



Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Horncastle

NEWSLETTER 2

January 2018

News of the following events can be found on our website <http://www.qegs.lincs.sch.uk>:

- [Parents' Association 200 Club](#)
- [Adult Education](#)
- [School Trips and German Exchange](#)
- [Calendar](#)

Dear Parents and carers,

We are almost in February with half term not a fortnight away – a very, very belated Happy New Year! 2018 is being lived at pace at QEGS with so much going on it is hard to keep up. The Y11 students have had their mock exams and are waiting with bated breath for tomorrow's results day. It was lovely to see so many parents at the Y7 parents' evening a couple of weeks ago; the atmosphere was fantastic and, as always, it was a pleasure to meet those that are new to QEGS as well as seeing some familiar faces.

The Parents' Association have already been in action providing refreshments and I have to add a particular well done and thanks for all the hard work that went into putting on the Christmas Fair; it was hugely successful and that was also down to the support we got from you and from all our local businesses. They are busy planning for the Jazz Evening next week; do come along it is a wonderful showcase of musical talent with good food and company to boot!

Look out for our new publication – QEGS ACADEMIA – which is a collection of articles, essays and writings by Sixth Form students. The range of topics is quite amazing and the quality of what is written really does impress. There is a digital copy on the website as well as hard copies around school. Thank you to our talented students and to Miss MacDonald and Mrs Brown who have curated the collection. There will be more editions to follow.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us through volunteering, sponsorship and the new "£1 per week" fund; our students are already feeling the benefit. Do get in touch if you would like to volunteer, offer sponsorship, have ideas about fundraising or you would like to make a pledge to the "£1 per week" fund (you can do so through Parent Pay and please fill-in the Gift Aid form if you are a UK Tax payer).



There is a reminder about the arrangements if we have to close the school due to bad weather; our website and local radio are your first port of call. Our website contains lots of stories and information about what our students and staff have been getting involved with over the last few weeks; it gives a bit of an insight into what goes on here at QEGS.

The School Development Plan brings together our priorities for the school year; a kind of to do list of things we have identified as needing to be focussed upon. There is an overview on our website if you are interested. We have recently welcomed two new Parent Governors to the Governing Body: Mr Rex Harrison and Mr Ian Tyler.

Mrs H. Payne
HEADTEACHER

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

200 CLUB - A quick reminder that winners of the 200 Club will be listed on the school website. [Parents' Association 200 Club](#)



EVENING OF JAZZ AND LIGHT MUSIC



West Street Jazz, together with other ensembles and soloists.

Thursday, 8th February 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Main Hall
Tickets £5 including buffet (available from school on ParentPay, Horncastle Music Shop and on the door at the event).

Bar available

STUDENT NEWS

Chess Tournament – David Scott, a Sixth Form student, played a FIDE (pronounced Fee-Day) chess tournament in London at the beginning of December. This was an adult players' international tournament with players from around the world. David's section contained players from England, France, Scotland, India, Korea and Uzbekistan, including Grandmasters, an International Master and Women's International Masters.

David scored 6 points out of 15 and in round three beat Malcolm Pein who is an International Master. It is possible that this is the first ever victory in competition against such a lofty opponent by a Lincolnshire Under-18 player.

International Horse Show - Annabell Sanderson, in Year 7, competed in the Hickstead Royal International Horse Show qualifier at the beginning of January and just missed out qualifying by finishing in 5th place. She competed against some of the country's top partnerships.



Duke of Edinburgh's Award - Congratulations to the 43 students who have already completed their Bronze awards since September and received their certificates and badges. The expedition training sessions are now in full swing and there are many students with just one section left to sign off! We are looking forward to getting their badges and certificates presented before the end of term – it will be a record year!

QEGS ACADEMIA

The first volume of QEGS Academia is available now. This is an academic journal designed to showcase some of the best, most interesting and thought-provoking work produced by our A level students. We hope that it provides an interesting read on a diverse range of topics. The journal is available on the school website [QEGS Academia](#). We have also printed a small number of copies, which are around school; they will also be distributed in the local community. If you work in a business or organisation where you think it would be interesting and beneficial to have a printed copy of the journal, please feel free to get in touch with the Main Office and they will arrange for a copy to be sent to you. Ms Macdonald and Mrs Brown.



MUSIC NEWS

The Autumn Term finished with a wonderful Carol Concert and the Spring Term sees the start of a busy period in the Music Department.

Thursday 8th February, 7.30 pm

West Street Jazz (our resident jazz band), together with other ensembles and soloists, will perform at this year's jazz evening. See previous page.

Thursday 22nd March, 7.30 pm

Our Spring Concert takes place in the Main Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Entry is £3 for adults and £2 for children/Senior Citizens. The concert will feature the school orchestra, wind band, 3 choirs and smaller instrumental ensembles. We hope you will be able to come along and support us.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURE

If we do have to close for any reason such as bad weather, we will be using our own website and local radio to get the message out. If we can access the school site, we will also text and email parents.

Y9 BOOSTER AND MENINGITIS VACCINATIONS

The date for the vaccination of Y9 students is Tuesday 13th March. The school nursing team have now collected the consent forms issued to parents last week. If you have forgotten to return your consent form please do so as soon as possible; the nursing team will call again in about a week to see if there are any late returns. If a student does not receive their vaccination in school in Y9 it can only be given at a doctor's surgery thereafter.

LIBRARY NEWS

Reading Lists

We now have a variety of recommended reading lists available to view online, accessed via the links on the Library sections of both the QEGS website and Moodle or directly at the Love Reading 4 Schools website. Lists currently available include those for Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Age 14+ years, GCSE and reluctant readers.



Books from the lists can be purchased through the site at up to 25% discount and earn 5% commission for the school Jobson Library. You will be asked to register as a parent and create your own account. All you need is an email address and a password that you can remember. Registering is free, and very important as it enables us to earn commission. For every £100 spent by parents of our school we are given a £5 book voucher to purchase more books for our school library, benefiting your child even further. Once you have created a parent account you will be able to access the lists using the password QEGSparent.

<http://www.lovereadingschools.co.uk/login/?fwd=viewschool/3131/favourite>

Scholastic Book Club

The Librarians have set up an account with Scholastic whereby parents and staff can purchase books online. Many of the books are at greatly reduced prices and include recently published titles. The school benefits by receiving commission at the rate of 20p in every pound spent, which is used to buy new books for the Library. You can view the whole selection at <http://schools.scholastic.co.uk/queen-elizabeths-grammar-ln9>.

If we have a school Book Club order running at that time, you will receive free postage and packing to the school. However, if there is not, you can still place an order with free delivery on orders over £25. To ensure our school library receives commission on your order, please select 'QEGS Horncastle' when prompted at the checkout. Thank you.

Years 7 and 8 students will continue to receive the Scholastic Teen Book Club leaflet each term.

SIXTH FORM

The Sixth Form now has a Twitter account. If you 'tweet' or just observe, please follow us on Twitter using @QEGS_SixthForm. It will give you an idea of life in the Sixth Form Centre and the goings-on of our senior students. Recent tweets have included the LIBF Certificate in Financial Studies, Prizegiving, university application deadlines, fundraising, Sixth Form applications, travel scholarships and Mrs Lascelles' cheesecake.

THANK YOU

So many people very kindly donated to our £1 a Week fund last year. Please remember to send in completed gift aid forms if you have not yet done so.

Our fundraising quest continues and you can access the donation payment item via your ParentPay account by following this link: <https://www.parentpay.com/>

As before, the value you select is at your discretion and funds raised will continue to be used for the benefit of students in school.

TRAINED TO TEACH?

At QEGS we feel that consistency, qualifications and experience are key to maintaining standards. Therefore we have built a bank of trusted staff who are familiar with our school ethos to assist us in times when we need additional support. We know that some parents/carers are qualified teachers, if this includes you and you would be interested in becoming a member of our supply team, please do let us know.

TALKING NEWSPAPER

We are delighted to have relaunched the talking newspaper! Each week our dedicated student volunteers record the audio of a selection of articles from the local press. The recordings are duplicated onto USB memory sticks and delivered by Royal Mail. The talking newspaper is designed to benefit anyone who may be visually impaired or unable to read a traditional newspaper and is free of charge to listeners. We are grateful to the Ulverscroft Foundation who kindly donated the funds for new equipment. Contact us to find out more or take a look at the website: <http://www.qegs.lincs.sch.uk/community/talking-newspaper>

HEALTH AND SAFETY REMINDER

Please could you assist us to maintain our high standards of safety when visiting our site. The school becomes very busy at the start and end of each day with school transport vehicles. If you are travelling to school by car please avoid entering the grounds and find a safe drop off/collection point nearby. If you do enter the site during other times, please be aware that the maximum speed permitted on site is 5 mph.

When driving on site:

- Always keep your speed to less than 5 mph.
- Avoid driving onto site at busy times (just before and after school).
- Be vigilant for pedestrians.
- Only park in designated bays.
- Obey instructions from members of staff on duty/marshalling traffic.
- Be mindful that Reindeer Close is a private road for residents only.

ADULT EDUCATION



Can we tempt you? Join us to draw, paint, sing, create your own jewellery, play an instrument or learn a language.

Check the latest courses available on website: <http://www.adulteducationhorncastle.org/> and look out for our forthcoming programme of guest speakers for individual events.

ASSISTANT CARETAKER POST – PART-TIME

Details of the above post can be found on the school website. Closing date Wednesday, 31st January.
<http://www.qegs.lincs.sch.uk/community/job-vacancies-menu-item>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY	
1 (Thurs)	Intermediate Maths Challenge
5 (Mon)	Whole School Assembly, Digital Literacy
6 (Tues)	Y8 Civil War Day
7 (Wed)	6 th form Application Afternoon, 2 pm
7 (Wed)	Y11 Parents' Evening, 7 pm
8 (Thurs)	Jazz Evening, 7.30 pm
8-9 (Thur-Fri)	Y11 Stop the Clock 1:1 Mentoring
9 (Fri)	<i>End of term</i>
19 (Mon)	<i>Term begins</i>
19-22	6 th form Mock Exams
MARCH	
1 (Thurs)	World Book Day
1 (Thurs)	A2 Music Recital, 4.30 pm
2 (Fri)	Y10 Maths Enrichment
W/c 5 th	Y1 French Speaking Mocks
7 (Wed)	6 th form Application Afternoon, 2 pm
9-16 (Fri-Fri)	German Exchange visitors in England
13 (Tues)	Vaccinations – Teenage Booster & Meningitis ACWY
14 (Wed)	U6 Careers: Stop the Clock Day
15 (Thurs)	Y9 Parents' Evening, 7pm
16 (Fri)	Y9 Stop the Clock Day
19 (Mon)	Y9 Stop the Clock Day
22 (Thurs)	Spring Concert, 7.30 pm
27 (Tues)	L6 Parents' Evening, 7 pm
28 (Wed)	Closing date for Sixth Form Applications
28 (Wed)	<i>End of term</i>
30-6 April (Fri-Fri)	Ski Trip, Aprica resort, N Italy
APRIL	
16 (Mon)	<i>Term begins</i>