous for its gingerbread (which we sampled later in the day). Here we walked up into the fields and valleys, using our newly learnt knowledge of glacial landscapes. We took field sketches and learnt more about the area and its glacial history, whilst we stood alongside some large cows. The day was boiling hot and the walking rather intense at some points, but the pivotal part of the walk arrived when we reached the corrie at the top of the valley, where we were able to appreciate the beautiful views and chilled water.

That evening we had another lesson on glaciers and then we were free to chill and spend time together as a group. We made use of the games room and all really had a good time. On the Saturday we had an early morning lesson on rivers and then straight away made our way out of the back of the fieldwork centre up Blencathra itself (the highest peak, furthest north in the Lake District). With our wellies tied to our rucksacks carrying our load we trudged our way up the side of the mountain. It was another hot day but luckily we spent the day calf deep in the river, it was very refreshing. We learnt how to measure the river width and depth at different points, which was new to us all. We then made our way back to the field centre, it was such a good day, we loved every minute of it. It was then time for us to load ourselves and our kit back into the minibus and make the journey back to Gainsborough. On the drive back down there was a lot of falling asleep, we were thoroughly tired out. Overall we all loved the geography trip, learning huge amounts to aid us in our AS-Level year. We all got to know each other as a group and also our teachers, I know we will all keep good memories of our days away.

at times, but it's worth it for all the great moments we experienced. My favourite one has to be the sight of Mrs Pearson coming down a mountain on a toboggan, and then going back up to do it all again!

Settling into Franz's family wasn't hard, as I tried to make an effort for them and they offered me kindness and generosity in return. We often had good banter in German and although I didn't always understand exactly what had been said, I tried my best. This is what the Exchange is all about: not trying to be a perfectionist but trying to talk to those around you, making the most of every opportunity.

Taking part in the Exchange was a fantastic experience (**wunderbar!**) and I shall treasure the memories for a long time. I now have another family, in Germany, and I'm looking forward to seeing Franz's brother Maxi when he takes part in this year's Exchange.

By Will Burton
11A

Quick note from Mrs Pearson

Plans are well underway for this year's programme and there are now only a couple of places left. The Exchange is open to all students in Y10 taking German, and as well as being the fun that Will has described, it really does do wonders for a student's language learning. Those who have taken part consistently do better at GCSE, by at least a grade!

So if there are any students who are hesitating, be brave – go for it, enjoy it, and make a whole new circle of friends!!

Details can be obtained from Mrs Pearson.





Es war so ein schöner

With almost eighty excitable and enthusiastic Key Stage Three linguists packed into the Upper School Hall, the Languages ;Diskô! was bound to be great fun!

Thanks to the hard work of Mrs Dunmore and her group of Year 13 German students, the Languages department was able to host a fun packed evening to help Years 7, 8 and 9

experience the music, food and culture behind the languages they are learning.

The evening began with everyone having their faces painted by two very patient sixth formers, who somehow managed to make all of us (A Level linguists and staff included!) hold still long enough to have flags drawn on our faces telling each other which languages we spoke.

The food and drink consisted of a variety of French, German and Spanish



delicacies, with the Pearson family providing delicious freshly cooked waffles. The main feature of the ;Diskô! was of course the music, with a team of sixth formers expertly curating music from across Europe, and bravely leading dances, to which staff joined in with gusto!

We hope that everyone who came along had a lovely night- we know we did! Tim Toupet's 'Fliegerlied' was the anthem to the evening, so I will leave you with his lyrics: Es war so ein schöner Tag!

By Sam Sherburn 13S

Barbados Trip

By Hannah Weightman

After two years of waiting we finally jetted off to Barbados, everyone was so excited and we weren't disappointed. Barbados was incredibly picturesque with many photo opportunities, which many of the girls took advantage of.

As well as being a netball tour, the tour also went round the island, visiting the museum and seeing all the beautiful sights of Barbados. Harbour lights night was the favourite night of many of the girls with fire-eaters, limbo dancers, stilt walkers and the highlight of the night- the dancing teachers.

We played five games of netball during our time there and although to start with it was hard, we didn't exactly win not only because of the incredibly hot temperature but also because of how speedy the Barbadians played, but we weren't disheartened and after a few games we really got into the swing of things even winning a few games against 18year old players.

Swimming with the turtles was my favourite experience as we got to be with them in close proximity.

We also got to see thousands of fish and a couple of stingrays which was just an unforgettable experience. After twelve nights in Barbados everyone was missing their families so it was time to go home. All the girls had an amazing time which they will never forget and have hundreds of pictures in case they ever do. We have to thank the teachers for organising such an amazing trip and hope that they do it again so others can have such an amazing experience too.



'Relaxing by the pool after a hard, long match'

FSC Friday

By Rebecca Codd, 11S

FSC Friday is an annual event celebrated internationally. The Forest Stewardship Council is dedicated to promoting responsible forestry. Friday 27th September the school took part in FSC Friday to help develop pupil's knowledge of how to sustain the environment.

With help and support from Mrs Watson, I was able to organise an event. After much deliberation we decided to spread the FSC message by handing out an array of resources provided by FSC, such as: postcards, posters, leaflets, pens, bangles and not forgetting the green themed cakes.

We encouraged pupils to make a commitment to a pledge to help sustain the future of forests. I was delighted by the response from pupils. A large number of people put forward a pledge, suggestions included: plant trees, use less paper and recycle regularly.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Watson for helping me set up the event, all my friends that helped me on the day and of course everyone who got involved. I hope this has been a small step towards helping our environment.





French Exchange

We arrived in France and spent the day in Caen visiting the war museum, several beaches from the D-day landings and the American and German war cemeteries. We explored bunkers used in the past to house guns on the coast and ate our picnics at a beach surrounded by a dozen sunken ships.

We then made our way to meet our French exchange partners. We spent the week living in the house of our exchange partner and walking in their shoes for the next few days.

The next day, after the first night spent in a French household, everyone spent the morning in school

experiencing the lessons. That afternoon we walked to the Town Hall and were officially welcomed to the town by the deputy mayor.

In the following days we visited Fougeres, a nearby town and its castle, then spent the afternoon with our partners as the school was closed, as well as visiting the awe-inspiring Mont St Michel.

On the last day we went laser questing and over all Madame Soudanne and her blue team were victorious over Mr Allan and Diane. We had the weekend with our host families until Sunday night when we all got the coach from the school to the ferry.

It was a brilliant trip and everyone would like to thank Madame Soudanne, Mr Allan and Diane Hall for their time and effort in organising it, as well as all the French students and teachers for being such lovely hosts.

By Rosie Ward-Lowery and Emma Sherburn



House Information

Overall house results so far:

Junior Football

Junior Netball

1. Austen	1. Elgar
2. Churchill	2. Austen
3. Scott	3. Darwin
4. Elgar	4. Scott
5. Darwin	5. Churchill
6. Brunel	6. Brunel

Have your say...

This student supplement is a collaboration of all the student's views and the best way to have your voice heard. If you have something to say, or an idea for an article, contact Mrs Barker (School Office), Hannah Leek (I2S) or Richard Bilton (I2E).



House Drama

- This years House Drama is based on 'The seven deadly sins' (well 6 of them) and is always going to be a battle between the Houses for the top performance and script!
- It's assured to be an enjoyable evening and one not to be missed. This year's House Drama is in the Upper School Hall on 16th October. The House Drama competition holds a comfortable place in the QE tradition; thus the winners hold a prestigious title. But, as ever, it's the taking part that counts!

Letters on how to obtain tickets are available at Reception.