



Dear Families

We hope that you enjoy viewing all the fantastic activities that our students have been involved in this term. We are incredibly proud of all the academic and extra-curricular achievements of our brilliant students.

Thank you for all the support you have given to Queen Elizabeth's, on behalf of everyone here, wishing you all a very Happy Easter.

Paula Smith

Easter Reflections

Earlier this week a group of Year 7, 8 and 9 students visited St Lawrence Chapel for an Easter service of reflection. The service consisted of music performed by QE's music department as well as bible readings and time for reflection on the theme of hope, it was also an opportunity to continue re-establishing links with St Lawrence Chapel, all in all a lovely way to end the term.





World Book Day

It was great to see so many students getting involved with World Book Day activities with quizzes, live author events, and competitions on offer.



Don't forget our student Extreme Reading Competition is running until the end of term, see the next page for details!



If you still need inspiration then take a look at Librarian Rob Angell's winning entry in the Ted Wragg Trust Extreme Reading Competition held earlier this month.



“——
| Reading is a
| passport to
| countless
| adventures! ——”



EXTREME READING COMPETITION

Open to all students
in Years 7-13

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?

Get someone to take a photo of
you reading in an unusual
location or situation!

HOW DO I ENTER?

Please email your photos to
rob.angell@qe.devon.sch.uk by
Thursday 28th March with winners
announced after the Easter break

Win a £10 Book Voucher – There's a prize for every year group!





ISSUE 50 SPRING TERM 2024

Alumnus MBE

The New Year started with some good news when former QE student, Laura Coryton, was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours List for services to Charitable Campaigning!

Laura attended Queen Elizabeth's School before studying at Goldsmiths, University of London, and the University of Oxford. Whilst at Goldsmiths she started the campaign to cut taxes on period products. This began with an online petition on Change.org



and which grew to amass thousands of signatures and global recognition. Laura says "My teachers and friends at QE taught me many lifelong skills central to campaigning, including creativity, perseverance, the importance of staying curious and standing up for what you believe in. They gave me the confidence I needed to embrace failure rather than fear it. As a result, I've been able to make a larger positive impact than I ever imagined."

Fabulous recognition of working tirelessly on a campaign that she feels so passionately about! We are delighted for Laura. A great example of what determination and tenacity can achieve.

#BeQE

#qealumnus



Theatre Academy

QE Theatre Academy's production of *We Will Rock You* – School Edition delighted audiences earlier this year. As ever, our cast, crew and band worked tirelessly to bring this epic musical to the stage. It takes a team to bring together a production of this size and the time and effort, given freely, by a large group of people behind the scenes, is always so humbling. However, it is our students who shone, providing them the space and opportunity to develop and hone their skill and a platform with which to share their talent has always been, and remains, a privilege to be a part of!

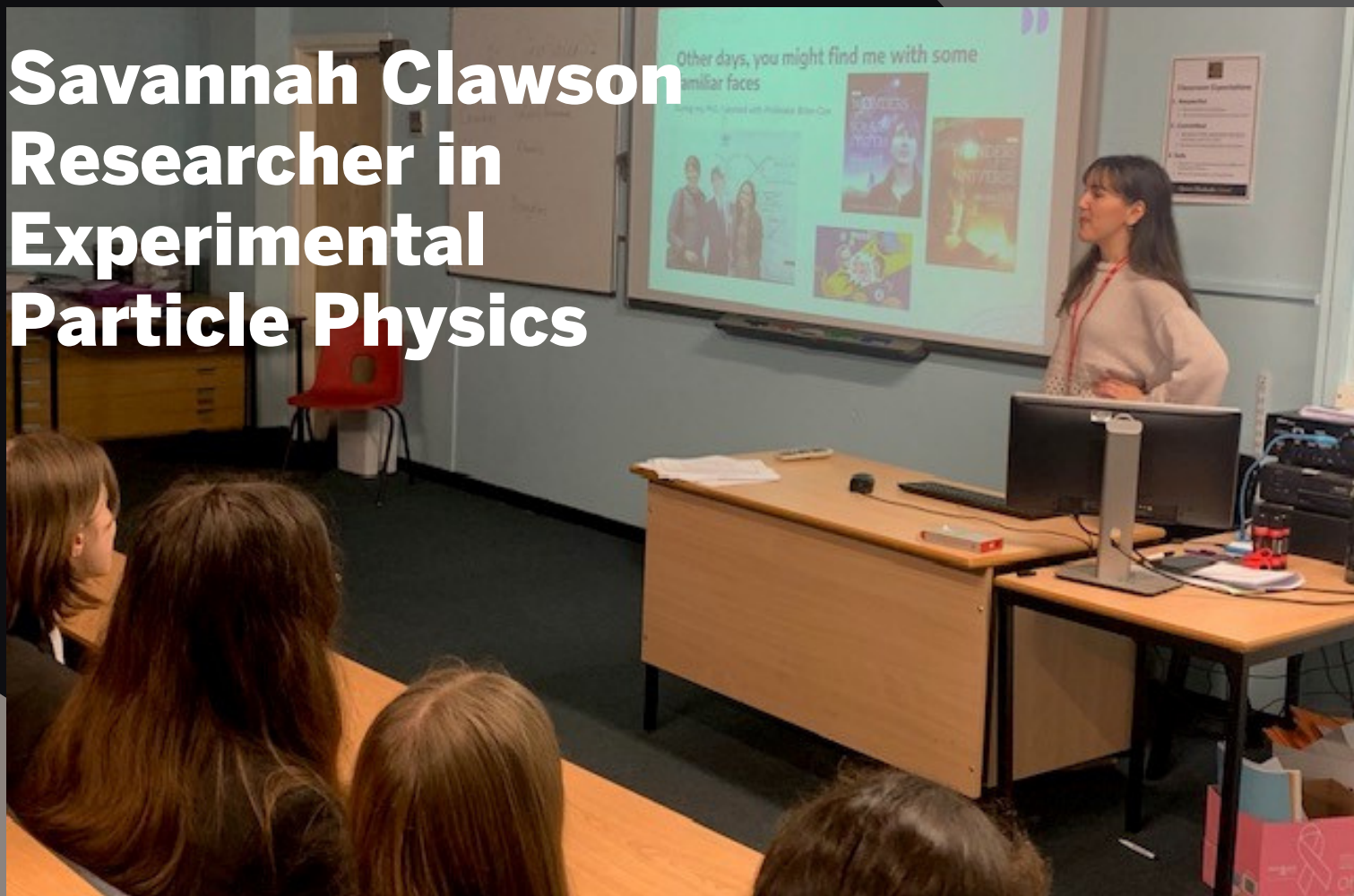
All photos © Rory Oliver Photography





A day in the life of a Particle Physicist

Savannah Clawson Researcher in Experimental Particle Physics



We were incredibly lucky to have former student Savannah Clawson come in to talk to our students about her work in Particle Physics, her journey to get there and the importance of women in STEM subjects. Savannah's work has taken her across the world and involves analysing data from the CERN Hadron Collider. She spoke to students about opportunities available to them including university options and apprenticeships. Savannah told us "I never knew that I wanted to be a particle physicist or even that I wanted to be a scientist! I just knew that I liked learning and kept doing the things that I found the most interesting"

A real inspiration to us all and we're very grateful to Savannah for taking the time to come in.



Puppetry

Year 9 Drama students showed great skill and puppetry knowledge to bring to life their own puppets made from just a few items and props. Great work everyone!





Holocaust Memorial Day

Back in January, students in Years 7-11 learned about the Holocaust in preparation for Holocaust Memorial Day on Saturday 27th January. Students had an assembly from the History Department and looked at stories of incredibly brave people who spoke out against the darkness of Nazi Germany. Importantly, students also looked at other genocides that have occurred since the Holocaust too. The theme that we adopted for Holocaust Memorial Day this year was to be the light in the darkness, so students designed their own candle on why it is important to be the light and why it is important to remember events like the Holocaust.



LGBT+ History Month



February saw LGBT+ history month, the aim of which is to promote equality and diversity for the benefit of all. At QE students had assemblies and undertook activities to aid understanding of the different key terms and some of the history of LGBT month.



Digital Design

Some of our Year 7 and 8 students were given the opportunity to participate in a Digital Design Workshop run by FabLab Devon.

These workshops were offered as part of a wider programme running across Devon to promote digital careers. The talent pipeline for digital specialists is neither big enough or diverse enough. Equipping our students with digital skills now could allow them to pursue a digital career in the future.

Our students were amazing - very creative and embraced the challenge of digital design with enthusiasm! T-Shirts were printed on the day and Keyrings and Notebooks followed later.





Strange Creatures

We are delighted to share these fantastic and strange creatures by Year 9 students! These monstrous creatures are work in progress and after Easter the students will be painting them after firing in the kiln. Their designs have been inspired by gargoyles, grotesques and monsters. The students came up with their ideas through research, imaginative drawing, character design and developing a variety of clay techniques.

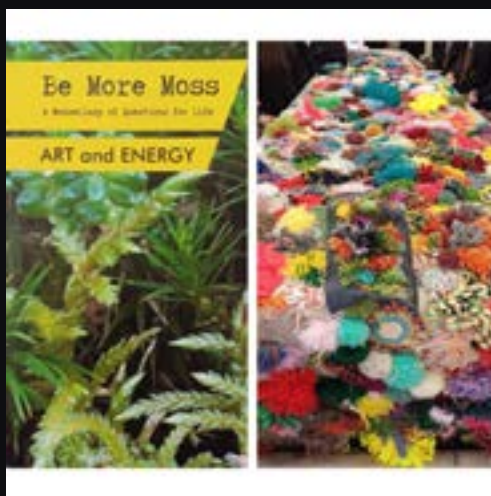


**YEAR 9
STRANGE
CREATURES**



Science Week

There were lots of activities across both sites for British Science Week earlier this month, including a Moss Safari at Barnfield and an art tie-in at Western Road!





Intermediate Maths Challenge



Congratulations to all of the Year 9-11 students who participated in the Intermediate Maths Challenge at the end of January. We had a fantastic set of results with students achieving four gold, 13 silver and 18 bronze awards.

Top performers Moon, Agnes, Tim and Adam qualify for the Kangaroo challenges.



Careers



In January, the Army visited QE and provided Year 9 and Year 10 students the opportunity to take part in a range of challenges designed to develop their teamwork and communication skills. It was also an excellent opportunity to find out more about Army life and a career in the Army. The students who participated were enthusiastic and engaged throughout and asked some well thought out questions.



Performing Shakespeare



Rory Doyle and Erin Zorlu gave an exceptional performance in The English-Speaking Union Performing Shakespeare Competition Regional Heats in Yeovil, and got through to the regional finals with their interpretation of Helena and Demetrius quarrelling in the woods from A Midsummer Nights Dream. Will Whish and Reuben Ridgers' witty and poignant deal-making as Antonio and Shylock from The Merchant of Venice was also performed excellently. Feedback from the judge made it clear they very narrowly missed out on a place in the finals on points. A great experience all round! Regional finals are next, with the finals held on the stage at The Globe, London. Fingers crossed!



QE Kids Can



In January, students Maisie Weeks and Jasmine Rattenbury represented QE when they competed at the NSEA winter show jumping championships for the south west, held in Dorchester. It was a very long day, that included a 4am start, but both students did very well; Maisie and pony Pepe came first and Jasmine placed fourth on her pony Isca. Maisie's mum Christine said "both girls rode a fantastic course, competing against schools all over the south west." Fantastic work girls!



Girls Football



Our Year 7 and 8 girls absolutely smashed the Ted Wragg 6-a-side tournament last month. Over the course of ten games our two teams only conceded one goal. Incredible stats! Mr Taylor employed an aggressive attacking game plan, typical of his management style, and it clearly paid off. Well done to the girls who are now outnumbering the boys at football practice after school on Tuesdays. Great commitment, and a pleasure to take along to these events.

For all the latest PE news follow PE@QE on Instagram and X (Twitter)





Netball Champs



It was a great evening of netball for our two Year 9 netball teams in a tournament held at St Luke's last month. Our (very) competitive team won 5/5 coming away as winners. Well done to all the girls, keep up the hard work and dedication.



Climbing Success



Earlier this month our GCSE PE students spent a great evening at the Quay Climbing Centre. Outdoor Education Technician, Mrs Morgan-Nolan was blown away by the resilience shown by the boys when overcoming the various challenges and problems set by the Instructors. She said of the boys "I cannot express in words my admiration for how well they have conducted themselves. True Ambassadors for PE at QE." Well done boys, next stop, your formal GCSE PE moderator visit.

UCAS Exhibition



Our Year 12 students had a fantastic opportunity to discover their next steps earlier this month at the UCAS Exhibition in Exeter. Students were able to find out about traditional degrees, apprenticeships and careers, as well as listen to talks from experts in their field.





Wright Palaver

Well done to all the A-Level maths students who competed in the 2024 Wright Palaver. This is a competition designed to apply mathematical and logical thinking in an environment outside of the classroom. First up there was a fiendishly difficult lateral thinking round, followed by a breathtaking orienteering challenge where students had to complete maths puzzles to navigate a path around the school grounds. There then followed a shuttle round where students worked in pairs through a series of maths questions. Finally, the students became the board pieces as they tried to navigate a safe path through Frankenstein's dungeon with a mad monster on the loose. A big thanks to all the Frankies for helping out and ensuring the event ran smoothly, and huge congratulations to the winning blue team of Will, Jake, Hannah and Alice.





Drama

This week, our Sixth Form Drama students took part in filming with Exeter University to create resources that schools can use to increase awareness of the language we use and the way we interact with others.





6th Form Football

Our Sixth Form Footballers had a great County Cup run but sadly bowed out in the semi-final against Torquay Academy. They were good at winning but these guys showed they are also good at losing, reflecting on the shortfalls and respecting the opposition.





Sixth Form v Year 11 Challenge Week!

Monday 15th April onwards...



Year 11...

Our Sixth Form are ready to take you on!

Turn up with your team ready. YOU sort your teams.
The PE department will provide the kit and your referee!



Tuesday 16th April

Year 11 v Sixth Form Girls NETBALL

Sports Hall, 3.30-4.30pm

We will provide all netball dresses

Big Crowds Welcome!



Monday 15th April

Year 11 v Sixth Form Boys FOOTBALL

Forches Cross, 4.00pm KO

Come to the Sports Hall changing rooms at 3:30pm. Bring your own boots, shin pads, socks and shorts. We will provide the shirts.

Big Crowds Welcome!



Thursday 18th April

Year 11 v Sixth Form BASKETBALL

Girls are also welcome to play in this fixture!

Sports Hall, 3.30pm

We will provide all kit.

Big Crowds Welcome!

**Crowds welcome
You sort your teams,
you bring the 'hype'**



Fundraising

Thank You!

A huge thank you to everyone for supporting this year's Comic Relief Red Nose Day, we raised a total of £319.



FRIDAY 15 MARCH



Wear a RED ACCESSORY e.g.:

hair band, hair ties, nail varnish, socks, tie, badge, nose, headband alongside your normal school uniform

Donate what you can via Parent Pay

All donations go directly to Red Nose Day

Nut Free

Just a reminder that we are a nut free school and ask for your support with this. We have a number of students who have severe nut allergies. We are asking that home packed lunches and snacks are also nut free. Dolce are currently a nut free provider and will continue to uphold this.





ISSUE 50 SPRING TERM 2024

Student Learning Experience and Wellbeing Survey Spring 2024

Earlier this term, nearly 1,000 of our students completed our Learning Experience and Wellbeing Survey. The survey covers areas such as learning, extra-curricular activities, relationships, behaviour and emotional health, workload and even sleep patterns. Our Heads of Year have analysed the feedback from year groups and have held assemblies in the past fortnight to report back findings to students. Senior leaders in school have spent meeting time discussing the results and will use it to inform plans for school improvement next year. Governors and student leaders have also met to discuss the trends and issues arising from what students are saying about their school experiences.



Areas of strength highlighted by the survey:

- Safeguarding is very well understood by students including them feeling safe and having a trusted adult to talk to if needed.
- Extra-curricular provision is really valued by students and there were many appreciative and positive comments from students.
- Students report low levels of bullying consistent with last year compared to the national benchmarks for this.
- Students self-report that they are respectful and know how to behave well.

Areas for development highlighted by the survey:

- We will ensure that students are confident to ask for support if they don't understand explanations.
- We will promote strategies for student confidence in independent learning.
- We will clarify our expectations for work outside of school and the benefits that brings to students.
- We will develop a coherent strategy for promoting positive mental wellbeing for students and regularly signpost support available to them for that.
- We will continue to promote rewards to students and clearly explain behaviour guidance to students.



Mental Wellbeing Update

As QE's Mental Health Coach and Designated Mental Health Lead I aim to keep you updated with all things mental wellbeing related. This will include current and upcoming actions as well as places you can seek external support.

As we come to the end of a wet winter, many of us are looking forward to some spring weather. At this time of year many of us have been missing getting out and about, which is so good for our mental wellbeing. A bit of activity outdoors releases endorphins and serotonin, which are great for raising our mood. So, with lighter evenings and hopefully some sunnier weather on its way, it might be time to get out for some walks, games or picnics as a family.

At QE we take the mental wellbeing of our students very seriously, attempting to encourage positive wellbeing in everyone and responding to individuals who are having specific difficulties. This is, however, a difficult task with a large number of students and a continuing national increase in mental health difficulties amongst young people. With NHS England reporting that over 20% of 8-16 year olds and 23% of 17-19 year olds are experiencing diagnosable mental health difficulties, it is difficult for resources to keep up.

However, we continue to strive to improve the support that we offer. Alongside the various pastoral support offered to QE students we are also offering the following:

- Workshops for parents/carers on the subject of adolescent anger and adolescent anxiety.
- Managing stress presentation and workshops for year 11 and sixth form students.
- Training for all QE staff in recognising and responding to student dysregulation and mental health difficulties.
- Developing strong working relationship with the new Mid Devon Mental Health Support Team (more information to follow on this soon).

I can understand the concern for parents/carers and families when a child is struggling with their mental health. Often it can feel isolating and seems that there is no help available. The following links will take you to various types of support, including information for parents/carers, advice for young people, helpful apps/videos and other resources.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/>

<https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/>

<https://www.kooth.com/>

<https://calmharm.co.uk/>

<https://www.papyrus-uk.org/>



Schools are not equipped to deal with mental health crisis, so if you need urgent support for your child, you can contact CAMHS 24/7:

03300 245321 (Monday – Friday, 8am – 5pm) or 0300 555 5000 (out of hours)

Richard Whitehouse
Mental Health Coach/SEMH Lead



Parent Forum

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to invite you to attend a Parent Forum at Queen Elizabeth to discuss the implementation of our new Anti-Bullying Policy. As partners in ensuring the well-being and safety of our students, your insights and collaboration are invaluable.

Date: 17th April 2024

Time: 6.00-8.00pm

Location: College Café, Western Road

The safety and emotional well-being of every student at QE are paramount to us. With that commitment in mind, we have developed a comprehensive Anti-Bullying Policy aimed at fostering a safe and inclusive environment for all.

During the forum, we will explore key aspects of the policy, including:

1. Overview of the Anti-Bullying Policy: Understand the objectives, scope, and components of the policy.
2. Strategies for Prevention: Explore proactive measures to prevent bullying and discuss new anti-bullying stages.
3. Reporting and Response Procedures: Discuss the protocols for reporting bullying incidents and the steps we take to address them promptly and effectively.
4. Student involvement: Discuss the anti-bullying ambassadors and their role within the school.

Please RSVP by 10th April to confirm your attendance, using the this [online form](#).

Best wishes,

Jack Fahy

Assistant Headteacher – Pastoral Development



PARENT PEER SUPPORT



Are you a Mum, Dad, Grandparent or carer who would like to expand your support network?

We will be holding an expression of interest event for a new Community initiative.

Parent / Family Peer Groups

If you would like to find out more, share your ideas and understand how you can get involved, please join us

Tuesday 23rd April 2024
11am - 3pm

OR

Saturday 27th April 2024
11am - 1pm

AT

The Town Council Hub
on the Square

IDEAS AT A GLANCE

Informal 'Coffee and Chat'

Support for families of SEN and Neurodiverse children

Families of Teenagers

Peer to Peer support

*Led by the Community
for the Community*

For more information, please contact
Tamlyn at Involve Mid Devon
Tamlyn@involve-middevon.org.uk



OUTDOOR CLUB

12-WEEK PROGRAMME

Tues 16 April to 21 May - half term
break - Tues 4 June to 16 July

3.30 pm -
5.30 pm

QE Barnfield
Campus



 Learning safe
use of tools

 Cooking
on a fire

 Whittling

 Sculpture

 Gardening

 Fire skills
& safety

Payable
in advance

ONLY £2
PER
SESSION

 /creditonyouthservice

 @creditonyouthservice



CREDITON
TOWN COUNCIL

CREDITON
YOUTH CLUB



Booking required

 BOOK NOW

Or visit:

<https://forms.office.com/e/FLuLMdB5TQ>



The HAF Website is now live!

The programme of events for the Easter
holidays has now gone live in Devon

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/haf-map/>

Please share far and wide!
Places are limited

**Fully funded places are available for children
who are accessing benefit related free school
meals**



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 also 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

GRUB'S UP

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

Mar 28th: End of Term
Apr 15th: Students Return
Apr 17th: Parent Forum
Apr 24th: Year 7 Parents' Evening
May 8th: Year 8 Parents' Evening
May 9th: Exam Period Starts
May 13th: Year 13 Diploma Evening
May 10th-12th: Ten Tors Event
May 27th-31st: Half Term

Our latest job
vacancies are always
advertised on our
website.





Wishing
all our Students,
Parents and Carers
a very Happy Easter
and restful break.

We are back to school on

Monday 15th April

(Week A)

