Friday 26th January 2023

E-BULLETIN

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

Inside this issue...

Y6 take on the Tenner Challenge as part of Money Week

Year 10 enjoy a Spanish Play...

Geography beyond the classroom!

Inter-house rugby comes to the fore for Juniors

Welcome to the first eBulletin of 2024 and a 'Happy New Year' to everyone.

Although we have only been back at school a few weeks, it has seemed an unusually busy time. Perhaps this is because, with only five weeks in the half term, everything has to fit in - and what a lot there is!

Parents' evenings, parents' breakfasts and the ever popular Y7 and 8 parents' bowling event; the boys can look forward to day trips, residentials and the newly resurrected Y8 disco which is held jointly with our sister school, and the staff tell me they are all relieved that each day brings a bit more daylight after quite a tempestuous winter.

Although we like to look forward in a new year, as the member of staff who looks after all things extra curricular, it is worth referring back to the Winter End of Term Assembly when certificates and medals were awarded to approximately 70 boys from Years 3-12. These include 11 senior section boys who have passed ABRSM music exams, 6 boys in Y7 who have been admitted to MENSA, 5 students who passed BEBRAS computing competition, 5 students who achieved gold in the senior maths challenge, alongside students who have completed the silver and, highly prestigious, gold Duke of Edinburgh awards. Twenty one ties were also handed to boys in KS5 who were receiving full colours and, in KS4, two students were recipients of the new half colours ties. Twenty first team ties were also handed out to senior rugby players. One student in Y12 received a tie for excellence in extra curricular activities and a personal favourite was when Mr Thompson revealed the winner of the Junior Section Cookie Competition.

None of this would be possible without the support and guidance of the staff who continue to offer extra provision for pupils to get involved in a robust co-curricular programme; alongside the sporting activities associated with the school such as cricket, hockey, and rugby, students have also entered national championship competitions in squash, a range of martial arts, and one of our students in Y10 has been awarded an early scholarship/apprenticeship with Barnsley FC.

The start of a new year is often the time to take up a new hobby or get involved in something that will offer a personal challenge. This is where the QEGS Xtra programme could be something for boys in both sections to explore. Mr Archer informs me that there are now over one hundred activities in the time-table which really help facilitate the QEGS ethos of 'care, contribute and aspire.' Certainly, these many activities provide boys the opportunity to develop friendships, but most importantly they promote self- confidence. There is never an excuse for a QEGS boy to say he has nothing to do during lunchtime and we encourage all parents to encourage their sons to get involved! The hobby they never knew they were missing, could be just waiting to be discovered… which reminds me of a quotation from the great Victorian novelist, George Eliot, who said: 'It is never too late to be what you might have been.'

Meet the Team - Paula

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What is your role at QEGS?

How long have you worked here?

What do you enjoy most about your role?

How has the scene changed for you over recent years?

Favourite dish to make?

Outdoor Education

As part of the JS Outdoor Education programme the 5JAD visited the City Block bouldering wall this week. All boys took part in an engaging and challenging session.

As an added bonus the boys were treated to watching some professional climbers preparing for upcoming Olympic qualifying competitions.

For those who fancy getting involved at climbing at the City Block, there is a climbing club in KS3 and there is also the option of attending a NICAS youth development they run https://citybloc.co.uk/kids-coaching-session/.

A number of JS boys already attend.

Break time snacks

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of avoiding certain allergens when providing your son with a snack for break time and also if he brings food into school at any other time.

Please avoid food that contains nuts, sesame, chickpeas, lentils or avacado.

We have a number of boys in school with allergies for whom exposure to such allergens would be serious so we are very grateful for your support with this.

JS Humanities Update

QUEST continues... The Year 6 boys concluded their hot debate on war prior to the holidays, deciding if it was a good way to resolve conflict bewtween nations!

YEAR 3

River Deep, Mountain High!

Launched with a visit from Mr McWilliam, a keen outdoor adventurer and Leader of the DofE Expeditions in the Senior Section, Year 3 climbed into the world of mountains. He shared pictures and experiences that he's had while exploring various mountains over the years.

YEAR 5

The Migration Station

Year 5 will be looking at reasons behind both modern day and historical migration across the world. The topic launch began with a presentation from one of our sixth form students, Lois, who told the boys about her family's journey from GIbraltar to Wakefield and its impact on their lives and hers.

YEAR 6

Hot, Hot, Hot

Finally, Year 6 have been building model volcanoes and erupting them at the start of their topic, Hot, Hot, Hot. They will focus on the geographical features of the world associated with heat and look at an example of both the modern world and an ancient civilisation who survive and adapt to warm climates.

£££ Money Week £££

The Junior Section 'Money Week' is always an exciting week where the children of the foundation share their extensive knowledge about money and their experiences of the business world.

We are excited to share the incredible journey our Year 6 pupils have embarked upon as part of the Tenner Challenge, an engaging enterprise project aimed at nurturing their entrepreneurial spirit. Armed with just £10 each, our students have enthusiastically taken on the challenge of starting their own businesses. This year was the first time that QEGS pupils worked alongside WGHS pupils and I have to say it was lovely to see. They worked superbly together and collaborated with ease. This hands-on experience not only provided them with a valuable insight into the world of entrepreneurship but also encouraged creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills.

Over the past week, our Year 6 students have been hard at work brainstorming and developing unique ideas for products or services to sell. From homemade crafts and delicious treats to innovative services, their creativity knows no bounds.

The Tenner Challenge not only teaches our pupils the fundamentals of business but also instils in them a sense of responsibility as they manage budgets, marketing strategies, and customer interactions. We are proud to witness the growth and resilience of our young entrepreneurs as they strive to make the most of their £10 investments and turn them into successful ventures. Stay tuned for updates on their exciting entrepreneurial endeavours!

Last week, we were delighted to welcome HSBC to school. They shared their knowledge and provided a memorable learning experience for our students in Year 3, Year 4, and Year 5 through financial literacy workshops. The workshops were designed to equip our pupils with essential knowledge and skills related to personal finance, fostering a foundation for a lifetime of responsible financial management. HSBC's engaging sessions covered a range of topics, from understanding the basics of saving and budgeting to introducing concepts like earning, spending, and the importance of making informed financial decisions.

£££ Money Week £££

The interactive nature of these workshops not only made learning about money enjoyable but also empowered our students to develop a strong financial mindset. We extend our sincere gratitude to HSBC for their commitment to supporting financial education, helping to prepare our students for a financially literate future.

Learning about money and becoming financially literate doesn't stop here. We continue to embed financial literacy into our curriculum at school and through building a positive relationship with our students and their families, we urge this to continue at home. There are a plethora of resources available online to support your son's learning. If you would like any further information, please feel free to get in touch.

See here for some photos from both activities!

Mr Drury - Bentley

Inter-house Rugby

The JS inter-house rugby competition encapsulated eveyrthing that QEGS represents; effort, camraderie, teamwork and encouragement. After a number of fantastic matches across all age groups, the trophy went to Bentley, who were the overall winners!

JS Section Merits

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

1st	- „ …†‡
2nd	€ „ …†ˆ
3rd	‰ „ ‡
4th	„ Š‹

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

Year 3	Œ Ž
Year 4	‘ ‰
Year 5	’ f ‰
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. Ple enter the school ID on checkout: **11649**

Valentine's Cards

I hope all boys have enjoyed the first week of extra curricular clubs being on offer. There is a fantastic range of clubs on offer; including Chess, Swimming, Gardening, Basketball, Orchestra, Badminton, Art, Story Reading and many many more. All boys in school should have now attended at least one club, and I'm well aware that many boys have attended a large number. For lunchtime clubs boys don't need to sign up, they just need to attend. Please continue to encourage your son to contribute as much as possible to these clubs as they are a great way to learn new skills, develop current interests and most importantly enjoy themselves. All extra curricular information has now been brought into one place on Firefly and can be viewed by clicking here.

If you have any feedback or questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mr Tiffany

Key Dates

Upcoming events in the Junior Section.

Week 9A

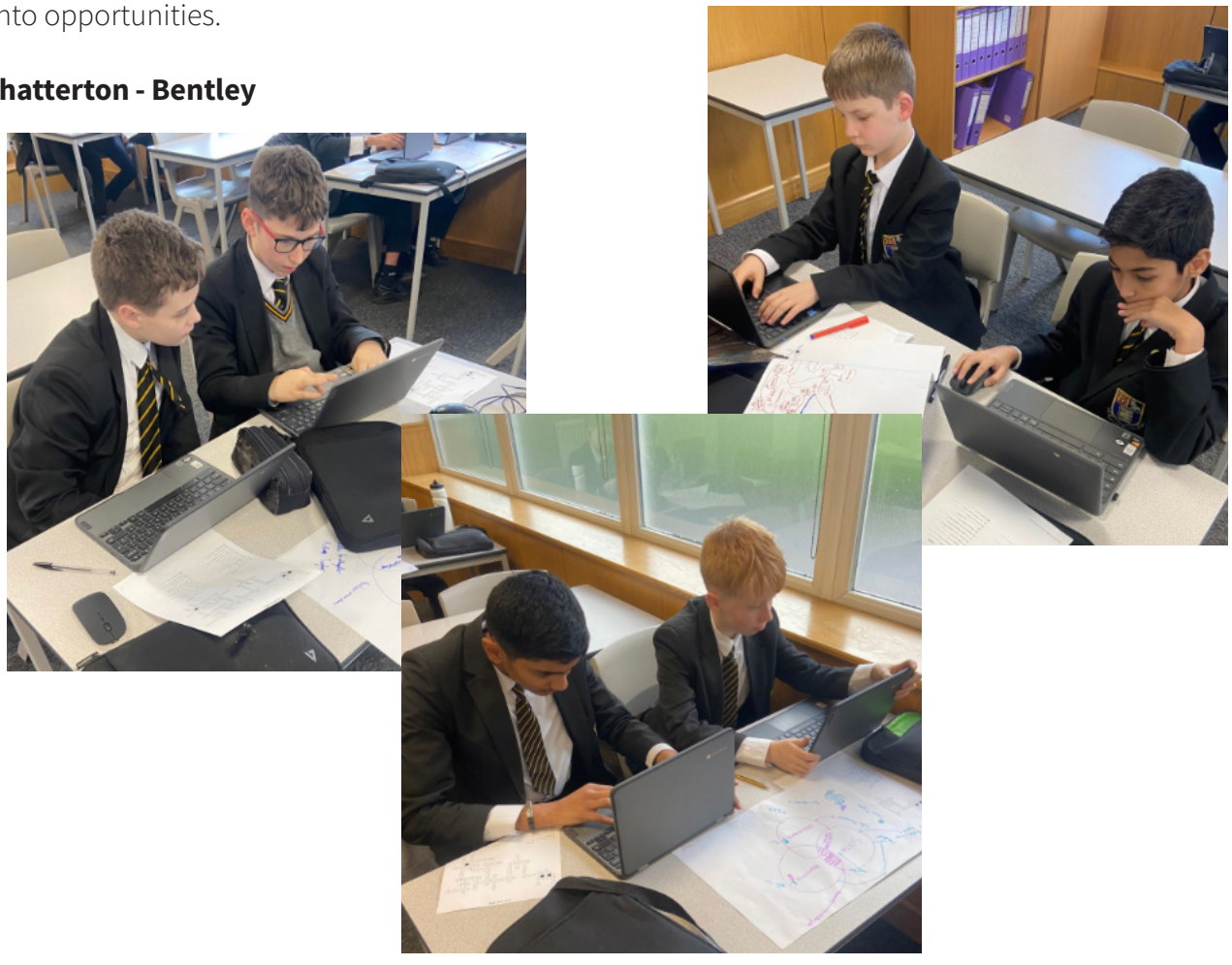
Week 9B

DEPARTMENTAL SPOTLIGHT

Geography Beyond the Classroom - QED

During QED on a Wednesday afternoon, a group of 17 Key Stage 3 pupils have been designing their own 'Sustainable city' as part of a new Geography QED session. The pupils have been analysing and assessing the different challenges that modern cities face now and in the future. Some of the issues discussed range from traffic congestion, air pollution and energy supplies to water and food security. The pupils are creating a presentation that explains these challenges and researching methods to combat the challenges and turn them into opportunities.

Miss Chatterton - Bentley



QED volunteering and extracurricular Geography, History and Biology at RSPB Fairburn Ings

A group of 7 Year 7 to 10 pupils from QEGS have spent the last 2 Wednesday QED afternoons volunteering at the RSPB Fairburn Ings nature reserve near Castleford. The boys have done a fantastic job helping the wardens to clear birch trees from an old mine waste heap to make room for heather to prosper and cleaning up a pondside viewing platform used for pond dipping by younger school children. Why not take a trip to Fairburn Ings yourselves and enjoy a peaceful family walk in beautiful surroundings! Dr Rhodes

Dr Rhodes- Freeston

Classics and Latin - Sixth Form Warwick Theatre Day

On Friday 26th January, A-Level Latin, Greek, and Classics students will be going to Warwick University to see a performance of Aeschylus' tragedy The Persians performed by current students at Warwick University, accompanied by a number of lectures by world-leading academics on Greek Theatre.

Homer's Iliad - Eddie Cokayne, 7PLL - Cave

"I thought the Iliad was an interesting story about the heroes of ancient Greek mythology. Although it is most likely a myth, it was fun to look into Ancient Greek life and Warfare. Personally, I believe that the best part of the story was when Patroclus led the charge by the Greeks while wearing Achilles' armour, it was one of the most dramatic points in the whole story."