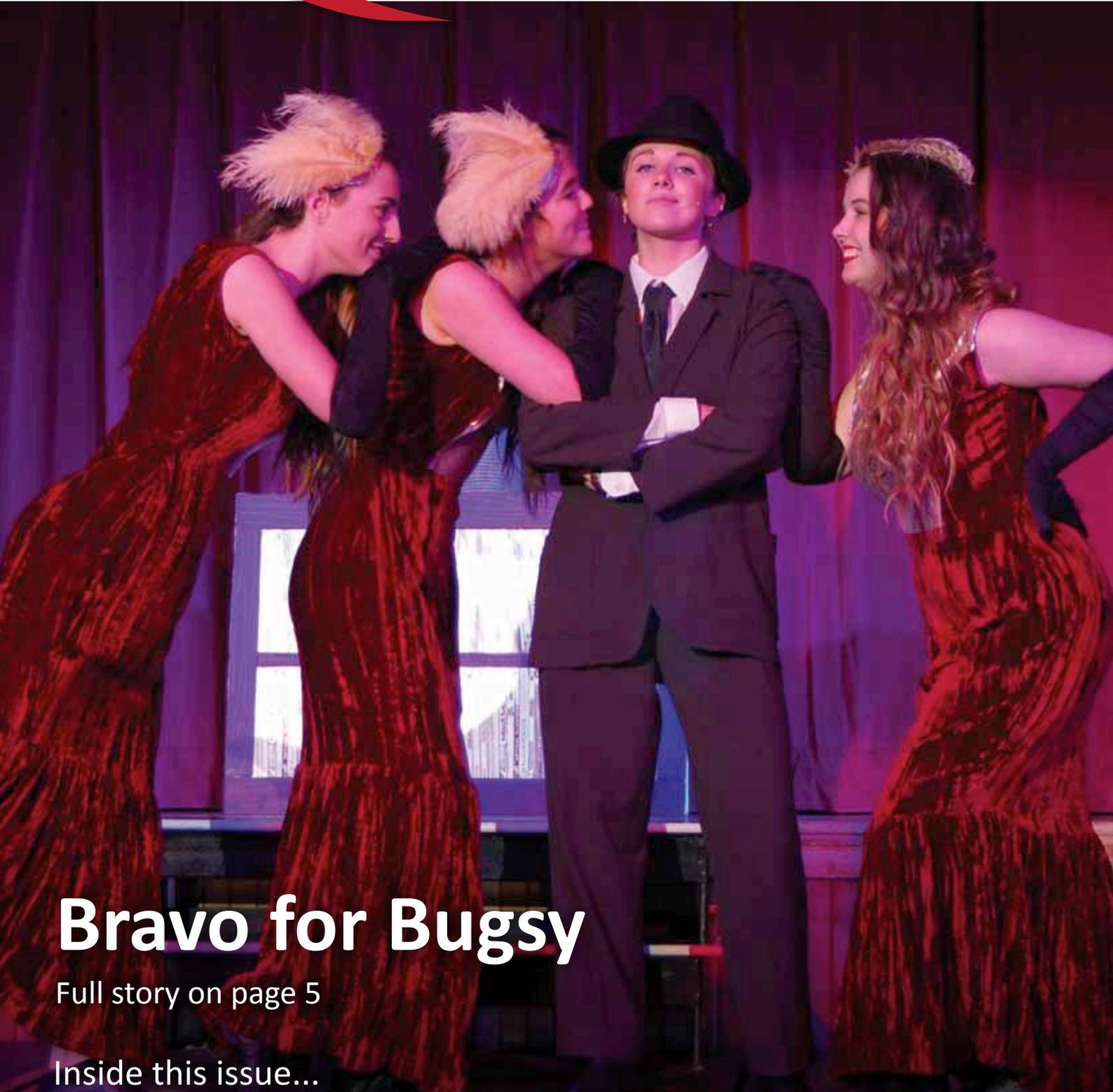


QUEEN'S *speech*

Newsletter of The Queen's School, Chester  Spring 2015

www.queens.cheshire.sch.uk



Bravo for Buggy

Full story on page 5

Inside this issue...



3 Movers and shakers



5 Sensational stage shows



6 In full voice



7 Elite training

Headmistress's Welcome

By Sarah Clark

The voice is a powerful thing and here at Queen's we do all we can to make sure our pupils not only find their voice but also learn to use it well.

From delivering

successful debates, to presentations for extended projects to modern language oral examinations and, of course, our famous shows which you can read about here, our pupils time and time again demonstrate cool, calm confidence and maturity.

And this doesn't just apply to the spoken word: in this term's *Queen's Speech* you can read about how, for the second time in a row, our Lower School *Young Voices* choir will sing in front of the judges at the BBC *Songs of Praise School Choir of the Year* competition. The cameras will be visiting soon to film the school in preparation; I wish them luck and encourage them to do their best and enjoy every moment!

In the Senior School, not only were we witness to some spectacular voices in the *Bugsy Malone* performance, but two of our pupils have recently been invited to join the National Youth Choir.

As with our sport, finding and nurturing a talent is a key feature of our school. Our size, ethos and attitude all combine to create an atmosphere where girls feel comfortable to have a go at new things, to challenge themselves and, if they fall short, to get back up and have another go. I think it is this which ensures our pupils have a certain spirit and resilience which stays with them throughout their lives. I hope you enjoy reading this issue.

Girls impress universities

By Claire Dillamore

Seven of our current A level students have been celebrating after securing offers from either Oxford or Cambridge University.

In fact, there has been jubilation throughout Year 13 as three quarters of the 216 applications have resulted in offers or interviews, nearly 80% of them from Russell Group or ex-1994 group universities. All the school's aspiring medics and vets have been invited to at least two interviews and three of them are already



holding offers. In addition, every girl who decided to take a year out after leaving Queen's last summer is holding an unconditional offer, most of them from

Russell Group Universities, with two from Cambridge and one from Oxford. We are extremely proud of our girls' achievements and wish them every success in the future.



Something to sing about

We were delighted to hear that a Year 13 soprano has been invited to join the National Youth Choir.

The pupil, a loyal and longstanding member of the training choir, is looking forward to a number of highlights scheduled for the coming months including a concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall and a CD recording. Meanwhile, a Year 7 pupil also received excellent news. A former chorister with the Lower School's *Young Voices*, semi-finalists in the *BBC Songs of Praise Junior School Choir of the Year* competition, she has been selected as a junior member of the National Youth Choir. She is eagerly awaiting a week's residential course at Easter during which she will rehearse for a concert at the South Bank to be held on Good Friday.

U14s fight for the final

Having conceded not a single game through the County round, the North West round and even the North of England Final, the Queen's U14 hockey team missed out by a penalty stroke and were declared North Runners-Up.

A wild card system meant they did, however, progress to a play-off against Blundell's School from Devon. A competitive match with high stakes, a place in the National Finals in London, went at the final whistle to Blundell's: 3.2. It was an excellent effort and achievement for our girls who accepted a disappointing result with grace and the determination to go all the way next year!



Maths masters

By Janet O'Donnell

Our Year 12 and 13 mathematicians have performed superbly in two recent competitions organised by the UK Mathematics Trust.

Three girls each achieved distinction in the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls, an accolade enjoyed by just 22% of competitors, while four further pupils missed out by just one mark.

In the Senior Maths Challenge, which attracted 81,000 entries from across the globe, two of the girls received a gold award, three were awarded silver, whilst three secured bronze.



"Our Year 12 and 13 mathematicians have performed superbly in two recent competitions"



Making a real difference

Taking scissors to your hair - all 32cm of it - may prove beyond the call of duty to most, but not to one of our brave Year 6 pupils.



Having heard about the Canadian charity *Wigs for Kids*, she was determined to offer her support.

The charity makes real hair wigs for young burn victims, those with alopecia and especially children who have cancer. While it cannot disclose the personal details of the recipient of her locks, she does know that they have gone to a girl who apparently finds the loss of her hair more painful than her medical treatment. She would like to remind us that in the UK the *Little Princess Trust* also welcomes such donations.



Competing with distinction

One of our Year 9 pupils (pictured left) has recently been crowned a national breaststroke champion.

She received her title following her superb gold medal performances in both the 100m and 200m races for competitors 14 and under at the Short Course Swimming Welsh Championships.

Meanwhile, a Year 13 pupil also received top national honours when she was awarded bronze in the female black-belt U18 competition at the Taekwondo Association of Great Britain Championships.

Welcome to the House of Dance

Everyone knows that the sound of music reverberates regularly around the Lower School but when the new House of Dance club is in full swing, it starts to sound more like Broadway!

Expressive singing and movement are key to the dynamic after-school sessions run by a team of highly experienced staff, amongst them West End performers. Members of the Senior School also help, much to the delight of the keen Year 6 participants. The club may only be in its earliest stages, but the seventy or so girls involved cannot wait for an opportunity to showcase their new skills - and neither can we!



Equipped for the future

By Damian McKeown

One of our Year 12 pupils, along with five girls from Year 10, have proved themselves world class computer coders.

Over the course of five weeks, the international Grok Learning Computer Science Challenge Competition saw them tackle a series of increasingly complex coding exercises designed to test their knowledge of the Python programming language. Despite facing opposition from as far afield as Australia and Hong Kong, the Queen's girls showed

great skill and perseverance, and were eventually declared joint winners. All of the girls had gained valuable experience in developing their understanding of the language and applying their knowledge to resolve specific problems. Along with IT students in Year 12, Year 10 pupils were also involved in a computational



thinking challenge endorsed by Oxford University. This time they were required to solve a range of complex logic puzzles against the clock. Amongst a number of girls awarded distinctions, one Year 10 girl deserves special mention as 'Best in School'. Such skills are being honed by

our younger pupils at the Lower School, too. In computing club, run by Senior School IT teacher Jo McKeirnan, a number of budding computer buffs have already been awarded proficiency certificates for writing their own games and programs - international winners of the future, no doubt!



Fitness for All

The Queen's School Sport and Fitness Centre is now in full use, and girls and staff alike are wondering how they managed without it!

There are two indoor spaces, an upstairs Fitness Studio and a Sports Hall, offering a superb range of activities which have made a considerable impact on an already bulging extra-curricular programme. Before or after school, during lunchtimes and lessons, the school community can enjoy pilates, yoga, dance, Zumba, ergo training... the list goes on! The official opening of this excellent new facility is scheduled for May 1st. By then we hope to have added to the substantial funds, over £500,000, achieved to-date through the exceptional support of our generous parents and friends. This will enable us to secure our ultimate goal: to cater fully for complete classes and widen the range of activities even further. Families of the school are warmly invited to the Open Evening on Tuesday 24th March.



CCF goes from strength to strength

Queen's CCF has enjoyed tremendous success recently.

Year 10 cadets in both the RAF and Army sections have successfully completed their Methods of Instruction (MOI) Cadre and are now fully qualified to instruct their peers. Two Year 13 sisters have each received promotions recently to Flight Sergeant in charge of RAF section and Sergeant in charge of Stores, respectively.

A number of girls have gained ranks including a Year 13 student who is now Flight Sergeant, and a Year 12 pupil, now Colour Sergeant. Link Teacher Mrs Dawson is also delighted to have been awarded her Army Commission and promotion from civilian instructor to Second Lieutenant.





Let us entertain you

By Katharine Larder

Three consecutive evenings at the Senior School saw a huge cast delight audiences with gutsy, vibrant performances of the Broadway favourite *Bugsy Malone*.

With strong and talented actresses at the helm playing the likes of Bugsy, Blousey, Fat Sam and Dandy Dan, we were always on to a winner. The whole cast rose to the challenge admirably. Memorable moments included any occasion when our two rogue police officers - Smolsky and O'Dreary were on stage. Meanwhile our younger girls kicked their way to success as the boxers and down-and-outs in some lively and visually arresting scenes. And who could forget our fabulous band which kept the tempo rising and had umbrellas at the ready to avoid the splurging! We simply couldn't have staged the dancers without the expertise and clever choreography of Lydia

Roxburgh (Tallulah) and were even blessed to have scenes directed by members of the cast with two girls taking on the challenge of the down-and-outs scene. With the DT department creating our fantastic set and all the backstage team made up of students, it was a production of which we can all be proud. At the Lower School, girls from Years 3 and 4 enchanted their audiences with a heart-warming production of *Sulky Santa and the Boy Who Didn't Believe*. A whole crowd of seasonal and magical characters came to life on stage - a snowman, Rudolph, elves and even a tooth fairy and bogeyman as well as the great man himself - as they recounted the tale of how

Santa lost his Christmas spirit and was helped to find it by his trusty friends.

Our smallest pupils, too, took on some challenging roles in this year's Key Stage One performance *Children of the World* in which a group of angels visited countries far and wide. In a truly charming multicultural celebration of the nativity, the little actresses delivered their lines and followed stage directions with admirable self-assurance and clarity. From Reception to Year 13, there is no doubt that The Queen's School is packed with thespian talent!



Young Voices sing to win

By Margaret Corlett

They have done it again! For a second consecutive year, the Lower School's *Young Voices* have been selected for the televised semi-finals of BBC's *Songs of Praise Junior School Choir of the Year* competition.

The excited girls are busy rehearsing for their recorded, and hopefully pitch-perfect, performance at Nottingham's Albert Hall in March. Those involved last year, singers and teachers alike, are thrilled at the prospect of experiencing such a wonderful opportunity for a second time. As for all the new members who were in training last year and have just moved up to the main choir... they are definitely singing for joy!



County call-up

A Queen's athlete will represent Cheshire at the English Schools Cross Country Championships to be held in Blackburn next month.

She earned her place in the team with her impressive performance at the Intermediate Girls Race Cheshire Cross Country Championships where she came fourth. She was joined in the district team by 13 fellow Queen's students, all of whom were placed in the top half of their respective races involving more than 80 runners.



Building on sound foundations

Our warmest congratulations go to Felicity Taylor for receiving an *Independent Schools Lifetime Achievement Award* in recognition of her outstanding leadership, vision and success at Queen's.

Present Head of Lower School Rachel Cookson has paid further tribute to her predecessor: "We are thrilled for her and it is a great endorsement of our wonderful school and the journey it has taken so far."

An inspirational drama space and a library have recently been added to the host of creative spaces already in use at the school including the art room, complete with kiln. Plans for an innovative Forest School programme are already underway.

It is a journey which continues of course. Girls in Reception now have a new outdoor, soft-surface learning zone attached to their classroom, while Key Stage One pupils can enjoy a safe, stimulating play area complete with stage and seating, mud kitchen area, gazebo, climbing apparatus and multi-ball sports area.

"We are thrilled for her and it is a great endorsement of our wonderful school and the journey it has taken so far"



Hockey masterclass

By Gemma Glynn

Pupils from both the Lower and Senior Schools enjoyed coaching from the best when Commonwealth Games silver medallist and GB hockey player Sam Quek visited the school.

She was joined by Queen's own England international player, ex-Welsh senior women's goalkeeping coach Paddy Bingham and experienced PE teacher Sandy Littler to give the girls a day of top class training. At lunch they chatted



to Sam about her experiences as a professional female athlete and were thrilled to be photographed with her Commonwealth Games medal.

A tournament, enabling the girls to put into play all the techniques they had practised, rounded off a very valuable and memorable day.



A stunning display

The poignant artwork produced at the Lower School to mark the centenary of WW1 was shown with pride at the Chester Arts Fair.

As reported last year in *Queen's Speech*, students at the Senior School have previously impressed viewers with the exceptional diversity and skill long recognised as synonymous with Queen's art. This time it was the turn of our younger artists, from every year group, to showcase a wonderful display of ceramics, sculpture, painting and sketches. Seven certificates of merit were awarded - a wonderful achievement.

Queen's translates for the UK

As UK representatives in a European Commission international translation competition, A level linguists from Queen's joined students from all over Europe to translate a text into their native language.

Our girls chose to work from French, Spanish and German. With a growing awareness of the importance of multilingualism, intercultural understanding and expertise in translation, it proved a rewarding and valuable exercise. The results are to be announced imminently and we wish our students every success.



Journey into Narnia

The Queen's School Ball, with its Narnia theme, was a truly spectacular and sparkling occasion.

Held at Chester Racecourse, it was attended by a record breaking 320 guests who were greeted with a magical journey through the wardrobe and, of course, a welcome glass of bubbles. The D-Day Darlings and Queen's Head Girl provided excellent entertainment, while fundraising activities were led with humour and aplomb by Headmistress Sarah Clark and Governor Nick Canning. The teachers' dance led by parent Emma Laithwaite of *Dancebox* was received with cheers of appreciation.



Congratulations

- Erica and Mark Robinson on the birth of their son Edward.
- U19 hockey team: runners-up in both the Chester and District Indoor and Outdoor Tournaments.
- U16 hockey team: 3rd in the North West round of the National Schools Tournament.
- U15 hockey team: winners of the Chester and District Indoor Tournament.
- U13 hockey team: winners of the Chester and District Indoor Tournament
- U16 netball team: retainers of the Chester and District Netball Tournament title.
- U16 badminton team: runners-up in the Chester and District Badminton competition.
- U14 badminton team: runners-up in the Cheshire Badminton Championships.
- Year 7 football team: qualifiers for the Chester and District Football Tournament finals.
- Years 7 & 8 athletics teams: 3rd and 2nd respectively in the Chester and District Sportshall Championships.
- Amy Williams (Year 12) and Evie Tipping (Year 7): gold and silver medallists respectively in the North of England Indoor Championships for U20 long jump and U13 shot put.
- Georgina Alexander (Year 11), Lauren Dimbylow and Maisie Tipping (Year 9): selected to compete in the North of England U17/U15 Indoor Athletics Championships.
- Alice Gooda (Year 13): winner of the Senior Chester and District Cross Country Championships.
- Alison Hughes (Year 8): awarded the Lesley Riley trophy by Chester Sailing and Canoe Club for her selection for the RYA's North and West Zone squad.
- India Edwards (Year 8): selected for the RYA RS Feva North and West Zone Sailing Squad.
- Ingrid Clusa (Year 12) Lorna Cowdell, Jess Twigg and Paige Cox (Year 10): winners in the North of England Head with Royal Chester; winners in their age group of the Chester Long Distance Sculls.
- India Hall and Eleanor Hassall (Year 12): commended and highly commended, respectively, at the Model United Nations Conference.
- Public speaking and debating teams: winners of the ESU National Public Speaking competition hosted by Birkenhead School; winners of the annual Queen's versus King's debate organised by the Chester Debating Society.
- Aarthy Aravind (Year 5): second in the King's section of the Manchester Junior Congress chess tournament.
- Rhianna Thornton-Reid, Emma Whitfield (Year 12), Olivia Atkinson (Year 11), Olivia Spillane (Year 10), Emma Brierley (Year 9), Jada Sanyaolu, Jasleen Sambhi, Scarlett Spillane (Year 8) and Lydia Greaves (Year 7): distinction in their ABRSM examinations.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEB	Sat	14 - 21	Ski trip to Austria				Senior School
	Mon	16 - 20	Half-term				
MAR	Mon	2	The Queen's School Festival of Music				Senior School
	Wed	4	Year 11 Parents' Evening	5 - 7pm			Senior School
	Thur	12 - 13	Year 3 trip to Tattenhall				Lower School
	Tue	17	Year 12 Parents' Evening	5 - 7pm			Senior School
	Wed	18 - 19	Cabaret Evenings	7pm			Senior School
	Sat	20 - 22	Year 4 trip to Kingswood				Lower School
	Mon	23	Year 10 Parents' Evening	5 - 7pm			Senior School
	Tue	24	Daffodil Service at Chester Cathedral				Lower School
	Thur	26 - 31	Trip to Iceland				Senior School
	Fri	27	Term ends	12.25pm			
APR	Tue	21	Summer term starts				
	Mon	27	Year 8 Parents' Evening	5 - 7pm			Senior School
MAY	Fri	1	Commemoration Service at Chester Cathedral	1.45pm			
	Fri	8	Years 11 and 12 Study Leave				Senior School
	Mon	11 - 14	Year 5 trip to Ullswater				Lower School
	Tue	19	Year 13 Study Leave				Senior School
	Mon	25 - 29	Half-term				Lower School

Queen's School Parents' Association

- **Tuesday 3rd March:** QSPA Event Planning Meeting, 7.30pm at the Senior School.
- **Friday 6th March:** Coffee morning and second hand uniform sale, 8.30am at the Lower School.
- **Friday 13th March:** Coffee afternoon, 2.30pm at the Senior School.
- **Wednesday 25th March:** Easter Egg Bingo at the Lower School.
- **Wednesday 22nd April:** AGM at the Lower School.
- **Friday 19th June:** Golf Day at Upton-by-Chester Golf Club from 3pm.
- **Saturday 27th June:** Annual Garden Party, 12 - 3pm at the Lower School.

Parents, grandparents, alumnae and staff are welcome to join *The Queen's School Community Choir* led by Margaret Corlett on **Wednesday evenings** at the Lower School.

Further information is available on The Queen's School website and @QueensSchoolPA

Alumni news

- More than twenty alumni of various vintages greatly enjoyed the December Carol Service followed by a festive informal lunch in Chester Cathedral Refectory.

The Alumni office is busy compiling the 2015 Social Calendar but many are already requesting seats for the Commemoration Service, which will be held in Chester Cathedral on **Friday 1st May**.

To reserve a place for this event, or for any further information, please contact the Alumni office on 01244 888640 or email alumni@queens.cheshire.sch.uk

