Thursday 7th March 2024

E-BULLETIN

From Junior Section to Sixth Form, keeping you up to date with everything at QEGS

Inside this issue...

JS immerse themselves in Science Week!

Our German linguists take a trip to Berlin!

HMC success for our Y6 footballers!

QEGS Musicians shine in the Rush Hour Recital!

Welcome from Mr Rees

Year [illegible] over the [illegible] el exams [illegible] will be mo[illegible] to come in [illegible] cessed 70 U[illegible] in an increasingly competitive environment, QEGS pupils are receiving a lot of positive offers from their chosen universities. As well as the traditionally 'popular' applications for medicine, economics, finance and business management, there appears to have been an increased interest in the following areas this year: engineering - including aerospace, electrical, civil, mechanical, structural and mechatronic; computer science (increasingly becoming one of the most competitive area for applications); and sports science. Frustratingly, some universities seem to be delaying their offers well into Spring and there are still a number of anxious pupils waiting to hear back from institutions like Durham, Bristol, Edinburgh and the London institutions - fingers crossed that they will soon hear some good news!! Alongside UCAS applications, there also continues to be a steady rise in apprenticeship applications, with a couple of the successful pupils featuring below.

ZACH H

Which course(s) have you applied for?
AON Investment Consulting apprenticeship as well as applying to do PPE (Politics, Philosophy, Economics) through UCAS.

What offers have you recieved?
I have received offers to do PPE at Liverpool, Loughborough and Manchester University but I have decided to undertake an investment consulting apprenticeship at AON.

When did you decide on this?
I only chose to pursue an apprenticeship in investment consulting last week after careful consideration between the apprenticeship and university offers.

What are you most looking forward to?
I will be looking forward to meeting new people and living in a new city. In addition, I look forward to being welcomed into the working environment at AON.

What help did you receive in the application progress?
Mr Pesterfield arranged interview preparation and regularly posted opportunities to students on Google classroom.

What advice would you give to pupils who have yet to apply?
I will be looking forward to meeting new people and living in a new city. In addition, I look forward to being welcomed into the working environment at AON.

BEN H

Which course(s) have you applied for?
Degree Apprenticeships in Manufacturing, Aerospace & Electro-Mechanical Engineering

What offers have you recieved?
I aim to follow an Applied Professional Engineering Programme degree path at Warwick University. I've received offers from companies but continue to take interviews to improve my range of options.

When did you decide on this?
Upon completion of my work experience with Bentley Motors in the Summer of 2023.

What are you most looking forward to?
I look forward to the hands-on learning available at an apprenticeship whilst gaining the benefits of a degree and salary.

What help did you receive in the application progress?
My Parents were critical to my applications. They provided fresh perspectives and verified details to assure I presented myself in the best possible light.

What advice would you give to pupils who have yet to apply?
Don't underestimate the value of improving your CV. It's the first impression employers gain of you and is a useful template to further applications.

NARAYAN N

Which course(s) have you applied for?
I have applied for Mechatronic Engineering and Mechanical Engineering (BEng)

What offers have you recieved?
I have received offers from Manchester, Sheffield, Leeds, Loughborough. I hope to end up at Manchester if not Loughborough.

When did you decide on this?
I decided on my chosen career during the end of Y12, as the whole of Y12 gave me more than enough time to decide what course I wanted to do.

What are you most looking forward to?
I am most looking forward to meeting many new people who have the same interest and passion in this course, as this will hopefully make student life in university easier and more enjoyable.

What help did you receive in the application progress?
I received a lot of support and help in the application process, this includes many teachers and my parents. However I received the utmost support from Mr.Binney and Mr.Rees.

What advice would you give to pupils who have yet to apply?
Think of as many great things about yourself which will help your application process as this will allow you to understand the many different traits and talents you have. Hopefully this should make it slightly easier when it comes to writing about yourself and all the amazing things you have accomplished. I would also suggest that you try to make the best of the help and support that is available to you.

James T

Which course(s) have you applied for?
Computer Science with Industrial Experience (Bsc)

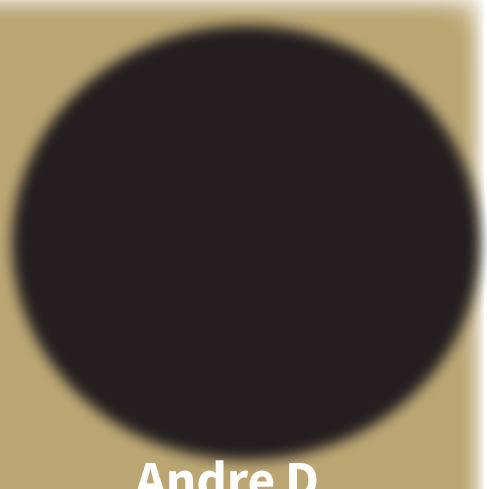
What offers have you recieved?
I applied to University of Manchester, University of Leeds, University of Birmingham (Degree Apprenticeship), Durham University and also University of Sheffield. I'm hoping to go to the University of Manchester which I need 3 A* for.

When did you decide on this?
From a young age I was always interested in technology so when I got the chance to study computer science at GCSE I knew it was a career I wanted to pursue in the future

What are you most looking forward to?
At university I'm looking forward to meeting new people. I'm also looking forward to experiencing new things as it will be completely different to what I'm used to. There are also lots of societies on offer that I'd like to explore such as ACS and Christian Union.

What help did you receive in the application progress?
I received a lot of support from Mr Rees who was willing to answer any questions I had. He was always available even when I had a lot to ask so I really appreciated this. My form tutor, Mrs Allen, also constantly checked on my progress and gave me feedback on my personal statement which was also very helpful.

What advice would you give to pupils who have yet to apply?
For those looking to apply to University, I'd recommend doing some thorough research before deciding where you want to apply. Manchester was a university I was certain I wanted to apply to, however applying to Durham was a last minute decision, and one where I think I should've gone to the open day rather than assuming I'd like it. I would also recommend using the support available to you, as the teachers are experienced and so they know what they're doing. Asking teachers to read your personal statement helps a lot as they give you valuable improvements that will set you apart from other applicants.



Andre D

Which course(s) have you applied for?
I have applied for pharmacy.

What offers have you recieved?
I have received offers from Manchester, Huddersfield, Bradford and Newcastle and I would like to study pharmacy at Manchester.

When did you decide on this?
I have wanted to study pharmacy since Year 12.

What are you most looking forward to?
I am looking forward to making new friends and joining different societies at university.

What help did you receive in the application progress?
Mr Fitzsimons helped me through the application process and with interview preparation.

What advice would you give to pupils who have yet to apply?
Make sure to read some pharmacy articles to help prepare for your interviews and revise your personal statement.

Which course(s) have you applied for?
Philosophy
Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method

What offers have you recieved?
I've received offers from Newcastle, Manchester, Bristol and LSE. If I get an offer from Durham, I would like to aim to end up at either Durham or LSE.

When did you decide on this?
I decided I wanted to study Philosophy in Year 12, following the split of Religious Studies into New Testament, Philosophy and Ethics at A Level. I found myself reading and watching more related to the subject, which led me to want to study it further.

What are you most looking forward to?
I'm looking forward to continue learning about something I find interesting from people who know a lot more than I do, and hopefully having more freedom in the things I get to research and write about.

Brody L

What help did you receive in the application progress?
I received help from my form tutor Mr Binney, along with my Philosophy teacher Mr Affleck and Mr Rees. They all supported me in constructing my personal statement, along with the rest of my UCAS application.

What advice would you give to pupils who have yet to apply?
I would recommend scanning through any preliminary reading suggested from your favourite universities. This helped me get an idea of what the courses would entail, and I found them very useful to reference in my personal statement.

Which course(s) have you applied for?
Medicine (and Biomedical Sciences)

What offers have you recieved?
I have received an offer from Leeds for Medicine and Bristol for Biomedical Sciences and am still waiting on interview feedback from Manchester and Cardiff. I would like to go to Manchester.

When did you decide on this?
After my GCSEs.

What are you most looking forward to?
I am looking forward to meeting lots of new people and the experience of living independently while developing my academic ability and interest in medicine.

Rahul D

What help did you receive in the application progress?
I received help from subject teachers, my form tutor, and also older students.

What advice would you give to pupils who have yet to apply?
Start to consider your options early and speak to different teachers for information and advice about the process.

UK Chess Challenge

The Chess Challenge is now nearing the final round and the competition is hotting up! Matches are played during chess club at lunchtimes with badges and other prizes being won as the boys accumulate points. For many of the boys this will be the first time they have taken part in a chess competition (with chess clocks!) so I hope it proves to be a valuable experience for them. There are separate U9 and U11 competitions and the winners will be announced in an assembly before the end of this term.

After the in-school competition, there will be the opportunity for any boys taking part to enter the regional 'Megafinal' and play against pupils from other schools, and hopefully then progress to further rounds in the competition. Further details to follow.

Chess vs GSAL and St Peter's

On Monday 4 March, we hosted players from GSAL and St Peter's in our first chess fixture for some time. This was an excellent opportunity for players to hone their skills and develop their understanding of competitive chess.

The QEGS boys performed very well and a special mention should go to Eisa Mohmed and Haris Khan for winning all 3 of their matches - well done!

Inter-house Chess: (TBC) will take place in the summer term!

QEGS Diploma

The QEGS JS Diploma is an initiative we have been running for a while and provides the boys with the opportunity to become involved in many different challenges and tasks across a very wide range of academic, sporting, musical, charitable and 'life-skills' activities. In addition, completing these tasks will help your son develop his independence, confidence and resilience.

We see the Diploma as a step towards the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and, as such, have applied a bronze, silver and gold standard related to your son's achievements. Each section of the Diploma will consist of a number of different 'fun challenges' and 'tasks' to be completed. It is the 'tasks' which will need to be achieved if the different standards of attainment are to be secured. The challenges are in place to provide the boys with the opportunity to extend themselves in a particular area if they so wish.

Parents can request a QEGS JS Diploma Booklet by contacting the school office (a letter will also be shared very soon) and we would like to stress that completing the Diploma is not a compulsory expectation. It is simply an initiative we have designed to further support the already wide ranging educational experiences the boys receive, both in and out of school.

We are charging £10 for entry to the QEGS JS Diploma and for this your son will receive a booklet and the rather fetching badges that they earn as they work through the tasks. Badges are awarded in assemblies, noted in the Speech Day programme, and are seen as a significant achievement.
With this in mind, we ask that a boy only requests a Diploma booklet if they do have the serious intention of completing at least the Bronze Award and that you, as the parent, will support him in this venture.

In order to achieve a Bronze Diploma Award, 30 tasks must be completed. A Silver Diploma, would require 50 tasks to be completed and a Gold Diploma Award would require 70 or more tasks to be completed. The tasks selected for completion can come from any of the different sections that appear on the contents page and can be completed in any order.

There are tasks within the Diploma that will require certain evidence to be in place, such as photographs, reports, etc. Please may we suggest a folder is put in place at home to support the filing of such evidence. This could also include a scrap book and/or a folder in Google Drive.

Further details will be shared in a letter very soon.

We hope you see this as an exciting opportunity for your son to gain new skills and to develop a great deal of enjoyment and pride from attempting the many challenges.

JS Science Week

This year's science week at the Junior Section was action packed and full of inspirational moments.

For year 5 the week started on the previous Thursday as they set off from school to experience some out of this world science on an adventure to the National Space Centre in Leicester. They explored the museum before lunch, seeing parts of the moon, rockets and satellites that had been in space before visiting the all important gift shop and pausing for a very quick lunch. After lunch they took part in a 3D show about astronauts and space exploration in the planetarium.

Officially the main week started on Monday with a few optical illusions as, the Head of Biology, Mr Higgins from the senior section, opened the week with a biology assembly about light and colour. There were plenty of ooo, ahhs and wows as he showed us some of nature's complex use of colour that individuals use to promote themselves and provide warnings to others. We also learnt about our own eyes and how we can use our cells to full advantage in different situations to see the world around us.

The afternoon saw the inter house science competition 2024 take place. The JS boys, in teams of 8, assisted by their senior section consultants, were challenged to build a table that would support itself and hold as much weight as possible. As with previous attempts at this challenge the difficulty was not in building a table but in building one that would remain standing with maximum capacity to hold a large mass. The winners were the cave team who were strong from the start and managed to build a table that held 900g .

The Year 6 boys and their Mums had a fun filled night of crime solving science in the senior school labs, hosted by Mr Lambert and Mrs Taylor. Many parents commented that they were excited to be back in a school science lab again after a gap of 30 years for some! Thank you to the Senior Staff involved and the PTA for providing the refreshments for a super scientific evening.

The Year 4 boys had an extra input of science on Tuesday with a trip to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park. They got wrapped up and viewed the animals who were braving the great outdoors with them. The boys took part in a workshop about habitats and rainforests which linked closely with both their science and QUEST topics. A great day was had by all.

Wednesday saw a visit from the Renewi recycling team from Wakefield Council who taught us what happens to all our rubbish that the Wakefield area produces and what happens to it once it leaves the bins! It was an informative and thought provoking talk and has inspired us to think more carefully about how we treat our waste and what we are actually able to recycle.

JS Science Week in action

Thursday afternoon saw a theatre trip for year 6 in Leeds. The watched the musical, 'Fantastically Great Women Who Changed the World.' This show was a great introduction to some great people who will feature in our next QUEST topic and also highlighted the work of female scientific pioneers such as Mary Anning, Marie Curie and Mary Seacole. It was a super show and a good introduction to International Women's Day in the coming week.

On Friday, our final day of the week, we invited Ian's Mobile Farm into school as our grand finale. Ian set up his mini farm in the school garden and brought a whole host of different animals including, bunnies, guinea pigs, sheep, chickens, alpacas, donkeys, goats and his sheepdog Meg who was the biggest hit of the day! Despite the rain, the boys had a super time learning about the animals' original habitats and how they are useful as farm animals. The boys were invited to touch or hold the animals and learnt a lot about animal care in their sessions.

A super week was had by all with plenty of scientific discoveries and experiences throughout the week.

JS Section Merits

The House totals for last week in the Junior Section were:

1st	
2nd	
3rd	• •

The following Junior Section boys achieved the most merits in their year group during last week:

Year 3	•
Year 4	• •
Year 5	•
Year 6	

https://www.mynametags.com/

A reminder that we have an association with through which the PTA receives a donation of 24% of every order. Please just enter the school ID on checkout: **11649**

Extra curricular activities have been in full swing recently in the JS. Here is just a flavour of some of the activities going on.

- Chess Challenge has been ongoing over recent weeks as part of Chess Club.
- Gardening club has started to look at sowing seeds as we look forward to the warm weather of spring and summer. The rhubarb and onions are coming through already.
- Junior School and Lower School Choirs are working hard to prepare for upcoming concerns.
- The Speech and Drama club has received some very positive reviews and has hopefully boys with this week's Inter House Speaking and Reading Competition, with potential exams on the horizon.
- The Football club has recently helped prepare the Y5/Y6 for the recent North East Junior School Football competition. The A and B team played well throughout the day, with the A team going onto win the Plate Competition.

All extra curricular information has now been brought into one place on Firefly and can be viewed by clicking here. If your son is interested in attending a club that is on offer please either ask him to approach the member of staff running the club or alternatively please get in touch with me via email.

Mr Tiffany

Key Dates

Upcoming events in the Junior Section.

Week 11B

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Week 12A

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Easter Holidays

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Week 12A

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SHINE Celebration Event

The culmination of the SHINE program took place on Saturday 24th Feb in the Jubilee hall. The celebration event was a chance to reflect and remind everyone involved about the activities that had taken place throughout the weeks. Our fantastic Y12 mentors produced a superb presentation recapping each week's activities before awarding the Y5 boys and girls their individual certificates. Each school then did a quick costume change before photo op with their graduation gowns and mortarboards! Finally, we enjoyed a lovely lunch to round off another brilliant group of SHINE graduates. We are already planning for the class of 2025!

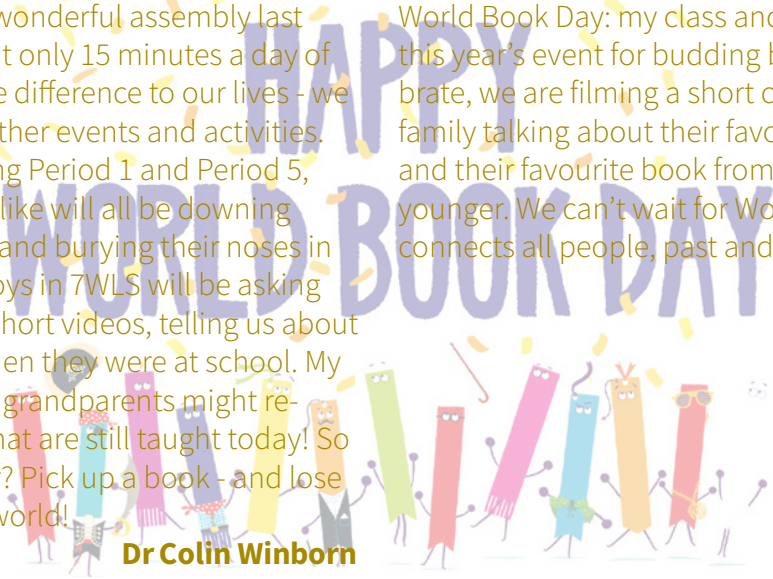
Cambridge Chemistry Race

Our scientists recently travlled to the Cambridge Chemistry Race, where, in their team, solved chemistry problems with the winner being the team with the most points in the alotted time. Both us and WGHS got honoruable mentions! Well done!

World Book Day

It has been an exciting time for all book lovers! As well as Mrs Fitzsimons' wonderful assembly last Friday, reminding us that only 15 minutes a day of reading can make all the difference to our lives - we have had a number of other events and activities. On Thursday itself, during Period 1 and Period 5, students and teachers alike will all be downing tools for a few minutes, and burying their noses in a favourite book; and boys in 7WLS will be asking their families to record short videos, telling us about their favourite books when they were at school. My guess is that one or two grandparents might remember reading texts that are still taught today! So what are you waiting for? Pick up a book - and lose yourself in that special world!

Dr Colin Winborn



Hello my name is Alfie Worth, and I am in 7WLS! … World Book Day: my class and I are so excited about this year's event for budding bookworms. To celebrate, we are filming a short clip of someone in our family talking about their favourite book (currently); and their favourite book from when he/ she was younger. We can't wait for World Book Day, which connects all people, past and present!

Alfie Worth 7WLS

QEGS Xtra has continued to thrive this year with many pupils taking full advantage of the various clubs and societies on offer across both sections at QEGS.

These opportunities are crucially important for young men as they promote self-confidence, inclusion and essential social skills' development. The programme continues to develop friendships, rewarding experiences and versatility within and for the pupils at QEGS, allowing them to pursue their passions, be challenged and have the opportunity to step out of their comfort zones by trying something new . One of the many aims of QEGS Xtra was that it helped facilitate the QEGS ethos of "care, contribute and aspire" and speaking to boys about their experiences in the clubs thus far, we have certainly achieved that. Since its 2023-24 launch with the Give It A Go cycle in September, there have been over 8,000 attendances at QEGS Xtra activities and we're only halfway through the year.

QED

The model train building QED has continued to be very popular this year; run by father and son team, the model is really starting to take shape and in the final Q of this session, houses were having their roofs attached, trees were being glued onto the banking and the foliage was having a really good hair drying session. The track is looking very purposeful, and though there are not yet any trains running on it, it is clear that there are big plans in store for the next phase of its development.