



QE NEWS – January 2026



Diary Dates...

Thursday 5-7 February

Legally Blonde The Musical performances

Monday 9 February

Y11/13 Mock Exams start

Monday 16-20 February

Half term

Monday 23 February

Academic Review Day (all years).

Tuesday 24 February

Y11/13 Mock Exam continue

Wednesday 4-5 March

Y10 Take your child to work day

Thursday 12 March

Year 9 Parents Evening

Thursday 19 March

Year 9 Options Evening

[2025/26 Term Dates](#)

Dear Parents, Carers and QE Community,

Due to the impact of the adverse weather last week, we are slightly late getting this edition to you but I would like to wish you all a belated Happy New Year.

Please see my video message [here](#)

Best wishes,
Mr Thomas Neill- Headteacher

QE Parent Teacher Association

Are you interested in finding out more, please see the poster in this edition.

To register your interest please fill out the [google form here](#) or contact office@queenelizabeths.com for more information

Key Contacts for our Parents and Carers:

[Senior Leadership Team](#)

Head of Year 9- Mrs Heighway; gheighway@queenelizabeths.com

[Year 9 Tutor Team](#)

Head of Year 10- Mrs Mynard; tmynard@queenelizabeths.com

[Year 10 Tutor Team](#)

Head of Year 11- Mrs Willis; ewillis@queenelizabeths.com

[Year 11 Tutor Team](#)



QE Presentation Evening 2024-25



Our Presentation Evening was a wonderful celebration of the achievements of last year's Year 11 and Year 13 students. The evening recognised not only outstanding academic success, but also the hard work, resilience, and commitment shown by students throughout their time with us.

It was particularly special to welcome back a number of former students who returned to celebrate their achievements with staff, family, and friends. Seeing them again and hearing about their next steps was a reminder of the lasting impact of their time at the school and the strong sense of community that continues beyond the classroom. A special mention to Jake Churchill and Jodie Teo as winners of the WGA Outstanding Student of the Year awards. Francis Howard-Vine, Chair of Wimborne Minster Governors presented Jake and Jodie with their award and a cheque for £300.

We are extremely proud of everything our students have accomplished and wish them every success as they continue their journeys.

Many thanks to the Old Winburnian Association, Wimborne Minster Governors and The Worshipful, the Mayor of Wimborne, Councillor Jeff Hart and the Mayoress, Mrs Barbara Hart for taking the time to attend the evening and present awards.

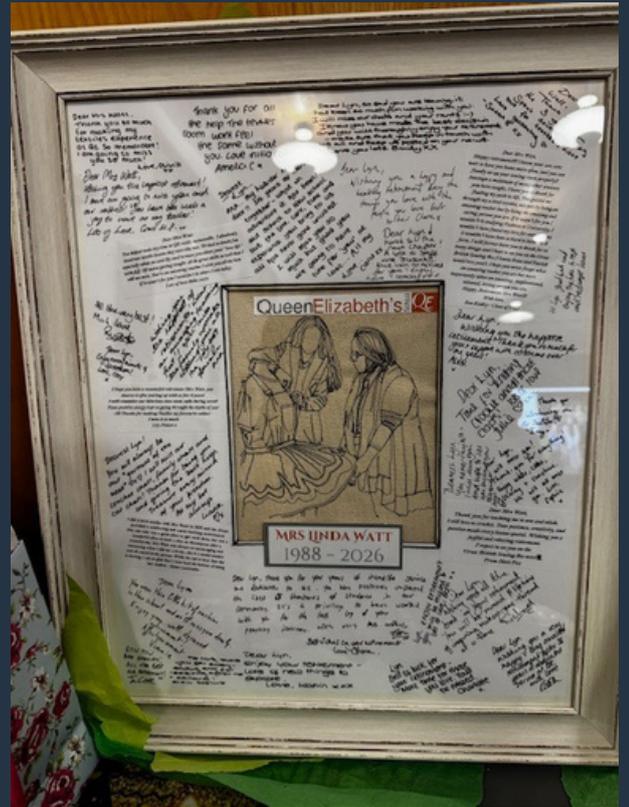


Farewell to Mrs Watt

After 36 years of dedicated service, Mrs Watt retired in December from her role as Textiles teacher at QE, bringing to a close an exceptional teaching career that has had a lasting impact on generations of students.

Colleagues, family, and former students came together to celebrate Mrs Watt's achievements and to thank her for her commitment, creativity, and passion for her subject. Throughout her time at QE, she has inspired countless students, sharing not only technical skill and knowledge but also patience, encouragement, and a genuine love of learning.

It was a fitting celebration of a remarkable career, filled with fond memories, appreciation, and well-wishes for the future. Mrs Watt will be greatly missed by students and staff alike, and we wish her every happiness in her retirement.



QE MUSIC

Student Leadership at St Michael's Carol Service



On Thursday 4th December, a small group of QE students had the wonderful opportunity to accompany Mr Hall to the beautiful Wimborne Minster. Their mission for the day was to act as student leaders, lending their support to the much-anticipated St Michael's Carol Service.

Throughout the day, our QE students shone as mentors. They actively participated in ensembles alongside the middle school students, fostering a fantastic atmosphere of collaborative music-making. Crucially, they supported the younger musicians, helping them with their performances, boosting their confidence, and sharing their own musical knowledge.

The day culminated in a truly fantastic celebration of Christmas. We were completely blown away by the sheer talent on show at St Michael's School! The enormous number of children involved, performing challenging pieces to such a high standard and with visible joy in every note, was inspiring.

Looking at the incredible musical talent demonstrated that day, it is clear that the future of Music at both QE and St Michael's is looking exceptionally bright!

Flute Success for James F at International Championship

A huge congratulation goes to James F in Year 10 who recently achieved an impressive third place in the **Lyrical Flute International Championship** in the highly competitive 13 & 14 age category.

The competition, which attracts talented flautists from around the world, is a significant event, and is judged by a panel of **top professional flautists**, including legendary figures like **Sir James Galway**. We are incredibly proud of James' hard work and dedication to gain recognition from such esteemed musicians.

For the championship, James performed the challenging piece, **'Empress Falls' by Emma Greenhall**, showcasing his skill and musicality on the instrument.

Securing a medal in an international event is a testament to James' commitment to his music practice. Well done, James, on this fantastic result!



QE MUSIC

Battle of the Bands 2025: A Resounding Success!



This year saw an electrifying new addition to the school calendar: the inaugural **QE Battle of the Bands 2025!** The event was a massive success, featuring four fantastic bands who delivered high-energy performances that rocked the house. The Battle of the Bands was created to form a key part of the practical assessment for our **Year 13 RSL students** studying the **Live Sound Engineering** unit. Their job was to plan, set up, and run the mixing desk for the event. The RSL students did an absolutely **fantastic job!** Their technical expertise ensured that every single band sounded superb, demonstrating highly professional, real-world skills.

The night started with **Tusk**, a band featuring Oliver W (Year 13) and some bandmates from outside of school. This band, while not competing, were a fantastic warm-up for the evening, playing a great mixture of original songs and covers. They brought brilliant energy with their 30-minute set.

Up next were the three bands competing for the title of Battle of the Bands champions and the first prize of a day in a top-class recording studio!

- **Kolumbia:** Fin, Rex, Oscar, and Leo played a fantastic set, showcasing a number of their original songs that are so much a part of QE life that even Mr Hall found himself singing along and knowing all the words! Their musicality was a great highlight with strong vocal harmonies and a relaxed, fun stage presence.
- **OH-J:** Hettie, Oscar, Poppy, and Jack played a great set, including some Rock and Pop classics alongside more alternative choices. This was the band's first public outing and they performed brilliantly. Their sense of ensemble was strong, and Hettie led the band well from the front with some great vocals.
- **Lyme:** Steven, Max, Dillon, and Leo brought a fantastically varied set, ranging from some heavy rock to 60s classic rock and roll. The band mixed a high-octane energy on stage with great skill and musicianship to really get the audience on their feet.



Our guest judge was **Dr. Panos Ameldis**, the Head of Sound and Production at Bournemouth University. He was blown away by the talent on show. He chose his winning band, who secured a day in the BU recording studio, due to them "having the complete package of great musicianship with high energy and stage presence.

" Well done to Lyme — QE Battle of the Band Champions 2025! We look forward to their single being released in the new year.

Thank you to all the staff who supported this event and all the parents and students that attended to make this a truly fantastic evening of Music.

Mr P Hall Head of Music



GRADED EXAMINATION SUCCESS IN MUSIC

Alissa I for Passing her Grade 2 Piano with Distinction

Sam N for Passing Grade 5 Drums with Merit

Isabelle I-B for passing Grade 8 Singing with Distinction

QE STUDENT SUCCESS NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS TO HARRY S (Y10) & ROWAN A (Y12)

Junior National Champions: In August this year Roman A and Harry S competed in, and won, firstly Parkstone Yacht Club Youth week, which is the largest youth sailing event in the country, and then the RS200 Sailing dinghy youth national championship. Sailing in the Junior class because of their ages, and at this event theirs was an outstanding performance, they were only five points off the Youth podium (sailors 18-21 yrs).

Well done!



QE SPORTS CELEBRATIONS



Dorset and Wiltshire Girls' Rugby U16 Player Development Group

Ava D, Florence VDF and Kiriana M have been selected for Dorset and Wiltshire U16 Player development group.

In December they represented the team playing against Cornwall away in Newquay and did incredibly well by winning both games. Although Kiriana is still injured she still travelled down to support the team.

Badminton

On the 1st December two boys' badminton teams went to Ferndown to compete in the Y9-11 Badminton tournament. Each team consisted of 2 singles players and a doubles pair. The boys played well all day against the opposition and as the games drew to a close we discovered we had come in 3rd place in both age groups. So really well done to both the KS3 and KS4 Boy badminton teams..

QE Girls' Football win a trophy!

It was an absolute pleasure to welcome James Cutler from the Dorset FA on Tuesday 27 January to school.

James came and presented the school with the **Barclays Equal Access School Trophy 2025**. This is the second year in a row that QE have won this award and we are only a handful of schools who have achieved this.

What a fantastic achievement for all the hard work the girls put into the games they play.

Photo - from left to right - Mr Jackson, Holly W, Milly D, Izzy R, Elsie G, Annabelle C, James Cutler (Dorset FA)



Mr Jackson

JAE Performers Profiles

JAE- Elliot T (Y10) National Triple Jump Finalist and Performer

Elliot is a committed athlete balancing school studies, extra curricular activities, athletics training and school production rehearsals.

In the summer of 2025 Elliot triple jumped to the National standard to ensure he was selected to compete in the English Schools Track and Field Championships in Birmingham. Despite the pressure of the big occasion Elliot focussed entirely on his run up and technique. He then went on to jump 3 personal bests and came an impressive 5th overall. This was a fantastic achievement and we look forward to seeing what next season brings. Alongside his athletics Elliot also represents the school in cross country and successfully auditioned for Legally Blonde. At this time Elliot is very busy practising his lines, singing and stage moves ready for the exciting show in February. Good Luck!



Izzy R (Y10) – Football

Izzy began playing football from a very young age and has proved herself to be a talented sportswomen. During her time at QE she has represented the school in many sports and is a key member of both the football and cross country team. Outside of School Izzy currently plays for both her team Generation Elite and also Dorset Schools. Over the past year Izzy has continued to develop as a strong player and this week it was announced she was selected to play for the South West. This looks to be a busy and exciting year ahead for Izzy. Well done Izzy and Good Luck!



Izzy F- D (Y10) – Dancer and Performer



Izzy is a talented performer and dancer both in and out of School. For QE Izzy is currently performing in Legally Blonde and has also been chosen to learn a Yr 11 student's choreography which will be performed as part of their examination. Alongside this Izzy attends TLW dance 5 Days studying all styles of dance . Izzy has just competed in the MTSA competition winning 1st in Vocals, 1st in Sing and Dance alongside many other fantastic awards. Well done Izzy! With cabaret shows, GCSE dance examinations and the school musical it is going to be a busy 2026!

JOIN THE HEART OF OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY!

QE SCHOOL ARE LAUNCHING A PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

We are excited to share that we are launching a Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) to strengthen our school community and support our students. The PTA will provide parents and caregivers with opportunities to collaborate with teachers, support school programs, and help plan events throughout the year. We are currently seeking parents who are interested in being involved or learning more about participating. Registering your interest does not require a long-term commitment and helps us understand how many families would like to be involved. We encourage you to sign up and be part of this exciting new chapter for our school.

TO REGISTER INTEREST

Please fill out the Google form. The link is attached to this post
Deadline Friday 13th Feb

Or contact:
office@queenelizabeths.com
for more information



AFTER SCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR TIMETABLE

No requirement to book, please just turn up. Speak to your tutor if you have any questions! Most clubs finish by 4.30pm, with the exception of the show rehearsals, which finish at 5.30pm

Monday

Netball- (All) Courts

Rugby (All)- Broads

Gym Club (All) Gym

Jazz Group (Audition) B212

A level Biology (Y13) E106

History NEA support (Y13 C309)

Tuesday

Girls Football (All) Sports Hall

Boys Football (All) Broads

Economics (Yr13) A203- week B

Wednesday

Hockey (All) Astro

Graphics (KS4&5) A304

Musical- (Hall)

Show Band (B212)

Gym Club (All) Gym

Economic (Y13) A203- Week A

Thursday

Musical- Hall

Badminton (ALL) Sports hall

Psychology (Y10/11)- C205

DT (Y11&Y13)- A108

Art and Photography (Y10-Y13) A306/7

Graphics (Y10-13) A304/5

Graphics and Textiles (Y11&13) A304/5



Wimborne Minster Pancake Race

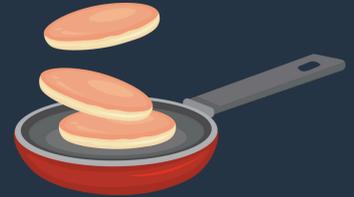
Shrove Tuesday 17th February 2026

Wimborne Minster
The Parish Office
Church House
High Street
Wimborne Minster
Dorset BH21 1HT



The Pancake Race around the Minster is all set to run again this year.

This year, once again, the races for the under 18's will be split into three groups, Reception Year to Year 4, Year 5 to Year 8 and Year 9 to Year 12. There will also be races for pre-schools and toddlers. Prizes will be awarded in the various categories. Each participant will need to provide a frying pan and ready cooked pancake. Contestants will be required to run around the Minster tossing their pancakes at the four corners of the Church. In the event of wet weather the races will be held inside the Minster.



Adult races, for those over 18, are also taking place – the winner will receive The John Loader Memorial Cup presented by Martyn and Kathy Curtler (to keep for a year) and a prize presented by Dorset View/Viewpoint Magazines (to retain).

This year the Races will be started off by Pre-schools and Toddlers, followed by Wheelchairs, School entries and finally Adults with the first heat running at 11.00 am whilst the Pancake Bell is tolled.

This year the Races will also be receiving some extra support from French conserve brand Bonne Maman, well known for their iconic red gingham lids. So there will be plenty of delicious Bonne Maman jars to share with participants and some Bonne Maman lovely goody bags for race winners.

All contestants should report to the main entrance of the Minster (North Porch) from 10.15am to register. Refreshments will be available in the Minster.

In spite of the event taking place this year during half-term we do hope that your school/playgroup will be able to participate in this Old English traditional event. Anything you can do to publicise the occasion and encourage pupils to come, either with parents or perhaps under their own steam will be greatly appreciated. It would be helpful, although not essential, if you are able to let us know beforehand if anyone can participate. Any queries you have do please contact me on 01202 888703 or by e-mail:

witsend@familyoliver.org.uk

With many thanks and we look forward to hearing from you and hopefully seeing you on the day.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Oliver, MBE

Race Co-ordinator

Pancake Race

Around the Minster

(inside if wet)

11.00am

Register from 10.15am

Shrove Tuesday

17th February 2026



**Bring your own pan
and pancake!**

**Races for Adults,
Under 18s, Toddlers
and Wheelchairs.
All with Prizes**



Refreshments available in the Minster

Free Parent and Carer Resources

EMPOWERING PARENTS TO HELP CHILDREN THRIVE



Bounce Forward, in collaboration with the Harry Kane Foundation, are gifting a series of six online sessions that equip parents with the knowledge and tools to foster mental resilience and emotional wellbeing for themselves and their children.

What we'll cover

- How the brain works, the link between thoughts, feelings and behaviour
- Nurturing optimism and thinking flexibly to overcome adversity
- Helping children gain more control over how they feel and behave
- Developing empathy
- How to connect meaningfully
- Enabling a growth mindset and focusing on strengths

17,000+ parents highly rate this programme

"It was so amazing, I looked forward to the sessions each week, learnt a lot of mind blowing information, that I have applied to my life and have seen improvements! Wish there was more sessions, so sad that it has ended! I have loved learning about my strengths, the ABCs, process praise, the growth mind set, being aware of my gremlins, it has been wonderful learning, and these sessions have been apart of my self care! Thank you ever so much!"

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Building Resilience in Children- register here:

<https://bounceforward.com/bounce-forward-raise-resilience-hkf/>



Online FREE talk by Jane Keyworth

Anxiety Based School Avoidance

March 26th 7-8pm



Book online

www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk

go to PARENTS - Live Talks page

All 16 parent talks **FREE** with our School Membership



What You Need to Know about Snapchat | Free E-Safety guide

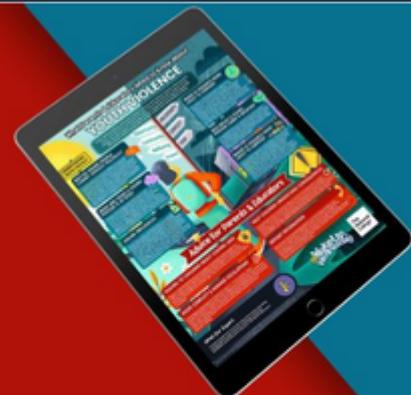
This updated online safety guide examines Snapchat's latest features, including AI tools, Snap Map, and subscription content, and the potential risks they pose to young users.

nationalcollege.com

#WakeUpWednesday - Free resources for trusted adults

Helping parents and educators keep children safe online, support their wellbeing and empower them to become...

nationalcollege.com



What You Need to Know: Youth Violence | Free E-Guide

This Wake Up Wednesday guide explores youth violence—its causes, common settings and times, and how adults can help keep young people safe and informed.

nationalcollege.com