



ISSUE 56 AUTUMN TERM 2 2025

QE IN THE NEWS



Dear Families

As you will see from all the events featured in this newsletter, the second half of Autumn Term has again been incredibly busy in school. As I write this, festive celebrations in the form of community carol concerts, Christmas lunches, celebration assemblies and rewards experiences are in full swing.

Well done to all students who have approached their recent exams and assessments so positively – demonstrating the academic progress they have been making this term and laying the foundations for successful learning over the coming months.

Year 11 GCSE mock exam results day last week was a privilege to be part of as students nervously anticipated receiving their results envelopes. There was an atmosphere of purpose as the year group excitedly reflected on their achievements, areas to improve and future revision and study plans. We look forward to meeting with parents and students in our PCEs and information evenings in various year groups in the Spring Term to support those academic journeys.

We are continuing to develop links within our community and bring opportunities to students to broaden their experiences of local organisations, employers and universities and you will see lots of those initiatives featured in the newsletter. In the Spring Term we will be gathering student feedback in our annual survey. We will also be exploring student views and sharing research on issues that affect young people such as the impact of smart phone use and teenage mental health.

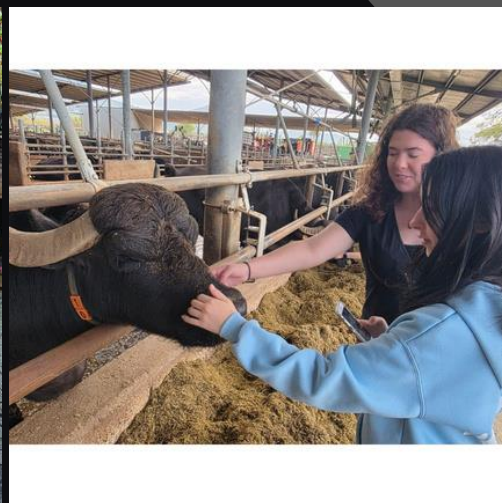
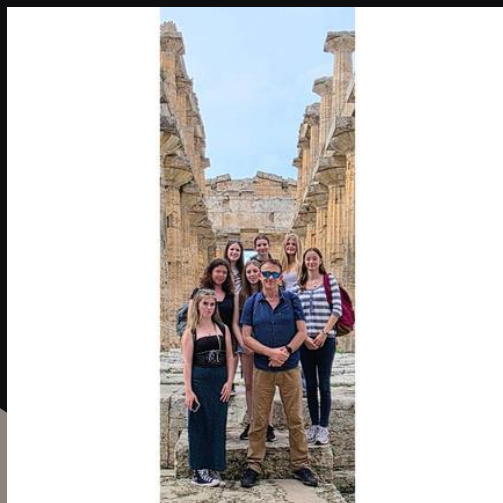
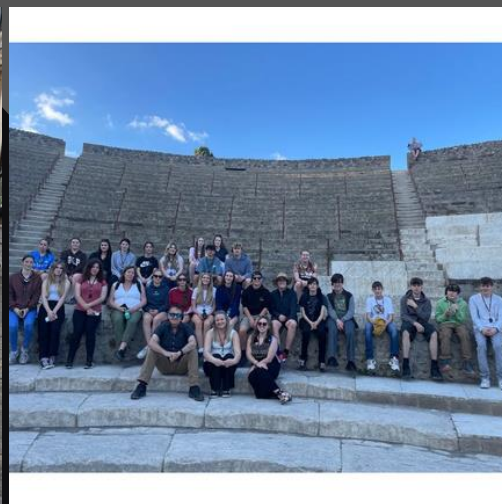
Students flourish when the whole school community comes together for the good of all of its members and we are grateful for the support that parents have given to the work of our staff and students this year.

I would like to wish everybody a happy and restful Christmas holiday and we send our very best wishes to you all for 2026.

Paula Smith

Headteacher

Bay of Naples



During the October half term holiday, thirty students spent five days exploring the Bay of Naples. The excellent itinerary gave students the opportunity to explore one of Italy's most fascinating regions, combining rich history, dramatic natural landscapes, and vibrant local culture.

Mrs Manwaring, trip leader, said "Climbing Mount Vesuvius was one of the highlights of the trip. From the crater, we enjoyed a talk from our guide and learned about volcanic activity and how it has shaped the landscape and lives of people in the region.

"We travelled along the Amalfi Coast, famous for its dramatic cliffs and turquoise sea. In the town of Amalfi, we tasted refreshing lemon gelato, made from the region's famous Amalfi lemons.

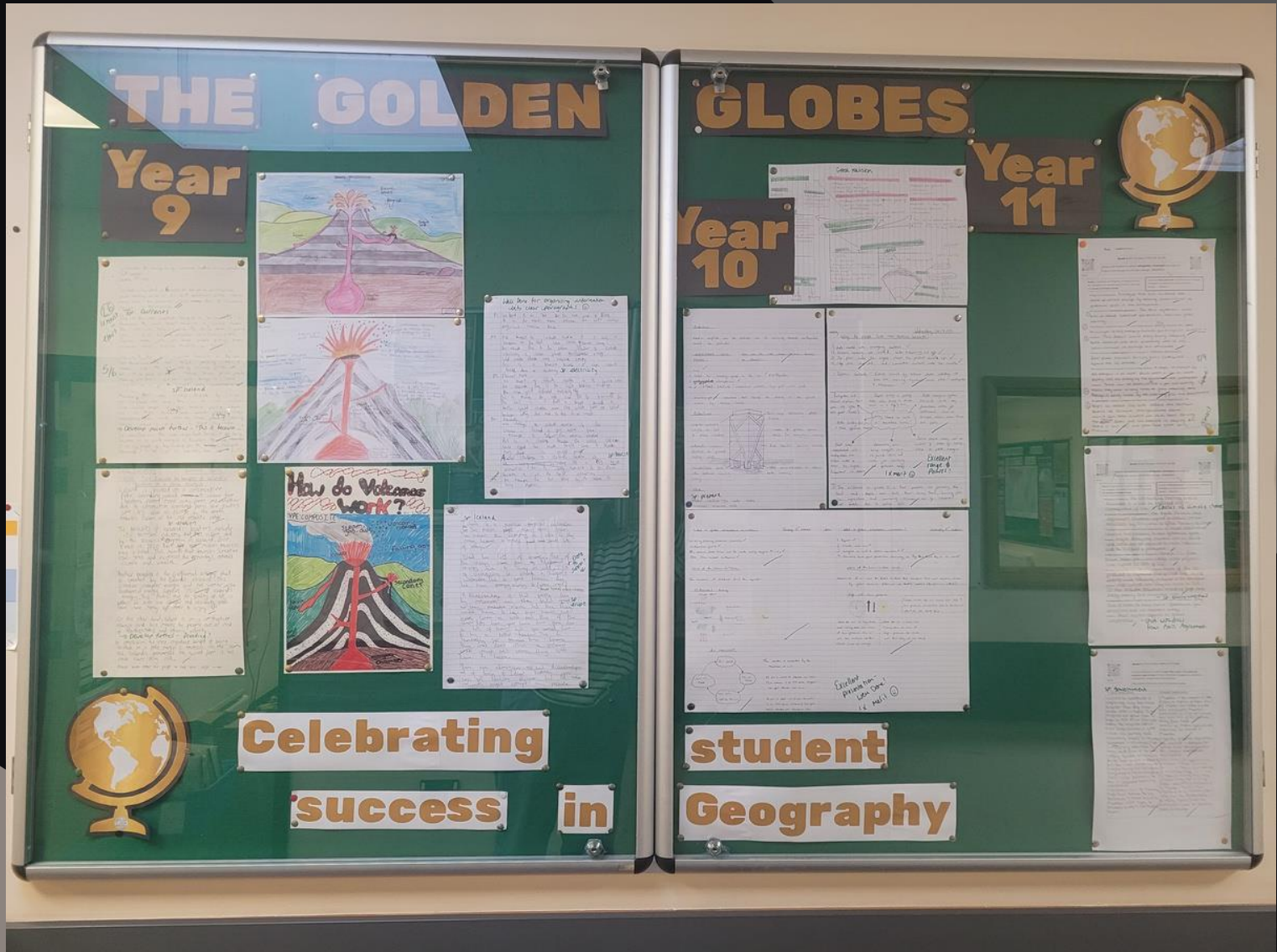
"At Pompeii, we explored the ancient streets, villas, and amphitheatre of the Roman city buried by the eruption of Vesuvius in AD79. Herculaneum offered a different perspective, with its well-preserved houses and colourful frescoes giving us a vivid sense of Roman daily life.

"We also had time to explore Naples, a lively and colourful city full of energy. There, we tasted the city's famous fried pizza (pizza frita) — crispy on the outside and filled with cheese and tomato — which was a real treat and a fun experience for everyone.

"Another memorable visit was to the Tenuta Vannulo Buffalo Mozzarella Farm, where we learned how authentic buffalo mozzarella is made using traditional, organic methods. We saw the buffalo up close and even got to taste freshly made mozzarella — creamy, rich, and unlike anything we'd tried before!"



Golden Globes



The Geography Department are running half-termly Golden Globe awards for our hardworking geography students.

Winners for Autumn Term 1 were:

Year 9

Faith, Edward, Jayden, Amelia, Ilsa, Etienne and George.

Year 10

Annabel, Isla and Isabella.

Year 11

Zoe and Florence.

Well done all!



Fundraisers

Over the October half term break, Year 7 students Dexter, Finn and Josh cycled a marathon distance to raise money for [Cancer Research UK](#). So far they have raised over £800 with nearly £200 on top in the form of gift aid contributions. What a fantastic achievement!

If you'd like to support Dexter, Finn and Josh in their fundraising efforts you can do so via their Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/joshdexfinn>





Fundraisers

Harry ran the 5k Exeter Santa Run hosted by The Exeter City Community Trust on Sunday 7th December.

Harry raised a whopping £900 for Hospiscare in memory of his Grandad, Clive who sadly passed away from Cancer in April.

The Hospiscare nurses cared for Harry's Grandad and supported the family so well in the final months of his life that Harry wanted to say Thank You to them by raising money for Hospiscare. It will enable them to continue their amazing work supporting families in the community and at the hospice ward in Exeter.

Harry and his family are visiting the Hospice on Monday (22nd) to present them with a cheque for the money raised.

If you'd like to support Harry in his fundraising efforts you can do so via his Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/harrycollins>



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Expedition

Huge congratulations to our Year 10 Group B Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award students!

In November, they successfully completed their practice expedition - and what an adventure it was!

From pitching tents to cooking on Trangias, every student showed incredible enthusiasm and teamwork. After a chilly start, the weather turned in our favour, giving us a beautiful Saturday morning to enjoy the outdoors.

A massive thank you to the amazing staff and volunteers who made this experience possible.





Climbing Club at The Quay



In November, Our Year 7–10 students had their first session at The Quay Climbing Centre, learning essential skills like knot tying and belaying to put them on their way to achieving their National Indoor Climbing Scheme Award L1.

Missed out this time? Don't worry! We're planning another 6-week programme after the Christmas holidays - so keep an eye out for updates.

Climbing to Success



Year 7 student Phoebe recently competed in the Youth Climbing Series, comprising two bouldering competitions and two climbing competitions held in climbing centres across the South West. She came 1st in three of the competitions and 2nd in the other, giving her overall 1st place for the South West and earning her a spot in the grand finals, a national climbing competition held in Manchester over the weekend.

Phoebe also came 1st in her category at the Climbing Hanger Competition, securing a place in the Hanger Finals in Sheffield on 15th November. She came a respectable 5th in the country and got to meet some of the country's best climbers.

In addition, Phoebe also entered the recent Interschools climbing competition at Rock and Rapid in South Molton, representing QE, and came 2nd in the Year 7-9 girls category (beaten by a mere 0.2 seconds on the speed climb).

Huge congratulations Phoebe!



Theatre Trips



Near the end of the half term break, over thirty QE students took a trip to the Theatre Royal Plymouth to see the gripping and thrilling production of *The Woman In Black*.



On 27th November, almost fifty QE students visited Theatre Royal Plymouth to see the UK touring production of *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*. A hugely entertaining evening was had by all.



QE Theatre Academy

Presents

JESUS CHRIST
SUPERSTAR
SCHOOL PRODUCTION



© 1996
RUG

LYRICS BY
TIM RICE

MUSIC BY
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

3rd - 7th February 2026

7:30pm (Sat Matinee 2:30pm)

Adults: £15 Students: £12

Western Road Drama Hall

Book Now!



<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/qe-theatre-academy>

A School production by arrangement with The Really Useful Group

Ltd

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Yr 10 Mathematicians Explore Plymouth University

On Wednesday 17th December, 26 of our most talented Year 10 mathematicians spent an inspiring day at Plymouth University as part of the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme. The event, titled “Why Study A Level Mathematics?” aimed to:

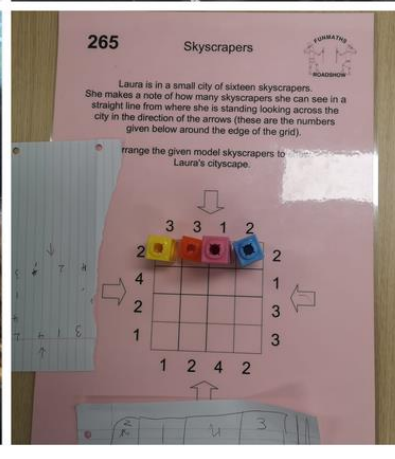
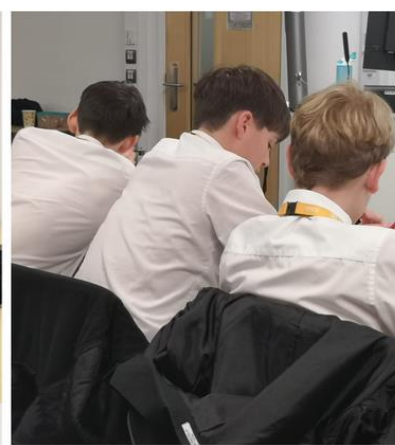
- Give students a taste of mathematics beyond GCSE
- Provide information about post-16 maths pathways
- Make maths fun through unusual and challenging problems

Students took part in a series of engaging workshops, including:

- Cyber Security – exploring the maths behind encryption and data protection
- Real-Life Problem Solving – applying mathematical thinking to everyday challenges
- Capture/Recapture – using statistics to estimate populations

The sessions were designed to be accessible yet challenging, broadening students’ understanding of how mathematics is applied in the real world and at university level.

Our students’ behaviour was exemplary throughout the day, and they represented the school brilliantly. A huge thank you to Mrs Everitt and Mr Blagden for accompanying the group and to Plymouth University for hosting such a valuable experience.



Year 11 Mocks



In early December, our Year 11 students sat their first full set of mock exams in formal exam venues. This experience gave them a real taste of what to expect in the summer and helped build confidence for the months ahead. Student engagement and conduct throughout was excellent, and our students approached the challenge with maturity and focus. We are proud of their efforts and the positive attitude they showed during this important milestone.

On Friday 12th December, our wonderful Year 11 cohort received their mock exam results and there was a real buzz of excitement around the Drama Hall. This marks a huge step forward on their journey to GCSE success, and we couldn't be more proud of their hard work and determination. Mocks are all about progress, and now is the time to celebrate achievements and set new goals.

Well done to all our Year 11 students for their effort and resilience. Keep aiming high - the best is yet to come!



Frontline Living History Workshop for GCSE History Students

On Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th December year 10 and 11 History students had the brilliant opportunity to participate in a workshop about Medicine in World War One with an expert, David Allton. Students were able to interact with a variety of artefacts including weapons, equipment, and uniforms. Students then carried out a simulation of a chain of evacuation process whereby one student, dressed in full World War One uniform had to be rescued by four students acting as stretcher bearers who had the responsibility of getting the student onto the stretcher safely and out of harms way.



It was an absolute joy to watch our students get so involved and to have so much fun - so much so that many stayed behind at lunchtime and after school!

Our visitor, David, was extremely complimentary of our students and I am incredibly proud of all of them. Thank you to all year 10 and 11 History students for engaging so well and showcasing how wonderful they are! I would also like to thank Miss Everitt and Miss Over for supporting students with this.



Under 16s Girls Rugby

A huge well done to the Under 16 girls rugby team, who travelled to Chulmleigh for a local derby. The team came out victorious, with a 15-10 win, which included Tries by Faye, Nuala and Lizzie - excellent work girls!



Year 9 Boys Rugby Team



An incredible day for our Year 9 Rugby team, as they faced Exeter School in the Exeter and East Devon final. Although the team didn't win, they showcased their skills and showed immense grit and determination. Well done boys!



Year 9 and 10 Netball

A huge well done to the Year 9 and 10 Girls Netball teams, representing QE at the Christmas Festival. A bitterly cold evening, but both teams battled on with great determination!



U13 Boys Rugby



On Tuesday 2nd December, the Year 8 Boy's Rugby Team secured QE's biggest ever win over St Peter's, in a 50-0 thriller! Special mentions to joint players of the match - Al Owens and Charlie Tripp. A huge well done to the team!



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British Shooting Schools Pistol Championships

Ella Tucker (Year 8) shone at the British Shooting Schools Pistol Championships: SW Qualifiers in Dorset, on 21st November. Ella took home Gold, helping QE top the leader board, with 1st place, out of 70 entries. Ella has qualified for the national final in February. A fantastic achievement, Ella - well done!



Don't forget, QE's PE and Outdoor Education Department have a dedicated Instagram account to celebrate all things sporting. Check it out and give them a follow:

[@peatqe](https://www.instagram.com/peatqe)



Aspire Bristol Visit



On 15th November, members of QE's Aspire programme took part in a trip to Bristol. The Aspire programme aims to support students with competitive university applications - including medicine and courses at Oxford and Cambridge – by providing a range of supercurricular activities, including presentations, debates and trips such as this. During the day, we visited the SS Great Britain, where we explored Brunel's remarkable engineering achievement, and we also saw the statue of Edward Colston in the M Shed Museum and learnt about the events that led to it being torn down from a plinth in the city centre in 2020. In the afternoon, students took part in a lively treasure hunt around the city centre, which encouraged teamwork and provided a fun way of learning more about the city's history and architecture. In the evening, we went bowling and played shuffleboard, rounding off a highly stimulating and enjoyable trip.



Community Spirit



Crediton Foodbank

gave a special shout-out to Isabelle, Rosie and Ruth for assisting at their recent food collection at Tesco, adding it was “wonderful to see the community spirit being fostered in our youth”.

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Year 12 Plymouth University Taster Day



Year 12 students enjoyed an inspiring visit to Plymouth University, where they experienced a taste of university life. From exploring campus facilities to attending sample lectures, the day provided valuable insight into higher education opportunities.

"his special event, generously organised and subsidised by the Ted Wragg Trust, gave our students a fantastic opportunity to build connections and share experiences with peers from other Trust Sixth Forms across the Southwest.



Make My Day

What is Make My Day?

Make My Day is a chance for us to do something a little out of the ordinary to surprise and delight our students.

It is our way of creating small but special moments for students to enjoy — sometimes linked to things they've always dreamed of or just a thoughtful surprise to brighten their school day. Some examples of things we surprised students with last term:

- Personal video messages from professional rugby players
- Cooking a curry with our canteen staff
- A new bike for one student
- Hot chocolate and time shared with friends

All of our 'Make My Day' moments were a surprise and planned thoughtfully with parents.

We love to be ambitious, but what matters most to us is making sure every surprise is meaningful, personal, and achievable. Please consider this when sending in your submissions.

We want to complete as many submissions as possible. However, we unfortunately cannot complete all submissions sent in. If you nominated your child last year, you're very welcome to do so again this year.

If you'd like to put your child forward, just email makemyday@qe.devon.sch.uk and tell us a little about what might make their day truly special and why. We'll do the rest, working behind the scenes to plan a surprise that they'll remember.





Rewards Trips

This half term, we've been blown away by the ambition and kindness shown across our school community. To celebrate these fantastic qualities, top students from each tutor group were invited on our latest rewards trips.

- Year 7 and 8 enjoyed a fun-filled cinema outing—a well-deserved treat for their hard work and positive attitude.



- Year 9 and 10 took on an exciting Traitors-themed challenge with Big Step, where teamwork, strategy, and resilience were put to the test in a thrilling experience!

These trips are more than just a reward—they're a way to recognise the values that make our school community so special. A huge congratulations to all the students who earned their place.



The Big Step

Further to delivering the Year 9 and 10 Rewards activity, The Big Step team brought 22 Christmas hampers with them, to distribute to families within our School community, to help over Christmas.

A huge thank you to The Big Step team for all their support.

Christmas at QE



We have celebrated the festive season, with a variety of different events and activities - all of which have been thoroughly enjoyed by staff and students alike! Here is a snippet of the festivities -



**YEAR 7 & 8 CAROL CONCERT
AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH**



BARNFIELD CHRISTMAS LUNCH



BARNFIELD BANNER MAKING

**SIXTH FORM CAROL CONCERT
AT ST LAWRENCE CHAPEL**



**SIXTH FORM CHARITY
CHRISTMAS TREE WALK**





Communications

As you will be aware, we use a secure online system called Bromcom to send out general information, newsletters and trip messages etc. to parents and carers via email. Please ensure you have added the communications email address -

mcas@qe.tedwraggtrust.co.uk - to your safe sender list, this should help ensure you receive communications from us promptly and that your provider doesn't filter them to spam.

My Child At School (MCAS)

We also use a secure online system from Bromcom called My Child At School (MCAS) to keep you up to date. With MCAS parents and carers can:

- Check their child's attendance
- Check their timetable
- Keep track of positives/negatives awarded
- View homework
- View reports
- Send and receive messages.

If you have a smartphone, both you and the school can save money when you download the 'MCAS' app from your app store (Android and iPhone).

MCAS accounts are generated for parents and carers when their child joins the school, if you didn't activate it at the time, please visit

<https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSParentLogin> or download the app and use the 'Reset Password' link to set up your account using the email address we have on record for you.



ECOTHREADS

QE Ecothreads is committed to reducing our environmental footprint. We aim to keep clothing out of landfills, cut down on carbon emissions, and promote a culture of sustainability within our school community.

Brand new QE Rugby Tops and Trousers available.

Due to a supplier change, we're offering these at an incredible price of just £5.00 each!

**To check sizes and arrange to purchase please email:
ecothreads@qe.devon.sch.uk**





BITS AND PIECES



If you have any community events or news you'd like to share, please contact us - tellus@qe.devon.sch.uk

QE Ecothreads

QE Ecothreads is committed to reducing waste and promoting sustainability by giving school uniforms a second life. By donating and reusing clothing, we help keep items out of landfill, reduce carbon emissions, and support families across our school community.

In our first year, we successfully sold over 200 uniform items, preventing a significant amount of waste and making a real environmental impact. A huge thank you to everyone who has donated or purchased from Ecothreads, your support makes this initiative possible and helps foster a culture of sustainability in our school.

If you would like to purchase an item, please email ecothreads@qe.devon.sch.uk to check availability. Donations can be dropped off at either school reception or at the library on Belle Parade.

Saving the planet one blazer at a time.

Community Engagement Work

On Wednesday 10th December, we were joined by a team of volunteers from Ernest Jackson. The team volunteered their time and skills to overhaul several of our green spaces, on the Western Road Campus. A huge thank you to all the volunteers that came along to help.

Ernest Jackson said it was great to "give something back to the School that does so much to support its students"





WE CAN COLLECT AND RECYCLE YOUR REAL CHRISTMAS TREE

(until 31 January 2026)



www.middevon.gov.uk/christmas-recycling



Trunk must be no
larger than 4 inches
(100mm) in diameter

Tree must be under
6ft tall – preferably
cut in half to help
crews load it safely



Place the tree next
to the blue food
caddy, or your
brown wheeled bin
if you are a garden
waste customer

*Thank you
for recycling*



COLLEGE HOUSE

Thank you to everyone who joined us at St Lawrence Chapel last week for our drop-in sessions as we explore early ideas for revitalising our College House building.

It was very helpful to hear directly from parents and families about your thoughts for a facility that can serve both our students and the wider community.

Conversations during the events clearly demonstrated the rich history and detailed local knowledge of Crediton held within our community. There is now an exciting opportunity to honour this legacy whilst creating a building for future generations to use.

If you would like to hear more and share your thoughts, there will be further opportunities in the new year with community drop-in sessions taking place at the Boniface Centre on:

- Thursday 15th January 2026, 5:00-7:00pm
- Saturday 17th January 2026, 10:30am-12:30pm



EXPLORE OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF COLLEGE HOUSE



Arts education for all – explore the potential of College House as a facility for students and the wider community.

JOIN OUR DROP-IN SESSIONS:



Thursday 15th January, 5pm - 7pm

Boniface Centre, [Crediton](#), EX17 2AH

Join
US!



Saturday 17th January, 10:30am - 12:30pm

Boniface Centre, [Crediton](#), EX17 2AH

Drop-in at
any time

COLLEGE HOUSE, AN INSTITUTE FOR THE ARTS



School aged vaccinations

Did you know children will be offered these routine vaccinations at school?

- ✓ **FLU** - Reception - Year 11
- ✓ **MMR** - Catch-up
- ✓ **HPV** - Year 8 - Year 11
- ✓ **Meningitis ACWY** - Year 9 - Year 11
- ✓ **Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio (DTP)** - Year 9 - Year 11

HPV

MMR

**MENINGITIS
ACWY**

**DIPHTHERIA
TETANUS
POLIO (DTP)**

Did you miss us?

We also have community clinics across Devon for:

- ✓ Home educated children
- ✓ Anxious children
- ✓ Children who missed the session at school

SCAN
HERE



For further information scan the QR code or please speak with a member of the team

Call us on

01392 342678

Kernowhealthcic.schoolimmsdevon@nhs.net



BITS AND PIECES

Changed your details?

Have you moved or changed your email or phone number? Don't forget to update your details with us! Please let us know if any of the other emergency contacts you gave us, when your child joined the school, have changed. You can use MCAS (My Child At School) or email new details to:

reception@qe.devon.sch.uk

Send us Your News!

NEWS



Email Lisa

lisa.gillard@qe.devon.sch.uk

Food options

Delicious, freshly prepared hot food is available, daily from our catering outlets, OR choose from healthy sandwiches, wraps, hot panini and spicy street food. Students can check out our menus on site.

For your Diary

- Dec 19th: Early Close, Last Day of Term
- Jan 5th: All Students and Staff Return
- Jan 14th: Year 13 UCAS Applications Deadline
- Jan 15th: Year 13 Coffee Morning
- Jan 19th: Years 11 and 13 6-1 Countdown
- Jan 21st: Year 9 Options Evening
- Jan 28th: Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening
- Feb 6th: Year 9 Options Form Deadline
- Feb 11th: Sixth Form Parent Consultation Evening
- Feb 12th & 13th: Years 7-10 Rewards Trips

Our latest job vacancies are always advertised on our [website](#).





WISHING ALL OUR
FAMILIES A

*Merry
Christmas*

AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR



Back at School
Monday 5th January
(Week B)

