

QE NEWS



DIARY DATES

Wednesday 22nd July

ACE Games – PE Kit to be worn

Wednesday 22nd July

Last day of term finish 3.15 pm

Thursday 13th August

A-level Results Day
8 am– 11 am

Thursday 20th August

GCSE Results Day
9 am–11 am

2026/27 term dates [here](#).

Tuesday 1st September

INSET day

Wednesday 2nd September

INSET day

Thursday 3rd September

Start of term for all year groups

Thursday 10th September

25/26 Y11/13 Presentation Evening
5.30–7.30 pm

Thursday 17th September

Open Evening 5 –7 pm

Dear QE Community,

As we come to the end of another busy and successful term, I would like to thank you for your continued support throughout the year. It has been a pleasure to see our students achieve so much, and we are incredibly proud of all they have accomplished.

I hope you all have a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break, and we look forward to welcoming our students back in the new term.

Please see my [video message](#) here

Best wishes,
Mr Thomas Neill – Headteacher



Smartphones from September

1. We have published a list of permitted phones which should be turned off and in bags
2. Smartphones are banned from the site during the day. They must be handed in to Reflection or they can be stowed in lockers if students have a locker.
3. If a smartphone is confiscated from a student, parents will need to collect it.



Student Shop: a full update on student items and where these can be collected can be found [here](#).

Successful SIAMS inspection – Celebrating a Flourishing School Community!

We are delighted to share the wonderful outcome of our recent SIAMS inspection, which recognises Queen Elizabeth's School as a place where both students and adults truly flourish.

At the heart of the report is a powerful affirmation of our vision: "You will be secure because there is hope." Inspectors found that this vision is not just words, but something deeply understood and lived out by our entire community. It shapes our decisions, strengthens us in challenging times, and inspires everyone to be the very best version of themselves.

The report highlights the strength of relationships across the school. Classrooms were described as calm, purposeful environments where respect is evident and students thrive. This culture of mutual care and encouragement ensures that every young person feels valued, supported, and ready to succeed.

Our curriculum was praised for its ambition and inclusivity, offering creative pathways that allow all students to achieve and flourish, regardless of their starting point. Inspectors recognised how we nurture aspiration and provide opportunities for success across a wide range of subjects and experiences.

A particular strength noted was Religious Education, which is described as a priority subject. Students develop a deep and thoughtful understanding of different faiths and worldviews, equipping them well for life in modern Britain and beyond. Alongside this, collective worship was celebrated as a meaningful and unifying part of school life, fostering spiritual growth and a strong sense of community.

The report also recognises the many ways students are encouraged to take responsibility, contribute to society, and develop their voice—whether through student leadership, charitable work, or engagement with important global issues.

We are incredibly proud that the inspection affirms what we strive for every day: a school rooted in hope, where individuals are known, valued, and empowered to flourish.

This outcome reflects the dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of our students, and the continued support of our families and wider community. Together, we celebrate this achievement and look forward with confidence to the future.

"A community where hope inspires, and everyone flourishes."

Sneak Peek

The inspiring **"Mark Your Mark"** and **"Raise Your Voice"** evening on 16 July was a tremendous success, bringing together our community for an unforgettable celebration of talent, creativity, and empowerment.

Look out for the next **QE News** newsletter, where we'll share highlights from the event, memorable moments, and the incredible impact it had on everyone involved.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT QE?

Goodbye to Year 13

We say goodbye to our amazing Year 13's who have left us this year.

You've survived early mornings, endless deadlines, revision stress and somehow managed to find time to make memories along the way. As you head off to university, apprenticeships, work, or whatever adventure comes next, remember to aim high, stay curious and try not to leave everything until the night before. We'll miss you more than we'd ever admit! Remember to be 1% better each day and be that upstander! Best of luck to you all and don't forget to come back and tell us how you're getting on! Miss Dean, Mrs Ridley, Mr Cook and Mrs Riding

A Level Results Day – Thursday 13th August 8am at QE School!



25/26 Year 11 & Year 13 Presentation Evening

Invities will be sent to parents/carers and students who have been nominated for an award during the summer holidays.



Year 9 Day of the Dead Art Project



This year in Art, we have been studying Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead).

Throughout the project, we experimented with a range of techniques and materials, including watercolours, carbon paper, collage, and fine liner pens. We spent multiple lessons planning, designing, and bringing our ideas to life.

The highlight of the project was creating our own clay sugar skulls. Traditionally, sugar skulls are used during Día de los Muertos to celebrate and remember loved ones who have passed away. They are decorated with bright colours, patterns, and flowers, symbolising the joy and meaning of this celebration.

This has been my favourite topic in Art because it allowed us to learn about the culture behind the artwork while also developing new artistic skills.

Molly Burn – Year 9

PE AT QE – SUMMER EDITION

Sixth Form Sporting Success and JAE Programme

We are so proud of our sixth form students who alongside their studies have also been busy training and competing in a variety of sports. Below are some of their fantastic achievements:



Isabella H Year 12

'At the start of this year, my goal was to qualify for the Commonwealth Games and represent England. While earlier in the season I was slightly off my personal bests, my recent performances at the Aquatics GB Championships and regionals has put me back on PB pace.

I'm delighted to confirm that I've been selected for two events in the Commonwealth Games 2026:

- 100m Backstroke – 26th July
- 100m Breaststroke – 27th July'

Congratulations and the very best of Luck Isabella – QE will be cheering you on!

Claudia G Year 12

Claudia and her horse Monkey qualified for the LeMieux Grassroots Championship at Badminton Horse trials this year.

This was a very exciting and nervous day as they competed in the dressage first before moving onto the show jumping before the cross country. Claudia went clear in the cross country with just a fraction of a time fault. They worked as an incredible partnership and finished in the top half, we can't wait to see what is next in store for them.



Well done Claudia and Monkey

Rowan B Year 12



'25/26 has been a busy hockey season, in September I was pleased I secured my spot in Bournemouth Mens 2s in Division One South. In junior hockey, as part of Trojans U18 team, we won our Tier 1 league and reached the semi-finals of both the Tier 1 National tournament and the Super 6s indoor finals.

I successfully trialled for the South Coast Talent Academy, and I've been selected for the final squad to play at the Talent Academy Cup in Nottingham in July against talent academies from across England. Being part of the Hockey DiSE has been an excellent experience as I train with TA and England players and coaches. I've made some good friends and we are equally competitive and supportive of each other as we all want to be selected for the UK Youth Games in September, but also all want everyone to do well so we bring the best out of each other.'

Keep up the good work Rowan

Verity W Year 12 – Tennis

'I am currently playing junior international tournaments and have a junior world ranking in tennis. I have played women's British tour events in this country and am hoping to start playing international women's events, starting with W15s later this year.

I am representing Dorset in the women's county cup in a couple of weeks and will compete over the summer in women's regional and national events. This will be the 9th year in a row I have represented Dorset in the county cup and I am looking forward to it as team tennis is always good fun.'

Athletics Superstars!

Mila Year 9 Javelin

Mila broke the UK U15 girls' all-time javelin record with a staggering throw of 48.91m earlier this year and is now competing at the English Schools National Final.

Elliot Year 10 Triple Jump

Results in :

*Mila is national champion
with a gold medal and
Elliott is ranked 7th in the
country*

Elliot has also been selected to represent Dorset for Triple Jump

An incredible achievement (only 32 school children in Dorset have been selected) for both of them. There was a live stream of the events watching their talents on the big stage which took place on 11th July.

Track and Field cup

The Boys team successfully qualified for the Track and Field B Final at Winchester.

The day was action packed with each member of the team having to compete in both a track and field event. There were some great individual performances and all round fantastic team spirit.

Well done boys!



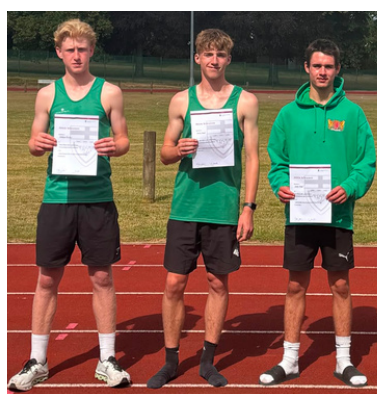
Allenbourne sports day

Some of our athletes were able to use their athletics knowledge and experience to play a key leadership role supporting allenbourne sports day. The students worked hard all day and did a great job as place judges, time keepers and officials. They did such a good job they have already been invited to help again next Year!

Elliot, Harley, Ava, Kiri and Charlotte - Year 10



Octathlon Success



Three of our year 10 boys Will, Harry and Jamie competed in the South West Schools Combined event over the weekend along with one other lad from another school and were the winning team!! This event requires a lot of training and there were some very impressive PBs on the day.

They are off to the Nationals in September!

Wimbledon Trip

A group of our QE tennis players had the opportunity to go to Wimbledon for the day. This was an action packed day taking in the atmosphere, seeing many famous people and of course eating strawberries and cream.

We had incredible seats on Court 1 and were privileged to watch the men's wheelchair doubles final and the most incredible Under 18 Junior boys final.

A fantastic day out was had by everyone who came home with amazing memories and a few Wimbledon souvenirs.



Exciting New Girls' Sports After School Club Launching This September!

GIRLS' EXTRA CURRICULAR
GIRLS' SPORTS
AFTER SCHOOL CLUB
WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS
3:30 - 4:30 PM

HOCKEY **FOOTBALL** **NETBALL** **FITNESS & GYM**

HOPE **RESPECT** **RESILIENCE** **COMMUNITY**

JOIN THE FUN! EVERY WEDNESDAY
 Wednesday, All years welcome!
 Get active, make friends, develop skills!
 Take part in as many sports as you like.

Location:
 Astro, Sports Hall/
 Courts and Gym

For any information
 please see Mrs Adams, Mrs Bailey,
 Mrs Drewitt, Mr Jackson,
 Mrs Mynard

Get ready to level up your Wednesdays because girls' sports are back and bigger than ever this September!

Starting after school from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM, we are taking over the courts, astro gym and field for the ultimate mix of fun fitness and epic competition across netball, hockey, football, and high-energy fitness sessions.

There is absolutely no limit on how many teams you can join, so you can dominate the football pitch one week and rule the netball court the next. Every single year group and ability level is welcome, whether you are aiming for the match-day lineup or just want to move and have a laugh.

Bring your best friends along or show up ready to build a brand-new squad—let's make this term unforgettable!

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD: A YEAR TO REMEMBER



It has been a busy and hugely rewarding year for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award here at QE, with a record number of students lacing up their boots and heading out into the great outdoors. Across all three levels we have had 65 Bronze, 47 Silver and 15 Gold participants, wonderful numbers that speak to just how much the programme has grown, and to the appetite our students have for challenge, adventure and self-development.

Gold



Our Gold students completed their training expedition over the early May bank holiday before taking on their Assessed Expedition across the wild and beautiful landscape of Dartmoor from 13–17 July. Five days on the Moor tested them in every sense, from tricky navigation to changeable conditions, but they met each challenge with maturity, resilience and no shortage of good humour, crossing the finish line in Princetown with real pride.

A special mention must go to **Aaron S** (Year 13), who completed his Gold Award without having first done Bronze or Silver, a remarkable achievement and a true testament to his determination and strength of character.

Celebrating our Gold Award Achievers

We are enormously proud to recognise the students who completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award this year, a true testament to their commitment, resilience and genuine love of the outdoors. In recognition of their success, these students were invited to Buckingham Palace for their Gold Award Presentations: a fantastic day, and a fitting celebration of everything they have accomplished.

Our warmest congratulations go to:

Year 13: Lillia A, Amy A, Charlotte B, Toby B, Eve D, Alfie F, William G, Jacob H, William H, Isabelle I-B, Ashley L, Kimberley L, Ewan Mc, Georgina M, Olivia M, Emilia M, Amelia T, Molly W and Harry W.

A wonderful achievement, every one of them, well done!

Silver



Our Silver group undertook their practice expedition in the stunning surroundings of Cranborne Chase. Unfortunately, the Assessed Expedition had to be postponed due to the extreme heat conditions we were experiencing, the safety of our students always comes first, and it has been rescheduled for the Autumn Term. On the strength of what we saw during their practice, this is a group who will do very well indeed when their assessed expedition comes around.

A well-deserved shout-out goes to **Oliver W** (Year 10) who showed real strength and determination to complete. That is exactly what the Award is all about: pushing on when things get tough and proving to yourself that, with a little self-belief, anything is possible.

Bronze



Our largest cohort of the year, our Bronze students showed enormous development between their practice and assessed expeditions, with real progress in navigation and teamwork along the way. It was fantastic to see them grow in confidence and independence.

And no round-up would be complete without a highlight of the year: **Chris Wh** (Year 9) producing a steak from his cool box and cooking it up for his evening meal, camp dining at its finest!

Looking Ahead

Many of our students have already begun finalising their remaining sections, and I'm hopeful the rest will follow suit shortly. A few notes for the year ahead:

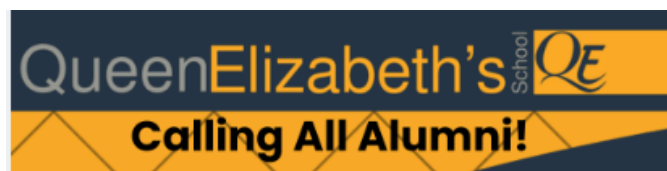
- **Bronze students** wishing to progress to Silver should aim to complete their current award before the start of the next academic year.
- The **rescheduled Silver Assessed Expedition** will take place in the Autumn Term.
- I will be **handing over the running of DofE to a colleague** following my departure. I'm delighted to say that the Duke of Edinburgh's Award will continue to thrive at QE next academic year.

It has been an absolute privilege to lead our students through their DofE journeys, and I could not be prouder of everything they have achieved. If you have any questions before we move on to the next stage, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Mr Priest



QE ALUMNI



- Ex-QE students we need you!
- Where are you now?
- What have you been doing since you left QE?
- What have you achieved?

We want to hear from you, to celebrate your successes and inspire current QE students with your story and show them there are no limits to where you can go from here!

During work experience week, Ava R in Year 12, took on the responsibility for designing and launching our Alumni project. Ava interviewed **our first Alumni, Sarah Porretta, CEO of Young Enterprise**, who kindly gave her time to mentor Ava throughout the week. Please read Sarah's interview below, it really does show that there are no limits to what QE students can achieve.

We will be featuring alumni across our social media, website and in the newsletter every month so please get in touch.

Sarah also came to our first "Ask me Anything" session, where Year 12 and 13 students asked questions ranging from finding out about travelling and working in Asia to gaining advice on how to succeed in securing a job and working your way up in big companies in London.



Sarah's profile can be found on the next page!

We would love for more alumni to get in touch, to share their experiences and wisdom about life beyond QE and if you can come and visit our students across all year groups.

Please get in touch via our [Alumni form](#) or via email contactcareers@queenelizabeths.com

QueenElizabeth's School **QE**

Sarah Porretta

Former QE Student
Now CEO of Young Enterprise



'Coming to QE from St Michael was quite a shock. I remember feeling overwhelmed by the size of the school at first, but looking back it taught me resilience, independence and that I was responsible for my own future. English was always my favourite subject, and I also had an outstanding maths teacher, Mr Thallon, who completely changed how I felt about maths by making it competitive and fun. After doing politics at Bristol University, I joined the JET Programme and spent several years living and working in Japan. Being elected National Chairperson of that programme was a real turning point for me – it was my first major leadership role and gave me the confidence to lead. Since returning to the UK, I've worked across the charity, public and private sectors, and today I'm CEO of the national charity Young Enterprise. If I could offer one piece of advice to current QE students, it would be this: find your thing and get involved. Don't aim to be average. Nobody is going to build your future for you, and you have far more control than you realise. Looking back, I wish I'd worried less about fitting in and taken more opportunities, because that's where confidence, resilience and lifelong skills are built.'

STUDENTS GET HANDS-ON WITH RIVERFLY MONITORING

This week, 6 students had the fantastic opportunity to take part in a Riverfly Monitoring session led by Tricia from River For Wimborne.

The students visited a local river where they learned how freshwater invertebrates (often called riverflies) can be used as indicators of water quality. Equipped with nets, trays and identification guides, they carried out river dipping before carefully sorting and identifying the different species they had collected.

By counting the variety of insects and other small creatures living in the river, students discovered how scientists and volunteers monitor the health of our waterways. Species such as mayflies, caddisflies and stoneflies are particularly sensitive to pollution, making them excellent indicators of a healthy river ecosystem.

The session gave students a real insight into conservation work and the importance of protecting our local environment. It was wonderful to see everyone getting involved, asking thoughtful questions and working together to identify the different species they found.

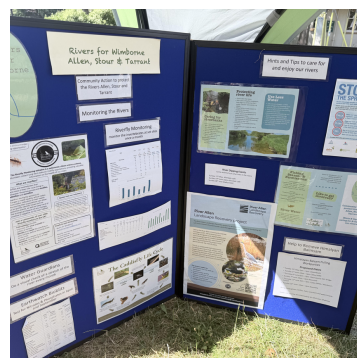
We would like to say a huge thank you to Tricia and Trish for providing such an engaging, informative and enjoyable experience. We hope that the trip has inspired many of our students to think about how they can help care for our rivers and local wildlife.

How can we all help protect our rivers?

- There are lots of simple things everyone can do:
- Put rubbish in bins and help keep waterways litter-free.
- Never pour paint, oil or chemicals down drains.
- Pick up dog waste and dispose of it responsibly.
- Don't let your pet swim in the rivers if they have just had spot-on flea treatment – They should wait at least a week as it kills the insects in the rivers.
- Use environmentally friendly cleaning products where possible.
- Take part in local litter picks or environmental volunteering.

Every small action helps to protect our rivers, wildlife and the natural environment for future generations.

Mrs Leonard



LYME DISEASE AWARENESS

Lyme Disease can have a devastating impact and I am working alongside Lyme Disease UK to raise awareness and to do all we can to help prevent further cases of Lyme Disease this summer:

Basic facts:

- Lyme disease can be transmitted by the bite of an infected tick.
- Ticks can be as small as a poppy seed. Bites are normally painless, so can easily be missed.
- Not everyone with Lyme disease develops a rash. It is important to look out for symptoms as well.
- The rash can appear up to 3 months after being bitten by an infected tick, but usually appears within 1 to 4 weeks. It can last for several weeks.
- Early symptoms can include fatigue, headaches, flu-like illness, facial palsy, migratory muscle and joint pain, nausea, and a stiff neck.

You can find more information and resources by visiting the Lyme Disease UK website: [Tick Bite Prevention - Lyme Disease UK](#) On the 'prevention' page there is a short video that explains how to prevent tick bites and what to do if bitten.

There is also a section that includes resources for [schools](#) and resources for [parents](#).

Tick Kit

-  Insect repellent that is effective against ticks
-  At least one type of tick remover tool
-  A magnifying glass to better see small ticks
-  Antiseptic or antiseptic wipes
-  A pen to draw around the bite site

Ensure everyone knows where the kit is and how to use it.

Tick Bite Checklist

- ✓ If possible take a photo of the embedded tick
- ✓ Remove the tick using a tick remover tool or fine tipped tweezers
- ✓ Clean the area with antiseptic or wash well
- ✓ Squash the tick in a tissue, ensuring no fluid touches skin. Flush away or dispose in a bin
- ✓ Draw around the bite site with a pen
- ✓ Complete a tick check of the whole body as soon as possible

Monitor closely for symptoms

STUDENT WELLBEING



kooth

Big changes ahead?

Moving school years can feel scary, but you're not alone. Hear from other young people like you and get support from Kooth with whatever's on your mind.

REMEMBER THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE YOU CAN TALK TO.

Join some clubs. It's a great way to make new friends with the same interests as you.

JUST TRY YOUR BEST – NOBODY'S PERFECT!

If you have any worries talk to a teacher.

HAVE FUN! IT IS NOT AS SCARY AS IT SEEMS.

Visit kooth.com

Time for change- embracing our next steps!

We are entering the final half term of the year and the excitement of change is on the horizon. Some students will begin to feel a little worried about the next steps they are going to be taking.

Transitional changes are felt whether entering QE school for the first time, moving from year 9 into 10, or year 11 into post 16.

We wish to support our students' journey and share that all the emotions that they are feeling to help them prepare, build resilience and reflect on the strengths they have built over this year.

We are working closely with our Heads of Year to ensure we are supporting our students' next steps. This time of year gives us the opportunity to reflect and celebrate the achievements whilst recognising where future support can impact progress. If you have a concern, please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor in the first instance.

We have much to look forward to as the term comes to an end. We will be encouraging each other to take part in the QE ACE games.

From all of us at QE Safeguarding, we wish you all a very happy May half term. We look forward to seeing you back safe and happy to conclude this busy and positive year.

Mrs Ashby
Assistant Headteacher- Safeguarding

Did you know we have plenty of resources on our website for student wellbeing? These can be found [here](#).



kooth

Kooth offers a wealth of information for students and parents to support mental health and wellbeing.

You can access free resources through their website [here](#).

Don't forget: Kooth is always free, safe, and confidential. Students can access live 1:1 chats with practitioners from 12pm-10pm on weekdays and 6pm-10pm on weekends.

They also have 24/7 access to self-help tools and peer support.

SUMMER SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

During the summer period, the QE safeguarding team will continue to monitor safeguarding@queenelizabeths.com, with emails checked once daily.

For urgent concerns or immediate support, please contact the appropriate services directly:

- Dorset Children's Services – general support and referrals
- Children's Advice and Duty Service – 01305 221100 (urgent child protection concerns)
- CAMHS – 01305 762810
- Childline – 0800 11 11
- NSPCC – 0800 800 5000
- Mind – 0300 123 3393
- Anxiety UK – 0844 477 5774
- Kooth – free online support for young people
- Additional support: Dorset Family Help, Bereavement UK, Safer Internet, Runaway Helpline

Please remember: safeguarding concerns should always be acted on immediately using the appropriate service.

QE & THE COMMUNITY



Join your Family Hub and
TRAIN TO BECOME

A volunteer parenting group leader

Lived Experience
Shared Strength
Lasting Impact

- The years between two and eleven can be an intense emotional roller coaster for **any parent or carer**.
- Could your parenting journey **support other parents and carers?**
- We're looking for **volunteers to lead** Empowering Parents Empowering Communities **a course by parents, for parents.**
- **You bring your experience.**
- We'll give you the **training to thrive as a leader.**

Mums, dads and carers can apply

To find out more, please scan the QR code, fill in the short enquiry form and we will contact you for an informal chat





Additional Support Courses for Parents

Three new courses offered by FACE, separate from the school membership.
Full access to all three courses for £6.99/month
Complete at your own pace, cancel anytime.



Building Emotional Resilience
Work through six stages of directed exercises to help your child (and yourself) improve emotional resilience.



Facing Defiance
A specific strategy aimed at supporting parents of children aged 5 to 12 with ADHD, ODD or just very challenging behaviour.



You & Your Teen
A skills building course for one parent and one teen (12 years old and above) to learn how they can both improve their communication with each other.

www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk
Online Courses for Parents page
info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk




July 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

Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	6 July 10am
Anxiety Explained	6 July 7pm
Introduction to OCD	7 July 10am
What is ACT?	7 July 7pm
Decreasing Depression	13 July 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	13 July 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	14 July 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	14 July 7pm
FREE - Supporting Healthy Screen Use	16 July 7-8pm
Autism-Improving Communication	20 July 10am
Improving Family Communication	20 July 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	21 July 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	21 July 7pm
Understanding Anger	27 July 10am
School Anxiety	27 July 7pm
Facing Defiance	28 July 10am
Supporting Health Screen Use	28 July 7pm