

Diary Dates

Monday 15th April

First day of term

Tuesday 16th– Wednesday 17th April

DofE Bronze Expedition

Thursday 18th April

Year 13 parents evening (online)

Friday 19th April

Sixth form sleep easy fundraiser for YMCA

Monday 22nd April (P)

Michael James Bursary concert at Wimborne Minster– 7.15pm

Thursday 25th April

Year 8 parents welcome evening

Monday 29th April (P)

Arts awards exhibition– QE foyer at 5pm

(P– Parents Invited)

QE SKI TEAM

On Friday 15th March the school ski team took part in the final stage of the NSSA Southampton league. All three skied incredibly well, improving their time on each run.

Ruby Hinton 1st U14F and fastest racer of the whole league!

Ben Gorvin 2nd U16M

Grace Wilson 2nd U16F

Congratulations, this means that they have all qualified both as individuals and as a school team for the National schools finals in Gloucester on April 26th!

Mr Green– Head of PE

QE NEWS– MARCH 2024

Welcome to QE News!

We will keep you up to date here fortnightly to celebrate everything that has happened in our school and to share important information.

Our Priorities

As outlined in my letter, these are our three key priorities which will be split over the Summer term. More communication will follow on each of these elements:

We care, deeply

Next half term...the focus is on year 11 and year 13

- School will be open from 7:30am for year 11 and 13 for 'breakfast boost'
- Year 11 and 13 will have lesson 6 'Super 6' sessions
- We will deliver sessions on 'how to revise' for students and parents
- We will deliver sessions on mental health and wellbeing through exams

By the summer...

- Transition will take place for all year groups
- We will review our systems for praise to ensure students are proud of their work and their school
- We will relaunch student voice and student leadership

We communicate and over-communicate

Next half term...

- We will communicate with you here in QENews every fortnight

Meet Mr Boyes...

Job: Interim Headteacher, QE.
Director of Secondary Education, Initio Learning Trust

Degree: Computational Physics,
University of Bath (BSc)

Postgraduate Degree: University of
Southampton (PGCE)
National Professional Qualification for
Headship (NPQH)

Currently studying: Masters in
Business Administration (MBA),
University College London (UCL)

Family: Wife, 2 children (aged 7 and
9), 2 cats

Ideal holiday: Camping

Likes: Being organised

Dislikes: Anything disorganised

Currently reading: Hitchhiker's guide
to the galaxy 3: Life the universe and
everything



Next edition... Mr Humphreys
Deputy Headteacher

WEBSITE



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- We will communicate through a House bulletin every other fortnight
- We will launch our coffee mornings for you to attend
- We will share with you the reasons why we do things. e.g. knowledge organisers, uniform, cold calling

By the summer...

- We will relaunch the parent survey and share the results with you
- We will review our reports and parent evenings for next year
- We will share the calendar for next year
- Parent open days will be launched during business hours so you can see the school in operation
- Our website will be updated to include relevant information for parents
- We will share with you the impact of our work with the Local School Committee, rapid improvement group and trust board

We are consistently excellent

Next half term...

- Will be increasing our support for teachers by visiting them weekly and providing support
- Starting our programme of 'deliberate practice' sessions to focus on lesson routines, use of mini whiteboards and questioning
- We will introduce routines for student lateness to improve our punctuality in the morning
- Deliver training on disciplinary writing e.g 'writing as a historian...'

By the Summer...

- We will ensure students are ready for learning, having the right things and looking right
- Redesign homework
- Ensure our weakest readers are catching up through delivery of a secondary catchup programme
- Ensure all students have opportunities to read texts relevant to their subjects and enjoy reading their own texts for pleasure

Ofsted Parents Evening

We welcomed parents to join us on Thursday 29th February to discuss the findings of Ofsted and set out our plans for the future.

Thank you to the 40 parents who attended this, we recognise that we need to create further opportunities for more parents to join us in school and for you to share your views. During the evening, we were able to respond to specific questions from you:

Here is a summary of the questions asked, grouped into our areas for improvement.

Area For Improvement 1:

- **Differentiation between Booklets and Knowledge Organisers:** You asked about the distinction between these resources. Booklets are now clarified as lesson materials, while knowledge organisers are lists aiding students in retaining key information.
- **Learning Walks:** You asked us to clarify the purpose of these. We explained the purpose and duration of learning walks to monitor teaching quality.
- **New Timetable Impact:** Concerns were raised about the timetable's effect on attendance and mental health. We introduced the new timetable to enhance student-teacher relationships, aiming to improve mental health and attendance, with ongoing monitoring.

Area For Improvement 2:

- **Utilisation of Knowledge Organisers:** In response to concerns regarding the effectiveness of knowledge organisers, we are reviewing the system of checking them.
- **Balancing Online Learning with SPARX:** Acknowledging concerns about online distractions, we emphasised the importance of balancing SPARX Maths with other forms of learning and assessment.
- **Engagement in Class Reading:** To improve engagement, we introduced Sparx Reader in Year 9, encouraging appropriate reading levels and exploring additional phonics support. We recognised that there is more to do here and also that reading physical books has an important role to play.

Area For Improvement 3:

- **OFSTED Revisit and inspection conduct:** Addressing worries about OFSTED revisit, we clarified the process for schools requiring improvement and expressed concerns about inspection conduct.
- **Trust Support:** Regarding the trust's role in improving results, we highlighted ongoing support measures and addressed concerns about promised provisions and ensuring personalised education for all students.
- **Warm Welcomes:** We clarified the purpose and duration of warm welcomes and checks on equipment and uniform to ensure a successful start to the school day and remove barriers to learning.
- **Staff Support:** We emphasised our commitment to staff wellbeing through leadership, support and access to our employee assistance programme.

In the meeting we said we would...

Share our improvement plan ☒

Share information about the Rapid improvement group ☒

Gather the wider views of parents ☒

Rapid Improvement Group

A Rapid Improvement Group is established when a priority school requires intervention to ensure rapid progress. This is in addition to the local school committee which continues to monitor school performance. The role of the group, through a fixed agenda is to challenge the school's impact against the following areas:

1. The Ofsted areas for improvement
2. The school improvement plan
3. Any external and internal reviews

The group is made up of trust leaders, local school committee members and school colleagues. There have been two meetings so far on 2nd February and 15th March.

The group has commissioned external reviews into:

- Attendance
- Provision for students with SEND
- Quality of education

The group reviews the impact of the school, through internal trust reviews, which include:

- Director of education report
- Safeguarding review
- Inclusion review

Year 11 Intermediate Maths Challenge

Last month, 74 of our Year 11 students took part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge, testing their mathematical problem solving and reasoning skills.

Schools only enter their best mathematicians into such a competition and less than half of entries come away with a certificate. With this in mind, I'm very proud to say that 52 of our QE students who took part scored high enough to achieve an award! 32 students took home bronze, 17 silver, and 3 students gold (which only 5% of entries manage to achieve), what a fantastic celebration for QE mathematicians!

A huge congratulations to all of those who took part, however I would particularly like to mention our top 3 performing students: Alex Elston (81 points), Lydia Norrish (78 points) and Hannah Churchill (77 points).

Well done to all students taking part, can our current Year 10 students out perform this fantastic set of results next year!

Mr Dominic Roberts- Teacher of Maths



Parents questionnaire

Thank you to the 570 parents that completed the survey. Apologies that the survey initially only went live for a short period of time and thank you for the feedback we received on this to enable us to respond and reopen the survey.

We are obviously disappointed with the outcome of the survey and we recognise that we have a lot to do to regain your confidence and trust in our school. We hope that the common themes have been picked up through our drive for care, communication and consistency. If you have individual or personal concerns, please do direct them to the school at office@queenelizabeths.com

Thank you also for the comments you posted on the survey, these came mainly under the following headings; **communication, pastoral support, support for SEN and teaching and learning.** There were also many positive comments about colleagues going above and beyond, which we have been able to share.

Here are the full results. We will launch the survey again before the summer break.

Safeguarding

Details of [Safeguarding at Queen Elizabeth's School](#) can be found here.

Students in QE will be supported in:

Who is available to help?

When can I speak to someone?

How will you keep me safe?

All students have access to our student worry button which can be used through the school website and



Mr Willis and Mrs Nolan-Ford lead safeguarding across the school and can be contacted via safeguarding@queenelizabeths.com

This month we would like to highlight 'how to keep your child safe on Snapchat'. This link shares lots of useful information for parents and carers on how to support childrens use of Snapchat safely.

Student Fixtures

Wednesday 17th April

Sixth Form Girls Football Semi-Final @ Weymouth

Year 9 B Team Football @ Gryphon

Thursday 18th April

U15 Girls and Boys Tennis @ Poole High

Tuesday 23rd April

Golf @ Milton Abbey

Thursday 25th April

U15 Girls Football @ Blandford

U15 Girls Tennis @ Talbot Heath

Friday 26th April

Golf County Championship @ Came Down

U15 Girls PEDSSA Semi-Final @ Leaf

Student Core PE Blocks

(4 week rotation from 15th April)

YEAR 9

1- Athletics- Broads/Track

2- Athletics- Broads/Track

3- Tennis- Courts

4- Volleyball- Sports Hall/Broads

YEAR 10

1- Athletics- Broads/Track

2- Athletics- Broads/Track

3- Tennis- Courts

4- Striking and Fielding- Broads

5- Striking and Fielding- Broads

YEAR 11

1- Broads/Track

2- Broads/Track

3- Courts

4- Broads

5- Astro

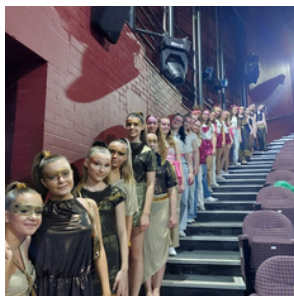
After School PE Clubs

Tennis and Rounders to be announced by the PE department after Easter.

Year 9 and 10 Athletics club every Thursday 3.30-4.30pm.



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Dance Live!

QE's Dance Live Team delivered an amazing performance at Poole Lighthouse. The students did us proud; the dancers with their professional standard of performance, and the tech team with their award winning lighting skill and video creation. Mrs Hunnisett, Chloe, Maisie, Jake and Lydia earned the **Journey Video Award** for their excellent videoing, editing and creative skill in the production of the video to introduce the dance 'Love or Money? You Choose'.

Huge congratulations and well done to absolutely everyone involved.
Mrs Miller- Head of Dance

QE Music

The music department would like to congratulate the following students on their recent instrumental examination successes.

Well done to all, and huge thanks to our peripatetic teachers who have skilfully prepared them:

Eliza Lusty: Grade 2 Piano - Distinction

Charlotte Bedford: Grade 4 Piano - Distinction



Rugby Sevens

The Queen Elizabeth School Under-18 Rugby Sevens team exhibited a remarkable improvement in their performance at the recent Dorset Rugby Sevens tournament. Supported by the formidable presence of our Year 13 players, whose efforts were instrumental in the team's success, the team achieved an admirable second-place finish. This commendable outcome was the result of securing three significant victories against challenging opponents, notably including a strong team from Salisbury College.

On behalf of the school, I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations and gratitude to our upper sixth form students who participated in the event. For many, this tournament represented their final appearance in a Queen Elizabeth School jersey, marking the end of their distinguished contributions to our school's rugby legacy. Their dedication and skill have left an indelible mark on our sports program, and they will undoubtedly be missed on the 'field of dreams'. Furthermore, I would like to highlight the achievement of our year 11 cohort, including Harry Jones, Luka Downing and Dan Connolly. These students stepped up to play in the U18 competition early and did not look out of place, asserting themselves in each game with gusto. A very enjoyable day for all. I look forward to more in the future.

Mr Alex Priest- Teacher of PE



Hockey

The hockey season sadly comes to an end. We have had a brilliant season for both the boys and girls hockey, over the last two terms. Highlight for the girls was winning the 'plate competition' at the Ballard Hockey Tournament.

For the boys it has been the influx of new players, their commitment to training and their ability to gel so well as a team.

Well done to everyone who represented QE hockey this school year...next game in...Valencia!
Mrs Adams- Teacher of PE

England call up for Will Rabjohns...

Will was selected by England Athletics, to represent England U20 Men in the Lotto Cross Cup in Belgium.

He was competing against other strong England athletes as well as many from Europe. Will got his tactics right pacing himself well and finishing strongly to take the bronze medal! Well done Will - a fantastic achievement. We are all incredibly proud of you.



QE Cross Country Team

The QE cross country team had a great individual and team season. Despite the weather causing havoc with the PEDSSA league, we still had a great run out in the first event at Canford.

We also entered the Bryanston Ken Bailey Relays event. Two highlights were the senior boys team winning their category, with a super team effort from Tom Williams, Jack Williams, Ollie Hall and Will Avey-Hebditch. Isla O'Connor was also 2nd in the inter girls category with a fantastic run on a windy hill course.

Isla O'Connor and Mia Hagan were selected to represent Dorset in the Inter Counties Cross Country Championships. As U17's they competed in the gruelling 5km event and both did extremely well and we are incredibly proud of them. Well done girls!

At the County Schools Championships, QE had a representation in all categories. The inter boys' team were 2nd and only 2 points behind the winning team! But this year, it was the girls' team who were crowned Country Champions! (Isla, Mia, Milly Haynes and Beth Smith).

The following 6 athletes were selected to represent Dorset at the South West Championships: Will Rabjohns Yr 13 and Tom Williams Yr 12, Mia Hagan and Isla O'Connor both Yr 11 and Buddy Mitchell and Nathan Swift both Year 10. Well done all!

Will Rabjohns, Tom Williams, Isla O'Connor and Buddy Mitchell went on to represent Dorset in the English Schools Cross Country Championships.

A first experience for some and a 6th time competing at an English Schools Championships for Will Rabjohns! They did incredibly well against their own individual goals.

We must however give an extra special mention to Will (Year 13). He finished 7th, another top 10 finish, to add to all of his 6 English Schools races being in the top 10. This is some achievement and goes to show how Will's commitment to the sport, hard work week in week at training as well as his sheer talent, pays off.

Thank you to our Year 13 students Will and Will for being such a fantastic part of the school cross country team for 5 years. We wish you well on your future journey and keep on running!

Thank you to all the athletes for running! And the parents/carers for supporting your children.

Mrs Bailey and Mrs Adams- Teachers of PE

All things football.....!

PEDSSA Representative Football

Huge congratulations to Harry Ruscoe and Harry Clayton who successfully won the Hampshire Schools U14 League title last weekend beating a very strong Aldershot side.

The boys have represented a winning side that has only lost one game all season. Congratulations boys!

Girls Football Years 9/10

A brilliant season so far for the girls, with some in their first ever season of football. The girls won all of their PEDSSA League Cup games, scoring 25 goals and conceding only 5 goals. They now face a very strong LeAF side after Easter in the Semi finals of the PEDSSA cup.

It has also been amazing to see so many Year 9's come along to 5-a-side training on Thursday's. The girls have had so much fun and improved so much since September.

Years 10/11

Another fantastic season so far for the girls. Reaching the semi final of the County Cup where we lost to a very good Bournemouth School for Girls team last week. The girls have also won all their PEDSSA League Cup games as well and look to make the final today (26.3.24) in a semi final game v Swanage. It would be amazing to reach another final after winning the National Cup last year.

Sixth Form Girls

For the first time in a very long time, the team has made the Semi final of the County Cup. The girls will play Weymouth College on the first week back hoping to reach the final which will be an incredible achievement

Having 3 teams make 4 Cup semi finals this season has been fantastic and all the girls teams have worked so hard to reach this far. Fingers crossed we reach 3 finals after Easter.

