

QE IN THE NEWS



Dear Families

I hope that this newsletter finds you all well.

As always, it has been a pleasure to serve our unique and deeply rooted community this term and to see the many ways in which students are flourishing in classrooms and participating enthusiastically in the wider life of QE.

We have finished the half term this week with our rewards visits, hosting Devon Battle of the Bands, Sixth Form Parents' Evening, an Apprenticeship Expo visit and ski trip information evening. This is alongside our usual academic work and regular extra-curricular activities including the staging of our brilliant school production last week. Year 11 and Sixth Form students are well into revision preparation for their Spring mock exams after half term, Year 9 have completed their study preferences for GCSEs and university offers are now coming in for Year 13 students.

It has been inspiring to meet with students in Years 7, 8 and 9 who show a genuine love for learning and have worked with dedication and enthusiasm across their subjects. Our students already display huge potential to be talented scientists, historians, engineers and creative professionals. This term, our teachers have been hosting assemblies to showcase career pathways that are open when students develop a talent and love for different subject specialisms.

We have been asking students for ideas to improve their experience of learning and deepen our sense of connection, and they have provided very useful suggestions for social mixing across year groups, helping them to actively participate in lessons and acknowledging international days highlighting issues that matter to them.

We have also been asking students about their views on smart phone usage and time spent on social media. The government has recently strengthened its guidance on mobile phones, directing all schools in England to ensure they are mobile phone-free environments by default throughout the school day, including breaks and lunchtimes.

Our current policy of 'off and away' is generally well adhered to by most students. However, we know that managing dependency on their mobile phone is a real issue for some young people throughout the school day. Please see the guidance in this newsletter on mobile phones and ways we can all support young people in their appropriate use. We are currently exploring options to further support students to meet this expectation during the school day and have been liaising with local primary and secondary schools and sharing approaches to the issue. Thank you for supporting us in our work with your children this academic year. I hope that you all have a very restful half term break.

Paula Smith

Headteacher



QE Theatre Academy Dazzles with Jesus Christ Superstar



© Rory Oliver Photography

QE Theatre Academy's ambitious production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* was a resounding triumph, wowing audiences at Queen Elizabeth's School. Sixty students from Years 9-13 showcased exceptional talent, dedication and teamwork in a dynamic performance that overflowed with energy and professionalism.

Year 13 Drama student **Aaron** led the cast with a powerful and heartfelt portrayal of Jesus, while **Jessica** delivered a sensational, vocally stunning performance as Judas Iscariot. **Izzy** brought emotional depth as Mary Magdalene, **Reece** impressed with his commanding bass as Caiaphas, and **Rory** gave a moving, nuanced performance as Pontius Pilate.

Outstanding supporting performances came from **Willem** (a wonderfully flamboyant King Herod), **Erin** (Simon), **Eli** (Peter), and **Fynn** (Annas).

The live band added true rock-musical flair, with lead guitarist **Sam** taking centre-stage for flawless solos. Led by **Lucy Welsman**, the mix of student and professional musicians brought Lloyd Webber's iconic score thrillingly to life.

Director **Vicky Evans** praised the company's achievements, saying:

"I am so proud of what our students have managed to achieve... this year they have exceeded all expectations. It is my great joy and privilege to see them excel."

A spectacular production from start to finish - one that will be remembered for years to come.



Rewards Trip

We continue to be blown away by the ambition and kindness shown across our school community. To celebrate these fantastic qualities, almost 300 students from Years 7-10 were invited on our latest rewards trip to Paignton Zoo.

Students enjoyed a well-deserved day of fun, celebration, and making memories with their peers.

Keep up the good work!



Love Reading



They will be reading *Call of the Titanic*, a historical adventure story by Lindsay Galvin next.

As well as January's additions, we've got another delivery of brand new and well loved titles across both our libraries just in time for half-term! What will you be reading next week?





Met Office Partnership



In Geography lessons this term, Year 7 students are looking at the topic 'Dynamic Coasts'.

QE's partnership with the Met Office in Exeter has introduced students to the links between the topic, their learning, real life and potential career opportunities.

In the first week of January, students heard from a Hydrometeorologist who works to forecast flood risk within the Flood Forecasting Centre (FFC) and a Senior Operational Meteorologist and Media Advisor who's job, involves being getting relevant weather stories across to the public and Met Office customers, to help keep the public safe in severe weather.

The weather over the last few weeks and the regular Met Office weather warnings have helped bring the jobs these people do to life whilst helping students understand how an interest in this topic could lead to a career in the future.

At the start of March, students will have the opportunity to ask the same Met Office employees some questions about the jobs they do.

Year 11 Revision



Last month, Year 11 RE students had a great revision session on Christian Practices with the Rev. Hazel Britton.

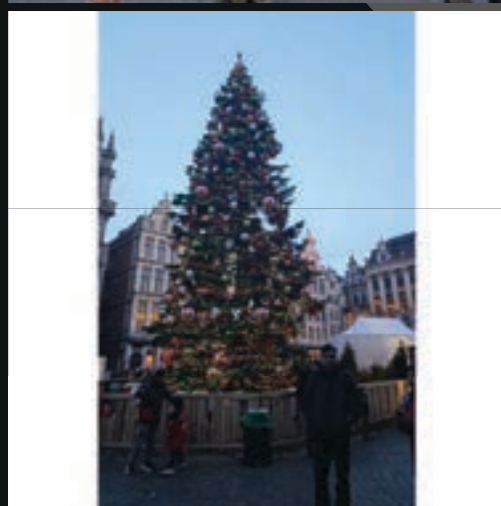


Mid Devon Monsters

These frightening Mid Devon Monsters have been created by Year 7 and Year 8 students at Barnfield Art Club. Linda from Kick Start Art delivered a fabulous workshop where the students explored chalk, charcoal and blowing ink splatters. At the final session, students drew with pen to turn their ink splatters into monsters! Well done to all who attended.



EPAS



From 20th–23rd December, QE students from Years 11-13 took part in an European Parliament Ambassador School Programme (EPAS) trip to Brussels. The visit included trips to the European Commission and the European Parliament, giving students a valuable insight into the workings of the European Union.

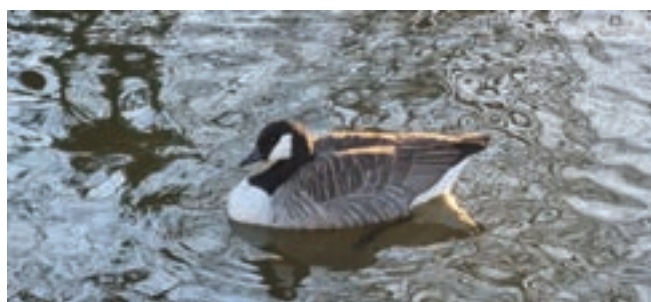
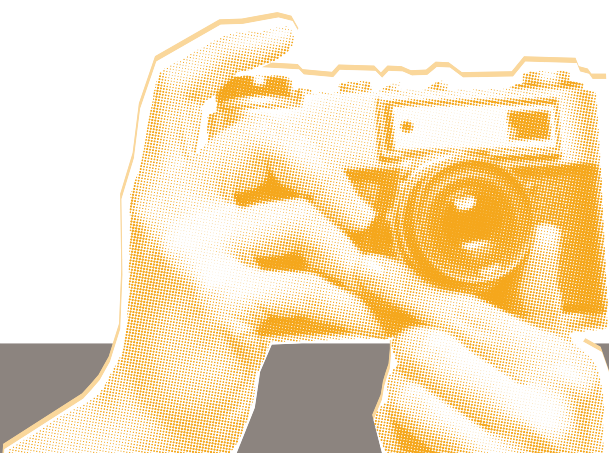
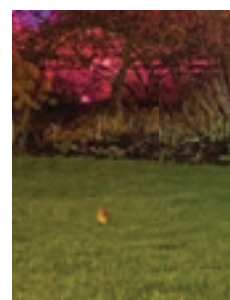
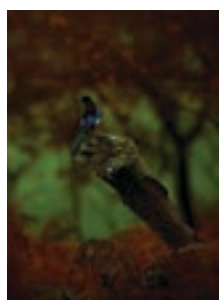
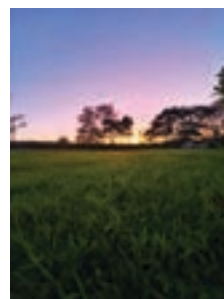
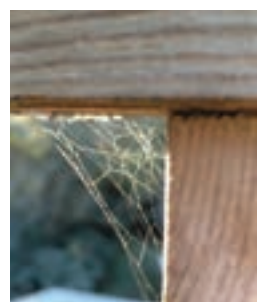
Alongside this, students explored Brussels' rich cultural heritage by viewing the surrealist paintings of Magritte, marvelling at the retrofuturistic wonder of the Atomium, and fully engaging with Belgian cuisine by eating chips, chocolate and waffles, wherever they presented themselves!

The students were excellent ambassadors for the school throughout the trip and a great time was had by all. Well done to all involved!



Rotary Young Photographer

Good luck to all students who have entered the Rotary Young Photographer's Competition. The theme this year is Happiness in Nature. We look forward to finding out who will win the Local round and progress into the Regional round! We hope you enjoy looking at a selection of the entries from our budding photographers.





Careers Corner



Towards the end of last term, QE organised Careers Corner at Western Road, where a number of different employers came in for either a break or lunchtime session. Students were able to chat to the employers and find out more about working for their organisations.

Thank you to everyone involved, it was a very informative week!

Battle of the Bands



This week, QE hosted the final regional heat for Devon Music Education Hub's Battle of the Bands 2026. It was a fantastic evening of brilliant live music and young talent on display.

Huge congratulations to West Exe School's At Least Three, and QE's Pariah for impressing the judges and securing their places in the final.

We're looking forward to seeing these talented bands take the next steps in the final!



Fundraiser



Year 11 student Lucas is aiming to run 100k in February to raise money for Dementia UK. If you'd like to support Lucas in his fundraising efforts you can do so via his donations page:
<https://fundraise.dementiauk.org/fundraisers/lucasbeggs/run-100k-february>



Chiefs Connections



A huge
congratulations to
Will in Year 11 who,
earlier this year,
competed for the
Under 16 Exeter
Chiefs team against
Bath. Will even
scored a glorious try!
Loving your work
Will!



Year 11 Girls have been enjoying Exeter Chiefs' Community Rugby Coach coming in to lead some sessions with them.





Year 9 and 10 Netball

Year 9 and Year 10 netball teams were out in force earlier this month vs West Exe! Year 9 winning 12-6 and Year 10 drawing 14-14. Great play all round - well done girls!



Football Cup Runs



Year 11 Boys Football: A win on the road for this team in the County Cup v Okehampton. The game finished at 8-4! Well done boys!!

Year 8 Boys continued their cup run with another convincing win, this time beating Teignmouth 5-0. Keep up the good work boys!





British Shooting Schools Pistol Championships

At the beginning of February, Year 8 student Ella travelled to Staffordshire for the national final of the British Schools Pistol Shooting Championships.

Competing against 77 other finalists from around the country, Ella put in an incredible performance, finishing in a fantastic 5th place. Huge congratulations Ella!



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)



Community Spirit



THANK YOU!

To the Sixth form students
who raised money for
FORCE by hosting a Candle
lit Carol and participating
in the Christmas Tree Walk

You all raised an amazing....

£475.00

THANK YOU!



Our amazing Sixth Form students have been spreading festive cheer while making a real difference 🎄

Throughout December, their fantastic fundraising efforts have raised £475 for FORCE Cancer Charity.

We are so proud of their kindness, teamwork, and dedication. Well done to everyone involved!



Queen Elizabeth Upper School
Western Road
CREDITON
EX17 3LU

15 January 2026

FORCE Cancer Charity
Corner House
Barrack Road
Exeter EX2 5DW

Support 01392 406151
support@forcecancercharity.co.uk

Fundraising 01392 402875
forcefr@forcecancercharity.co.uk

W www.forcecancercharity.co.uk

Dear Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form,

Thank you so much for raising money for FORCE Cancer Charity by hosting a candle lit carol concert and participating in your annual Christmas tree walk. All together, you raised an amazing £475.00 for us. Thank you! Your support means a great deal to us, and even more to the many local people who rely on our services during what can be one of the most challenging times in their lives.

Thanks to donations like yours, FORCE supported around 2,000 individuals through more than 16,000 appointments and visits last year. Alongside the care we provide at our Support Centre in Exeter, we also offer services in outreach locations across Okehampton, Ottery St Mary, and Tiverton, making a real difference, especially for those in rural areas with limited access to transport.

Whether it's group sessions that bring people together, physiotherapy to improve mobility and fitness, a relaxing complementary therapy, expert guidance from our Information Team, or simply a friendly chat over a cup of tea, your support helps make it all possible.

One patient recently shared feedback about the difference FORCE's support has made:

"The therapy sessions have been so important to me at such a traumatic time. They have provided crucial support which I could not have benefitted from anywhere else. I cannot express how grateful I am for this."

Thank you again for your generosity. Your kindness ensures we can continue providing comfort, care and hope to those affected by cancer in our community.

With our best wishes

Yours sincerely,

Lauren Butt
Fundraising Support Officer

working locally to support anyone affected by cancer ~ face to face
Exeter • Okehampton • Tiverton • Ottery St Mary

Providing Practical & Emotional Support
Funding Local Research
Buying Equipment to Improve Diagnosis & Treatment

Patron: Mr Nigel Acheson MD FRCoG
A Company limited by guarantee, registered in
England and Wales, number 07529991
Registered Charity No. 1140676



Ten Tors



Many of our Sixth Form students successfully completed a demanding Ten Tors practice walk recently, demonstrating fantastic determination, teamwork and resilience. Despite challenging terrain and ever-changing weather, they stayed positive, supported each other and pushed through to the end. This experience has helped build their confidence and outdoor skills, and we're incredibly proud of their commitment as they continue preparing for the Ten Tors Challenge.



Pre-Loved Prom

Launched in Spring 2025, Pre-Loved Prom provides Year 11 and Year 13 leavers with a stunning, sustainable selection of outfits for their summer balls. Outfits are often worn just once and can be expensive, so we aim to make the celebrations both beautiful and eco-friendly. Thanks to Crediton Town Council's grant and the generosity of our community, we have over 160 dresses and 50 suits available. We are now getting ready for the next season and can't wait to share even more amazing outfits with you!

Donations can be dropped off at either school reception or at the Library on Belle Parade. Please email community@qe.devon.sch.uk





ISSUE 57 SPRING TERM 1 2026

Mobile Phones

As a school, our priority is to ensure that all students feel **safe, connected and successful** during the school day. Mobile phones can be extremely useful tools outside of school, but their presence during the school day can create safeguarding, wellbeing and behaviour incidents.

Why mobile phones can cause difficulties in school

When phones are accessible during the school day, we see an increase in:

- **Distraction from learning** - impacting concentration and academic progress
- **Social media issues** - including online conflict spilling into school.
- **Safeguarding concerns** - such as inappropriate content, filming or image sharing
- **Heightened anxiety** - particularly when students are in constant contact with home
- **Behaviour incidents** - often linked to refusal to hand over phones when asked

Mobile phone policy

To support a calm and safe learning environment:

- Mobile phones should be **"off and away"** on school site during the school day.
- Phones should be **switched off and kept in bags** from arrival until the end of the day.
- This includes **breaktime, lunchtime** and **waiting for the bus**.
- Phones may only be used **after students have left the school site**.

If a phone is seen or used during the school day, it will be confiscated for the remainder of the day.

After-school use

Once students have **left the school site**, responsibility for mobile phone use transfers back to families.

We encourage parents to continue discussing:

- Appropriate social media use
- Screen time boundaries
- Online safety and respectful communication

How parents can support

We are extremely grateful for the support of families in helping us keep students safe. You can help by:

-  Not calling or texting students during the school day.
-  Contacting reception if you need to pass on an urgent message
-  Reinforcing that phones should remain switched off and away.
-  Talking regularly with your child about social media safety and online behaviour
-  Monitoring apps, privacy settings and online interactions

Reducing phone use during the day allows students to focus on learning, build positive relationships and feel more secure in school.



Update on College House Project

Thank you to everyone who joined us at our recent events to discuss early thoughts for repairing and refurbishing College House.

It was wonderful to speak with so many members of our community, and to hear about the personal stories and family connections to College House. These conversations clearly demonstrated the rich history of Crediton and the depth of local knowledge and there is now an exciting opportunity to honour this legacy whilst creating a space fit for future generations. For those who were unable to attend our events, you can find the information boards on our website here

<https://www.qe.devon.sch.uk/working-towards-a-one-site-solution>.

Following these events, along with our planned activities with students, we'll be reflecting on all the ideas and feedback to help shape proposals for College House that support high-quality education and respond meaningfully to local needs.

There will be more opportunities for you to share your feedback as we progress with the project. For those who expressed an interest in being part of our community panel to help shape this project as we move forward, we'll be in touch soon.





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)

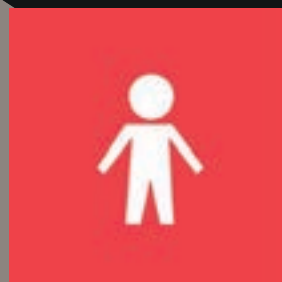
We also use a secure online system from Bromcom called My Child At School (MCAS) to keep you up to date. With MCAS parents and carers can:

- 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.





Equipment

- Black and purple pens (including spares)
- A pencil
- A rubber
- A ruler
- A Casio scientific calculator

Available from the library



Queen Elizabeth's *School*



BITS AND PIECES



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

DTP/MenACWY Vaccinations

For any Year 9 students who missed their DTP/MenACWY vaccine during a recent visit, the Immunisation Team will return in July for a mop-up session. Anyone in Year 9 who has already completed a consent form, and did not get the vaccine for any reason, will automatically be put on the list to be seen in school during this visit.

To avoid any exam clashes, Year 10 and 11 students will be sent an invite to book a clinic appointment.

For any parents and carers who missed the initial consenting process but still wish for their child to receive the vaccine, the consent link has reopened and should be available until just before the team's re-visit. Alternatively, you can call the team on 01392 342678 to complete consent over the phone.

If anyone would prefer to visit a community clinic prior to the mop-up session, please contact the team directly using the telephone number above.



Thinking About Getting Into Teaching?

The Ted Wragg Teacher Training Partnership may be able to help. To find out which route may be best for you take a look at the [brochure](#).



Kick Start Art - Spring Term Project - Mid Devon Monsters!

Kick Start Art is a free community art project encouraging children to enjoy being creative at home and develop confidence through art.

This term's challenge is Mid Devon Monsters. Children are invited to design and create their own imaginary monster, using any materials they have at home. Monsters can be funny, friendly, scary or strange - there are no rules!

The focus is on creativity, imagination and enjoyment, not perfection.



🎥 Watch the project introduction video here:

https://youtu.be/_XGby8dGk8M

or go to the Kick Start Art website for more ideas:

<https://www.creditonheartproject.org/kick-start-art>

📷 To enter:

Take a photo of the finished artwork and email it to kickstartart100@gmail.com, including the child's name, school and year group.



Closing date: Sunday 15th March 2026

Kick Start Art is supported by the Crediton Heart Project and Mid Devon District Council.



Follow Kick Start Art on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for updates and inspiration.



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

FLU

MMR

HPV

**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

Feb 13th: Last Day of Term

Feb 23rd: All Students and Staff Return

Mar 2nd-13th: Years 11 and 13 Mock Exams

Mar 16th-20th: Years 7-9 Assessment Week

Mar 23rd: Non-Pupil Day

Mar 27th: Year 11 Tempest Photographs

Apr 1st & 2nd: Years 7-10 Rewards Trips

Apr 2nd: Reports Out for All Years

Apr 3rd: Good Friday

Apr 6th-17th: Easter Holiday

Our latest job vacancies are always advertised on our website.

