

HAVE MYNDE 2023





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WELCOME

Reflections and Contemplations: A year of old and new



It is a source of immense pride that The Queen's School was granted the privilege of bearing the name after Queen Victoria issued a royal decree in 1882. And so, when the academic year began with the sad passing of Her Majesty the Queen, it provided us with the opportunity to recognise and celebrate the phenomenal service she gave, what she meant to the school, and of course be inspired by the strong woman she was.

Sad news too was the passing of Miss Diana Skillbeck, Headmistress of The Queen's School from 1989 to 2001. At Queen's, we commemorate her life as we remember her outstanding contribution to education in the country, particularly in her role as president of the *Boat Museum Society of Ellesmere Port*. She was always full of energy and her personality and positivity was infectious. She will be remembered with much love for all her contributions, both to school and the wider community. Indeed, King Charles III sent a letter of condolence from Buckingham Palace. He described her role as an early volunteer at the Boat Museum as 'inspirational' in recognition of her 50-year contribution. Of course, the passing of the old signals the start of something new, and just as our Year 13s leave us to forge their own futures, the King's Coronation provided the perfect opportunity to look forward with optimism and hope. Celebration has been a common theme throughout the year. From our inaugural *Sports*

Awards dinner that saw pupils rewarded and recognised for their achievements and teamwork, *Prize Giving*, being awarded 'Best Independent School 2023 – North West England' in the *Private Education Awards* or the *Nedham House 75th Anniversary*, we have much to be thankful for. This year has also seen a plethora of wonderful trips happen. From pounding the streets of New York, skiing down the pistes of Italy, to experiencing the tastes and architecture of Barcelona, our girls have broadened their horizons and grown as a result, something we strive for here at Queen's every day as part of our 'Aspire Globally' philosophy. In the pages of *Have Mynde 2023* which follow, you will read articles and see work from pupils aged 4-18 which demonstrate how we are continuing that spirit of independent thought which embodies the life and work of a Queen's girl. I hope you enjoy reading this edition as much as I have. Let us look forward to the future with hope and be grateful for the past. Life moves on and so must we. And in the spirit of Queen's we take comfort in knowing that when we get tired, we rest, not quit, and it is that attitude that sees our girls succeed.

Mrs Sue Wallace-Woodroffe
The Queen's School Headmistress

"Let us look forward to the future with hope and be grateful for the past."

Inspiring Queens

Our new academic year started on the 7th September, and little were we to know that by the 8th we would be mourning the sudden and unexpected death of Queen Elizabeth II.

Queen's has always been inspired by Queens; from the foresight of Queen Victoria in establishing a school for educating young women to the example set by our late Queen with her steadfast work ethic and commitment to duty; Queens will remain enduring role models for us for many years to come.

On Friday, 3rd February the 75th anniversary of Nedham House, the foundation of the Queen's Lower School, was celebrated. It was a wonderful opportunity to delve into our archives and get a sense of all that has been, and with many alumnae visiting us on the day, the children had the chance to listen to the first-hand experiences of 'Neddies' from the past. With three granddaughters of our benefactress Mrs Phyllis Brown cutting the celebratory cake, and an opportunity for tours and nostalgic chats, the day was much enjoyed by all. We are looking forward to marking our 80th! Sport remains a pivotal part our holistic education, with the opportunity to learn new skills, together with an enjoyment of the benefits of wellbeing and self-esteem. Following the success and inspiration of the Lionesses on the world stage, football training joined hockey and netball training in the autumn term this year and the girls enjoyed many opportunities to play fixtures against other schools. Their skills were equally matched by their fierce competitiveness, a heartening Queen's characteristic.

The coronation of King Charles III on the 6th May gave the children an opportunity to have a red, white and blue day to celebrate this historical occasion. The weather was kind and in the middle of coronation activities, the children had the chance to enjoy a lovely picnic lunch on the grass under the watchful eye of our grand Victorian buildings. The QSPA kindly donated a commemorative pin for every girl in the school as a memento of the day, and I'm sure these will be treasured for many years to come.

Community has always been pivotal in our endeavours. We were delighted to be part of the new Northgate development opening in November and Year 6 enjoyed creating bespoke banners for the event. Last year, we also contributed by filling a time capsule, which was ceremoniously placed by some of our Lower School girls. I wonder where they will be, and what they will have experienced when it is opened once more in many years to come. Constancy is comforting. In an uncertain world, we



“Queens will remain enduring role models for us for many years to come.”

rely on certainty, and although seasons come and go, the very fabric of our School remains constant and familiar. During the year, the children had a chance to compare archive materials with their present-day experiences, and it was heartening to see their recognition of familiarity; academic rigour, sport, creative pursuits and outdoor education continue to feature, but what cannot be captured in a photograph is the ethos and values which make this school so very special and recognised over the years. Queen's is a constant, and no matter how many generations pass through the doors, there is a security in knowing what was, continues to be.

Miss Iona Carmody
Head of Lower School



1. Lower School girls and staff with Queen's alumnae.
2. The granddaughters of Phyllis Brown, who bought the house for the School in 1948.



CELEBRATING QUEEN'S

75 years of Nedham House

The Queen's community came together this year for a truly wonderful day celebrating 75 years of Nedham House at the Lower School (no. 57 Liverpool Road).

Special guests at the celebration included the three granddaughters of **Phyllis Brown** (of the *Browns of Chester* family) who so kindly bought the house for the School back in 1948.

Head of the Lower School, **Miss Carmody**, welcomed a large group of alumnae back to Nedham House for a special celebration assembly with all the Lower School girls and staff. Some of the guests included the very first pupils through the doors 75 years ago!

Following a poignant service in the Hall, which included a cake ceremony and a rendition of the School song '*Honour Wisdom*', alumnae were toured around the school by Year 6 girls – a fabulous opportunity to reminisce about how things had changed. A light lunch was served and provided the 'old girls' time to catch up and browse through archive material, sharing memories, photographs and keepsakes. Head of the Lower School, Iona Carmody said: "This celebration provided a unique

opportunity to see the transformational power of belonging to something greater than ourselves – to be part of a unique history – a Queen's history – to be part of a past, a present and a future. Not only did we feel this power in the School on this momentous occasion, but we experienced it in the build up to our Nedham birthday too.

"Our children today have yet to fully appreciate the far-reaching benefits of belonging to Queen's, not just today, but in their future as well. But one day they will remember this time, and they will think of their past, and how it helped make them who they are, and how these strong roots will support them no matter what their future may hold. Our yesterday, today and tomorrow are inextricably linked, and it's a school like ours which reminds us what it is like to belong."

In the afternoon, groups of alumni enjoyed being part of '*Living History Question and Answer Sessions*' with the Infants and Juniors. The pupils loved finding out about how things had changed.

Phyllis Brown was Chester's first woman mayor, served as Chairman of the Board of Governors for The Queen's School and was one of its most generous benefactors. As said in a previous edition of *Have Mynde*, "Few schools can have had so many magnificent gifts from the hands of a single donor. Few schools can have had so true and generous a friend. We shall not see her like again."



Alumnae looking through the archives at Nedham House celebration.



Sports Awards Dinner

In October we hosted our first Sports Awards Dinner which was a huge success and a most enjoyable evening celebrating the sporting success of our students. The event is now going to be an annual feature of the school calendar but will take place in the summer term.





1. Reception and Year 1 Beach School.
2. Year 4 enjoyed a snowy day at the beach.
3. Great teamwork from Year 6 creating swings during their Forest Day.



OUTDOOR LEARNING

The best classroom in the world...

At Queen's, we give our pupils lots of opportunities to connect with the outdoor world beyond the classroom, boosting environmental stewardship, academic learning and personal development. Giving our girls access to natural experiences that they feel ownership and responsibility for, promotes a greater affinity and consciousness for a world that needs consideration and preservation.



Providing outdoor learning opportunities is part of the fabric that makes up the curriculum at the Lower School. Our *Forest Days* and *Beach School* allows teachers and pupils to

explore the interdependence of people, beaches and forests, and the vital role they play in sustaining our environment. It also helps the girls develop many skills that are hard to teach in the classroom. It encourages them to be active, assess situations, take risks and make decisions, with lots of activities to develop both fine and gross motor skills. The girls learn to be self-sufficient and take care of themselves, which boosts their confidence and self-esteem. Through trial and error they learn to deal with failure and develop the resilience: a skill critical in and outside the classroom. This year our girls have enjoyed a variety of activities and experiences including a beach day in the snow! Reception enjoyed their first *Beach School* with Year 1 and showed great resilience. In February, on their return to the beach, they worked together to create a giant heart sand sculpture for *Valentine's Day*. They also had great fun on a scavenger hunt and Year 1 made animal sculptures in the sand, working hard with their team. Year 2 and 3 built St Paul's Cathedral in the sand, then raced to fill their buckets with water to 'put the fire out!' Year 4 explorers had a great time making pyramids and tombs and went on a scavenger hunt for treasures to include. They also got to experience a unique visit to the beach in the snow and were overjoyed to be greeted by huge snowflakes and a stunning landscape all around. The girls used teamwork and creativity to create snowmen, and then all warmed up with a delicious hot chocolate. Year 5 enjoyed a bracing day at the beach. Linking their proximity to the sea to their work

on Ancient Greek myths, the girls focused on *Poseidon - God of the Sea* and worked on a collaborative effort to build one of his mer-people. The girls also worked on making Ancient Greek patterns using natural materials. Year 6 did a beach clean before making big whale pictures using the natural resources on the beach. This was based on the work they'd been doing on the book *'Whale Boy'* by Nicola Davies.

In the afternoon they made obstacle courses, again using the natural resources they could find and all enjoyed trying them out!

Our *Forest Days* have been as popular as ever with all the girls fully embracing the experience.

Year 1 hunted for mini-beasts, finding lots of wood lice, centipedes, spiders, slugs and snails too. They loved seeing them up close through a magnifying glass lid! They then used some very messy clay to sculpt hedgehogs, creating homes for them under the trees.

Year 2 got also got creative with clay during their *Forest Day*, creating mud creatures amongst the trees. They loved getting messy and washing off with the hose afterwards! They also enjoyed bug hunting with the pooters.

Year 6 worked in teams to design and build a swing for a 'baby' using natural resources. They tested and improved their prototypes, with some designs proving more successful than others! They also built giant 'marble runs' to transport netballs over longer distances. No *Forest Day* would be complete of course without the obligatory campfire and toasting marshmallows to make s'mores. A well-deserved treat after all their hard work!





CAREERS

Planning for the future

November saw the culmination of months of hard work and organisation by the Careers Department with our biennial *Careers Fair*, hosted for the first time at *Chester Racecourse*.

Top employers and universities exhibited at the event exclusively to help Queen's pupils in Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form to explore the range of opportunities available to them.

We gathered over 40 representatives from universities, industry, the uniformed services and local businesses and the morning was specifically tailored to the interests of current pupils who had been surveyed in the six months leading up to the Fair. Head of Careers, **Mrs Dawson** said: "Students were able to learn first-hand from employers about work, employment and the skills that are valued in the workplace. Universities attended to talk through the range of courses they have to offer including degree apprenticeships, and the career progression they can lead to.

"Most importantly the event aimed to give students the chance to talk to employers in depth about their company, routes in, and what they need to do to prepare for the world of work. A number of students came away with offers of work experience and contacts for the future and it was fantastic to see how well the event was supported by our alumni and parents both as exhibitors and attendees."

The event also marked the start of the Year 12 launch into choosing routes after Sixth Form, such as University or Degree Apprenticeships as part of the packed careers programme offered at Queen's.

Support and guidance

In the run up to the *Careers Fair*, students received a variety of sessions run by the *Careers Department*. Year 9 and 10 received guidance on how to use our school careers portal, *Unifrog*, to help with their A-level and GCSE choices. Year 11 had mock interviews with senior teaching staff, with many of them taking advantage of the *Morrisby Psychometric Profile*, of which our Head of Careers is an advanced practitioner.

The annual *MMI (Multiple Mini Interview)* evening was held for Year 13 medics, dentists and vets as part of a wider programme of preparation for university interviews. This event is run in a "speed dating" style, with candidates having an allotted time at each of the 10 stations, taking part in a task, a discussion, or a role play. Into the spring and summer terms the *Careers Department* focusses on helping interested Year 11 pupils secure work experience placements with local employers, and volunteering for those students looking at health care or veterinary careers. We use our vast Alumni network and parent body to help secure the best placements for pupils. Individual Career appointments continue when needed all year round and can be booked by every pupil in each year group.

Assessing options

As part of our University and Post 18 Applications Programme, Year 12 pupils attended the *Manchester UCAS Discovery Exhibition*. This annual event hosts over 100 universities, over 20 top employers and the *National Apprenticeship Service* and was their chance to speak directly to Admissions Tutors, Student Finance, universities, and to employers. A fantastic event to showcase the vast range of options available to them to ensure they are in a position to

Careers sessions provide support and guidance to students.



1. Girls from Years 10-12 attended the Careers Fair.
2. Head of Careers Mrs Dawson with some of the exhibitors.
3. Students were very interested in finding out more about career opportunities in the police.
4. (Left to right) Mrs Dawn Islip and Head of Careers Mrs Dawson.



make informed choices about the next stage of their education and career.

Year 11 visited Keele University to learn about university life and the opportunities available to them. **Alicia Dixon**, Year 11, said: "In the morning we were given an interesting lecture on psychology. We were then taken on a tour of the campus, giving us a flavour of student life. The afternoon included a talk on 'Making University Choices in Year 11'. Lastly, we were able to gain insight from current students in a Q&A session at the end of the day. The visit was a great experience that has enabled us to take the first steps in preparing for our futures!"

Year 13 pupils thinking about a gap year between school and university were offered some career-building opportunities by school in-support company *Yipiyap Education*. The organisation places bright and enthusiastic pupils in local state schools, mainly to give one-to-one or small group support to struggling pupils. A number of Queen's students have worked with *Yipiyap* in the past and the organisation is a popular gap year post A-level option. *Yipiyap* Regional Director Jennifer Haynes outlined how a year with *Yipiyap* can help boost a student's confidence, employability and also bank balance before they finally go off to university. "Helping young people with a subject you are passionate about can be really



rewarding. It is also a way to find out a lot about yourself and your own capabilities. Working alongside youngsters in local schools can be very challenging but it is also a way to develop yourself and get some great workplace experience," said Jennifer, who herself was originally a placement student for *Yipiyap* after completing her A-levels in 2019.

"We use our vast Alumni network and parent body to help secure the best placements for pupils."



Year 12 at the Manchester UCAS Discovery Exhibition.



Yipiyap Education offer career-building opportunities to Year 13 pupils thinking about a gap year.

1. Harvest Festival at St Thomas' Church.
2. A brilliant performance from the cast of Project Planet.



MUSIC & DRAMA

Taking centre stage

Lower School Music and Drama

What a delight it has been this year to have a full performance schedule at the Lower School, giving our fantastically talented girls the opportunity to shine in lots of different ways.

We returned once more to St Thomas' Church for the *Harvest Festival*. The Infants sang songs both old and new, including a very active *'Harvest Stew'* and, of course, the ever popular *'All Things Bright and Beautiful'*.

Our *'Boogie Woogie Nativity'* offered lots of opportunities for the Infants to sing and dance. This creative take on the Christmas story reminded us of how we can appreciate every moment, especially at Christmas, even if we are an animal in a stable!

During the spring term the Lower School took great pleasure in celebrating 75 years of Nedham House. It was lovely to hear all the pupils sing the School song *'Honour Wisdom'* and some Year 5s even helped to accompany this on their instruments. We are so lucky to have so many inspiring and accomplished musicians at Queens. This year's Lower Key Stage 2 production was *'Project Planet'*, an exciting tale of environmentally minded children and naughty scarecrows. Our Year 3 and 4 girls loved exploring many of the issues raised in the show about protecting our planet (our *'Wonderful World'*) and put on a brilliant performance.

We finished the spring term back at St Thomas' for our whole school *Daffodil Service*. The girls celebrated Easter with song, music and prayers – a lovely way to herald the spring.

Summer was a very busy term for our three choirs: *Songbirds*, *Nightingales* and *Queen's Young Voices*.



Nightingales perform at Chester Music Festival.

"It has been wonderful to see so many of our girls taking part in so many different occasions."



3. Infant Nativity rehearsals.



4-6. Infant Nativity performance.



All the choirs took part in the *Chester Music Festival* and performed brilliantly, achieving high marks and praise from the judge. *Queen's Young Voices and Nightingales* took to the stage two weeks later for a concert in Tarporley with *La Fenice Flute Choir*. It was a lovely occasion, and it was great to be able to support the charity *Little Hearts Matter*.

Our first 'A Little Summer Serenade' concert took place towards the end of the summer term. This was a spectacular evening with many pupils singing and performing on their instruments and playing as part of an ensemble. *The Queen's Junior Orchestra* also took the spotlight with their first performance. The orchestra was formed in January and rehearsals take place on Monday evenings. Many girls attend with different instruments and lots of fun is had whilst making music!

The Queen's Young Voices also featured in this event and the audience enjoyed being serenaded by the girl's delightful performance.

Year 5 and 6 finished the year with a fabulous performance of 'The Wizard of Oz'. This magical and well-loved tale was brought to life with song, dance and acting. The girls collaborated brilliantly, preparing all aspects of the production and the play's central theme of friendship and

mutual support resonated across both year groups. A wonderful send-off for Year 6!

This year, many of our girls have taken music grade exams and this would not be possible without our dedicated and motivated peripatetic teachers who spend their time working with the girls.

Music and Drama continues to thrive in the Lower School and it has been wonderful to see so many of our girls taking part in so many different occasions.



Fabulous hats and performances at the Daffodil Service.



- 1. Ukulele Club at the Music Festival.
- 2. Chamber Choir at Commemoration Service.
- 3. Fabulous performances at Cabaret.



Senior School Music

It has been another busy year for the Queen's Senior School Music Department. Our annual event of *Cabaret* was a lovely finish to the autumn term. Such an array of instrumental ensembles and vocal choirs performed. These included our clarinet, flute, brass ensemble and string ensembles. We are very fortunate to have extremely committed and talented peripatetic music teachers who spend so much time developing the instrumental ensembles and musicianship of the girls. Other ensembles featured were Rock and Pop, Ukulele group, both Junior and Senior Orchestras, Junior, Senior and Chamber Choir, as well as a grand combined finale of 'Hold My Hand'.

A busy spring term included a GCSE and A-level trip to see the performance of *Rocky Horror* at the *Storyhouse* in Chester. We are so lucky to have this wonderful theatre on our doorstep enabling the girls to be immersed in musical theatre. The annual event of *The Queen's School Festival of Music* took place before Easter. Over 100 pupils entered this spectacular competition and performed in a wide variety of different musical classes. The winners of each class then competed for trophies, cups and for the highly prestigious overall award of the *Amy Underhill Trophy*. External adjudicators were very impressed with the high standard of musicianship of all the girls and awarded the trophy to **Genevieve Li** who performed a piano piece by **Gabriel Fauré**. **Grace Crook**, one of our Year 11 GCSE pupils, featured in the *BBC's Songs of Praise* during Easter weekend. Grace, who is a member of Chester Cathedral, sings weekly in the cathedral and has

opted to take A-level Music next year. Our *Commemoration* in Chester Cathedral was a special but also sad event as we said goodbye to our Year 13 *Chamber Choir* girls.

The girls sang beautifully on the day, performing a variety of repertoire including 'A *Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square*' and 'Tantum *Ergo*' with organ accompaniment. In the summer term, the music department were a centre for ABRSM and over 20 of our girls were entered for their graded music examinations. This shows what dedicated and talented musicians we have here at Queen's. Finally our *Midsummer Extravaganza* completed our busy music calendar, with both music and drama collaborating. This was a magical evening with many ensembles, solos and acting from the girls. The staff in the music department at Queen's are forever grateful for the support of our highly motivated peripatetic staff and parents who inspire and engage our musicians to allow these events to happen. The calendar is already filling up for another busy year ahead in the Queen's School Music Department.



4. Music Festival winners.



5. Lili Jones and Tia Secrette.



6. Harriet Bentley and Colette Hong.



1. Drama performance at Cabaret.
2. A-level performance.
3. Another drama group performing at Cabaret.



Senior School Drama

In September, we welcomed world-renowned physical theatre company **Frantic Assembly** into school to come and work with our Year 9-13 students exploring physical skills and devising movement sequences. All pupils engaged with interest and enthusiasm and the skills they learnt inspired more developed and creative practical work in their lessons.

In October, we took our Year 10-13 drama students to see *Frantic Assembly's* interpretation of Shakespeare's *Othello* in Liverpool. A visceral, fast paced, and electric performance, this was an excellent example for our drama students to use as part of the live theatre section of their exam.

In December, the School came alive with two evenings of cabaret performances from our talented musicians, singers, dancers and actors. *Drama Fun club* produced two performances; *'The King's New Clothes'* and *'Coffee Morning Chaos'*, as

well as a beautifully choreographed piece of physical Theatre by **Bella and Amelia Wood** and a scene from our upcoming production of *'Be My Baby'*.

In March, our GCSE and A-level pupils completed their practical exams in front of an examiner. Year 13 drama students performed an extract from *'A Taste of Honey'* by **Shelagh Delaney**. **Camrey** and **Caitie** explored the fraught and embittered relationship between Helen and her daughter Jo in 1950's Salford. Year 11 drama students performed their extracts from plays such as *'Things I Know To Be True'*, *'Two'*, *'Be My Baby'* and *'My Mother Said I Never Should'*. The pieces were polished, well-paced and demonstrated a wide range of acting skills. Congratulations to all who took part!



Be My Baby

In February, we were transported back in time to the 1960's with our school production of *'Be My Baby'* by **Amanda Whittington**, which took place over two nights, with two different casts. The music of the 1960's perfectly encapsulated this era of innocence and romance and became the backdrop to the story of four unmarried and pregnant teenagers, forced to give their babies up for adoption in a mother and baby home in 1964. The cast handled the complexities of this storyline, with emotional precision; portraying the lovely camaraderie and strong friendships formed by the girls and provided moments of endearing comedy and touching poignancy. 'An exceptional production' and one of which all involved must be very proud.



Head Queen Bees: Isla Santos Hewitt, Eva Gilhooly, Minnie Wildes, Verity Roberts, Emilia Heath, Sienna Bennett and Amélie Godley



Heads of Houses: Phillippa Moss, Nadirah Khanum, Raphi Tant, Ruby Piddington, Francesca Jennings, Erin Smales, Sasha Carter-McCann, Camrey Williams and Tallulah Tilley (not pictured).



Q-Mentor.



House Captains: Dragons Alex Whysall and Alicia Morris-Yousaf, Phoenix Imogen Lowry and Emily Singleton, Griffins Rithi Manikandan and Tiamii Roberts, Unicorns Sara Lipinska and Izabel Hardy.



Librarians: Mala Ellis, Mia Rees, Valentina Watkin, Daisy Anderton and Mia Latt.

PROMOTING LEADERSHIP

Q-Mentor Programme

This year saw the launch of our brand-new peer support programme 'Q-Mentor' at the Senior School. Year 12 student mentors who were keen to be a point of contact for our younger students received training before the scheme was launched.

Head of Pastoral, **Miss Jones**, set up the programme, working closely with Year 12. She said: "Building resilience and promoting wellbeing are areas we place great value on at Queen's. We know that many young people find it easier to talk to their peers so it is hoped that these new connections will provide our younger students with a variety of options of who to talk to about all sorts of things, from work and school, to friendships, parents and general wellbeing. I am sure it will also develop new friendships along the way. "I have been so impressed by the number of Year 12 students keen to be involved in this programme and it is a superb opportunity for them to develop important leadership skills such as self-confidence, a sense of responsibility, active listening, empathy and communication".

Meet and greet sessions were held in the Year 12 common room where students simply dropped in for a drink and a chat during lunchtime to find out more about the support available and meet the mentors.

Each mentor has a biography on *Firefly* for students to find out more about them and decide who might be the best person for them to talk to, depending on their need. **Chola** in Year 10 went along to one of the first sessions, she said "The meet and greet with the mentors was great. They were really friendly, and I will definitely be keen to meet with someone again on a more regular basis."

Roles and responsibility

Providing leadership opportunities and the chance for pupil voice to be heard throughout school life is something we value greatly at Queen's and begins at the Lower School right through to Sixth Form. Our girls are extremely proud to be part of the variety of committees we have, and it is impressive to see them all take their roles and responsibilities so seriously. At the Lower School girls were very honoured and excited to get to work in their important roles including *House Captains, Junior Safety Officers, Student Council, Catering Committee, Eco-Committee, Librarians* and *Head Queen Bees!*

Throughout their time at the Senior School the girls are given many opportunities to lead, whether it be by running their own co-curricular club, becoming a member of our *Student Parliament, House Captain* or part of the *Head Girl Team*.

Student Parliament provides all pupils in the Senior School with an opportunity to use their voice and contribute to developing the school community by becoming part of the *Catering Committee, Wellbeing Committee, Respect Committee, Academic Committee, Diversity Committee* or *Environment Committee*.

Head Girl Katie Townsend (middle) with Deputy Head Girl Amy Agnew (left) and Katie Barlow (right).





1. Antonia Traista and :
2. Year 11 success in the British Physics Olympiad.
3. Jocelyn Jones achieved a silver award in the Senior Physics Challenge.



STEM

Stretch and challenge

We pride ourselves on nurturing every girl's gifts and talents, and many students achieve great success in a variety of STEM competitions and activities aimed to stretch and challenge the learning.

Science

Pupils enjoyed a fantastic week of interesting activities during Biology Week with an activity to celebrate biology every day of week. Activities included making biology models as part of #MessyMonday, 'Meet the Biologist' with a fantastic presentation by medical microbiologist **Luisa Collins**, who talked about her work, as well as her school choices, university degree, global career and exciting developments in oral and hair care. We hope it inspired the next generation of biologists! The week culminated in a biology *House Quiz* about the activities that had happened during the week. Keen physicists in Year 11 took part in the *British Physics Olympiad (BPhO) Intermediate Challenge Online* - a fast-paced test of problem solving and general physics knowledge. All seven of the students achieved outstanding results with **Imogen Lowry** in Year 11 achieving a gold award and **Alexa Byrne, Sajida Islam, Elsie Gray, Emily Bryce, Kirsten Robertson** and **Emma Yang** achieving Silver awards.

Imogen Lowry went on to also achieve a gold award in the written paper. **Jocelyn Jones** in Year 12 achieved a silver award in the *BPhO Senior Challenge* aimed at stretching and challenging A-level physics students beyond the curriculum. **Raka Chattopadhyay** in Year 13 achieved the 'Top Gold' Award in round 1 of the *British Physics Olympiad*, meaning she was in the top 6% of the 3,000 students who took part nationwide! She also achieved a distinction in the *British Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad*, an extremely challenging competition involving astronomical calculations, problem solving and general knowledge about current developments in the field of Astronomy. She then went on to achieve a gold and a silver award in round 2 of each competition, placing her within the top 20 students in the UK! Her significant achievements in these competitions will be recognised at a prestigious awards ceremony at the *Royal Society* in London.

Computing

Years 3-6 at the Lower School took part in this year's *Bebras* computational thinking challenge with some strong results from the girls, performing above county and national averages. The girls achieved 21 merits and

20 distinctions in total. Special mention to **Imogen Lowry** in Year 6 who achieved 'Best in School' and a gold award placing her in the top 10% in the country, and to **Florence Hogan** in Year 3 and **Zara Green** in Year 5 who got 'Best in School' in their age categories. The Senior School girls also put in an impressive performance, with over 50% of participants achieving merits or distinctions, and 15 students across all age groups gaining the prestigious *Gold Award* - meaning their score is in the top 10% of scores nationally! The girls who achieved this level were then invited to take part in the *Oxford University Computing Challenge (OUCC)*. The challenges were tough, reflecting the prestige of the invitation to take part. Our A-level computer scientists took part in 'Hack the Web', an interactive online workshop from the Computer Science facility at Sunderland University. Students were challenged to consider how secure websites really are and were tasked with hacking their way into a series of websites, with each one getting more secure as they progressed through the challenges! Our Year 12 and 13 students did incredibly well, their years of engagement and success in the *CyberFirst* programme really shining through as they put their cyber skills to good use in this challenge. All our students progressed to the most difficult challenges with a special shout out going to **Cerys Fagan** in Year 12 who was the first student in the whole country to successfully complete all nine hacks!

Maths

Promoting a love of problem solving, 40 girls from Years 11-13 took part in the *UKMT Senior Challenge*. The competition encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. **Raka Chattopadhyay** in Year 13, **Imogen Lowry** and **Antonia Traista** in Year 11 also took part in the *UKMT Maths Olympiad for Girls*. Raka and **Imogen Lowry** undertook a three and a half hour follow-on challenge from the *Senior Maths Challenge*, which is an entry point to the training and selection programme for the international competitions run by the *UKMT*. Just taking part in this challenge is an incredible achievement and the level of maths is unbelievably difficult!



Rinnata Rattaphaet,
Reception

Willa Barnes, Reception



Clara Rose O'Malley,
Reception

Lower School Art



Margot Poole,
Reception



Ellie Billington, Year 2



Cleo Singh, Year 2



Emmeline Toczysk, Year 3



Cave Painting, Year 3



Amber Nash, Year 4



Rosie Broome, Year 4



Phoebe Williams, Year 4

Lower School Art



Minnie Carrington, Year 5

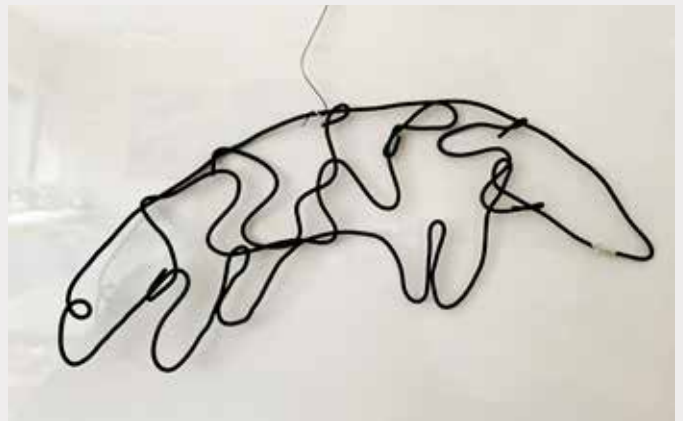
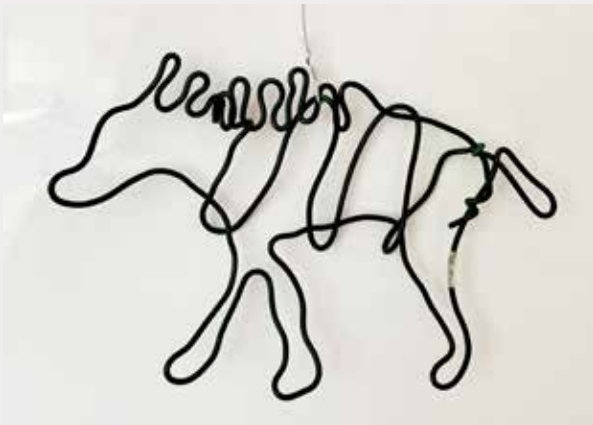


Maisie Barlow, Year 5

Sara Lipinska,
Year 6



Izabel Hardy,
Year 6



Mia Latt, Year 6



Annabelle Godfrey,
Year 6

Kirsten Robertson



Alicia Dixon



GCSE Art



Connie Peers



Tess Beaumont

Emma Yang



Eddie Corless-Smith



Alice Pilott



Emily Bryce



Maisie Taylor



Lucy Newcombe

Rosie Meade



Pre-U Art



Lucy Davies

Caitie Golding





Cara McCann



Erin Smales

Katie Townsend





TRIPS

Expanding horizons

Much has been spoken about character education and the importance of an agile mindset. Accompanying students on trips, like residentials to Kingswood and cultural visits to New York, is proof enough that these opportunities provide our children with the chance to step out of their comfort zones and adapt and adjust to a variety of challenges. Below is a snapshot of just some of the fabulous opportunities our students have enjoyed this year.

Lower School

Day trips have included a lovely visit to **Chester Zoo** for Reception who enjoyed a fantastic guided tour of the bat enclosure and saw lots of animals keeping warm from the snow. They especially loved the orangutans, elephants, and giraffes. Year 1 learnt all about how art has changed throughout history at the **Walker Art Gallery** in Liverpool, comparing paintings from hundreds of years ago to the present day. Pond dipping was lots of fun for Year 2 who visited



Year 4 at the World Museum.

Bickley Hall Farm, headquarters of the *Cheshire Wildlife Trust*. The girls used a classification chart to identify the pond life, and also enjoyed bug hunting and creating mini-beasts out of clay. Another trip out saw the girls visiting **Chester Fire Station**. At the fire station the girls were allowed to try on kit, climb onto the engines and use the water hoses, and they had a great tour all around the premises. Year 3 had a fabulous day at the **Weaver Hall Museum**, immersing themselves in all things prehistoric! During the morning workshop they handled genuine stone age tools, learned about the uses of different shaped stones, investigated the properties of different types of stones, and tried weaving techniques. The afternoon session moved into the bronze and iron ages, where the girls discovered how the metals were extracted, and how these new materials impacted the technological advances of the time. After learning how moulds were used to create tools, they ended the day making clay pots using traditional techniques. During a trip to the **World Museum**, Year 4 attended a special mummy workshop where they prepared an Ancient Egyptian person for the afterlife. Year 5 enjoyed a fabulous experience at **Chester Cathedral** as they took part in *Pilgrim Day*, exploring aspects of pilgrim life and learning about St. Werburgh. From making mosaic tiles to stained glass windows the girls took part in various crafts and some even had the opportunity to become choristers for the day. Whilst at the cathedral, the girls were able to view the photography travel exhibition to inspire our young photographers of



3



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1. Year 5 residential at Rhos y Gwaliau.
2. Year 6 France trip.
3. Reception trip to Chester Zoo.
4. Year 2 pond dipping at Bickley Hall Farm.
5. Year 2 at Chester Fire Station.
6. Year 5 Pilgrim Day.



5



6

the future. The girls also enjoyed trips to **Chester Zoo** as part of their work on rainforests, and **Xplore Science Museum** where, not only did the girls try their hand at a whole plethora of scientific challenges, they also explored the pH of Mars and discovered the mechanics of rocket launching. Year 6 enjoyed an exciting day at **Safety Central** in Cheshire where they learnt about staying safe on the roads, in the community, at home and online. They took part in interactive activities, such as identifying and locating hazards in the home, and they learnt how to make an emergency call. Our residential trips provide a superb opportunity for the girls to develop their teamwork and confidence even further, learning through adventure and taking controlled risks in a safe environment. Year 2 and 3 enjoyed a one-night residential trip to **Burwardsley Outdoor Education Centre** in May where they tried their hand at a host of practical outdoor activities including hammock and shelter construction, and put their collaborative skills to the test with some fun team-building games.

Year 4 had a fabulous time on a four-day residential trip to **Kingswood** in Colomendy, North Wales. They immersed themselves in every activity and had the opportunity to try many new things and learn new skills.

Year 5 spent a fantastic week at **Rhos y Gwaliau** for their residential as they all reached out of their comfort zones and challenged themselves to achieve feats they thought were impossible. From canoeing and paddling Bala Lake, to paddleboarding, gorge walking and slate mines, the staff were so impressed by their willingness to try everything and to experience each opportunity to the full.

Year 6 enjoyed a very special trip to France at the start of June, especially poignant as this was the first group to return overseas following an imposed COVID hiatus. They enjoyed a wide variety of activities and culture, including visiting a chocolaterie, trying escargot, baking bread, and crafting their own clay tiles. A magical time as their Lower School years draw to a close and they get ready to move on to Senior School.



7

7. Year 2 and 3 residential.
8. Year 3 at the Weaver Hall Museum.



8



Senior School

The academic year began with our Year 12 Sixth Form students getting the chance to learn about themselves, and about the exciting challenges that lie ahead of them, on a residential trip to **Anglesey**. They enjoyed a 24-hour stay at the **Conway Centre**, on the Menai Straits, where they took part in a range of outdoor activities and classroom-based sessions to prepare them for the big step up from GCSE to A-level. "The visit was a great chance to get to know our new classmates! We also found out about the importance of having a positive 'growth mindset' when it comes to taking on our new courses of study." - Cora, Year 12.

A fantastic few days of teamwork, fun and friendship was enjoyed by our new Year 7 girls as they headed off to Yorkshire for their residential trip at the **High Adventure Outdoor Education Centre**. Despite the rather dismal weather, the girls were all on top form and fully embraced each activity, challenging themselves to face their fears and encouraging each other along the way.

A busy October half term of trips saw staff and students head to **Salamanca, Holland** and **New York**, where they experienced language immersion and culture as well as sport experiences they will never forget.

Year 12 and 13 physics students experienced first-hand what working in a community of over 6,000 scientists from more than 80 countries would be like on a visit to **CERN** in Geneva, home of the *Large Hadron Collider* - the world's largest particle accelerator. They saw up close the sites where many of the most important discoveries in particle physics have been made and expanded their knowledge of this exciting field of physics through a range of engaging tours, talks and exhibitions. 45 girls from Years 8-13 and six members of staff enjoyed a fantastic Easter ski trip to **Cesana** in Italy. The excellent tuition meant all skiers from beginners to experts were guided through the resort's best slopes, finishing with two wonderful days in Montgenevre.

Putting theory into practice, our academic trips aim to further cement the knowledge and understanding of classroom learning, and there have been a variety of opportunities across all subjects this year. Some examples include Year 11 geography students heading out on a field trip to **Betws-Y-Coed**, collecting data, completing questionnaires and seeing first-hand the glaciated features learned in school, including corries, ribbon lakes, and U-shaped valleys.



All smiles on the Year 7 residential.



Cultural visit to Salamanca.



1. Year 8 and 9 in Barcelona.
2. Sixth Form art students at the *Tate Modern* in London.
3. Sixth Form residential.
4. Physics trip to *CERN*.
5. A fantastic trip to New York.
6. Holland hockey tour.



Year 10 and 11 art students took a trip to Liverpool to visit **Tate Liverpool** and **The Walker Art Gallery**, while Sixth Form art students travelled to London to visit **The National Gallery** and **Tate Modern**. The girls particularly enjoyed seeing the *Cezanne* exhibition and sculptures by Magdalena Abakanowicz, both which will assist their final projects.

28 Year 8 and 9 girls enjoyed a trip to **Barcelona** in May. Year 12 Spanish students had the wonderful opportunity to see the guitarist Daniel Martinez and his flamenco company perform at The Tung Auditorium, in The Yoko Ono Lennon Centre at the **University of Liverpool**. Before seeing the show, the students had a taste of Spain, enjoying tapas in a Spanish restaurant in Liverpool's City Centre. The English department took all of Year 9, 10 and 11 on a trip to **The Empire Theatre** to see *An Inspector Calls*, a book they study as part of their English course.

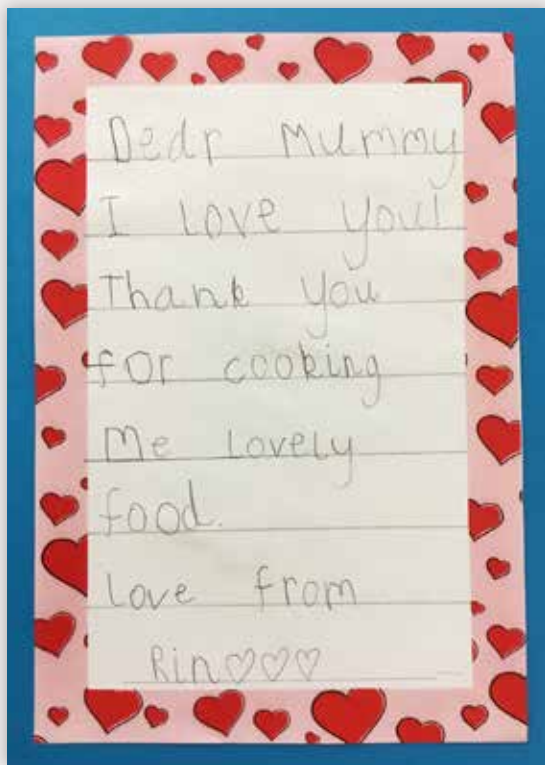
As part of *British Science Week*, Year 8 and Year 12 biologists had an exciting and informative trip

to **Chester Zoo** where each group took part in a teaching session about evolution and adaptation which are topics they were studying in their biology lessons.

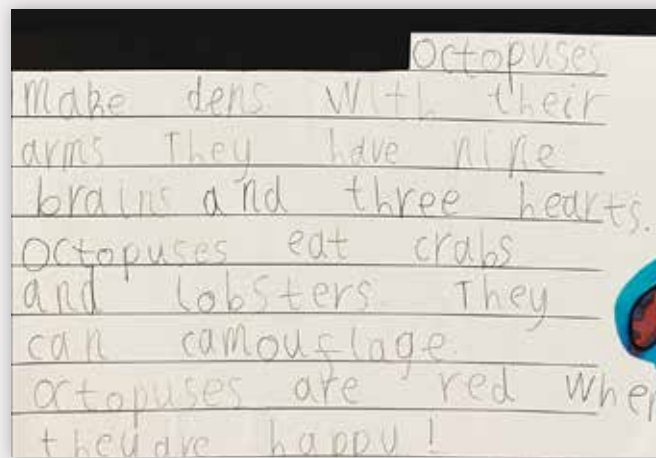
Our trips programme is an important extension to the curriculum and students benefit in so many ways from the added value they provide.



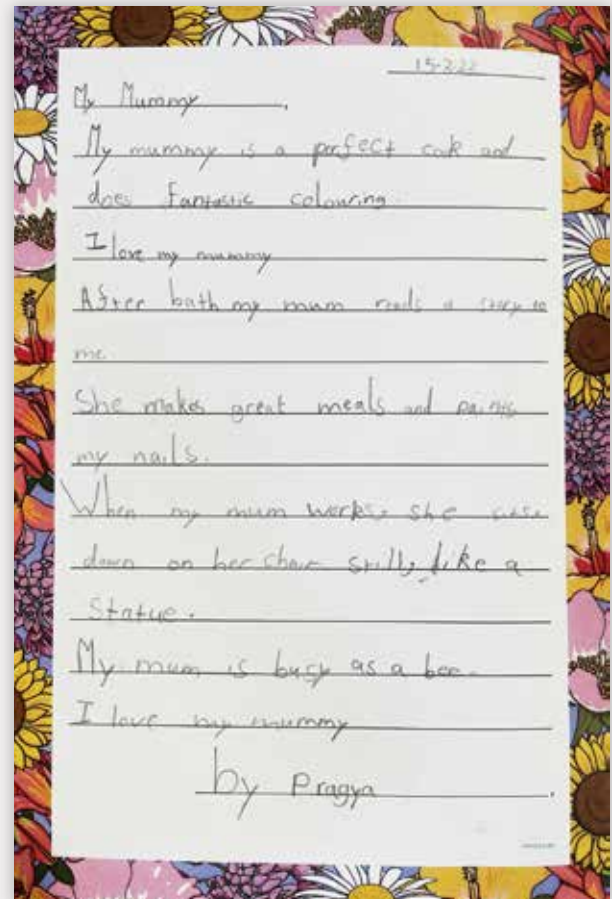
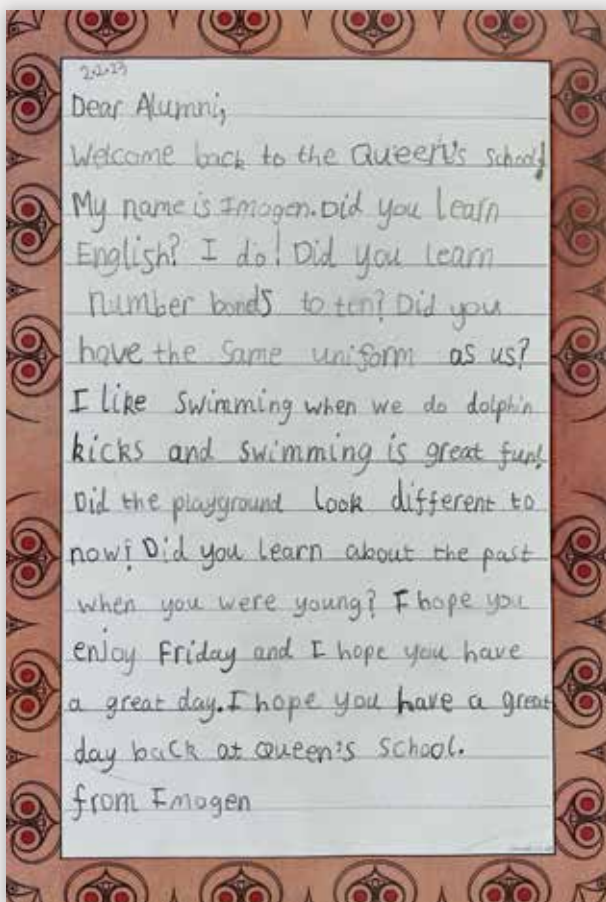
7. Geography field trip.
8. Easter ski trip to Italy.



Creative Writing




Alumni letter by Imogen Holt, Year 1



My Mummy by Pragna Dhulipalla, Year 1

If I was the King of everything I would...

1. I would make pollution stop.
2. I would make sure every pet could come into school.
3. I would make sure that everyone loved me.
4. I would make sure that the moon is made out of cheese!
5. I would make sure that everyone is rich!
6. I would make sure that all of the ropes were made out of chocolate.
7. I would make sure that there weren't any boy Barbies!
8. I would have a ladder up to the sky.
9. I would make sure that you can only wear yellow.
10. I would make sure that your teeth don't come out!



Octopuses
by Clara Holt,
Reception



Dear Chester Cathedral,
I really enjoyed being dressed as
ruins, I enjoyed looking for the
weird elephant! I learned that
there was hundreds of angels.
We were putting on the hats
and then put our heads in that
pilgrims. We put our heads
inside because there was a lady
who was a princess and she
changed her mind and she began
to be a nun, but she died, that
was very sad. Then we all started
to do glass windows so I
started to draw a skyscraper
and did some shapes, and
Mrs Bradshaw said it was
kind of good!
Thank you again,
From, Isabelle

Isabelle Han, Year 2

Dear King Charles,

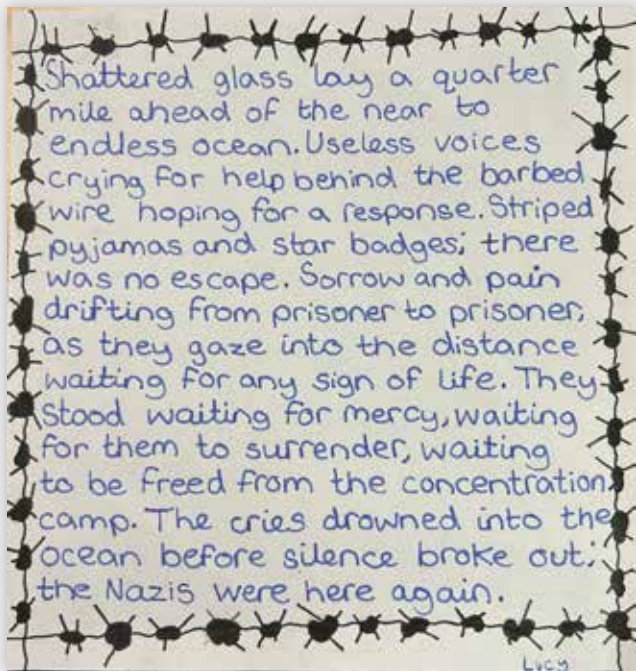
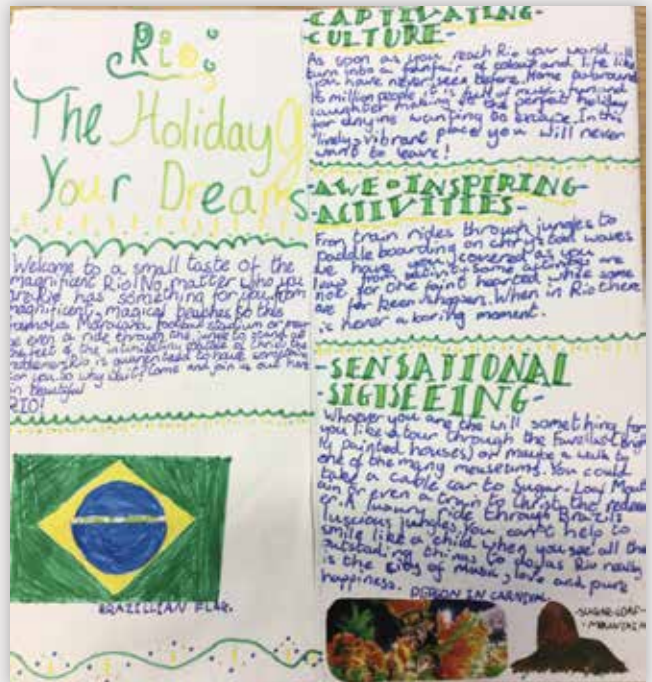
I am a lovely, good hearted woman.
To keep the church safe I have a
highly protected security. Most
poor people need good loans so we
can donate to every month. My nice
dresses will be incredibly pretty
for special occasions. My perfect
perfume will brighten up the palace
and make it smell sheer.

My plans to improve the structure
of the castle are highly recommend.
If any countries are polluted we
could make the world better for
them. We could have royal
servants but we don't have
to make them work or hard
otherwise they will struggle
with the job.

Florence Hogan, Year 3



Pippa Rajadurai, Year 5



Winnie Fielding, Year 6

Wonderland news
Walrus and Carpenter, arrested for Cannibalism!

Winnie Fielding

The scoop of the day
On the Twelfth of July, on Treasure Island beach, a Walrus and a Carpenter were found devouring 16 little oysters to satisfy their hunger, luring them away from their poor, unsuspecting Mother.

Passing by on Treasure Island beach, to witness this tragic event, was the Mad Hatter, the March Hare, and the Door mouse. They were immediately asked for quotes as witnesses. In their sadness, the Door Mouse and the March Hare stayed silent, quietly putting jam on each other's noses. But the Mad Hatter said, "Yes, very tragic indeed. Is it your Unbirthday today? A very merry Unbirthday..."

The pair resisted their arrest, creating havoc across all of Wonderland, and eventually reaching Tweedle dum and Tweedle dee.

The noisy beetles immediately contacted Her Majesty, The Queen of Hearts.

While arriving as fast as she could, the Walrus and the Carpenter were still fighting the police. After two hours of arguing, the Carpenter physically assaulted the Wonderland police and the Dodo, who works for Wonderland News and was reporting at the time. He is now, unfortunately, hospitalized.

When the Queen of Hearts arrived, the Walrus had already got his gun ready, making sure it wouldn't be off with his head.

Unfortunately, Our Great Queen is now deceased, for the Walrus has stabbed her, creating a fatal wound. This is a sorrowful day, and the King is outraged.

The Dodo may be able to recover, but the Mother Oyster's broken heart will never heal. "I don't know what I will do without my children. I told them not to go, I knew there was something off about that Walrus."

These horrible criminals are now imprisoned, but will Wonderland ever be the same?

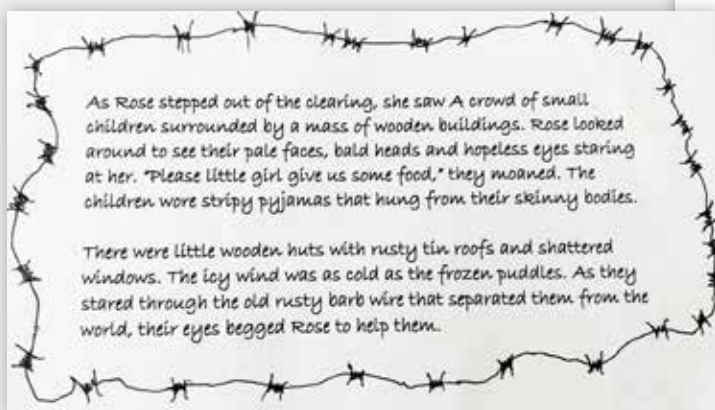
Find out about the drastic changes across Wonderland on page nine!

The scoop of the day
The latest updates
Megan Nelson
Winnie Fielding
Mia Rice and Isla finally get married!
Page 6

The scoop of the day
The latest updates
Winnie Fielding
Winnie is deemed the most amazing, brilliant eleven-year-old Queen ever in assembly. Details on page 21.
Page 11

The scoop of the day
The latest updates
Winnie Fielding
Albert Inside the Queen's Lower School and gives everyone free Ice cream, Disney Merchandise in the Classroom, and two lessons for the rest of the day.
Page 22

Lucy Petrie, Year 6



Sienna Bennett, Year 6

The Last Time

Rebekah Shuler, Year 7

I can still remember the first time I stood there. High above the audience with the bright stage lights blinding me. The waiting before, as I climbed up and hid in the shadows. The deafening drum roll before I was introduced. The silence as I fell...

Waiting backstage, there was always a hum of noise. Speakers playing music along the entrance path, microphones in the Big Top, people getting costumes and make-up done. Life in the circus isn't for everyone, but it was for me.

My whole life had been building up to that moment. Hours of endless practice. I practised walking across the tightropes, doing tricks, walking over sharks, walking with people watching. Everything. Everything that might go wrong. Everything that could happen. Everything.

Finally, on the night of my 13th birthday I was ready. The stage was set. I had my costume on; I had practised a million times. Climbing up the ladder, the nerves kicked in and the reality of it all made me stop halfway up. The ground was so far away.

Once I'd reach the top, I knew everything would be fine. At least, I thought I knew. Nothing could have prepared me for that night.

The music began. The drum roll began. My name was called out. Stepping out into the light, I smiled and waved like I'd been taught to. It was all put on though - inside I was dreading it as I looked over at the walk of doom.

As the lights dimmed, I faced the tightrope. The sharks down below thrashed around the water, churning it up. The tightrope was as thin as a ruler and it seemed to be calling to me. Placing my foot on the rope, I heard the music. The song I was supposed to dance to. The song someone have chosen for me. The song that I had heard thousands of times. The song that my body automatically wanted to dance to.

My performance was perfect until I was 10 metres away from the end and someone in the audience shouted out. They told me to do a front handspring. In training I was told to always do what the audience said. I couldn't do it. It was the only thing I couldn't do on the tightrope, but I had to do it.

I attempted the front hand-spring and I landed it. Everyone was cheering, and in my head my parents were as well. That was when it failed. It had put me off rhythm and when I tried to move, I couldn't.

Instead of moving forward, I fell. I fell down and down, getting closer and closer and closer to the shark pit.

Then it all went black.

Spring

Sophia Sandhu, Year 7

Just like spring,
She is a breath of fresh air,
Breaking the cold spell of
winter with her flair.
Waking after a long rest,
Her eyes full of hope,
Her voice as sweet as the bird
song of goldcrest.

Just like spring,
Her generosity is limitless,
Much like a bountiful harvest.
Mother nature at its best.
Her dazzling smile is like the
morning sun,
Promising a new beginning, a
new dawn.

Just like spring,
She gives us hope and
reminds us of the new
Possibilities.
When we despair,
Oh, the sweet joy that she
spreads,
The magic that she weaves
By just being there.



Alone and Invisible

By Amelie Curtis, Year 7

I feel afraid to step outside.
Nobody even notices me.
People walk through me every day.
Nobody even knows I am here.

Words pass through my skin.
I hear the crashing noise of footsteps,
Coming closer, closer,
Till there is nothing there.

I walk up to people to talk
But words pull me back.
I feel as if I am a ghost
And nobody can see me.

I hear the banging of locker doors,
Slamming one after the other
Like a song, note after note,
Until silence.

I feel alone.
I know I am alone,
But I don't want to believe it.
Invisible. Betrayed. Alone.

Trapped - Gracie Oliver, Year 7

They were trapped. Stuck. They did not know how long they had been there, or how much longer they would have to stay.

The icy wind blew fear into their hearts as they huddled close together, grasping onto the little warmth they had. The fire had long since gone out, and all of them knew there was no point in making another one. It would have no chance of surviving in the blizzard that they were lost in.

The mission had gone well at first, the group had navigated through the icy plains, setting up camp in the night, and singing jolly songs around the campfire. But then the storms came, then the frostbite, then the feelings of lost hope. And when the hope stopped, the warmth and the singing around the campfire stopped as well-drowned out by the howl of the raging wind. The group were now huddled together like penguins in the deep snow.

"I want to go home..." someone hoarsely whispered. All of the explorers silently agreed.



Here Comes Spring

Megan Smith, Year 7

Walking into the wide, open, free field,
The girl's hair flails.
Like the cool wind
Blowing in the warm air,
Her footsteps pressing deep into the
colourful grass.

Here Comes Spring

Her eyes open,
Like the elegant flowers blooming up
On the green surface.
A smile emerges on her shining face,
Like the sun coming up after a long,
Dark, cold winter.

Here Comes Spring.

Contagion Creek

Ruby Piddington, Year 13

The phone beeped as Kitty Olthwaite replaced the receiver on the seventh call from Tiverton police station in the last five months. She sighed as she turned off the television and sat up straight in her armchair that was carefully positioned to look out across the endless fields that would slightly change colour through the seasons. She had retired four years ago now, but she still received the occasional business call on the landline from ex-colleagues who would interrupt her afternoon tea with the book club or delay the midday dog walk in the local park. It seemed like this day was to be no different.

Kitty had been contacted, once again, by the Deputy Chief Inspector at Tiverton and she nodded slowly as she fixated on the words spilling from the phone. Although the information was certainly shocking for a quiet corner of Yorkshire that was mostly visited by sheep and the occasional hiker, she did not react with shock. Yet every so often there would be a slight eyebrow raise or a comprehending sip of tea or the odd note jotted down on the back of her much-abused 'Queen's Jubilee' notepad.

On completing the call, she transferred her notes to a small, black pocket-sized book and headed out into a hallway lined with old photos and the vintage nick-nacks that she had collected from charity shops and her distant family's Christmas presents that she had never got round to throwing away. Today, Kitty had little time to lose. She grabbed a dark green, padded coat and the keys to her car and made a beeline out into the nippy autumn breeze. She crunched through a path blanketed with browning leaves and bordered by the final summer flowers in the garden to her thatched cottage.

The drive to the river was a familiar one but still just as beautiful as the first time she navigated it, twenty-seven years before, nearly to the day. The roads down there were a mishmash of cobbles and stones that were compressed into the earth from many years of bikes passing and people walking. It was just wide enough for her timeless mini (that was well known throughout the village) to squeeze through. The drive to the river was fringed with fields that spanned as far as the eye could see. Blood red

maple and rowan leaves had fallen within the last few weeks from the trees and sat thickly on the verges.

The sight at the river was not quite as pretty. In the water, directly beneath the bridge that Kitty had walked over many times, lay the body of Daniel Rushton, a local businessman. Kitty had met him on a couple of occasions. He had retired here to keep horses and had made himself known in the village post office and pub with his endless talk of racing.

"Kit is that you? Thank god you're here!"

The voice was a frantic but familiar. It was a younger woman in police uniform, named Jennifer. In her mid-thirties, she was one of the several that Kitty had trained before she retired.

"You remember Rushton. We got a call just over an hour ago. One of the residents from Strychnine Terrace saw him like this on his run." Blue and white police tapes were up, guarding the once peaceful spot that was now attracting curious neighbours. Dotted behind the police lines, a few of them were now crying down the phone. There were only a couple of police officers and detectives. They all knew Kitty and were thankful to finally have her input on the case. She ducked under the tape and onto the riverbank where she looked downwards into the stream and saw a sight that even in her own forty year career she had never seen. The body was face upward in the rivulet with his head and shoulders up on the bank and his legs and the rest of his torso submerged under the weak currents, creating an island in the water. She stepped closer and saw his hands had wrinkled. His face was swollen and there was a white foam that was coming from his mouth that had mostly been washed away by the water. After a few minutes of looking from the top of the bank, she straightened up, in no rush. Clicking her neck, she turned to face the other officers at the scene.

"He has been poisoned."

The Dressmaker's Pattern - Orla Jervis, Year 13

I heard a knock at my door. This didn't happen often, considering my office was tucked away at the end of Holborn Avenue, in a part of downtown where it was possible to rent a single room without management fees and still have a secretary downstairs. Standing in the passageway was a slight, rather attractive chap. He wore jet black, slicked back hair and smelled and looked clean. The gentleman nodded a greeting and stepped in the doorway. He had an expensive felt hat in his hand, a lengthy beige coat and a walking cane regardless of him being in absence of a limp.

'Good Evening, Detective. Mr Thomas Jones.' He put out his hand and gave me a surprisingly powerful handshake. 'I have come to make an inquiry.'

I introduced myself although he was already quite sure who he was talking to.

'You gave some help to a friend of mine - a Mr Whistler. I need you to perform a similar service for me.'

The fact was that I had helped Mr Whistler eight months ago when his wife had barrelled out on him with a younger but certainly not prettier mobster. I wasn't keen for the same job again.

'My wife works in a dressmaker and retailers on the parade - Madame Trésors. She doesn't seem to spend a lot of time there just now. I ask the shop girls where she is. They say she has gone off with Mr Ashley for a business meeting.'

Ashley, for some time according to Jones, had helped out with some big purchases for the shop. Now it seemed she wanted to help him out.

Jones pulled out a roll of bills from his briefcase, tied together with a double wrapped elastic band. He placed it on the table together with a box of Por Larraña cigars.

'I really could use your assistance.'

I hadn't smoked a Por Larraña cigar since my uncle's wedding when I was twelve. Despite my better instincts, I agreed. Mr Jones left back through my office door promptly.

An hour later, I was on the road to Mr Ashley's place in my 1955 Chevy Bel Air. I arrived in Canton and left my car at the bottom of the long, paved driveway. As I made my way to the

entrance, I had already been greeted by the bobbing heads of an array of different sized garden sculpture flamingos. All were shaking their beaks at me in the windy evening. I hoped they didn't know something I didn't. The door itself was giant and black and I tried the hefty, gold lion knocker. No reply. Something made me give the door a push and I sure enough it swung open backwards displaying a broad view of the grand hallway.

The floor was a rich veined marble, pristinely clean and gave off the smell of a powerful chemical as well. Expensive looking oil paintings decorated the hallway - a couple of them portraits. Several doors were open showing grand pieces of Louis XIV furniture. One room had its own bar complete with some classic scotches. This was a man with fine tastes. Despite the multiple marble fireplaces - the house was unusually cold. Despite my occasional shivers, I could at least understand why Mrs Jones might like the occasional afternoon here. It was clear nobody had been in residence for at least a couple of days. I even called out for Mr Ashley a couple times as I continued to stroll into Mr Ashley's office. I stopped myself the minute I stepped inside: he was sat upright, a bullet hole to his left temple. A whiskey tumbler sat on the mahogany wood desk, an inch from where his hand lay, still half full. This wasn't something that Mr Jones' advance had paid me for. I don't do crime investigations.

Before I left any evidence of my presence, I decided to exit the way I entered back through the front door. Nobody was on the street so I went to the phone box which was a few hundred yards up towards the city. I dialled and asked for the operator, then the Strawberry Street police station. I was put through to a desk sergeant who spoke like he had a mouthful of gravel.

'I just stopped by 224 Trebanche Boulevard!' My voice had unaccountably switched to a high-pitched squawk, but I kind of liked it. There was no answer and I'm very worried for Mr Ashley!

The Box

Charlotte Edwards, Year 7

This girl is a box:
Plain on the outside,
Hollow on the inside.
You can dress her up
And fill her up.
But underneath it all
Is plainness
And emptiness.

She is a Rose

Elsie Mugridge, Year 7

A blood-red patch in a
wall of green,
The rose stands.
Her head bobs up and
down in the wind,
Her deep and heavenly
aroma drawing you under
her spell.

But underneath,
But underneath, the
layers of delicate ruby
petals,
The truth lies:
Her thorns full of spite,
Her thought full of envy,
This rose is dangerous.
A blood-red patch in a
wall of green,
The rose stands.

1. Argentinian students visit Year 10-13.
2. French and Spanish themed menu to celebrate *European Day of Languages*.
3. Fun for Reception learning about Chinese New Year.



GLOBAL CITIZENS

Strengthening knowledge and understanding

Our language departments have been as busy as ever this year, strengthening links and putting language skills into practice with our partner schools abroad, as well as celebrating events and providing linguistic and cultural experiences for all.

European Day of Languages was celebrated with a variety of House quizzes including a 'guess which members of staff speak foreign languages' and have lived abroad. Our fantastic catering staff served French and Spanish dishes, with the girls encouraged to order in French and Spanish, and the menu was written in both languages.

The French department has been meeting fortnightly with its partner school in Gabon to do group speaking activities. Students have been having proper conversations in French and English, discussing a variety of topics, and it has been a fantastic opportunity to further develop their language skills.

Our Mandarin students celebrated the *Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival*, also known as the *Moon Festival* or

Mooncake Festival. It is a traditional festival celebrated in Chinese culture and has over 3,000 years of history as one of the most important holidays in China.

The girls were treated with a taste of mooncakes - a traditional dish that signifies togetherness with family and friends - and Chinese tea, as well as a poetry competition for Years 8 and above.

Reception had a fantastic time learning about *Chinese New Year* and had lots of things to play with and explore, including the amazing lion dance costume and mini puppets, monkey drums, lucky packets, paper toys, and chopsticks. The girls enjoyed tasting Chinese food, making lanterns and rabbit art, and produced some wonderful writing about the animals in the *Chinese Zodiac* race.

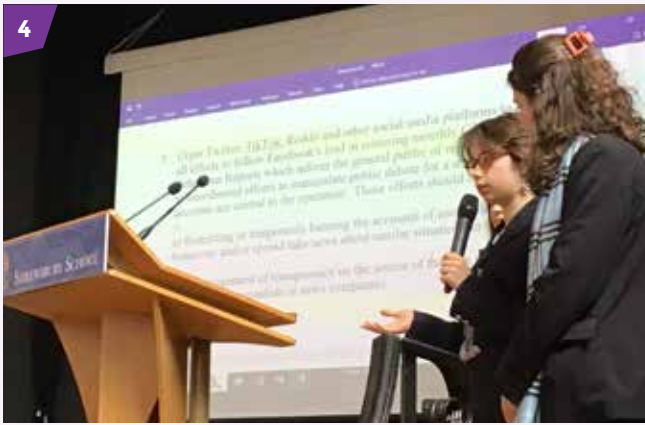
Years 10 to 13 got the opportunity to practice their Spanish in conversation with a group of Argentinian students, who were visiting all the way from Buenos Aires to course studies in 'English in Chester'. Through a 'speed dating' activity, they chatted in English and in Spanish about topics related to youth culture and life in Argentina. They learnt about the differences in school life and in customs, which linked with the topics that they cover in their Spanish curriculum.



Secretary General Dora Kerpicci and Head of Chairs Anoushka Paymaster-Thatcher with guest speaker Maria Gaboyan.

"Our fantastic catering staff served French and Spanish dishes, with the girls encouraged to order in French and Spanish."

4

4. Queen's students presenting at *Shrewsbury MUN*.5. *QMUN-2* guest speaker Maria Gaboy.

5



Educating and Empowering

Q-MUN 2

We were delighted to kick off a strong year of *MUN* with *Q-MUN*, the conference hosted by Queen's, which showed *Model United Nations* at its best on its return. A total of 140 students from Queen's and a range of other schools from the North West were involved in a whole variety of roles.

120 delegates took part in diplomatic negotiation and debate across six committees, on topics as diverse as the death penalty, the Taiwan-China conflict, and the situation in Afghanistan. Queen's delegations included a mix of first-time and experienced MUNers from Years 9-12.

Secretary General **Dora Kerpicci** in Year 13, and Head of Chairs **Anoushka Paymaster Thatcher** in Year 12, oversaw and coordinated the work of the *Chairs of Debate*, a team made up Queen's students, guest chairs from other schools plus alumnae **Hannah McDonald** and **Mihika Vishwesh**. It was lovely to see MUNers past and present being brought together by a shared enthusiasm!

Under Dora and Anoushka's leadership, the Chairs team developed a *Crisis Scenario*, produced a script for a *Crisis Briefing* video, filmed it in collaboration with the *Press Team*, and produced *Crisis Briefing Papers* for the delegates.

An eight-strong *Press Team* of Queen's students from Years 8, 10 and 11 was tasked with taking footage of the day and produced a newsletter and a video for the closing ceremony.

The day began with an inspirational speech by **Maria Gaboyan**, who works in international investigations - a little-known area that, however, has clear links with the interests that drive our students to become involved with *MUN*: international affairs, politics, diplomacy and global justice.

Queen's *MUN* coordinator **Dr Scherer** said: "*Q-MUN* is an entirely student-led collaborative venture simulating a diplomatic summit at the *UN*. I am extremely proud of all the girls involved in running the event who have worked so hard to make it a success. There are so many benefits to being involved in *MUN* - skills such as independence and self-motivation, confidence and public speaking that are so crucial in the modern workplace. Well done girls!"

Stonyhurst MUN

In January, 14 students attended *Stonyhurst College's MUN* conference in Clitheroe. The team included 12 delegates, drawn from Years 10 and 11, representing Albania and the USA, as well as Sixth Form students **Dora Kerpicci** and **Cora Turner**, who had been invited to act as guest-chairs in the *Political and Education Committees*.

MUN offers so many benefits and opportunities, and this weekend was no different. Over diplomatic negotiation and attempts to solve some pressing issues in international politics, horizons were broadened through thorough research, confidence was built in public speaking and polite but rigorous debate, values were cultivated such as open-mindedness, tolerance and appreciation of diversity, awareness was sharpened of inequality and ethical injustices and ways explored of rectifying them, and - last but not least - friendships were formed and deepened between like-minded students brought together by shared interests.

"*Stonyhurst MUN* was an amazing experience. Not only was it useful for building confidence and public communication skills, but also for making friends and feeling a sense of community within each committee." - **Zara Islip** and **Elsie Gray**, Year 11.

ShrewsMUN

Another traditional milestone of our *MUN* season was reached when 14 students headed to Shrewsbury School to take part in their annual *ShrewsMUN*.

Our team - all of them experienced MUNers - represented Russia and Pakistan in a range of committees, debating topics as varied as the increasing role of AI in conflicts, child trafficking, human capital flight from developing countries, and China's belt and road initiative.

The weekend was enjoyed by all. The quality of the debate was high, the *Committee Chairs* effective and authoritative, the organisation of the conference flawless, and the team spirit palpable. Saturday evening saw delegates come together once again for the *Delegate's Dance* and a buffet dinner.

Kitty Solan (representing Pakistan) was commended in the *Human Rights Committee* and **Melita Peel** (representing Russia) received a Special Mention in the *Health and Social Committee*.

1. Year 6 charity book sale.
2. KS2 supporting *Children in Need*.



GIVING BACK

Making a difference

Girls at Queen's are encouraged to give something back to society. Pupils participate in charity fundraising events throughout the year and we support a wide range of causes. Students enjoy the sense of achievement that comes with reaching a fundraising goal, making a difference or simply making someone smile, and this, in turn, helps with their understanding of effort and reward.

It also enables our pupils to engage with real-world issues, make a positive impact, and foster a sense of community, helping them develop into caring and responsible citizens.

There were plenty of superb odd socks on display at the Lower School as the girls supported raising awareness of **anti-bullying week**. They ended the week with an array of spots and *Pudsey* ears as we showed our support and fundraising for **Children in Need**. At the Senior School, a non-uniform day and loose change House competition was held. In the run-up to Christmas we collected once again

for local foodbanks. We are so grateful to everyone who donated to our Lower School foodbank collection for **West Cheshire Foodbank**. In total, 234 kilos of food was donated! The Senior School collected for **Crossroads Community Hub** to help those families in need of some extra support at Christmas. Well done to **Jess Harding** in Year 13 who organised this once again.

Our **Macmillan cake sale** is always a highlight of the fundraising calendar and we were once again overwhelmed by the quality of the cakes baked and donated to the annual event. The House competition certainly brought out the creative side of the girls and we were treated to some spectacular cakes as they all competed for those important House points. We were extremely lucky to be able to have alumna and *'Bake Off'* finalist **Steph Blackwell** to judge the competition. A huge well done to all the girls who baked and donated cakes.



Odd socks day at the Lower School.

Girls celebrate and support *Children In Need*.



3. Queen's staff take part in *Race for Life*.
4. Macmillan cake sale at the Senior School.
5. Food bank collection at the Lower School.
6. Jess Harding organised another successful foodbank collection at the Senior School.



House Results

- Winner Thompson
- 2nd Place Sandford
- 3rd Place Westminster
- 4th Place Hastings

Valentine's Day was celebrated at the Senior School by having a Valentine's themed own-clothes day and a chocolate tombola. The day was a huge success raising money for **Clatterbridge Cancer Centre**. Year 6 organised a book sale and a bake sale at the Lower School just before the Easter break, fundraising for the charity **Blood Cancer UK**. They communicated with all families, encouraging them to donate a range of bakes and books to support the event, and were inundated with support. Both events were a huge success! Leading by example, a team of Queen's staff took part in the **Delamere Race for Life** in May, raising awareness and vital funds to fight cancer. Charity fundraising goes beyond monetary contributions; it plays a vital role in shaping character, values, and perspectives. Our students learn the

importance of empathy, teamwork, gratitude, and leadership, and develop crucial life skills that prepare them for the future and cultivate a sense of responsibility towards their communities. We are proud to be nurturing the next generation of compassionate and socially conscious girls who will make a lasting impact on the world.

"Charity fundraising goes beyond monetary contributions; it plays a vital role in shaping character, values, and perspectives."



Winning cakes entered into the House competition.



1

1-2. Duke of Edinburgh prep ahead of exhibitions.

3. CCF Kinmel Army Camp.



2

3

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Co-curricular benefits

Our extensive co-curricular programme provides students with opportunities to boost their confidence, develop new skills, expand knowledge, and meet new friends. All students are expected and encouraged to take part in a variety of co-curricular sessions as they play a significant role in overall character development. They also offer important time to have fun and relax away from the academic side of school. Our co-curricular programme evolves all the time to adapt to our student cohort and many girls lead and run clubs themselves if it doesn't already exist, further developing their leadership and organisational skills.

■ Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

During the October half term, Year 12 student **Lili Jones** completed the prestigious **Master Cadet programme** at Cadet Headquarters Frimley Park, near London. This is a challenging programme, which aims to broaden and develop the leadership of 4-star cadets, who take part in planning and executing battle exercises, complete arduous runs carrying logs and obstacle courses, have a very good knowledge of marching drills, navigation and fieldcraft such as weapons, and be able to plan and teach cadet lessons. We have also had much success on SCIC courses, our **Senior Cadet Instructor Cadre**, which were passed with great aplomb by **Kirsten Robertson, Caroline Johnson** and **Cora Turner**. Promotions to Sergeant for all four cadets followed. In November, Year 9 took part in their annual **Skill at Arms Day**, practicing their weapons drills ready to complete their weapons handling test in the afternoon. All the girls were brilliant and passed, meaning they were able to fire the cadet rifle on future camps. Learning about the cadet rifle is a

large part of the cadet experience and the adult instructors were very impressed by the concentration of our girls and their drive to improve. Queen's cadets represented the contingent at the **Chester Remembrance Parade** in November, giving them the opportunity and the honour to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms. Despite the cold winds and wet grey weekend in March, our



Lili Jones at the Master Cadet Programme.

cadets rose to the occasion and had a thoroughly enjoyable and successful time on the 25m Ranges at **Kinmel Army Camp**. As well as firing the cadet rifle - the first time for most and certainly the first time with live rounds - cadets also completed a navigation exercise and camouflage lesson where they learned the skills of stalking the enemy. A number of our younger cadets completed their two-day **Bronze Level National Navigation Award** in the Clwydian Hills in October and March. Learning new navigation techniques such as catching features, pacing, using bearings and how to measure distances on a map, as well as emergency procedures and about how to be respectful of the countryside. Successful weekends of exploring, learning and achieving.

Easter Camp at Swynnerton Army Camp combined cadets from both RAF and Army sections and gave our newly appointed Sergeants a chance to use their leadership skills. Long days and busy evenings included battle preparations, drill, platoon-level attacks and the taking apart and cleaning of all the cadet rifles! The final evening involved a pop quiz with hot chocolate and the last day had the fun of paintballing before heading home exhausted, both cadets and staff!

RAF cadets **Olivia Steele** and **Kitty Solan** were delighted to attend a flying experience day at **RAF Woodvale** where they had their first airborne trip in a Grob Tutor Aircraft, and took to the skies above Stockport. At the time of writing, Year 9 are looking forward to **Exercise Bronze Fox** at Altcar Army Camp, and cadets will take part in **Army and RAF Summer Camps**.

Mrs Dawson



■ Duke of Edinburgh Award

This year has seen pupils across the School sign up for their bronze, silver or gold *Duke of Edinburgh* award programmes.

All expedition participants took part in training sessions held within the School grounds this March. April and May 2023 saw them complete their practice expedition, followed by their qualifying expeditions in June.

Our pupils have volunteered their time with such a variety of organisations this past year, such as charity shops, libraries, museums, sporting groups, zoos and animal sanctuaries. It has been impressive how everyone has worked selflessly to benefit others through their chosen volunteering activity. It is gratifying to see that the work undertaken by our pupils has benefitted a wide range of people of varying ages and needs across our region.

New skills have been gained at lifesaving, chess, drawing, cooking, learning to drive, to sing, to play the flute and piano. Acting, drama and theatre skills were very popular amongst our participants, reflecting our talented community at the Queen's School.

Physical sections have included lacrosse, badminton, yoga, triathlon, fencing and rowing.

It is fantastic to see the range of physical activities that our pupils participate in, such as climbing, ballet, ice skating, horse riding, hockey and karate. At Gold level there is also the residential section where, over the past 12 months, sixth formers have taken part in *NCS*, the *National Citizen Service*, volunteered with wildlife projects in this country and abroad, contributed to Scout Jamborees and furthered their own learning at university summer schools. The Award has always allowed young people to evidence their commitment, resilience and depth of character through completing each section independently. I continue to be impressed with the tenacity and work ethic of the girls who have completed and are continuing to work on the Award at each level. At the time of writing, there are many more girls who have signed up for the next level of the Award and I look forward to celebrating their achievements on their successful completion in the future.

Mrs Simpson

■ Completers May 2022 – May 2023

Bronze: **Esmé Graham-Palmer, Kate Longden, Lucy Mackay, Melita Peel and Gowri Shetty.**

Silver: **Indiya Abel, Aarthy Aravind, Isabella Barnes, Millie Bellis, Alicia Dixon, Isabella Iles, Zara Islip, Shreya Jauhari, Alys Kerfoot, Jessica Reed, Kirsten Robertson, Tallulah Tilley and Antonia Young.**

Gold: **Amy Agnew, Aarthy Aravind, Anna Karlakki, Harriet Luff, Anna McBurney, Holly Mulligan, Emma Shortall and Willow Waggott.**

Co-Curricular Clubs

Lower School Clubs 2022-2023

Art Club, Athletics, Ballet, Ball Games, Book Club, Computing/iPads, Construction Club, Dance, Digital Photography Club, Drawing Club, Dressing Up Club, Football, Hockey, iMovie Club, Lego, Netball, Nightingales Choir, Mindfulness, Orchestra, Outdoor Craft, Playground Games, Queen's Young Journalists, Queen's Young Voices Choir, Quiz Club, Rounders, Sewing Club, Skipping, Songbirds Choir, Spanish, Super Storytellers, Swimming, Tennis, Tabletop Games, Winter Crafts, Yoga.

Senior School Clubs 2022-2023

CREATIVE – Brass Ensemble, Calligraphy Club, Chamber Choir, Clarinet Ensemble, Drama Fun, Drama Production, Epic Drama, Flute Ensemble, Junior Choir, Junior Orchestra, Knitting Club, Oboe Ensemble, Origami Club, Saxophone Ensemble, Senior Art Workshops, Senior Choir, Senior Ensemble, Senior Orchestra, String Ensemble, Textiles Club, Ukulele Group.

SPORT – Athletics, Badminton, Cricket, Football, Gym, Hockey, Just Dance, Karate, Netball, Rounders, Rugby, Running, Tennis, Yoga.

ACADEMIC – Academic Discussion, AS Biology Revision, Astronomy, Beginners Greek, BMAT/UKCAT, Chess Club, Creative Writing, CREST, Film Making, French Conversation, Intermediate Greek, Junior Debating, Kahoot Club, Language Disco, Maths Challenge, Med Soc, MUN, Philosothon, Psych Soc, Senior Debating, Spanish Club, Spanish Translation, Study Clubs.

CULTURAL – Book Club, Code Club, CCF, DofE, Eco Club, Economics Society, Gardening Club, Global Connections, History Film Club, International Cinema Club, International Culture Club, Literary Lunch, Minecraft Club, Politics Society, SAGA, Quiz Club, Worldwide.



1. U14 hockey team.
2. U16 hockey squad and family.
3. U12 National Plate Champions.



SPORT

Sporting achievements

■ Hockey

It has been an incredibly successful year for hockey not just in a competitive sense but with how many new players have stepped up and represented The Queen's School both on the local school circuit and also in county and national competitions. It has been great to see the older girls coming along to assist with delivering coaching sessions and helping to pass on their experience to the younger girls who may be starting hockey for the very first time.

The year has seen girls from Year 5 up to Year 13 representing the school in a mixture of friendly fixtures, testing our skills and teamwork against local schools as well as in **The National Schools Cup** and **The Independent Schools Cup** fixtures. Below is a summary of just some of the successes. The **Stockport U10 invitational tournament** gave the Year 5 girls their first taste of competitive hockey and allowed them to showcase their talent, develop great teamwork and an understanding of the basic rules of hockey.

Year 6 hockey started off the year with the **Moreton Hall Invitational tournament** and came away runners up, missing out on 1st place due to goal difference.

Our U14s 11-a-side team have played some excellent hockey and were unbeaten in the **Chester & District tournament**, missing out on 1st by goal difference.

They also qualified for the **Cheshire County finals** and came away with a great 3rd place, showing some really positive team play.

Our U15 team have had great opportunities to showcase their ability in some very competitive fixtures in the **Independent Schools Hockey Cup (ISHC)**. They beat Stockport Grammar 6-0 in round 1 and were unlucky to lose 2-1 in extra time to AKS Lytham in round 2.

The U15 team also competed in the **U16 Cheshire Indoor Championship** due to Year 11 having another event on, and became County Champions a year early, with some excellent individual performances that led to a great team performance. U15 squad: **Alicia Johnstone, Aster McCann, Chloe Roberts, Elena Lyons, Emily Owen, Francesca Barnes, Lucy Mackay, Martha Fletcher, Martha Kerfoot** and **Tilly Dempsey**,

After a great start to the season, the U16s continued to build on their success and progressed all the way to the **Tier 1 National Schools Finals**, beating Altrincham 4-2 in round 3 and Sedbergh 5-1 in the 4th round. Unfortunately, they lost to St John's Leatherhead in the quarterfinals, but it was a great achievement to be competing against these schools when comparing sports setups.

The team also travelled to Repton for the **National Schools' Indoor Finals**, once again competing on the national stage against the best sporting schools in the country. They finished the indoor season as the 8th ranked school team in the country.

Using the success from both the indoor and outdoor National Championships, the girls had the opportunity to compete at **Cheshire School's County Championship** and show that they were the best in the county. After a great tournament they came away with 1st after not losing a game across the five matches they played to get there. U16 squad: **Alexa Byrne, Alicia Johnstone, Aster McCann, Emily Hunt, Abigail Jeavons, Chloe Roberts, Elena Lyons, Emily Owen, Francesca Barnes, Martha Fletcher, Manon Wagenaar, Ruby Whysall, Tilly Dempsey** and **Lucy Mackay**.

The U18 team had some great matches this year and really showed themselves well, finishing the season with a 75% win rate in the matches they played. They highlighted the skills and teamwork that will have developed over their time playing hockey at Queen's. It was great to see them getting involved in indoor hockey as well as it is a very different sport and they adapted well to it.

This hockey season has also seen some great individual successes with a large number of girls being selected to attend regional performance centers with England and Wales Hockey. It is great to see so many of the girls making their way into the beginning stages of elite hockey and we cannot wait to see what the future holds for them and their hockey career.

Manchester Performance Centre - Aster McCann, Lucy

Year 6 hockey team.





4. Year 6 netballers at a tournament.



5. Year 3 at their first ever netball match.



Mackay, Abigail Jeavons, Emily Hunt and Emma Shorthall North Wales Regional Performance Centre - Matilda Dempsey

Year 10 and 11 thoroughly enjoyed a hockey tour to **Holland** that took place during October half term.

The results of the 2 matches were:

Match 1: vs Eersel Hockey Club won 2 - 1.

Match 2: vs Alphen Hockey Club won 4 - 1.

As well as the hockey played, the girls had a number of training sessions, went to watch a high level hockey match, along with some sightseeing and shopping opportunities. Everyone who went on the hockey tour had a great experience and we all wish we could go back and do it all again!

■ **Netball**

There has been so much success across the board for our netball teams this year and it has been wonderful to see our Year 1 and 2 girls taking part in netball club as well as the inter-house competition. Year 3 and 4 have also played friendly matches for the first time and are the youngest teams Queen's have ever had playing netball!

Year 4 were plate winners in the **ISA Netball tournament** and the **AJIS Netball tournament**. All pupils participated in the **Packwood Netball Festival** with the A team winning all matches - scoring 30 goals and only conceding 2! Year 4A- **Arabella Roberts, Jemima Morris-Yousaf, Anabelle Lipscombe, Eva Lowry, Rosie Broome, Raynee Rataphaet, Sophie Boyle and Annabel Heath**.

Three Year 6 teams have competed in a range of friendlies with lots of girls also joining local netball clubs. The A team have won all but one of their friendly fixtures, and the B and C teams have played some successful netball matches with a mix of wins and losses.



Year 5 netball team.

Year 6A secured 3rd place in the plate competition at the **AJIS netball tournament**, with the B team as bowl winners. The A team also celebrated 2nd place in **Chester Schools League** and were semi-finalists in **Cheshire Schools High-5 tournament**.

Year 6A team - **Isla Santos Hewitt, Tiamii Roberts, Minnie Wildes, Josie Tunnicliffe, Alicia Morris-Yousaf, Imogen Lowry, Emily Singleton, Amélie-Rose Godley and Sienna Brittan**.

Year 6B/C - **Lucy Petrie, Valentina Watkin, Mala Ellis, Eva Gilhooley, Josie Tunnicliffe, Sara Lipsinka, Mia Latt, Phoebe Whitfield, Eleanor Ditcham, Emily Roochove, Verity Roberts, Annabelle Godfrey, Izabel Hardy, Emilia Heath, Shreedha Palakurthi, Ava Tinmouth, Rithi Manikandan, Hetty Yeates and Carys Williams**.

Our U12 team was crowned **SNS Plate competition** winners. This is the furthest a Queen's netball team has ever reached in a national netball competition.

The U12A team were also crowned **Chester and District** winners and **Cheshire County Schools** semi-finalists.

U12A: **Isabel Mackay, Lauren Dandy, Alice Pownall, Charlotte Sweeney, Chloe Higgins, Safiyah Jaffri, Sophia Sandu, Katy Watson and Grace Sebborn**

Our U12B team and U13 team were **Chester and District tournament** runners up.

U12B: **Skye Simpson, Ava Whitton, Daisy Holland Hewlitt, Irene Varghese, Lauren Higgins, Zara Douglas and Rose Weaving**.

Another celebration for our U13 team at the **Packwood Invitational** where they also secured second place. U13 squad: **Ela Kerpicci, Harriet Pritchard-Bibby, Jessica Owen, Lauren Dandy, Madison Alford, Matilda Penny, Millie Sale, Naomi Kington Brady, Olivia Atkinson, Rebecca Devine and Sophie Mulcaster**.

Our U14s were **Chester and District** runners up, as well as semi-finalists in the **Cheshire County Schools**. U14: **Bibi Kington Brady, Georgina Collier, Hettie Pilott, Bella Wood, Amelia Wood, Evie Pownall, Cecilia Pond, Naomi Kington Brady, Sophie Mulcaster and Chloe Roberts** Our U15 team celebrated success after being crowned **Chester and District plate** winners. U15: **Emily Owen, Ella Jones, Elena Lyons, Felicity Garnett, Sophie Edwards, Jenny Lobato-Jones, Sophia Andrew, Francesca Barnes, Hettie Pilott and Bibi Kington Brady**.

A huge well done to **Hana Wiley** in Year 11 who was selected for Wales U17 and U19 netball squad. She has competed in the Europe Netball Championships and won a bronze medal with the U17 Welsh National Team. Hana has also represented the U19 Wales team in a friendly



Hana Wiley selected for Wales U17 netball.

match against Scotland and captained the Manchester Thunder U16 team in a curtain raiser match.

Isabel Mackay and **Lauren Dandy** in Year 7 successfully trialed for Manchester Thunder and have been training as part of their pod pathway. Isabel, Lauren and **Sophia Sandhu** have also been selected to train as part of the Cheshire Netball Academy. They trained throughout the year and came 2nd in the Shropshire inter-counties tournament.

Lower School Interhouse competitions - Our Lower School girls have enjoyed Inter-house competitions throughout the year, giving every girl the opportunity to take part in biathlon, netball, hockey and swimming events. Results below including value awards which are given to one girl in each year group who displays determination, team spirit and respect.

■ **Biathlon**

1st - Phoenix, 2nd - Dragons, 3rd - Griffins, 4th - Unicorns
Individual class results:

Year 6: 1st - **Emily Singleton**, 2nd - **Imogen Lowry**, 3rd - **Alicia Morris-Yousaf**

Year 5: 1st - **Sophie Reid Entwistle**, 2nd - **Sophia Lee**, 3rd - **Zara Green** and **Orla Hughes**

Year 4: 1st - **Annabelle Heath**, 2nd - **Eva Lowry**, 3rd - **Arabella Roberts**

Year 3: 1st - **Florence Hogan**, 2nd - **Ovea Thayaparan**, 3rd - **Penelope Collier-Jervis**

Year 2: 1st - **Abigail Ryan**, 2nd - **Amélie Oldfield**, 3rd - **Ellie Billington**

Year 1: 1st - **Thea Lowry**, 2nd - **Ayla Mills**, 3rd - **Elena Owen**
Reception: 1st - **Martha McKelvey**, 2nd - **Willa Barnes**, 3rd - **Clara O'Malley**

■ **Netball**

1st - Dragons, 2nd - Griffins 3rd - Phoenix, 4th - Unicorns
Values award: **Annabelle Godfrey**, **Lily Johnson**, **Rosie Broome** and **Cressida Wildes**

■ **Hockey**

1st - Phoenix, 2nd - Unicorns, 3rd - Dragons, 4th - Griffins
Values award: **Mala Ellis**, **Beatrice O'Brien**, **Nivi Gandhi** and **Sienna Allan**

■ **Swimming**

1st - Phoenix, 2nd - Unicorns, 3rd - Griffins, 4th - Dragons

■ **Athletics**

As a result of their excellent performances in the **Chester and District Championships** last summer, **Sophie Mulcaster** and **Rebecca Devine** were selected to represent Chester and District in the **Cheshire Schools Year 7 Championships** in Warrington. Congratulations to Sophie, who won the 1500m and is the Cheshire Champion. Rebecca and Sophie supported the Chester girls to finish 1st out of six districts in Cheshire overall.

Eleven girls: **Emily Owen**, **Aster McCann**, **Ella Jones**, **Lucy Mackay**, **Felicity Garnett**, **Abigail Jeavons**, **Hana Wiley**, **Holly Stuart**, **Emily Hunt**, **Alexa Byrne** and **Lucy Vaughan** were selected to represent Chester at the **Cheshire Schools Championships** for Years 8-13 inclusive, competing with the best athletes in the County. Congratulations to Emily

Owen, Lucy Mackay and Abigail Jeavons who won their events and achieved Cheshire County Championship titles.

Sophie Mulcaster was selected to represent Cheshire at the Inter County Championships vs Merseyside. She placed third, in the 1500m, helping to secure an excellent win for the Cheshire team.

Emily Owen, **Lucy Mackay**, **Felicity Garnett**, **Emily Hunt** and **Abigail Jeavons** were selected to represent



Cheshire in their chosen events at the **Mason Trophy Championships**, an inter county meeting for 10 counties in Birmingham. All the girls performed well, with Emily and Lucy also taking part in the relay and placing 2nd. Due to her excellent sprinting achievements throughout the summer, **Emily Owen** was selected to represent Cheshire at the **English Schools National Championships** at Manchester over two days, involving 44 counties from England. She powered her way through to a competitive and exciting final, finishing in 3rd place in 12.43 secs.

A phenomenal achievement from our girls in Years 3-6 in the **District Athletics Competition**, who, after only taking part in half of the events that all other schools did, due to it being a co-ed event, the girls **WON** the whole competition - earning the most points out of all 26 schools.

Team: **Sienna Allan**, **Florence Hogan**, **Rosie Broome**, **Lottie Hollingsworth**, **Jemima Morris-Yousaf**, **Arabella Roberts**, **Sophia Lee**, **Sophie Reid-Entwistle**, **Imogen Lowry**, **Emily Singleton**, **Alicia Morris-Yousaf**, **Amélie-Rose Godley**, **Tiamii Roberts**, **Phoebe Whitfield**, **Sara Lipsinka**, **Sienna Bennett**, **Annabelle Godfrey**.

■ **Sportshall Athletics, 2023**

Year 7 and 8 took part in **Sportshall Athletics** competitions in January 2023. Teams competed in track events, an obstacle course, speed bounce, standing long jump and triple jump, vertical jump and shot putt. Our Queen's teams were **WINNERS** overall in **BOTH** age groups out of 11 schools.

Year 7 team: **Lauren Higgins**, **Isabel Mackay**, **Lauren Dandy**, **Alice Pownall**, **Chloe Higgins**, **Olivia Kermode**, **Safiyah Jaffri** and **Grace Sebborn**.

Year 8 team: **Sophie Mulcaster**, **Ela Kerpicci**, **Alisa Romashova**, **Naomi Kington Brady**, **Olivia Atkinson**, **Jessica Owen**, **Harriet Pritchard-Bibby** and **Matilda Penny**.

Due to their success, the teams were selected to represent Chester in the **Cheshire School Games County Finals**. With competitive team selection involving the addition in Year 7 of **Skye Simpson**, **Megan Smith**, **Clemmie Batt**, **Sophia Robinson**, **Ameera Hussain**, **Rebekah Shuler** and **Irene Varghese**, our girls had an exciting day competing to a high standard against the other districts of Cheshire. Year 7 were placed 3rd overall and Year 8 placed 2nd overall out of 10 teams.

Individual successes were also seen at the **AJIS indoor athletics** championship. **Emily Singleton** in Year 6 was the speed bounce champion. Emily and **Imogen Lowry** took 2nd place in the 6-lap paralauf and **Zara Green** took 3rd in the balance beam.

■ **Cross Country 2022/23**

Our U11 team were crowned **AJIS Cross Country Plate** winners. Team: **Imogen Lowry**, **Emily Singleton**, **Alicia Morris-Yousaf**, **Minnie Wildes**, **Sienna Bennett**, **Mala Ellis** and **Amélie-Rose Godley**.

Several senior school girls from all years represented Queen's cross country teams and achieved excellent individual results at the **Chester and District Championships** in October 2022. **Lauren Higgins** placed

Year 10 athlete
Emily Owen.





1. Year 6 National Dodgeball Championships.
2. Chester Schools Gymnastics Competition.
3. Francesca Barnes and Aster McCann selected to represent Cheshire Lacrosse.
4. Daisy Holland Hewlett and Maisie Barlow competing for Queen's Equestrian team for the first time.



6th in Year 7, and **Sophie Mulcaster** won the Year 8/9 race. As a result of their achievements Lauren and Sophie were selected to represent Chester at the **Cheshire Schools County Cross Country Championships**. The girls ran well, supporting the Chester team to 2nd place in each age group out of seven district teams. Lauren and Sophie were invited to take part and represent Cheshire.

■ Football

Football is a developing sport at Queen's following on from the success and media coverage of the Lionesses last summer. Enthusiasm to play the game and commitment to training is high. 27 matches have been arranged so far for Years 6 to 11, and our U13s came third in a 5 aside tournament, showing great attitude and ability. Year 6 played in their first **AJIS football** competition, coming 2nd in the group, missing out on 3rd place play off in the cup competition by one goal on goal difference! Throughout the year, our U12-U14s have played and won a range of friendly fixtures and Year 3 and 4 started football training for the first time, enjoying the teamwork the sport can bring.

■ Swimming

Olivia Watts in Year 9 has been selected to take part in the Swim England National Age Group development programme, which provides a pathway to support the chosen swimmers in their efforts to try to compete at national and international level. We entered the **English School's Swimming championships** with the largest team ever! So many excellent performances and some excellent leadership from sixth formers **Hanami Roughley** and **Cara McCann** who took control of the team on the day. The Queen's School team came away from a swimming gala vs Cheadle Hulme with many wins to celebrate. **Emily Singleton, Imogen Lowry, Isla Santos Hewitt, Mala Ellis** and **Minnie Wildes** in Year 6 qualified for the English School Swimming Association (ESSA) National Finals for both the freestyle and medley relay taking place in Sheffield.

■ Tri golf

A group of girls from Year 3 and Year 6 attended a tri golf festival to develop their chipping and putting skills. It was a successful day with lots of girls enthused to take up golf and develop their skills further.

■ Equestrian

Daisy Holland Hewlett in Year 7 and **Maisie Barlow** in Year 5 competed for The Queen's School Equestrian Team

and qualified for the **NSEA Dressage Championships** at Keysoe. **Eva Tierney** Year 9, **Lydia Ibbeston** Year 9 and **Emilia Heath** Year 6 qualified for the NSEA championships at Hickstead in August. **Sophie Mulcaster** and **Abby Mulcaster** competed at the Pony Club National Tetrathlon Championships with their team coming second in the junior's competition.

■ Lacrosse

Francesca Barnes and **Aster McCann** in Year 10 were selected to represent Cheshire Lacrosse and the **England Lacrosse Talent Pathway**. They both trained as part of the pathway and Francesca was selected to represent England in a match. **Amelia Sale, Sophie Mulcaster** and **Harriet Pritchard-Bibby** were selected to represent Cheshire Lacrosse. Two students from Chester University have dedicated their Friday evenings to continue coaching our keen Lacrosse players once a week.

■ Rowing

Kate Longden and **Sophia Andrew** in Year 10 represented Royal Chester Rowing Club in the GB Rowing Junior National Championships. They finished 14th in Great Britain and 2nd in the north and silver in the Runcorn regatta.

■ Tennis

Our U13A and B and U15A and B tennis teams have been competing in both the Division 1 and 2 leagues throughout the season and have had several notable team and individual wins. Special mention must be made of **Zara Douglas** in Year 7 who has been selected to represent the U14 North Wales tennis team. This is an exceptional achievement for someone so young.

■ Gymnastics

Orla Smith in Year 7 competed at the Gymspire Final 2022 achieving 2nd floor, 2nd trampette and 2nd place overall. Her results contributed to the north team placing 2nd overall.

■ Archery

Meredith Burton in Year 7 finished ranked 2nd in the Junior Under 12 Recurve Archery GB Junior rankings. She also finished 2nd in the Archery GB National Indoor Championship.

Zara Douglas in Year 7 was selected to represent the U14 North Wales tennis team.



Meredith Burton in Year 7.

Thank you and Farewell

■ Ana Bosch

Ana started working at Queen's in 2008. During her 15 years she has played an instrumental role in the Spanish department, working alongside our Key Stage 4 and 5 students to make them confident, accurate and articulate speakers of Spanish. Ana has also helped in our trips abroad to Barcelona and Salamanca.

Her vivacious, lovely personality has always made our students feel at ease with her and they have loved attending her one-to-one sessions. They comment on how much fun they have with her as they can end up talking about such a wide range of interesting subjects. It has always been a great pleasure to see what a wonderful job she has done with our students when they reach their A-level exams and they speak with such confidence on any topic. Being very well read and informed, Ana has a wealth of knowledge. She knows what is going on in the Hispanic world and keeps our students up to date with the most current and up to date news.

Ana is going to be missed by her colleagues in the Languages Department and by all our students. We wish her and her family all the best in the next stage of her life in beautiful Bilbao.



■ Alison Doheny

Alison arrived at Queen's in September 2015 and, in her role as Head of Infants, very quickly began to make an impact. Her first task as Head involved furnishing and making the newly acquired *Honeybee House* and its outdoor setting the best environment possible for our Infants. She proved herself to be a team player from the start, so much so, she spent one of her first weekends joining a *Bushcraft Camping Adventure* with the Juniors ... she may of course have drawn the short straw on this one!

Alison's passion for teaching is clearly evident, but her particular gift is for bringing out the very best in every child in our community. Alison began teaching Reception, before moving on to teaching Year 1; she has seen many children journey through the School, and last year she waved goodbye to her very first Reception Class as they moved on to the Senior School.

Alison is an incredibly calm and patient person and can always be found helping pupils and staff alike; she is incredibly focused and generous with her time. Her contribution as a leader has always



been measured, insightful and wise, and she is remarkably thorough in everything she does. Most of all, Alison has a fantastic sense of humour and knows what it is like to have FUN; whenever there has been an opportunity to dress up and dance, Alison has been leading from the front.

We are incredibly grateful for everything Alison has done for us in the Lower School; the support she has given children, parents and colleagues has been immensely valued and appreciated. She will now begin a new adventure, and what is certain is that we will miss her enormously but are comforted in the knowledge we will be able to find her walking along the beach with her family and dogs, or paddle boarding leisurely along the coast on a summer's evening. Carpe diem Alison!

■ Louise Hall

For many years, Louise has been at the very heart of the Lower School music and drama provision. Starting in 2015 as a specialist Infant music teacher, she then combined this role with Infant class teaching before heading up the School's performing arts and leading the Lower School choirs.

Louise's passion and dedication to the Arts in all its forms, particularly for singing and performing, has inspired countless pupils throughout our School. She has dedicated herself to bringing out the very best of their talents, bringing particular joy to those pupils whose light shines brightest when doing something they absolutely love. From pirates to parrots and everything in between, Louise has brought many scenarios to life, guiding, cajoling and enthusing our girls with professionalism and fun. She has led our School choirs to great success both on the local and national stage, has marked important occasions in our school calendar with moving choral performances, and has embraced our wider community with entertainment at local nursing homes and fundraising events. Louise has also inspired our budding instrumentalists by showcasing her own talents as a pianist, flautist and guitarist; her percussion skills are legendary, and she has even managed to inspire (persuade) some of her teaching colleagues to take the occasional turn on the tambourine!

Alongside Louise's role at Queen's, she is a visiting lecturer at *Chester University* and a passionate advocate for 'Little Hearts Matter', a UK charity dedicated to supporting and empowering anyone affected by the diagnosis of a single ventricle heart condition - a cause very close to her heart.

We are so grateful for everything Louise has achieved with our girls. Her legacy is her firm belief in the Arts in all its forms as a vehicle for



■ Clare Holland

Clare epitomises all things Queen's, which is not surprising given the amount of time she's spent here (close to four decades if you include her time as a pupil). From studying with us, to becoming an English and supply teacher, then Honorary Treasurer for the QSPA for 7 years and ultimately *Alumni Relations Manager*, we used to joke that she probably bleeds blue blood! Her two daughters, Caroline and Isabelle, also attended Queen's, which is testament to her dedication, love, and belief in what Queen's stands for and the benefits a school like ours provides.

Clare's excellent grasp of the alumni database and personal varied knowledge of the traditions and running of Queen's which make it so unique, has meant that under her care and supervision, the Alumni Office has grown to what it is today. She has made a significant and lasting impact on the Queen's Alumni community, creating a solid foundation that helps ensure its future success. Clare has been fundamental in keeping the alumni connected and celebrated and will definitely be 'a Queen's girl for all her days'.



self-expression, creativity and, ultimately, improved health and happiness in our children. We will endeavour to take up the baton in your absence Louise, and try to do justice to your special contribution to our school. Thank you so much.

■ Jeanette Healey

Jeanette first joined The Queen's School in 2008, joining Becci Broome and Irene Jones in the Music Department, where her calm and serene nature was a welcome addition to the perpetually busy department. She quickly made her mark



setting up a '*composition club*' and sharing with students her love of composition; inspiring and encouraging them to explore and develop their own skills. Jeanette worked as Head of Music when she covered both of Mrs Broome's periods of maternity leave, then after short spells teaching in schools in Dubai and Southport, she returned to Queen's in 2013 as permanent Head of Music. Jeanette transformed the resources in the department, writing bespoke pieces for classes to perform, helping students to understand key musical concepts through practical work. She also wrote numerous stunning pieces of instrumental and choral music for performances at the cathedral, concerts, competitions and even Mrs Broome's wedding; the most famous of all being our much-loved school song '*Honour Wisdom*'. Mrs Healey is fantastic at spotting talent and, over the years teaching music to pupils in Years 4-13, she encouraged many shy performers to take to the stage and conquer their nerves. Jeanette is a good friend and great colleague who always threw herself into school life, entertaining the crowds playing drum kit in the staff band '*Mark Scheme and The Invigilators*'. We will miss her in the music department but are very lucky to be able to continue enjoying so much of her wonderful music.

■ Ian Magill

Mr Magill joined The Queen's School as Head of the Mathematics Department in September 2016. His candidness, honesty and rationality make him instantly approachable and easy to work alongside. His colleagues



and pupils quickly warmed to him. Within the Maths Department, he struck an ideal balance offering his colleagues support and autonomy. Mr Magill has always been eager to promote the profile of mathematics and he is committed to pupils experiencing mathematics in broader contexts. He is continually on the lookout for lectures and enrichment opportunities outside school. Within school, he endeavours to celebrate and reward mathematical achievements and recently organised a special breakfast for the *UKMT* entrants. Mr Magill is always generous with his time and established and ran numeracy club for many years and conducts many after-school revision sessions for A-level and GCSE classes. In addition to mathematics, he has impressive general knowledge and, in particular, extensive knowledge of 80s pop culture. This not only means he is a boundless source of trivia but made him the obvious candidate to set up the school's *Quiz Club*.

Mr Magill is also a keen sportsman, regularly playing tennis and competing for a football team in a local league. He is eager to play in sports matches within school and, in rounders, was able to perplex and exhaust fielders with his ambidextrous batting. A good humoured and highly respected teacher, he will be missed by staff and pupils alike. We wish him well in his new appointment.



1. Head Girl Katie Townsend and alumna Nicola Kiely at Prize Giving.
2. Prize Giving awards.



THE ALUMNI OFFICE



Connecting Queens



■ **Commemorating Queen's**
The Queen's School's 2023 Commemoration Service celebrated 145 years of education. This year we were delighted to enjoy a speech by **Fiona Hagdrup, née Pennington, '85** (pictured left), who spoke about being aware of bias, including the importance of having an open mind, making mistakes, and approaching things with a long-term viewpoint. The service concluded with our Year 13 students, as The Queen's School alumni of 2023, leading Year 3 pupils, who will be our alumni of 2033, out of the Nave.

■ **Prize Giving 2022**
Our Prize Giving ceremony in September 2022 welcomed back **Alumna Nicola Kiely '15** to the School as our guest speaker. As well as speaking during the event and presenting the prizes, Nicola gave a special talk to our Sixth Form girls about her journey as an Audit Associate at *KPMG* and as a national lacrosse player for Ireland.

■ **Nedham House's 75th Birthday Celebration**
Pupils, staff and alumni of The Queen's School came together to celebrate the 75th birthday of Nedham House in February 2023. A large group of alumni were welcomed back to Nedham House for a special



■ **A fond farewell**
A few members of the alumni community came together in February to give a fond farewell to Alumni Manager **Clare Holland, née Witter**. Sharing memories over tea and cakes (and a few tears), Clare was also gifted a framed picture of the School by good friend and Queen's Mentor **Margaret Yorke, née Longman**.

celebration assembly with all the Lower School girls and staff. Some of the guests included the very first pupils through the doors 75 years ago, as well as the three granddaughters of **Phyllis Brown**, who so kindly bought the house for the school back in 1948.

■ **Role models to inspire**
We were delighted to invite back alumnae **Zoe Thornton-Reid '18** (right above) and **Kat Lewis '13** (right below) in presenting their career paths to our Year 11 and 12 as part of a *Quest Careers* afternoon. Zoe left Queen's in 2018 to study Speech and Language Therapy at Newcastle University and now works at Maelor Hospital. Kat studied at Durham and went into a career in Management Consultancy, but more recently is training to become a Barrister.



■ **Miss Di Skilbeck, Headmistress 1989-2001**
We commemorated and celebrated the life of **Miss Diana Skilbeck** (pictured right), who passed away in March 2023, at a memorial service at her local church. Her coffin was then transported on the *Gifford*, a boat that she once helped to save and restore, along the *Shropshire Union Canal* before she was cremated. At Queen's we remember her outstanding contribution to education in the country, particularly in her role as president of the *Boat Museum Society* of Ellesmere Port.



■ **Mrs Sarah Osborne, née Purcell, Maths teacher 1986-2020**
We were saddened to hear of the passing of **Mrs Sarah Osborne** (pictured right), who was a former pupil at Queen's before going on to teach Maths here for over 30 years. Always generous with her time and expertise, Sarah has worked tirelessly to bring out the best in all her pupils.



Email: alumni@thequeensschool.co.uk
News and events: www.thequeensschool.co.uk/alumni
Manage your alumni data: www.tqn.thequeensschool.co.uk
Keep in touch: www.facebook.com/groups/QSChesterAlumni
Network: www.linkedin.com/groups/4110738

Lower School Staff

SENIOR TEACHING STAFF

Miss I J Carmody MSc Southampton, BA (Hons) South Africa, H Dip Education
Head of Lower School
Mrs K Morris-Yousaf BA (Hons) Warwick, PGCE Deputy Head of Lower School & Pastoral Lead
Mrs A Doheny BEd (Hons) Cantab
Head of Infants and Y1 Form Teacher
Mrs G L Taylor BA (Hons) Sheffield Hallam, Manchester Met PGCE
Director of Studies & Year 6 Teacher

TEACHING STAFF

Mrs R Edwards BEd (Hons) Chester
Year 5 Form Teacher & Head of Maths
Mrs A Bradshaw BA (Hons) Nottingham Trent, Manchester Met PGCE
Year 2 Teacher and Head of English
Mrs L Hall BA (Hons) Leicester, MA (Education) Chester Head of Performing Arts & Director of Lower School Choirs
Mrs D Lawson BEd (Hons) Bangor Year 3 Form teacher and Computing Teacher
Mrs A Bartram BA (Hons) London, PGCE
Early Years Chester Reception Form Teacher
Miss R Oxtton BA (Hons) York St John University Year 4 teacher
Miss S Kiernan BA (Hons) University of Chester PE teacher
Mrs H Davies B.Mus Bangor, PGCE
Head of Music
Mrs R Broome BMus (Hons) RWCMD PGCE Music Teacher

Mrs H Stockley BSc (Hons) Derby, PGC EIT Bangor, PGCE MMU
Swimming Teacher
Mrs P Williams BEd (Hons) Chester
Specialist Science and Maths Teacher
Mrs A Stables LLB (Hons) UWE, PGCE
Nottingham Art teacher

LEARNING SUPPORT

Mrs J Maughan Advanced Dip. Teaching Children with SplD Worcester, OCN
Level 3 Dip. SLCN (ELKLAN) Learning Support Coordinator
Mr J Ross BA (Hons) Sheffield PGCE NPQSL NASENCO PG Cert SplD Special Educational Needs Coordinator

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Mrs V Fitzsimmons NVQ2 TA NVQ3 TA HLTA Welsh Assembly Higher Level Teaching Assistant
Mrs H Long ASA Level 1 Teaching Assistant & Swimming Teacher
Mrs H Singh BA MA BEd (Delhi) Mont Dip (London) Teaching Assistant
Mrs S Howell BA (Hons) MMU, FdA Supporting Teaching and Learning, CACHE Level 3 Teaching Assistant
Mrs A Marshall Supporting Teaching and Learning HLTA Chester Teaching Assistant & Swimming Teacher

MUSIC & DRAMA

Mrs J Childe Dip. Acting East 15
Speech and Drama Teacher
Ms M Birch BA (Hons) Guitar Teacher

Ms E Carlyle BMus MMus
Cello Teacher
Mrs M Corlett BA (Hons) London PGCE LTCL Piano Teacher
Mr T Evans BMus (Hons) MMus LTCL
Clarinet and Saxophone Teacher
Mrs M Scott MA Lithuanian Music Academy Piano Teacher
Ms M Shibata BMus (Hons) MMus
Oboe Teacher
Mr M Whiteman BA (Hons) Birmingham PGCE Percussion Teacher
Mr S Rushforth Dip Ed. (NEWI)
Violin Teacher
Dr G Osborn PhD, Mus B Hons Liverpool
Flute Teacher

LOWER SCHOOL OPERATIONS STAFF

Mrs K Jamieson PA to Head of Lower School
Mrs L Greig BA Externado of Columbia University Administrative Assistant
Mrs A Petrie Out of Hours Assistant
Miss T Mullen-Humphries Play Assistant
Mr M Chambers Estates Operative
Miss C Charnley Estates Operative
Mr S Monaghan Estates Operative and Minibus Driver
Mr D Clarke Minibus Driver
Mr I Warrell Minibus Driver
Mr I Linton Minibus Driver
Mr J Parry Minibus Driver

Senior School Staff

SENIOR TEACHING STAFF

Mrs Sue Wallace Woodroffe BSc (Hons) Edinburgh, MA London Headmistress
Mrs J Keville BSc (Hons) Queen's University Belfast, PGCE
Deputy Headmistress
Dr J Sheldrake BSc (Hons) Hull Msc (Eng) Liverpool PGCE LJMU EdD Chester
Head of Teaching and Learning
Miss L Jones BA/Ed (Hons) Liverpool PGCE Head of Pastoral & Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mr R Wilson BA (Hons) Oxford PGCE
Head of Sixth Form

ART

Mr A Tucker BA (Hons) Bristol, PGCE
Head of Art
Mrs Z Tucker BA (Hons) Bristol, PGCE
Teacher
Miss A Whitehouse BA (Hons) MA
Art Technician

BIOLOGY

Mrs S Mahay BSc (Hons) Edinburgh PGCE Head of Biology Teacher
Mrs J Arthan BSc (Hons) Birmingham, PGCE Teacher

Dr J Threadgold BSc (Hons) Leeds PhD UMIST PGCE Teacher
Ms J Sellers BSc (Hons) Portsmouth
Biology Technician

CAREERS

Mrs J Dawson BA Open University, PGCE Head of Careers Teacher

CHEMISTRY

Mrs G Cox BSc (Hons) Dunelm PGCE
Head of Chemistry Teacher
Mr D Cripps BSc Birmingham, MSc Huddersfield, PGCE Teacher
Mrs J Arthan BSc (Hons) Birmingham, PGCE Teacher
Miss S Campbell BSc (Hons) Glasgow
Chemistry Technician

CLASSICS

Miss E Ellis MA (Oxon) PGCE Head of Classics, Teacher
Mrs N Tunnicliffe BA (Hons) Cardiff MA Manchester PGCE (Deputy Head of Sixth Form) Teacher
Mrs R Casson MA University of Liverpool, PGCE Teacher

COMPUTING

Mrs J McKeirnan BA (Hons) London PGCE Head of Computing and Head of Key Stage 4, Teacher

Mrs E Simpson BSc (Hons) Manchester, PGCE, CIPD, NPQH Teacher
Mr D Cripps BSc Birmingham, MSc Huddersfield, PGCE Teacher
Dr J Sheldrake BSc (Hons) Hull Msc (Eng) Liverpool PGCE LJMU EdD Chester
Head of Teaching and Learning, Teacher

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr S Hay BEng (Hons) Bath PGCE
Head of Design & Technology, Teacher
Mrs S Parry BA (Hons) Chester
DT Technician

DRAMA

Mrs K T P R Larder BA (Hons) Huddersfield PGCE Head of Drama, Head of Year 9, Teacher
Mrs E Walker BA (Hons) Chester QTS
Teacher
Mrs J Childe Dip. Acting East 15
Speech and Drama Teacher

Senior School Staff continued

ECONOMICS/BUSINESS STUDIES

Mrs A Woodcock BA Hons Leeds PGCE Manchester Head of Economics / Business, Teacher

ENGLISH

Mrs L Garton BA Hons Queen Mary, University of London, PGCE Manchester University, MEd London Southbank Head of English, Teacher

Mr R Wilson BA (Hons) Oxford PGCE Head of Sixth Form, Teacher

Mr J O'Meara BA (Hons) Dublin MA Liverpool PGCE Deputy Head of Key Stage 4, Teacher

Mrs K Jenkins BA (Hons) Dunelm PGCE Teacher

GEOGRAPHY

Miss S Aldridge BSc (Hons) Nottingham, MEd (Cantab), PGCE Head of Geography, Teacher

Mrs K Jones BSc (Hons) Lancaster PGCE Teacher

HISTORY

Mrs N Tunnicliffe BA (Hons) Cardiff MA Manchester PGCE Head of History & Deputy Head of Sixth Form, Teacher

Miss L Jones BA/Ed (Hons) Liverpool PGCE Head of Pastoral/Designated Safeguarding Lead, Teacher

Mrs K Jones BSc (Hons) Lancaster PGCE Teacher

LANGUAGE CONVERSATION

Señora Ana Bosch MA University of Deusto Spanish Teacher

Mlle C Royon BA (Hons) Liverpool, PGCE Chester French Teacher

Mme E Lagarde Licence d'Anglais University of Toulouse, PGCE Manchester Met French Teacher

Mme B Fitzgerald Licence d'Anglais University of Nantes, PGCE Liverpool

Ruiting Shi CLEC Teacher

LEARNING SUPPORT

Mr J Ross BA (Hons) Sheffield PGCE NPQSL NASENCO PG Cert SpLD Special Educational Needs Coordinator

Miss M Scott BA (Hons) East Anglia Accessibility Teaching Assistant

LIBRARY

Ms G Mayes BA (Hons) Dublin MSc Belfast MSc University of Wales Library Manager & Head of EPQ

MATHEMATICS

Mr I Magill MMath (Hons) Manchester PGCE Head of Mathematics, Teacher

Mrs K Whitwell BSc (Hons) Manchester PGCE Head of Year 8, Teacher

Mr C T W Godfrey MEng (Hons) Sheffield PGCE Teacher

Mrs E Simpson BSc (Hons) Manchester, PGCE, CIPD, NPQH Teacher

MODERN LANGUAGES

Ms L L P Whittam BA Beijing QTS Head of Mandarin

Miss I Ruiz BA (Hons) Seville PGCE Head of Spanish

Mme E Lagarde Licence d'Anglais University of Toulouse,

PGCE Manchester Met Head of French

Mrs I Fernandez-Hughes MA Malaga, PGCE University of Liverpool Spanish Teacher

Mlle C Royon BA (Hons) Liverpool, PGCE Chester French Teacher

Mme Fitzgerald Licence d'Anglais University of Nantes, PGCE Liverpool French Teacher

MUSIC

Mrs H Davies B.Mus Bangor, PGCE Head of Music

Mrs R Broome BMus(Hons) RWCMD PGCE Teacher, Head of Co-Curricular

Mrs A Rushforth BMus(Hons) UCNW Bangor PGCE Music Technician, Music Theory Teacher

Ms E Carlyle BMus MMus Cello Teacher

Mrs L Clayton BA (Hons) Huddersfield AVSD Vocal Teacher

Mr T Evans BMus(Hons) MMus LTCL Clarinet and Saxophone Teacher

Miss K Foster BMus(Hons) RNCM Violin Teacher

Mr A Hillman BMus Guitar Teacher

Dr G Osborn PhD, Mus B Hons Liverpool Flute Teacher

Mrs M Scott MA Lithuanian Music Academy Piano Teacher

Mr M Whiteman BA (Hons) Birmingham PGCE Percussion Teacher

Mr P McDonough Brass Teacher

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL EDUCATION

Mrs E Simpson BSc (Hons) Manchester, PGCE, CIPD, NPQH Head of PSHE, Teacher

Mrs G Glynn BSc (Hons) Lancaster, PGCE Head of Transition/Year 7, Teacher

Mrs M Green BEd (Hons) Liverpool Teacher

Mrs R Broome BMus(Hons) RWCMD PGCE Teacher

Mme E Lagarde Licence d'Anglais University of Toulouse, PGCE

Manchester Met Teacher

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Mrs G Glynn BSc (Hons) Lancaster, PGCE Head of Sport and Fitness and Head of Transition/Year 7, Teacher

Mrs M Green BEd (Hons) Liverpool Teacher

Mrs A De Miranda BEd Carnegie Head of PE (maternity cover)

Miss S Kiernan BA (Hons) University of Chester Teacher

Miss S Littler BEd Birmingham Teacher

Miss B Brizell BA (Hons) LJMU, MSc PGCE University of Chester Netball coach

Mr F Tyson BSc (Hons) LJMU, MSc Liverpool Hope Hockey coach

Mr R Crump Football coach

PHYSICS

Mrs E Robinson BSc (Hons) Warwick PGCE Head of Physics, Teacher

Dr J Sheldrake BSc (Hons) Hull Msc (Eng) Liverpool PGCE LJMU EdD Chester Head of Teaching and Learning, Teacher

Ms M Hindle MPhys hons, MA(Ed), PGCE Durham MInstP Teacher

Mrs S Parry BA (Hons) Chester Physics technician

PSYCHOLOGY

Mrs C Hughes BSc (Hons) Chester PGCE Head of Psychology, Teacher

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Dr J Scherer BA(Hons) PhD Bangor MTh Bangor PGCE Head of RS, Teacher

Mrs J Keville BSc (Hons) Queen's University Belfast, PGCE Teacher

Mrs E Bellis BA (Hons) York St. John University Teacher

SENIOR SCHOOL OPERATIONS STAFF

Mrs K Petre-Hoyle BSc (Hons) Birmingham, CIMA Director of Finance & Operations

Mrs C Butlin Finance Manager

Mr N Blaxall FCCA School Accountant

Mrs S Topple Accounts Assistant

Mrs R Meredith HR Manager

Mrs S Mulcaster BSc (Hons) Nottingham HR Administration Assistant

Mrs T Potter Headmistress's PA

Miss A Austin BA (Hons) Edge Hill University Administration Assistant

Mrs K Humphreys Administration Assistant

Mr G Blackwell BSc (Hons) Teesside Head of IT Strategy and Network

Mr J Topple IT Technician

Mrs J Archibald BSc (Hons) Bradford PGDip London Guildhall, MA London Metropolitan Director of External Relations

Mrs L Hughes BA (Hons), NCTJ, Edge Hill Marketing and Digital Communications Manager

Mrs H Thistlewood BA (Hons) Liverpool Admissions Manager

Miss A Lewis BA (Hons) Birmingham External Relations Office Assistant

Miss C Bennette BSc (Hons) Exeter Examinations Officer

Mrs C Davies Estates Manager

Mr J Wilcocks Lead Estates Operative

Mr P Hughes BSc (Hons) Wrexham, QTS Bangor NASENCO PG Dip SEND Middlesex Lead Estates Operative

Mr D Ivison Estates Operative

Mr A Crump Estates Operative

Mr S Roberts Estates Operative

Mr J Simpson Chef Manager

Mr D Boddy Senior School Head Chef

Mrs A Jenkins Lower School Head Chef

Mr C Saunders Senior School Chef

Mrs A Jenkins Lower School Chef

CLEANING OPERATIVES:

Mrs J McKay, Mrs C Dunbabin, Mrs J Lin, Mrs C Martins, Mr K Matraszek, Mrs K Wojcik, Miss A Dunajko, Mrs J White, Ms L McCone, Miss T Bell, Mrs K Bell, Miss D Hopson, Miss A Sobala-Jasinska, Mrs J White, Miss C Dunrabin

CATERING ASSISTANTS:

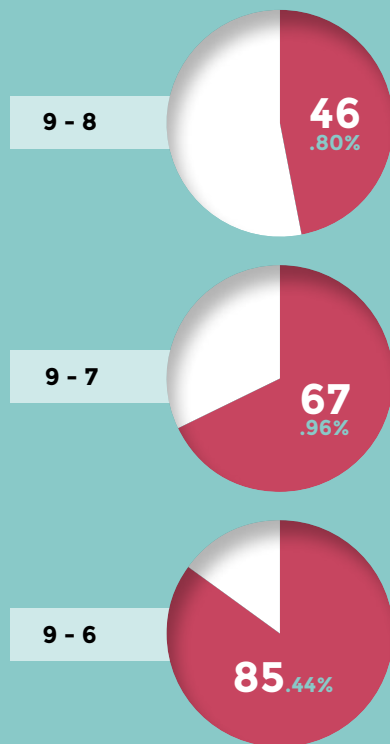
Mrs S Bastedo, Mrs M Bertel, Mrs R Williams, Mrs J McKay, Mrs C Martins, Miss S Byron



Results

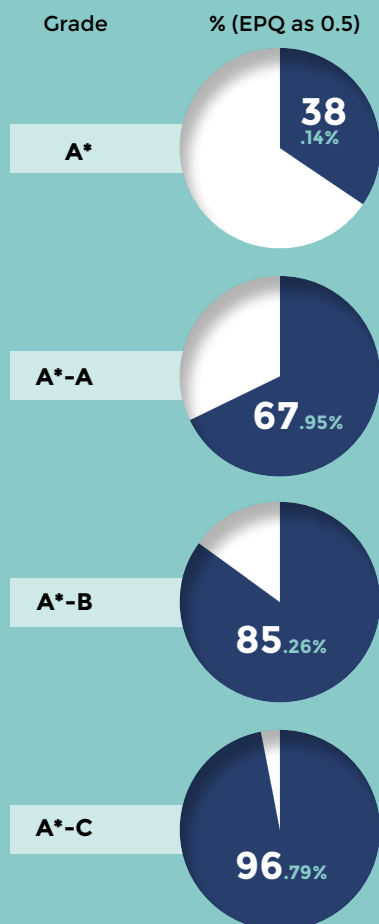
GCSE 2022 Results:

Subject	Entry	9	8	7	6	5/4	% 9-7	% 9-4
Art	11	2	0	9	0	0	100	100
Biology	47	16	9	7	7	8	68	100
Chemistry	47	13	9	7	9	9	62	100
Classical Civilisation	6	2	1	0	3	0	50	100
Computer Science	15	3	5	5	1	1	87	100
D&T	11	3	0	4	2	2	64	100
Drama	10	1	5	1	3	0	70	100
English Language	53	10	13	11	14	5	64	100
English Literature	53	6	8	20	13	6	64	100
French	7	3	1	3	0	0	100	100
Geography	13	7	2	3	1	0	92	100
History	27	15	6	2	2	2	85	100
Latin	3	2	0	0	0	1	67	100
Mandarin	11	-	7	2	0	2	82	100
Maths	53	5	10	10	10	16	47	96
Music	12	5	3	1	3	0	75	100
Physical Education	9	2	1	2	4	0	56	100
Physics	47	14	11	5	10	7	64	100
Religious Studies	32	9	10	7	5	1	81	100
Spanish	34	9	5	10	2	6	71	94
Dual Award								
Science	12	2	4	0	1	5	50	100
	513	129	110	109	90	71	67.84%	99.22%



A Levels 2022 Results:

Subject	Entry	A*/D1/		A/D3/		B/M2/	C/P1	%A*-B	%A*-C
		D2	M1	M3	M3				
Art	5	3	2	0	0	0	100	100	
Biology	18	9	1	4	2	78	89		
Business	7	1	3	0	3	57	100		
Chemistry	16	8	6	1	1	94	100		
Classical Civilisation	1	0	0	0	1	0	100		
Computing	1	1	0	0	0	100	100		
Drama	2	0	1	1	0	100	100		
Economics	9	2	4	3	0	100	100		
English Language	5	1	1	2	1	80	100		
English Literature	9	2	3	4	0	100	100		
French	4	0	2	1	0	75	75		
Further Maths	2	1	0	0	0	50	50		
Geography	7	3	3	0	1	86	100		
History	5	0	3	2	0	100	100		
Mandarin	1	1	0	0	0	100	100		
Maths	17	5	5	2	4	71	94		
Music	2	1	1	0	0	100	100		
Physical Education	1	0	1	0	0	100	100		
Physics	3	1	0	1	1	67	100		
Psychology	17	6	5	5	1	94	100		
Religious Studies	5	3	0	0	2	60	100		
Spanish	4	3	1	0	0	100	100		
EPQ	30	17	9	2	2	93	100		
EPQ as 0.5		59.5%	46.5%	27%	18%	85.26%	96.79%		





Leavers' Destinations

Student	Institution Name	Course Placed	Year
Amy Banim	Queen Mary, University of London	Medicine	2022
Elica Banks	University of Liverpool	Law with Business (after Gap year)	2023
Hattie Benton	University of Oxford (Oriol College)	English Language and Literature	2022
Harriet Bird	University of Liverpool	Medicine	2022
Esther Bond	UCEN Manchester	Special Effects Make-Up Artistry	2022
Imogen Bond	Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London	Art Foundation Diploma	2022
Georgia Boyne	Employment	Apprenticeship in Chartered Accountancy (after Gap year)	2023
Léonie Brown	Lancaster University	Ecology and Conservation	2022
Annabel Canning	Newcastle University	Marketing and Management (after Gap year)	2023
Emilia Clegg	University of Nottingham	Economics	2022
Lucy Clegg	Newcastle University	Economics	2022
Ava Dempsey	Princeton University, USA	Operations Research & Financial Engineering	2022
Isabella Dimbylow	University of Liverpool	Pharmacology	2022
Isabelle Edwards	University of Birmingham	Music	2022
Emily Fagan	UCL (University College London)	Natural Sciences	2022
Polly Gitz	University of Leeds	Nutrition (after Gap year)	2023
Anushka Goel	Newcastle University	Economics	2022
Scarlett Hargreaves	Cardiff University	Optometry (after Gap year)	2023
Emily Harries	Lancaster University	Natural Sciences (with Placement Year)	2022
Daisy Harris	Employment	(after Gap year)	2023
Jemima Higby	Newcastle University	Medicine (after Gap year)	2023
Amelia Hitchcock	University of Chester	Mathematics	2022
Megan Illingworth	University of Liverpool	Psychology	2022
Emma Islip	Lancaster University	Business Management (Entrepreneurship) (Industry)	2022
Fiona Johnson	University of St Andrews	Geography and Sustainable Development	2022
Rebecca Kerridge	University of Nottingham	Economics	2022
Xanthe Lord	University of Worcester	Sports Therapy	2022
Harriet Luff	University of Sunderland	Medicine (after Gap year)	2023
Levana Makar	University of Portsmouth	Pharmacy	2022
Arshia Manoj	Nottingham Trent University	Business Management and Marketing	2022
Lucy McBurney	University of Exeter	History with Study Abroad	2022
Hannah McDonald	Keele University	Criminology	2022
Isabelle Moore	Manchester Metropolitan University	Fashion Promotion	2022
Macy Myddelton	Chester University	Psychology (after Gap year)	2023
Freya Regnart-Butler	Newcastle University	Psychology	2022
Ella Reynolds	University of Bristol	Law and Spanish (after Gap year)	2023
Zoe Robertson	Lancaster University	History and International Relations (with Placement Year)	2022
Vrishali Shetty	The University of Edinburgh	Medicine	2022
Esther Smellie	Cardiff University	Medicine	2022
Genevieve			
St John Williams	Newcastle University	Politics and Sociology (after Gap year)	2023
Jennifer Stairmand	University of Birmingham	Psychology	2022
Alicia Steele	University of Leeds	Medicine	2022
Carmen Vicary	University of Birmingham	Liberal Arts and Sciences	2022
Mari-loek Wagenaar	Maastricht University, The Netherlands	Global Studies (after Gap year)	2023
Lucy Wilson	Nottingham Trent University	Communication & Society and Media	2022

Applicants from 2021

Student	Institution Name	Course Placed	Year
Aimee Adey	University of Oxford (Exeter College)	Classics and Beginners' Italian	2022
Grace Dixon	University of Cambridge (Sidney Sussex College)	Classics	2022
Amelia Gardiner	University of Liverpool	International Business	2022
Lavinia Johnson	Keele University	Paramedic Science	2022
Charlotte McDonald	UCL (University College London)	Comparative Literature with a Year Abroad	2022
Anna Mills	University of York	Theatre: Writing, Directing and Performance	2022
Amelia Negus-Fancey	Bangor University	Zoology with Foundation Year	2022
Bethany Norton	University of Liverpool	Dental Surgery	2022
Imogen Owen	University of Bath	Business (with Professional Placements)	2022
Amelia Rodenhurst	University of Bristol	Accounting and Finance	2022
Ellie Runacus	University of Aberdeen	Modern Languages and Translation & Interpretation Studies	2022

A photograph of a man with short grey hair and a light blue button-down shirt, smiling and looking upwards. A young girl with long brown hair, wearing a white t-shirt and blue jeans, is sitting on his shoulders. She is leaning forward and smiling at him. The background is a plain, light grey wall.

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