



ISSUE 47 SPRING TERM 2023

QE IN THE NEWS

Dear Parents and Carers

I'm proud to be the Headteacher of Queen Elizabeth's School. Our students are truly wonderful and have worked incredibly hard to achieve their best this term. The whole team at QE knows that the school is the heartbeat of the community here in mid Devon and that the connection that a student feels towards school and the wider experiences that come with being part of a school stays with them for life.

We have finished the term this week with rewards and celebration assemblies. It is inspiring and uplifting to meet with students who love 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. Our good citizens awards illustrate how students across all year groups are willing to participate and positively support others in the daily life of the school. The newsletter provides a flavour of what we have been doing to develop knowledge, character and contribution with our students during the Spring Term.

In the summer term students will notice visitors on-site looking at our accommodation. The aim is to develop an ambitious 10-year masterplan for the school premises. The students, staff and local community deserve the very best facilities at QE. After many decades of on-going discussion about the QE sites and buildings, it is now time to plan and implement the necessary improvements to the school's infrastructure. The Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust will shortly be inviting multi-disciplinary teams to tender for services to develop an ambitious improvement and/or rebuild scheme for QE.

The remit for this will be to:

- Provide safe, secure and inspiring spaces for students and staff.
- Respect the character and heritage of the school, and its place at the heart of the Crediton community.
- Develop a high quality, coherent environment that facilitates subject collaboration.
- Provide a stimulating learning environment with reduced environmental impact providing compliant, environmentally friendly spaces, fit for future generations.
- Being cost effective: high levels of amenity for learning and appropriate support spaces.

The purpose of this work is to identify solutions for the redevelopment of QE that will address significant building condition needs and consider realistic options for bringing together the existing campuses into a single facility. Proposals will include the phasing of plan recommendations, ensuring that developments are correctly prioritised. A key part of the masterplan development will involve substantial engagement with all members of the school community including students, staff, governors, parents and wider community. We will provide an update on the next steps during the summer term.

Wishing all of our families a Happy Easter break and we look forward to welcoming students back to school on the 17th April.

Paula Smith

Performing Shakespeare



In December, a selection of Year 8 students competed in the first round of the English-Speaking Union's 'Performing Shakespeare' Competition. This is a national competition, with the final taking place in The Globe Theatre in London.

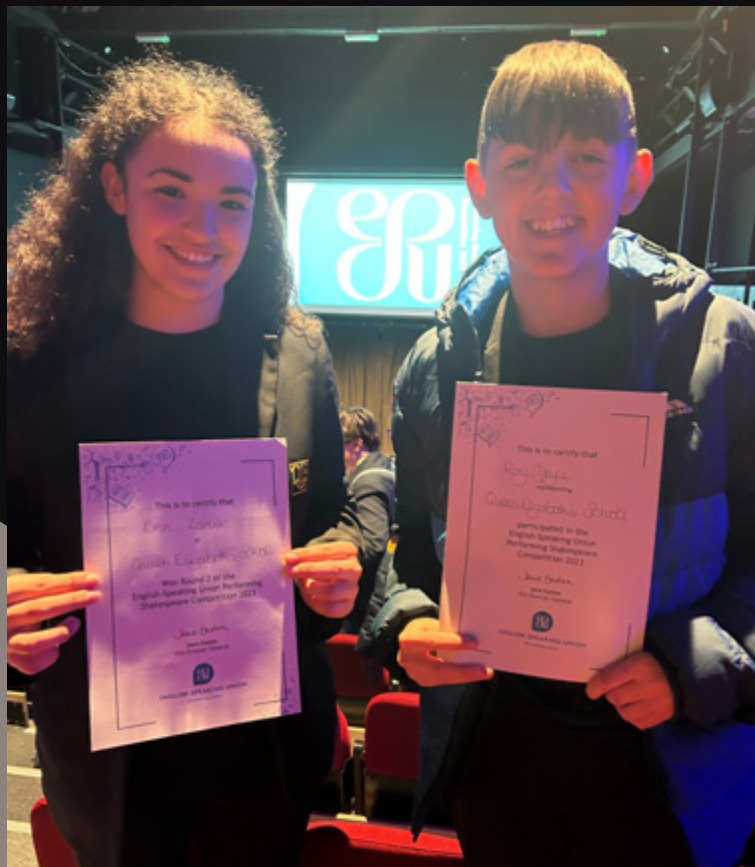
All entrants worked really hard to learn a Shakespearean monologue of their own choosing. The judging panel, made up of Year 13 Drama students Joe McLoughlin and Eliza Moore accompanied by teacher Emily Morgan, were treated to monologues from Hamlet, The Tempest, As You Like It, Romeo and Juliet, The Taming of the Shrew and A Midsummer Night's Dream. It was a very close competition, but Rory Doyle (with his monologue from 'Romeo and Juliet') and Erin Zorlu (with Catherine from 'The Taming of the Shrew') made it through to the regional heats. Well done to all our entrants for their fantastic performances.

On the evening of Wednesday 1st March, Rory and Erin competed in the second round of the competition. Both performed brilliantly in the daunting setting of the theatre at Taunton School in front of judges from ESU and Exeter University. Erin's performance has secured her a place in the regional final, to be held in June. One step closer to the Grand Final in the Globe Theatre, London!



Pictured above: Joe McLoughlin, Rory Doyle, Erin Zorlu, Ayisha Doumbia, Summer Hodgson, Moon Robbins, Eliza Moore - missing from picture: Austin Campbell-Platt

Pictured below: Erin Zorlu and Rory Doyle



An Inspector Calls



On 9th March, our GCSE and A-level Drama students went to see the National Theatre's production of *An Inspector Calls* in Plymouth. The students were treated to a fantastic evening at the theatre with a cast of superb actors and a performance full of theatrical surprises. Although written in 1945, J.B Priestley's classic play remains relevant today, striking a chord with audiences young and old. It is always a pleasure to share live theatre with our students and this piece never fails to inspire.

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World Book Day



QE's Barnfield campus students held a contest to decorate their tutor room doors in honour of World Book Day. Victoria Hopkins Bond, Director of English and Performing Arts, said "It was fantastic to see the different approaches each tutor group took to this competition: some decided to create a display on a book they've read together in our Tutor Group Guided Reading programme; others decided to focus on displaying each student's favourite book. Whatever approach they chose, each tutor group demonstrated excellent teamwork which was impressive to see."

First prize was awarded to tutor group 7N for their depiction of 'The Gruffalo'. Second place went to 8O for their interpretation of 'The Revolver', and 7C's 'The London Eye' (and other favourite books) took third place.



Science in Action



British Science Week's theme this year was 'Connections' and our Year 7 students were given a demonstration on the products of combustion. The experiment enabled students to see the link between the burning of fossil fuels and the production of acid rain and greenhouse gases (water and carbon dioxide).



Alumni

Not one but two former QE students have reached the final of the National Skills Academy for Nuclear (NSAN) Graduate of the Year Award!

<https://www.nsan.co.uk/page/GraduateoftheYearFinalists2023>

Molly McCarthy is a Graduate Chemist at Jacobs currently doing a placement as an Equipment Qualification Engineer for EDF Energy, working on the Hinkley Point C Project.

James Trott is a Waste and Decommissioning Engineer at Atkins currently working on a project at Hinkley Point A.

Molly and James were nominated for this national award by their employers and had to undertake a rigorous five months of interviews and presentations before being shortlisted as finalists. The winner will be announced at an award ceremony in Manchester on 30th March.

Maths Teacher John Wright, who taught both students, said "It really is a very improbable event to get two ex-students from one school in the running independently." Mr Wright added that he was looking forward to testing this hypothesis with current students.

Good luck Molly and James!





The Ballad of Maria Marten

On International Women's Day it was fitting that one of our Year 11 GCSE Drama groups performed two extracts from the very moving and incredibly relevant play: The Ballad of Maria Marten.

This a real-life story set in 1827; the story of a woman, murdered, she is usually presented as a victim in melodramatic retellings which focus on the murderer, the man and who he was, rather than the murdered.

This wonderful adaptation by Beth Flintoff of the story originally performed by the renowned Eastern Angles Theatre Company, however, gives the voice to the silenced: Maria Marten.

This version enables us to hear the voice of Maria as she tells us precisely what happened to her, how things unfolded leading to her murder, but also shows us the joy and love between girls as children and friends, as young women and reminds us we all have a voice and it's our right to use it, to say: this is me, I am worthy and my voice is important. On a day where we celebrate women, we stand together celebrating achievement and progress, but recognise there still is a need to close the gender divide and that there is still a very tangible gap.

The story our students share today as part of their GCSE exam is a powerful reminder that when we stand together, we don't lose our identity as individuals, but we indeed gain strength:

"My hands are shaking.

I'll stand with you.

Me too.

And me.

Me too.

Me too. Let's do it together."

Dulcie Oliver,

Teacher of Drama and Head of Year 11





Essential Pizza



Students who attended the recent essential school enjoyed making pizzas, producing some really tasty food. Yum!



Legally Blonde - The Musical



Photograph © Rory Oliver

QE Theatre Academy's production of Legally Blonde - The Musical was a sell out success.



Next up, in July, it will be the turn of our Barnfield students, keep an eye out for more details about Moana Jr.

Parlez-vous français?



We are very proud of our students who represented Queen Elizabeth's School in the recent Southwest languages speaking competition. The standard of competition was the highest for many years and the students performed admirably against the adversaries.

Tyler Strong, Spanish and Toma Radulescu, French represented Year 9 while Adam Robbins and Tim Jillians were in the KS4 section.

Tim's account of his Ten Tors holiday saw him awarded the runner-up spot. The students prepared their presentations themselves and impressed other teachers at the venue, Pilton Community College.

Well done!



MFL



Our students have been enjoying exploring a number of different MFL resources in their day to day learning, these are the ones that have been trending recently!



Ist mir egal
(it doesn't matter)
Berlin underground
advert



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEYim54pJ00>



OrelSan -
Jour meilleur
(English/French
Subtitles)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_cYv_62pus



Angèle -
Bruxelles je t'aime
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a79iLjV-HKw>



Hello!

We are QE's EPAS Ambassadors! EPAS is the European Parliament Ambassador School programme, which aims to increase awareness and knowledge about Europe, specifically the European Parliament, and how it works, its democracy and its values. Over the course of the coming year, QE students will be organising a range of events that focus on the EU, and its role for us as a school and a country moving forward. Wherever people stood on the Brexit referendum, the EU remains Britain's nearest and largest trading partner. This project is about moving forward, not back, and is a fantastic opportunity to connect with the EU and other schools across the continent to encourage good relations that will benefit QE and its students. The school's EPAS ambassadors are Ethan Spivey, Kristin Davey, Joe Eastley, Mr. Robbins, and myself (Theo Whish). As a team, we're all passionately invested in this programme for QE because it's student-led, it's fun and informative for all students and shows off QE's strengths to an international audience. We hope to get many of you involved with our work soon too!

Theo Whish

Sixth Form student and QE EPAS Ambassador and Communications Director



Poster Competition

Our EPAS Ambassadors met our European poster winners recently, and all entries are now proudly on display in the MFL Block at Barnfield. Congratulations to Ophelia Chandler, Lucas Beggs and Aya Richards.



We were also delighted to have launched our European Film Club with Amelie, and lots of approval from the moviegoers!



Jump Into Apprenticeships

Five of our Year 10 students had a fantastic induction to the Jump into Apprenticeships programme held at the Future Skills Centre in Exeter.



The students also visited South West water to learn about what apprenticeships they have on offer.

The students really enjoyed it and learnt lots about the treatment centre .

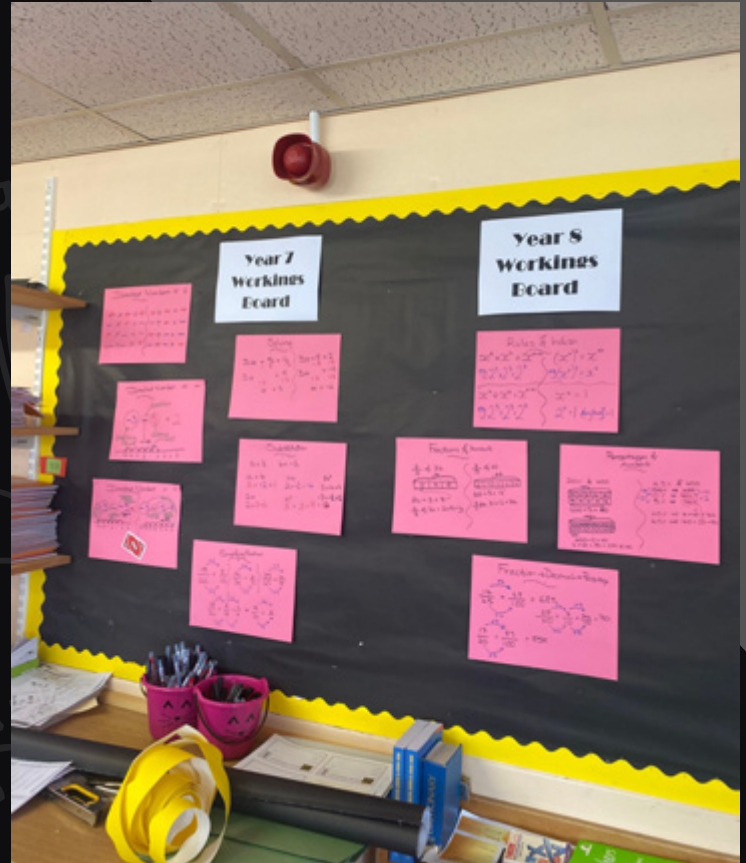
In addition, the students received a VIP invitation to February's Apprenticeship Expo, which enabled them to spend time talking to prospective employers and find out more about the routes and opportunities on offer.

Most recently, as part of the scheme, the students attended a series of workshops at Exeter College.



Everyday Maths

Year 7s enjoyed revising for their next maths test by doing a tarsia. They had to match the questions to the answers. The little triangles then made a larger triangle. Much more fun than doing a traditional worksheet.



Year 7s now have a workings board to help them when they are stuck. The board has hints, worked examples and rules relating to the current learning. Pupils can refer to these when they get stuck and fewer will have to wait until the teacher is free to help them.



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Ten Tors



Our intrepid Ten Tors students have been training in all weathers



Up the City!



It was a pleasure to welcome back former student Harry Kite who popped in to donate a signed Exeter City shirt. Harry left QE to play for Exeter City Football Club as an apprentice before signing his professional contract. Harry is now a mainstay in the first team line-up, helping the Grecians along the way during last season's fantastic journey towards promotion into League One. Mr Woodgate accepted the shirt on behalf of the PE department and said afterwards that it was "always great to see former students doing so well, and even better when they acknowledge their time here at QE with their time and generosity. Harry was always a highly respected student, so it's fantastic to see him doing so well as a professional footballer." Harry's shirt will join our growing hall-of-fame on the Sports Hall staircase. Will yours be next??



QE Kids Can



Fifteen of our lucky Year 7 rugby players got to be flag bearers at a recent Exeter Chiefs match. The students took part in a training session before stepping onto the pitch for the pre-game tunnel. Thanks to Gallagher Premiership Rugby for the opportunity.



QE Kids Can



Year 11 student, Patrick Neilan, is a name to watch in swimming. Patrick has been swimming competitively since around 2015, taking part in various county and regional events.

At the South-West Regional Championships in November Patrick achieved an Irish Nationals qualifying time in the 400m freestyle event. Well done Patrick!

Year 10 student, Sam Shepherd, recently competed in the England Fly Fishing Captains Cup and came in third. Well done Sam!



QE Kids Can



Under 15 Rugby Exeter and East Devon Cup Champions!



Year 10 boys have had a cracking rugby season. They followed their success in the Rugby 10s tournament by winning the Exeter and East Devon Cup. Despite a massive effort, they couldn't quite repeat the feat to clinch the Devon County Cup.

QE Kids Can



Our BTEC Outdoor Education students had a great time up in the Cairngorms earlier this year. The sheer beauty, elegance and raw power of the Scottish Highlands never fails to leave an impression.

Follow PE@QE on Instagram and Twitter

Year 11 v Sixth Form



It was great to see the return of our annual Year 11 v Sixth Form Challenge Week.



The week got off to a great start with Netball providing a thrilling match. The Year 11 team were trailing at halftime with a 7-2 score line but fought back valiantly to close the gap. The Sixth Formers eventually secured the win by the narrowest of margins with a 10-9 victory.

Next up was football and the match got off to a great start. Both teams played exceptionally well but the Year 11s took the win with a final score of 3-2!. Well done to all!



The concluding game was an absolute treat of a Basketball game! It finished with the Sixth Formers as the winners at 63-53. This result means a series win of 2-1 for our Sixth Formers!

National Apprenticeship Show



QE's Sixth Formers from Year 12 and Year 13 had a great time at the National Apprenticeship Show in January. They found the morning really helpful and are armed with all of their options post Sixth Form.



UCAS



Year 12 students recently visited the UCAS Discovery exhibition, our young people were able to meet over 100 universities, colleges and apprenticeship employers. They were able to find out about different options and pathways as well as listen to live expert talks and get the latest advice and info on all different career choices.





Next Steps

Congratulations to two of our Year 13 students who have received offers to study at Cambridge university!

Scout Sansom has received an offer to study Geography at Girton College, while Rebecca Millar has an offer to study Natural Sciences at Homerton College.

This really is an incredible achievement and we wish them all the best for the future. Well done both!

Flo Terry has received an offer to study Musical Theatre at Chichester Conservatoire following an audition. She was inspired to further her passion in Musical Theatre after performing in QE's productions and studying A-Level Drama. She is very excited to have the opportunity to further pursue Musical Theatre professionally.

Well done Flo - Fantastic Achievement.



Molly Brady has received an offer for the Triple Threat Musical Theatre course at Chichester Conservatoire. Molly's love for musical theatre began when taking part in the school productions and studying GCSE and A-Level Drama at QE. She is excited to continue performing and is very grateful for the passion QE has ignited for her love of musical theatre. Well done Molly - Fantastic Achievement.



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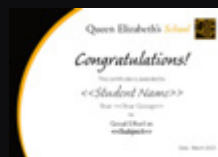
Recognition for our hardworking amazing students

Hopefully you will be aware that over this year we are making some changes to our rewards systems and culture. We would like to recognise in as many ways as we can, the incredible hard work and commitment shown by so many students across the school.

At the end of each full term (Autumn, Spring and Summer), there will be a variety of awards in recognition of the hard work and commitment so many students show in their normal school lives.

Class teachers will be awarding the following across each year group they teach:

- Outstanding Progress
- Great Effort
- Most Improved



Heads of Year will be awarding:

- 100% Attendance (1 term only)
- Good Citizen Awards
- Zero Warnings (1 term only)

A member of the Senior Team will present:

- 300 Merits – Bronze Award
 - 400 Merits – Silver Award
 - 500 Merits – Gold Award
- their own rewards across the year.

In addition to these end of term prizes, from next term students will be able to redeem their merits in our school 'shop'. This will give students the opportunity to create their own rewards across the year.

Students' merits will be shown as a 'spendable' balance on their ClassCharts pages.



Staff who have taken up new roles this term



Ms Chloe Harper

Designated Safeguarding Lead



Ms Elisabeth McHugh

Curriculum Lead for Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education and Careers



Ms Jesney Stone

Student Safeguarding and Welfare Officer

Ms Diane Evely

Behaviour Supervisor (RTL)



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Home Learning Review Update

Many thanks to those of you who completed the Forms questionnaire sent in the Autumn Term and to interested parents who attended the meeting this term. I have included the key points from the questionnaire below, which have shown the majority of responses were 'in the middle' for most questions. With regards to the feedback from the meeting, a couple of points were raised that I am currently working on to implement in September. The Knowledge Organisers for Learning Cycle 3 had already gone to print so no changes could be made this year. Key points raised:

1. To ensure that the time for SPARX Maths is clearly allocated in the Home Learning expectations
2. The Knowledge Organisers have more structured tasks for students to complete each week
3. Links and advice for parents on where they can look to support their children more at home

The vast majority of our students are engaging well in Home Learning tasks and using them effectively to support their school work. Any completed, do receive merits and systems are in place for them to be able to spend these Rewards next term.

Mrs Alexandra Blagden, Deputy Head Quality of Education

How long does your son/daughter spend on their Homework/Home Learning each day? (even if they have clubs some nights, what is the average)

[More Details](#)

Less than half an hour	22
About an hour	32
1 to 2 hours	14
More than 2 hours	2
Not sure	4



Do you feel the time your son/daughter spends on Homework/Home Learning is:

[More Details](#)

Just right	34
Not enough time	14
Too much time	26





Home Learning Review Update

For Sparx Maths: is your son/daughter able to get on independently? (0 point)

[More Details](#)

- Yes - they never seem to ask for... 25
- Most of the time, but we'll often... 15
- Most of the time, but I sometim... 28
- No - they seem to find it a strug... 6



For Sparx Maths: per week, this seems to take your son/daughter: (0 point)

[More Details](#)

- Less than half an hour 4
- About an hour 32
- 1-2 hours 25
- More than 2 hours 10
- Not sure 3



For Sparx Reader: have you seen your son/daughter using Sparx reader and so know how it works?

[More Details](#)

- Yes 62
- No 12



For Sparx Reader: are the books appropriate for your son/daughter? (0 point)

[More Details](#)

- Yes 25
- Most of the time 35
- No 14

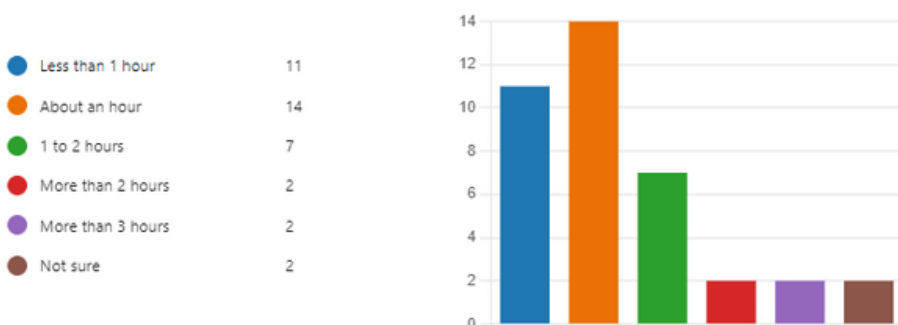




Home Learning Review Update

How long does your son/daughter spend on their Homework/Home Learning each day? (even if they have clubs some nights, what is the average)

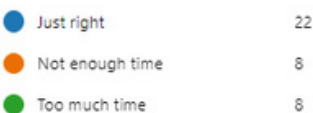
[More Details](#)



Do you feel the time your son/daughter spends on Homework/Home Learning is: (0 point)

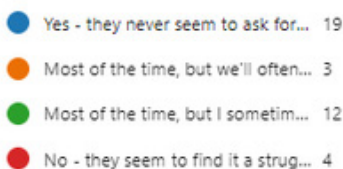
[More Details](#)

Insights



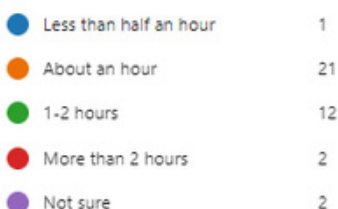
For Sparx Maths: is your son/daughter able to get on independently? (0 point)

[More Details](#)



0. For Sparx Maths: per week, this seems to take your son/daughter: (0 point)

[More Details](#)





KS3 Home Learning Change for Learning Cycle 3

In response to the Home Learning review, I am putting the following change in place for the final Learning Cycle this year to allow more time for completion of SPARX Maths.

- Science will now be one weekly online Educake quiz – completion will be checked and support given to those students who are not completing it – initially at breaktimes
- Knowledge Organiser work for Science will therefore be optional
- All students must bring their Knowledge Organisers into Science Retrieval lessons

Mrs Alexandra Blagden, Deputy Head Quality of Education

New Caterers **dolce** schools catering

We are excited to announce that, following a tender process, Dolce will now be providing our catering on both campuses. The Dolce team will be working throughout the Easter holidays to make some changes to both of our dining spaces, and we look forward to working with them to provide students with a wide range of new and delicious meal options.

We will share menus on our website and social media as soon as these are available.

The payment system will remain as it is, via ParentPay, and parents/carers can still top up students' accounts online.

Please could we take this opportunity to remind you that you can set spending limits and 'low balance' reminders via your ParentPay accounts to avoid your child's account becoming overdrawn and therefore unable to purchase some items. If you require any assistance with your ParentPay accounts, please contact our Finance department finance@qe.devon.sch.uk



Parent and Carer Survey



We would like to thank everyone who participated in our January Parent and Carer Survey.

Your feedback provides us with a valuable insight into the things we are doing well and the things that we could improve from a parent perspective. Our job is to then ensure that your feedback to the school has an impact. We have analysed the results of the survey, and the key messages are as follows.

Successes

- 87% of parents said that their child took part in **extra curricular** clubs or activities at school
- 85% said there is a good **range of subjects on offer to study**
- 71% said their child had **no experience of bullying** (this is above the national figure)
- If their child had experienced bullying parents felt it was dealt with quickly and effectively (which compares favourably with other Trust schools)
- Parents feel well informed about **academic progress**

Areas to further develop

- 76% would like further suggestions to **support learning and development** (reflecting positive parent engagement and a point for future action)
- 74% expressed that the school has **high expectations** (Trust slightly higher)
- Parents would like more information about **social development** (relationships and respect for each other)

In response to your feedback on areas to improve, we are now working on the following

- Improve level of expectation of students particularly around homework
- Parents evenings – explore a mixed programme of on-line and face to face meetings that cover academic and social development of students
- A well communicated anti-bullying strategy that is well understood by students and parents





Mobile Phones

You will remember that as of January this year we have been asking all students across all year groups to have their phones 'off and away' during the school day.

It is also useful to remember why we put these rules in place. To protect young people.

When we asked students about these issues, this is what they reported to us:

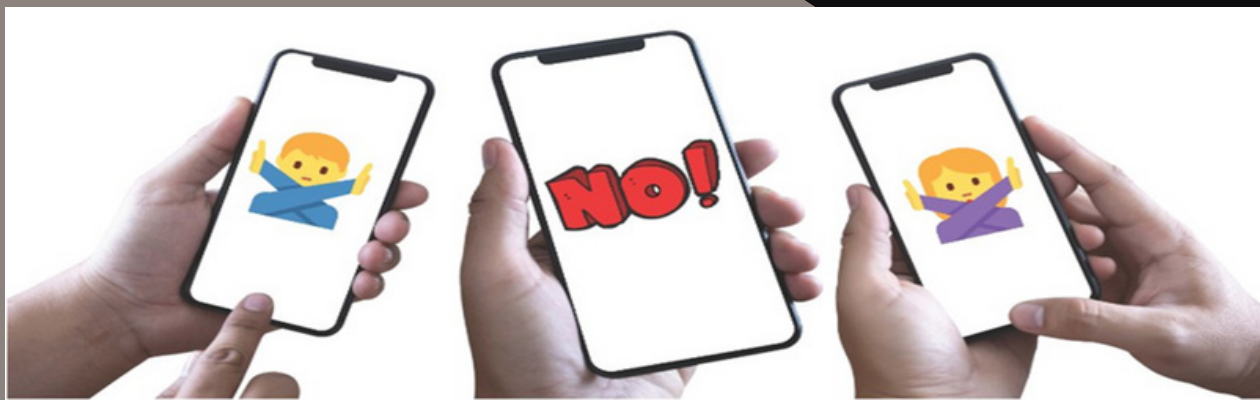
- 32% of students have received unkind or abusive messages – 400 students
- 23% of students have received unkind or abusive messages from a stranger – 300 students
- 28% of students have received unkind or abusive messages from a friend! - 350 students
- 18% have received unkind or abusive messages in school – 210 students
- 27% have had false information shared about them – 350 students
- 25% have been involved in an incident in school which started on-line – 300 students
- 31% know someone who has shared an inappropriate image of themselves – 370 students

We had several serious incidents at the start of the year involving mobile phones and social media. These incidents impacted a large number of students and in some cases they still are. This along with our students feedback we decided to make this change.

Whilst we recognise that mobile phones and social media are part of our modern lives, we are also acutely aware of the need to make school a safe space for all young people to come and learn and grow. Without the fear of what might be happening on-line.

How a day without phones can benefit your child:

- 1 - Reduce anxiety and stress
- 2 - Help with concentration and focus
- 3 - Supports better mental health
- 4 - Supports healthier and stronger relationships
- 5 - Supports keeping you safe and feeling safe



Thank you for your continued support with this.

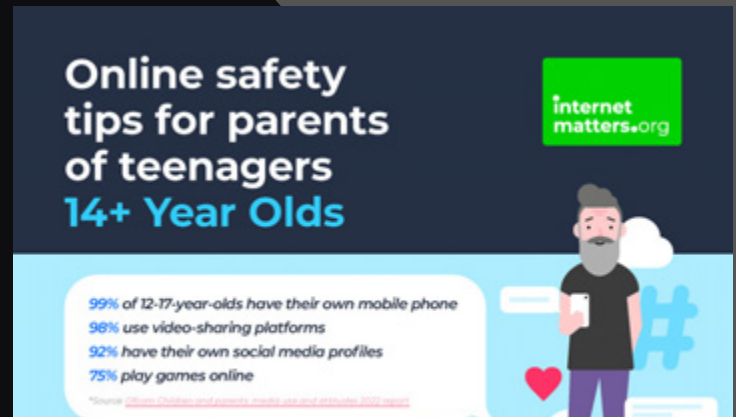


Support

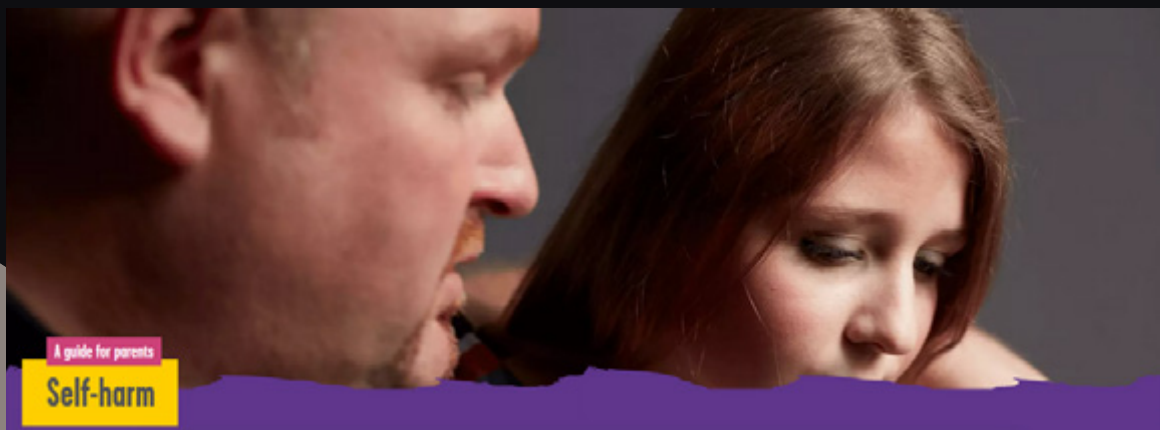
Here are links to a few online resources to help you support your young person.



<https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Internet-Matters-Age-Guide-11-13-Jan23.pdf>



<https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Internet-Matters-Age-Guide-14plus-Jan23.pdf>



<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/self-harm/>



<https://saferdevon.co.uk/lets-talk-teenagers/>



National Online Safety®

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>



BITS AND PIECES



Proud to Care
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You can make a difference in your community!
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domiciliary/residential care for a variety of roles:

- ✓ Care worker
- ✓ Administrator
- ✓ Cook
- ✓ Domestic Assistant
- ✓ Enabler

and many more with fully-funded training!



Scan the QR code to register your details for one of our
friendly recruitment and retention advisers to contact you to
talk through your options and provide guidance.
proudtocaredevon.org.uk/findyourcalling



RED BOX REMINDER!

Don't forget to take what you need
to cover the Easter holidays!

Boxes are located at
Student Reception
on both campuses



The Red Box Project

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



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

Reports

We will publish our latest academic reports in the first week of the Summer Term. We have moved this to after the school holidays so that it is easier for parents to follow up any queries with staff.

For your Diary

Mar 31st: End of Term
Apr 17th: Back to School
Apr 28th-30th: Ten Tors
May 1st: Early May Bank Holiday
May 8th: Coronation Bank Holiday
May 10th: Year 8 Parents' Evening
May 17th-31st: Year 8 Normandy Trip
May 29th-Jun 2nd: Half Term
Jun 28th: Year 12 Applicant Day
Jul 8th: Year 11 Summer Ball
Jul 12th: Year 10 Parents' Evening
Jul 21st: End of Term

Our latest job
vacancies are always
advertised on our
website.

