



QE NEWS—MARCH 2026



Diary Dates...

Monday 13 April

Inset Day

Tuesday 14 April

Students return to school

Tuesday 14–17 April

Year 10/12 mock exams

Thursday 16 April

Year 11/13 Art and Design exams

Thursday 7 May

Year 11/13 GCSEs/A Level exams

2025/26 Term Dates

Dear Parents, Carers and QE Community,

Thank you for all of your support during this term, which many of you will know has been challenging for our community. I have been so proud of our staff and grateful for the support we've received from parents and carers. Improvements at the school continue apace: 6th form applications are up 25% and we've had a strong set of mock examination results for students in year 11 and year 13, which bodes well for the summer.

Attendance is up over 3% since this time last year. These improvements are due to your support and the hard work of our students, so thank you. I hope you enjoy reading and learning about the successes of our students in these pages: there is always lots going on! To all students: have a well-deserved rest at Easter (with some revision for year 11 and year 13) and we look forward to welcoming you back in April, ready for another busy term.

Best wishes,
Mr Thomas Neill- Headteacher

Please see the latest video update from Mr Neill [here](#)

Easter Message from Mrs Willis, Church Schools lead

Parenting a teenager is a rollercoaster, isn't it? Between looming exams, shifting moods, and their growing independence, it's easy to get caught up in the daily chaos.

But Easter brings a much-needed pause. As a Christian school we are reminded Easter is a beautiful, gentle reminder from God that after the hardest days, new beginnings are always just around the corner. We see that same hopeful renewal in your children every day—in their sudden bursts of maturity, their resilience, and their flashes of unexpected kindness.

We hope you and your family can catch your breath this Easter. Enjoy the break, celebrate the small wins, and have a wonderful, blessed holiday.



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

Students waiting for a lift after the end of school at 3.15 pm are asked to stand under the cover outside the main entrance until collected. They can remain on site but please note we cannot guarantee supervision after 4 pm. If it is raining, they can remain in the foyer until 4 pm.

Y10 & Y9 YOUNG ENTERPRISE DAYS

J.P.Morgan



For students who were unable to gain work experience outside of school, we provided an alternative opportunity through Young Enterprise, alongside volunteers from J.P. Morgan, by delivering the Launch Pad Business Challenge in school.

With the support of Carly Bubb and the volunteers, students developed their financial awareness and enterprise skills by working collaboratively on a series of structured, pre-designed tasks. These activities guided them through the process of setting up their own business in groups, helping them gain practical insight into entrepreneurship and teamwork. They then had the opportunity to convince the judging panel in 60 secs that theirs was the best business.

A group of 90 Year 9 were also able to take part on the second day!



All That Jazz: A High-Energy Friday at QE School!

Friday afternoon at QE School was a spectacular celebration of rhythm and talent as we welcomed the Dorset Music Service (DMS) and schools from across the county. The mission? To assemble a powerhouse Jazz Band featuring around 60 of the county's most talented young musicians.

Led by the brilliant Terry Quinny, the ensemble spent the afternoon diving into a challenging and diverse repertoire, proving just how much can be achieved when young creatives collaborate.

A setlist to shake the Hall

The day culminated in a vibrant informal concert that showcased the group's hard work and incredible range:

- "Nostalgia in Times Square" by Mingus: A gritty, soulful classic that set a sophisticated tone.
- "Victory Dance" by Ezra Collective: Bringing a modern, high-octane energy to the room.
- "Whare's My Husband" by Raye: Our show-stopping finale!

We were joined by fantastic singers who brought the house down with tight harmonies and some seriously impressive dance moves.

Courage in the Spotlight!

One of the most inspiring elements of the afternoon was the sheer number of students who stepped forward to take improvised solos. For many, this was their first time improvising in front of an audience—a brave and brilliant feat that highlighted the supportive atmosphere of the workshop.

It was truly wonderful to hear so many musicians playing together on such great music. Our huge thanks go to DMS, Terry Quinny, and all the visiting schools for joining us at QE and making it such a fantastic afternoon of music-making. What a wonderful way to spend a Friday!





QE GOES TO ICELAND!

Over February half term the Geography department had the pleasure of taking 41 students to Iceland for a 4 day trip.

On Day One we stopped at the Bridge between the continents before visiting a geothermal power station on our way to the hotel.

We had a wonderful time on Day Two exploring the beautiful Gullfos waterfall and geothermal features along the Golden Circle tour as well as visiting the very relaxing secret lagoon heated by the natural hot springs.

Day Three took us on a tour of the south coast exploring stunning waterfalls and a visit to the snout of a glacier; all with a fresh fall of snow!

On the final day we enjoyed a drive through the Geo park where we saw the lava fields including the relatively new lava from the eruptions over the last two years. We stopped at the Blue Lagoon for a luxury swim before heading to Reykjavik to explore the city as well as a trip to the FlyOver Iceland simulator experience before heading home.

A wonderful time was had by all and memories made to last a lifetime.

Many thanks to all of the staff who supported this trip and made it possible for the students who were a real pleasure to travel with.



YMCA SLEEPEASY CHARITY EVENT

Last Friday 46 6th form students took part in the YMCA Sleepeasy event to raise money and awareness of homelessness. Students got extremely creative with their shelter building with some extremely impressive structures created around the school quad. Some were towering castles whilst others went for more homely touches with front doors and teddy bears keeping guard. Students worked brilliantly in their groups showing excellent communication and problem solving skills.

The evening was spent playing games and eating pizza. Although all structures survived the night it was safe to say some students got more sleep than others. An excellent event that raised over £3000 for charity!

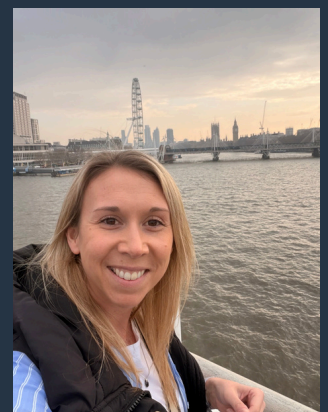
Mr Cook
Deputy Head 6th form



Congratulations to Mrs Payne, Head of PCA

We are incredibly proud to see the Performing and Creative Arts department's expertise recognised on a national level. Recently, Head of Performing Arts Mrs. Payne was invited to a national exam board meeting in London to collaborate on the future of the Drama curriculum in the UK, presenting to the board's SLT.

We are dedicated to ensuring every student has access to a high-quality, 21st-century drama education that prepares them for the world beyond the classroom. It is a privilege to help shape the standards that will inspire the next generation of performers and thinkers.



QE SPORTS NEWS



Well Done, Izzy!

Huge congratulations to Izzy R, year 10, who was selected to represent the South West this weekend.

Izzy was part of a selection process for England U15s team and played 3 games in 3 days

An amazing achievement and a wonderful experience for Izzy

Mr Jackson

QE Athletics Club Years 9 and 10

All abilities welcome

Thursdays 3.30pm -4.30pm

Starts

After Easter: Thursday 16th April

If your son/ daughter is interested please see email from by Mrs Adams and complete the Google form

QueenElizabeth's 



Do you enjoy cricket and want to play or get involved this summer?

Please see Mr Green, Head of PE, to discuss the opportunities for QE students.

Queen Elizabeth's School × Wimborne Cricket Club

PARENT & GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Get Involved This Summer

Exciting opportunities for QES students — Summer 2026

Wimborne Cricket Club are offering **QES students** three fantastic opportunities this summer. Full contact details for each opportunity are included below.

★ CRICKET - COACHING SUPPORT

All Stars & Dynamos Programme

Over 100 children take part in this ECB 8-week programme every **Friday afternoon from May (4:00-6:30pm)**. QES students are invited to help organise and support this hugely popular event — excellent experience for anyone interested in coaching, sport leadership or working with young people.

All Stars: ages 5-8 Dynamos: ages 8-11 Fridays from May 4:00-6:30 pm

CONTACT TO FIND OUT MORE
Ben Bridgen — Wimborne Cricket Club
Tel: 07856 746816 · Email: benbridden21@hotmail.com

🕒 COMMUNITY - WIMBORNE TOWN OF CULTURE

Wimborne Town Sport Festival 2026

A fun community showcase outside **Waitrose on Willow Walk** on **Sunday 19th April, 9:00am-4:00pm**, featuring sporting and leisure organisations from across the area. Part of the Wimborne Town of Culture programme — a wonderful opportunity for students to represent QES in the wider community.

Willow Walk, Wimborne Sunday 19th April 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

CONTACT TO FIND OUT MORE
Jim Williams — Chair, Wimborne Cricket Club
Email: chair@wimbomecricketclub.co.uk

👤 CRICKET - VOLUNTEERING

Wimborne CC vs Lashings World XI

Wimborne host the legendary **Lashings World XI** — a touring side of international cricket stars — on **Friday 26th June**. Volunteers are needed to help make the day a success. A memorable event and a brilliant addition to a CV or UCAS personal statement.

Friday 26th June Lashings World XI Volunteers needed

CONTACT TO VOLUNTEER
Jim Williams — Chair, Wimborne Cricket Club
Email: chair@wimbomecricketclub.co.uk

School point of contact: Mr Green — Queen Elizabeth's School
For child safeguarding reasons, student sign-ups should go through Mr Green at QES, who will liaise with Wimborne Cricket Club directly on your behalf.

Queen Elizabeth's School & Wimborne Cricket Club Summer 2026

Queen Elizabeth's School × Wimborne Cricket Club

Get Involved This Summer

Exciting opportunities for QES students — sport & community

Wimborne Cricket Club are looking for enthusiastic **QES students** to get involved across three fantastic upcoming events this summer. Whether you love cricket, enjoy helping others, or want to give back to the community — there's something here for you.

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Interested? See Mr Green
For child protection reasons, please speak to Mr Green directly if you'd like to sign up or find out more about any of these opportunities.

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES and COMMUNITY NEWS

Please see below for the FACE Family Advice timetable for April.

FACE offers parents practical advice, information and support, across a wide range of topics, including supporting neurodiverse children, understanding emotions and managing behaviour.

Go to facefamilyadvice.co.uk or click here Go to PARENTS - Live talks page.

Accessing the talks free of charge by using the school code (see below). This code can be used by any parents or staff from our school for unlimited access to all the regular FACE Parent Talks (usually £24 each). The code cannot be used on any other FACE services and must not be shared with parents or staff from other schools. QE code is QE290125 At the payment stage of booking, add the school code where it says PROMO code. This will drop the price from £24 to £0.



April 2026 Timetable

All regular sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long
£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk
 Recordings available for 48 hours

Understanding Anger	6 April 10am
School Anxiety	6 April 7pm
Facing Defiance	7 April 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	7 April 7pm
Anxiety Explained	13 April 10am
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	13 April 7pm
Introduction to OCD	14 April 10am
What is ACT?	14 April 7pm
Decreasing Depression	20 April 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	20 April 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	21 April 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	21 April 7pm
FREE Decreasing Depression	23 April 7-8pm
Improving Family Communication	27 April 10am
Autism: Improving Communication	27 April 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	28 April 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	28 April 7pm

CALLING WIMBORNE'S YOUNG MUSICIANS AND POETS!

Apply for a slot at UPLIFT LIVE, part of UPLIFT Youth Festival, on Saturday 11 April.

If you have a passion for music, spoken word and performance – and are ready to take the stage – we want to hear from you.

WHERE: UPLIFT Youth Festival, central Wimborne

WHEN: Saturday 11th April 2026

WHO: Young musicians, bands and poets (age 13–25), of any genre

WHAT: Performance slots will be 10 or 20 minutes

Priority will be given to those who live or go to school in Wimborne, however we also welcome applications from those local to the East Dorset area.

Run in partnership with Dorset Music Service, we will provide technical support and an accessible stage space.

Scan the QR code to fill in the application form, or go to:

<https://bit.ly/UPLIFT-LIVE>

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE:
 MONDAY 30TH MARCH AT 9AM**



<https://bit.ly/UPLIFT-LIVE>



CALL OUT: YOUTH MAKER'S MARKET

As part of UPLIFT Festival and in partnership with Walford Mill, we're offering a small number of free stalls for young makers aged 16–25.

Stallholders will be able to exhibit and sell their work at Walford Mill's Maker's Market on Saturday 11 April.

The Youth Maker's Market is aimed at people who are just starting out, building confidence in their creative practice, or who may never have sold their work before. It's a chance to try running a stall and share what you make with the public.

EVENT DETAILS

- Walford Mill, Wimborne Minster
- Saturday 11 April
- Set-up: 8:30 – 10:00am
- Market open: 10:00am – 4:00pm

Each selected maker will receive space for a standard trestle table (approx. 5–6ft) within the Maker's Market.

Scan the QR code to find out more and apply.

Applications close: **Monday 30 March**



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!"

Building Resilience in Children- register here:

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



Do you have a neurodivergent child? Feeling alone?

'The Wimborne Parents Neurodivergence Support Group' is a voluntary, parent-led support group for any local parent or carer experiencing the overwhelm of raising a diagnosed or undiagnosed (but thought to be) neurodivergent child or teen.

Come and join us at the Museum of East Dorset in Wimborne to meet other parents, share experiences, listen to presentations by relevant experts, drink coffee and eat cake! But most importantly, to realise that you are not alone!

We get it! We see you! We want to help!

First Friday of every month at 10.30am - 12.00pm
Third Tuesday of every month at 6.30pm - 8.00pm

All meetings are completely FREE to attend.



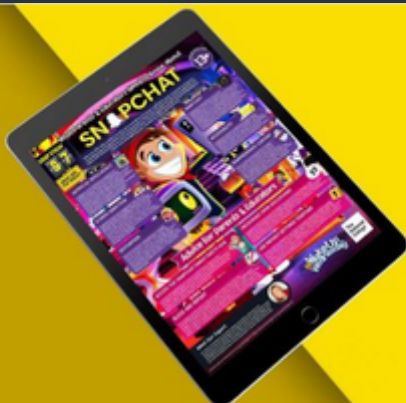
Contact Emily Spurgeon for more details



#WakeUpWednesday - Free resources for trusted adults

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

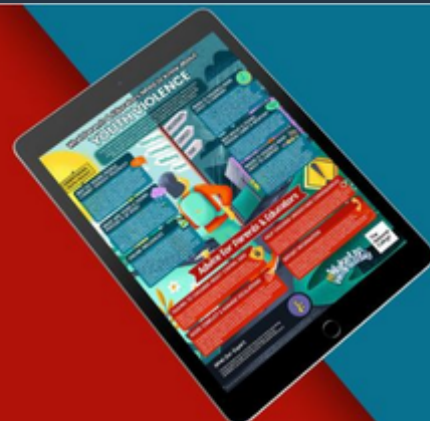
nationalcollege.com



What You Need to Know 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



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