

# QUEEN'S *speech*

Newsletter of The Queen's School, Chester  Summer 2015

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## Headmistress's Welcome

By Sarah Clark

At Queen's we develop talents and passions by focussing on the individual pupil, her abilities and needs.

As a small school with excellent teaching staff and a warm, nurturing ethos, we are in a unique place to be able to do this. As a result we see girls flourish and grow, thriving in our industrious environment which values ambition, trying hard and never giving up.

This term's *Queen's Speech* is again a shining example of how this ethos achieves such splendid results - from extending girls' knowledge and understanding of academic subjects to achieving success in sport and fitness, art, music and drama.

In this term's magazine you can read about how pupils have been inspired by a maths author visiting the Lower School, a famous female astrophysicist talking to sixth formers, an inspirational trip to Iceland for Senior School geographers and how excitement is growing around plans to develop language teaching from Reception to Year 6.

On top of this our *Young Voices* reached the final of the *BBC Songs of Praise Choir of the Year* competition and we also saw some spectacular performances in *Cabaret*, our Commemoration Service and *The Festival of Music*. It really has been a term of joy and song.

## Fitness for All

By Gemma Glynn

Last month saw the official opening of our excellent new Sport and Fitness Centre.

Jennie Price, Chief Executive of Sport England, performed the ceremony which was also attended by Chief Executive of Active Cheshire Anne Boyd, patrons Michael Owen and Beth Tweddle, and many of the fundraisers and donors. Sport England has been a major contributor to this superb new facility at Queen's. In fact, Ms Price drew parallels between our own fundraising *Fitness For All* initiative and Sport England's *This Girl Can* campaign as both aim to encourage every girl to pursue some form of healthy activity. Our warmest thanks go to all parents and friends of the school - particularly to the fundraising committee chaired by Martin Prothero - who contributed so generously to the project.



## The sky's the limit

The role of women in science was the focus of a fascinating presentation at the Thornton Research Centre attended by Year 10 students.



Dr Aderin-Pocock, the renowned space scientist who presents the BBC's *Sky at Night*, talked about what had motivated her to succeed in a career in science and explained what her profession actually involves. An opportunity to ask further questions was particularly inspirational for one of our pupils, Isabelle, who is currently studying for a GCSE in Astronomy.

## Learning is such fun!

Girls at the Lower School enjoyed a thoroughly entertaining day in the company of maths maestro Kjartan Poskitt.

The author of *Murderous Maths* and the *Agatha Parrot* books entranced his audience with all kinds of mathematical magic including magic squares which work in 24 directions and even instructions on how to cut a cube of cheese into 93 pieces with 8 straight cuts! Hours of interactive fun were also provided by Michelle who parked up her *Life Bus* in Key Stage 1's playground for a day. The themes covered corresponded perfectly with topics being explored in the girls' PSHE and science lessons, from drug awareness for Year 5 to considering *What makes me unique?* by pupils in Reception.



# National finals for our *Young Voices*

By Margaret Corlett

By the time *Queen's Speech* last went to print, our fabulous *Young Voices* had reached the semi-finals of the *Songs of Praise Junior School Choir of the Year* competition... for the second year in a row!

It wasn't long before the Lower School was welcoming a BBC sound and camera crew to record the girls as they practised. There may have been great excitement, but it certainly didn't impair the quality of the singing. The thrills continued as the girls, accompanied by enthusiastic supporters bearing banners and school scarves, headed to the Albert Hall in Nottingham where



*Young Voices* went through to the final! Although the choir eventually just lost out to the very talented Ysgol Llangennech, the judges were

full of praise for its beautiful rendition of *I've Got a Home in Gloryland* and dynamic performance complete with 'choralography'!

*"There may have been great excitement, but it certainly didn't impair the quality of the singing"*



## Grand design

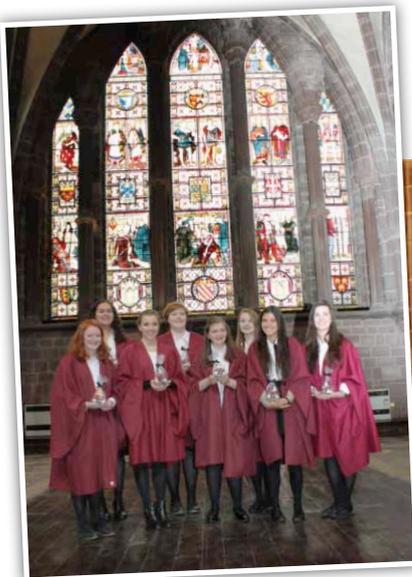
A vibrant design incorporating Queen's signature Q logo, the school crest and a butterfly to symbolise transition and growth, can now be found on the screens of every computer in the IT suite.

Congratulations to Erica, a talented Year 8 pupil, who won a recent Key Stage 3 computing competition with her stunning desktop screensaver design.

# Commemoration Service

Pupils, parents, alumnae and teachers came together at the annual Commemoration Service in Chester Cathedral to celebrate The Queen's School with hymns, prayers, poems and memories.

Alumna Susan Elphick MBE (Beaufoy '55) fondly reminisced about her days as a student over six decades ago and paid fond tributes to the teachers who had made such a lasting impression on her. Present Head of Physics Pam Steventon, who retires at the end of this term, spoke warmly about her 28 years at Queen's, while Year 13 parent Stephanie Jenkins enthused about the unique qualities of a school which always seeks to encourage independence, imagination and resilience in its girls. Members of the Chamber Choir from Year 13 gave a truly beautiful performance of *Love Divine* as their swansong, one of the highlights of a moving and memorable afternoon.



# Festival of Music

By Jeanette Healey

Senior School pupils showed off a superb range of musical talent at *The Queen's School Festival of Music* as they competed for trophies in a wide variety of classes.

Soprano Ruth (Year 13) was awarded the *Amy Underhill Prize* as overall winner for her delightful performance of Gershwin's *Someone to Watch Over Me*. Well done to all those who took part.

- *The String Trophy* - Katie (Year 9)
- *The Swann Woodwind trophy* - Emma (Year 12)
- *The Gill Church Brass Cup* - Isobel (Year 11)
- *The Piano Trophy and overall Runner-Up* - Tracy (Year 12)
- *The Rock and Pop class* - Bella, Raabia, Isobel, Lily and Annie (Year 10)
- *The Ensemble Trophy* - Laura (Year 12) and Ashleigh (Year 13)
- *The Musicality Trophy* - Anna (Year 7)
- *The Junior Vocal Trophy* - Jada (Year 8)
- *The Senior Vocal Trophy* - Ruth (Year 13)



## Magic on the mountain

The sunny slopes of the Austrian ski resort Zell am See provided a wonderful location for the Senior School ski trip.

There were groups for every level of ability from girls perfecting their snowploughs to more experienced skiers keen to take on the whole range of runs available. In the evenings, a variety of après-ski activities including volleyball, football, a disco and a visit to the cinema kept the girls happy and busy till they

flopped into bed! Head of PE Gemma Glynn said: "The girls were absolutely fantastic throughout this trip and made us all very proud. From parallel turns and carving to keeping their rooms tidy, they rose to every challenge and represented the true spirit of Queen's in their behaviour and attitude."

## Top of the class

Congratulations to Year 6 pupils Ava, Izzy, Jemima and Isabel, capably led by team captain Mary - winners of the annual AJIS Quiz held at Bury Grammar School.

Weeks of training every Thursday lunchtime certainly paid off. The girls managed to top the leaderboard from the very first round, which was all about art installations and entitled *I know what I like*, to the last equally cryptic sounding *Low tech to high tech*. It was a tense, hard fought competition but the girls remained focused and managed to sustain their lead above the boys from Bolton School by one point with Merchant Taylors' School coming third.





# Competing at the highest level

By Martine Green

It's been a tremendous season for sport at Queen's with several teams competing at regional and even national level - testament to the dedication, skill and determination of our players and their teachers.

In May, the U13s headed for the National IN2Hockey Finals. A series of first class matches saw the girls placed 4th in their group and set to play Cheadle Hulme School to decide their overall ranking in the competition. The thrilling match went to penalties, but Queen's emerged victorious placing them 7th in the country! The North of England Final also saw a tense penalty shoot out. This time it was the turn of the U11 girls to show spirited opposition; their victory against The Chorister School, Durham placed them 5th in the region. Meanwhile,

the U16 team came 3rd in the North West. Aisla Cairns (Year 10), Ellen Barry, Isabel Gardiner and Maisie Macdonald (Year 9) have all been selected for places at the prestigious Junior Regional Performance Centre. In Lacrosse, too, Queen's has been represented at the nationals with the U13 team showing tremendous team spirit and focus in their play despite challenging high winds! In this sport, Year 9 student Dakota Chamberlain deserves special mention: she is a member of the England U16 squad - all the more impressive

as she is only 13. Our U11 and U10 swimming teams won a fantastic haul of medals at the AJIS Swimming Gala: 7 gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze, while setting 3 new records in the process. Added to this, following the Lower School's outstanding performance in the North West round of the ESSA National Swimming Championships - in which it won both the medley and freestyle relay events - the girls are about to compete in the national finals. We anticipate good news in our next edition!



# Iceland tour

By Ben Bates

The *Land of Ice and Fire* created a spectacular setting for a fascinating educational tour trip organised by the Geography department.

Sixty Senior School students accompanied by eight members of staff started their Icelandic adventure relaxing in the mineral-rich waters of the Blue Lagoon hydrothermal pools. Subsequent days saw them exploring Thingvellir National Park, Geysir, the Reykjanes Peninsular, the geothermal springs at Gunnuhver and the black sand beaches of the southern shores.



The stunning waterfalls of Skogafoss and a meteorologically challenging trip to the snout of the Mýrdalsjökull glacier were particularly memorable. Snowballs were launched in the eight metre wide no-man's-land between the North American and Eurasian plates and there was a walking tour of the capital, Reykjavik. However, for many the remarkable Aurora Borealis and a rare sighting of a pod of killer whales were the unforgettable highlights.



## CCF strides forward

Queen's CCF cadets were put through their paces in the Cadet Cambrian Patrol, which saw them demonstrating their leadership skills and physical endurance whilst patrolling, shooting and completing a series of challenging tasks.

Places on this premier military skills competition were highly sought-after and only offered to those who had previously shown the necessary skills. The junior team achieved a silver medal and the senior team, bronze.

Queen's girls also showed resolve at a National Navigation Scheme Bronze Award event. It wasn't long before the Clwydian Hills were reverberating with The Queen's School song, providing both inspiration for the competitors - other schools sang along, too! - and amusement for the instructors.

## Quite a collection

There were a lot of fluorescent legwarmers, far too many bad-hairday perms and even the odd deely-bopper evident at the Senior School on Red Nose Day.



The stars of the 80s themed non-uniform day were undoubtedly *Mark Scheme* and *the Invigilators* - the staff band - who had a hall full of girls, singing and clapping along to a medley of yesteryear favourites. Combined with money raised by Year 5's cake stall and a *Make Your Face Funny For Money* event at the Lower School, over £1,800 was collected in all.

In response to the Nepal earthquakes, the school community dressed in the colours of the Nepalese flag. Almost £2,000 was raised and split between the Disasters Emergency Committee and the Gurkha Welfare Trust.



# An array of talent

By Katharine Larder

Our annual *Cabaret* nights had something for everyone: music ranging from rock and pop to classical, jazz and folk; dramatic scenes from the arresting to the hilarious; dance performances from Bollywood and Hollywood to classical ballet.

Headmistress Sarah Clark, who praised the exceptional talent and confidence of the entertainers added: "For me *Cabaret* has another purpose too - one which embodies everything that Queen's is about. It is the best arena I have ever known to encourage girls to get up and have a go, to enjoy taking a few risks, to try new things and experience the thrill of performance in a safe



environment where they know their friends and family will applaud and wish them well. I am enormously proud that every year the Music and Drama Departments achieve this."

*"Cabaret has another purpose too - one which embodies everything that Queen's is about."*



## Haunting melodies

Accomplished harpist Katie-May from Year 9 enchanted her audience with a repertoire of Welsh folksongs at a special Soroptimist ceremony attended by the Sheriff of Chester recently.

Soroptimists International's global mission is to inspire action and create opportunities to enable, educate and empower women and girls. President of SI Chester, Victoria Pritchard said: "Katie played beautifully and served as a great reminder to us all of the wonderful skills and talents that girls have and that need to be nurtured to realise their full potential."



# Languages from across the globe

In addition to the Spanish lessons already taught at The Lower School, next year's curriculum will include both Mandarin and French.

As part of the *Language Discovery Programme*, every pupil will learn a specific language for the year on a carousel programme taught by subject specialists and native speakers.

Recently approximately 60 girls from schools across Cheshire, Wirral and North Wales were welcomed to a fun-filled *Little Linguists* morning. They learned about Monsieur Bruit, made croissants and designed French themed handkerchiefs. They practised Mandarin characters, tried Lion Dancing, Chinese drumming and made Chinese knots. They also worked on their Salsa and Mambo moves and created fabulous Spanish-themed works of art.



Congratulations

- Sian Chafer: highly commended in the National Association of Teachers of Dance Gold Bar Award.
- Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 athletics team: winners of the West Cheshire Schools Trophy.
- U13 badminton team: runners-up in the Cheshire County Finals.
- U11 rounders team: runners-up in a regional AJIS Rounders Tournament held at Stockport Grammar School.
- Year 9 rowing team: Sainsbury's School Games champions.
- WJ15 Octuple rowers: bronze medal winners at the Oarsport Junior Sculling Head at Eton Dorney.
- India Edwards (Year 8): winner of the RS Feva boat class in the Welsh Junior and Youth Open Sailing Championships.
- Maisie and Evie Tipping (Years 9 and 7): winners of nine medals at the Cheshire Clubs Athletics Championships.
- Emma Brierley (Year 9): goalkeeper for Welsh U15 hockey champions Colwyn Bay.
- Jess Thomas (Year 10): runner-up in the Withington Manor GB Horse Trials.
- Lavinia Johnson (Year 7): qualifier for the National Schools Equestrian Association National Championships.
- Aarthy Aravind (Year 5): winner of the U11 singles and U13 doubles in the Wirral Badminton League.
- Year 7 Spanish Spelling Bee team: North West semi-finalists.
- Seren Routledge, Katie-May Williams (Year 9), Zaina Rehman and Rachel Whitfield (Year 8): qualifiers for the UK Mathematics Trust Team Challenge regional final.
- Year 6: winners in all 4 poetry recitation/performance classes entered at The Chester Festival.
- Alexandra Castling and Isabel Millican (Year 12): successful in achieving places on engineering courses at Heriot-Watt University and University College London respectively this summer as part of the prestigious Headstart programme.
- Rachel Turner (Year 12): successful in gaining a place on the inaugural University of Cambridge Coding Academy Summer School for Girls.
- Olivia Rodenhurst and Éile Middleton (Year 4): successful in auditioning for the English Youth Ballet's production of *Swan Lake*.
- Nova Young Enterprise team (Year 12): winners of Best Company Report at the Young Enterprise Regional Finals.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUN	Wed	17	Key Stage 1 Summer Concert	2 - 3.15pm	Lower School
	Wed	24	Pre-U Art Exhibition	6.30 - 8.30pm	Senior School
	Tue	30 - 1	Year 5/6 musical adaptation of <i>Twelfth Night</i>	7pm	Senior School
JUL	Thur	2	Summer Concert	7pm	Senior School
	Mon	6	Activity Day		Senior School
	Fri	10	Prize Giving Assembly		Lower School
			Term ends	12.25pm	
		10 - 15	Q2Q3		Senior School
	Mon	13	Year 11-13 expedition to Kenya		Senior School
AUG	Mon	10	Kenya expedition ends		Senior School
	Thur	13	A2 and AS results		Senior School
	Mon	17 - 21	Summer School		Lower School
	Thur	20	GCSE results		Senior School
SEP	Tue	1 - 2	INSET - no school for pupils		
	Thur	3	Term starts for all pupils		
	Fri	4	Prize Giving at Chester Cathedral	1.30pm	Senior School
OCT	Fri	2	INSET - no school for pupils		Senior School
	Sat	3	Open Morning	9am - 12.30pm	Senior School
	Fri	16 - 18	Hockey trip to Holland		Senior School
	Thur	22	Half-term		

## Queen's School Parents' Association

- **Friday 12th June:** Coffee morning and second hand uniform sale, 8.30-10.30am at the Lower School.
- **Friday 19th June:** Golf Day, 3pm at Upton Golf Club.
- **Saturday 27th June:** Annual Garden Party, 12-3pm at the Lower School.
- **Friday 11th September:** Coffee Morning, 8.30am at the Lower School.

## Alumni news

- **Saturday 4th July:** Annual Summer Reunion, 12 noon for 12.30pm - a two course buffet lunch with wine and tea/coffee; tickets £16.
- **Friday 4th September:** Michaelmas Supper, 7pm for 7.30pm for 2015 leavers.

For further details contact the Alumni Office: 01244 888640 or email [alumni@queens.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:alumni@queens.cheshire.sch.uk)

**Two Deans together!** In March, The Very Reverend Dr Vivienne Faull ('73) was awarded the title Honorary Doctorate of Letters at the University of Chester. Here she was able to share memories of The Queen's School with The Reverend Dr Lesley E Cooke ('67) who is Dean of Students at the university.



**Royal honours for Queen's School female scientists:** Two former pupils were recognised in the Queen's birthday honours for their roles in science, engineering and business. Louise Makin ('78) was made a Dame and Diana Leitch ('64) an MBE in the same ceremony at Buckingham Palace earlier this year.