

Queen Elizabeth II High School



February 2017 Newsletter

Special points of interest.....

- Welcome!
- New School Website
- Open Evening
- 14 – 19 Evening
- New Parent Governor
- Science News
- Safer Internet Day
- Christmas Shoeboxes
- Year 10 Work Experience
- School Association News
- PE Department News
- Important dates

Welcome!

A very warm welcome back to the Spring Term.

This term we introduce several new members of staff –

Mr Beardwood joins the Science Department, Mr Callister joins the PE Department, Ms Leather joins the team in Support for Learning and Miss Redmayne joins us as Key Stage 4 Pastoral Support Officer. We also welcome Mrs Cave who is our new Catering Manager.

Exciting news this term is the launch of our fantastic, new-look School website -

<https://qe2.sch.im/>

The website is updated daily so please do take time to visit it as you will find lots of useful information which may be relevant to your child.

Also, remember to follow the School on Facebook –

www.facebook.com/QE2IOM

As always there are a wide range of **School Clubs** on offer and there should be something for everyone to enjoy!

Students have been issued with their own leaflet of clubs available during the Spring Term and this information can also be found on the School website and on the notice board in the Entrance Hall.



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Student-related email – 7054003@capita-intouch.co.uk

General email – qe2enquiries@sch.im

School website – <https://qe2.sch.im/>

Facebook – www.facebook.com/QE2IOM

Head – Ms S.M.Moore, B.A., M.B.A.

Open Evening

On Thursday 12th January we held our first ever 'Open Evening'.

The evening was a great success and hundreds of children and their families enjoyed tours of the School and engaged in lots of fun and exciting learning experiences.

Special thanks to everyone who helped out and made it such an enjoyable evening!



New Parent Governor

Following the recent Parent Governor election, the School is pleased to announce that **Mr Tim Roberts** is duly elected.

Mr Roberts will serve on the Governing Body from January 2017 until January 2019.

If you need to contact Mr Roberts his address is 3 Faaie Ny Cabbal, Kirk Michael IM6 2HS.

14 - 19 Information Evening

Tuesday 21st March 2017
6.15pm until 9.00pm

Students in Years 9 and 11 have to make important decisions about option choices this year.

The 14-19 Information Evening is designed to provide you with information to help your child make their choices for Key Stage 4 and Post-16 courses. It is also an opportunity to explain recent developments in 14-19 education.

There will be information about what will be studied in each subject area in a series of 15 minute subject presentations run by specialist staff.

This Information Evening is always a huge success and we hope to see you there.

News from the Science Department

We are delighted to welcome Mr Beardwood who joins us for this term prior to the permanent teacher, Mrs Saunders, starting in April. As you know, Mr Perkins left unexpectedly last term. Recruitment of Science teachers is very difficult nationally and we are very lucky to have secured a fully qualified, experienced Science teacher to work with us. Thank you for your understanding in the interim period. All exam classes have had experienced specialist teachers to ensure they are fully prepared for their exams this year. However, we are aware that the disruption to some classes has caused anxiety. Please be assured that we have carefully monitored progress across all Science courses to make sure that students are achieving, regardless of any changes in staffing.



Tuesday 7th February 2017

There will be a Parents' Information Evening on Wednesday 8th February from 6.30pm until 7.30pm in the Main Hall

'Safer Internet Day' is celebrated globally in over one hundred countries and is designed to help promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people.

Please find below some useful links -

<http://www.childnet.com/teachers-and-professionals/for-working-with-young-people/hot-topics>

<http://www.childnet.com/resources/parents-and-carers-resource-sheet>

<http://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Supporting-young-people-online.pdf>

<http://www.childnet.com/resources/supporting-young-people-online>

Christmas Shoeboxes 2016

Once again our annual Christmas shoebox appeal, which supports the elderly members of our community, was a huge success.

The School Council organised a non-uniform day in November to raise money towards buying treats, including biscuits, juices, sweets and crackers, which all went into the boxes.

Thank you very much to all the volunteers who spent most of their break times, lunch times and tutor times wrapping and packing the boxes – around 150 in total!!

The School has received many lovely thank you notes in return and we hope this tradition will continue to be a success in future years!



Students face 'The Dragons'!



Our Sixth Form students who take part in the Junior Achievement Programme recently had the opportunity to take part in a 'Dragon's Den' style competition. The competition had been taking place in each of the local secondary schools with prizes available in each.

QEII has five Junior Achievement teams and they each had to present their business idea to top local Business Leaders. They had to prepare a short presentation and then be prepared to answer a number of questions about their business idea.

Our winning team was '**Progression+**', pictured above.

Congratulations to Alex, Chloe, Chloe, Kelly and Will who will be awarded a marketing package kindly sponsored by 'employed.im'.

We can't wait to hear all about your idea!!

Sure Sports Leaders' Programme

Well done to our Sixth Form student, Harry Hewson, for receiving the top reward for the autumn term with the 'Sure Sports Leaders' Programme'!

Each year, young volunteer sports coaches take part in the programme which is run by the Department of Education and Children's Sports Development Unit and sponsored by Sure Isle of Man. The programme is designed to help children stay fit and healthy.

Harry clocked up 32 hours by coaching youngsters at football, including Peel AFC under 16's team.

Harry is pictured, second from the left, along with young leaders from other secondary schools. Also pictured are Sam Caine, Community Sports Development Officer and Coach and Sarah Jarvis, Sure's Marketing Manager.



Year 10 Work Experience

As part of the School curriculum a two-week work experience placement is being organised for every student in Year 10. This will run from **Monday 19th June until Friday 30th June.**

This is an extremely valuable and exciting opportunity, designed to give each student a greater understanding of the world of work and the opportunity to work with adults other than teachers.

The most successful and meaningful placements are those that students have taken the initiative to arrange for themselves. Therefore, we encourage everyone to consider carefully their future career aspirations and then contact a suitable company to arrange a self-placement.

Should your son/daughter fail to secure a self-placement they are able to access a database of placement providers. Every attempt will be made to offer each student who uses the database a placement that matches his or her aspirations, however, no guarantee can be made that every first choice placement is available.

****Please note that students MUST check the database before contacting any employer to arrange a self-placement as a position may have already been offered.**

This year's programme was launched to students on Wednesday 18th January and introduction letters and the Work Experience Guide were handed out during tutor time the following day.

Please note the following important dates and deadlines -

Thursday 19th January - students able to access Placement Database

Friday 3rd March - deadline for the Database selection

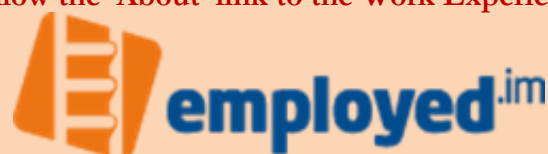
Wednesday 5th April - deadline for Self-Placements

Monday 8th May - deadline for returning Agreement Forms

Monday 19th June - Friday 30th June - Year 10 Work Experience placements

More information can also be found on our School website.

Follow the 'About' link to the Work Experience page.



School Association News and Events

A very big **THANK YOU** to all our loyal School Association supporters!

The School Association plays a vital role in raising money for additional School resources and equipment. Through money raised at discos, jazz evenings, quizzes, Christmas Fayres, and so on, funds have been available to buy many additional items that wouldn't otherwise be possible.

Last Friday (27th January) the School Association hosted an evening with popular local band '**Retrospect**'. Their music and singing was absolutely amazing and the School Hall rocked all night! The evening was a sell-out and everyone who came along had a fabulous time. We sincerely hope that this is an event that we will be able to repeat in the future.



Further dates for your diary.....

Friday 3rd March 2017 - a **Family Quiz Night** will be held between 7.00pm and 9.00pm in the Main School Hall. Teams should be a maximum of 6 people. Cost £3.00 per adult and 50 pence per child. All ages welcome. Bring your own beverages.

Tuesday 14th March 2017 - our **School Association Meeting** will be held at 6.30pm in the School Library. Everyone is very welcome to come along and it would be great to have some new members to share your ideas!

Friday 29th September 2017 - '**Prom and Pamper Evening**' – more information will be available nearer the time.

Wednesday 29th November 2017 - **Christmas Fayre** – more information will be available nearer the time.

Our School Association has also registered the School with **Easy Fundraising** and **Easy Search**.

Easy Fundraising - Please visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/qe2hs where you will find a shopping directory listing some of your favourite online stores. Just use the links on the Easy Fundraising site whenever you shop online and, at no extra cost to you, the School will receive a donation of up to 15% from every purchase you make. It really is that simple! It is completely FREE to register and you won't pay a penny more for your shopping when you use the Easy Fundraising site. In fact you can even SAVE MONEY as many retailers offer discounts, special offers and even 'e-vouchers' exclusive to Easy Fundraising. If you shop online anyway, then why not raise valuable extra funds for our School by using this fantastic scheme!

Easy Search - <http://qe2hs.easysearch.org.uk/> is a search engine which allows you to raise funds for the School simply by surfing the web. By making just ten searches per day with Easy Search, instead of Google or any other search engine, you could generate over £20.00 per year for our School.

Please use these sites and help raise funds for our School.....every penny counts!



PE Department Sporting Success!

By Mr Winrow



This year we have already seen a lot of sporting success at QEII across a wide range of sports. The students have shown enthusiasm and commitment in their approach to training and have been reaping the rewards as a result of this!

The Year 10 girls surpassed their own expectations by reaching the Island Schools Hockey final where they were beaten on penalty flicks after a 0-0 draw with King William's College. The girls had been beaten 6-1 in this fixture earlier in the season but an adjustment in their preparations, and a refreshed focus towards the sport, really showed what this group of girls is capable of. The Year 7 girls also gave a great account of themselves finishing second in the IOM Schools tournament, with Hollie Dawson being awarded player of the tournament.

One of the best days in the sports calendar is the Schools Cross Country Championships, which was held this year at Castle Rushen, and proved to be a fantastic and successful event for QEII High School. There were eight races altogether, with QEII finishing first in four of them! Rhys Owen and Lorna Spiers won the Intermediate Boys and Girls titles, and Corrin Leeming and Kate Cashin did the same in the Junior races. The overall category winners were worked out from an average time of all competitors in each category from each school and QEII were awarded the shields for both the Junior Boys and Junior Girls competitions.

Basketball has been a big influence on QEII sport over the last few months, with two of our three Basketball teams reaching the schools final. The juniors missed out but have shown a lot of promise, and both our Inters and Seniors reached the finals after beating all other schools and finishing the leagues undefeated. The finals week proved to be heartbreaking for QEII with both matches against Ballakermeen following a similar pattern. QEII looked in control throughout and took a lead into the final quarter in both age groups. A spirited fight back by Ballakermeen on both occasions saw them pick up the Intermediate title in extra time and the Senior title by three points. There were plenty of cheers and plenty of tears at the end of what were two of the best school sports finals that have ever been played on the Isle of Man! It was great to see how gripped everyone has been with the sport throughout this time and we can already see that this heartbreak has motivated the teams to work harder in preparation for next year's competition.

Other achievements included the IOM Swimming Championships, which saw us pick up a Bronze and a Silver medal in the Boys and Girls relay events, and on the rugby field the boys and the girls have been improving considerably. The introduction of Under 13 girls rugby has inspired a group of Year 8 girls to try a new sport. The girls have gone from never touching a rugby ball to coming third in an Island competition. This is something the girls should be very proud of and they have had lots of fun in the process. The boys have also been doing well and, as the term progressed, more boys appeared at training sessions and the performances started to improve. The boys are starting to realise that if you want to improve at anything you have to work for it so I have no doubt there will be a lot of further developments on the rugby field to come.

The term has had lots of success and has shown how much sporting potential there is at the School. To fulfil this potential students need to work hard and make a big effort to attend all School practices. We will be providing lots of extra-curricular opportunities in a wide variety of activities from now on and would like to see as many students as possible making the most of what is available to them at School. It has been a great start to the year and I very much look forward to lots of further successes in the future.

The PE Department is now on Facebook. Be sure to follow us on –

https://www.facebook.com/Queen-Elizabeth-II-High-School-Sport-139995876459199/?fref=pb&hc_location=profile_browser

Important dates...

February

Wednesday 8th February – ‘Safer Internet’ Parents’ Information Evening, 6.30pm until 7.30pm in the Main Hall

Sunday 12th – Wednesday 15th February – A2 Geography Trip to Manchester

Saturday 18th – Saturday 25th February – Ski Trip to Italy

Monday 20th – Friday 24th February – Half Term

Wednesday 22nd – Saturday 25th February – Year 12 Cultural and History Trip to Paris

March

Friday 3rd March – School Association Family Quiz Night, 7.00pm until 9.00pm

Tuesday 7th March – Year 12/13 Parents’ Evening

Tuesday 14th March – School Association Meeting, 6.30pm in the School Library

Tuesday 21st March – 14-19 Information Evening for Year 9 and Year 11

April

Wednesday 5th April – Year 7 Parents’ Evening

Thursday 6th April – Spring Concert

Monday 10th – Friday 21st April – Easter Holidays

Monday 24th April – Start of New Term

May

Monday 1st May – Bank Holiday

Friday 12th May – Record of Achievement Ceremony

Monday 29th May – Bank Holiday

Wednesday 31st May – Heats Day

June

Friday 2nd June – Inset Day – School closed to students

Monday 5th – Friday 9th June – Half Term

Monday 19th – Tuesday 20th June – New Intake Days

Monday 19th June – Friday 30th June – Year 10 Work Experience

Wednesday 21st June – Creative Arts Evening

July

Tuesday 4th July – Sports Day

Wednesday 5th July – Tynwald Day

Thursday 6th – Friday 7th July – School Show

Monday 10th July – New Year 7 Tutor Evening

Monday 10th – Thursday 13th July – Sixth Form University Trip

Friday 14th July – Junior and Intermediate Prize Givings

Monday 17th – Friday 21st July – Geography Field Work Trip

Tuesday 18th – Thursday 20th July – Enrichment Activities

Friday 21st July – School closes for Summer Term

Exams Information

Thursday 2nd March - January GCSE Results Day

Year 11 students who sat Maths and Science external exams in January will receive their results during Period 1.

Resits for Science units in the summer will be possible. You will have **one week** to return resit forms and payment. Forms will be available from School Reception.

Week commencing Tuesday 2nd May - Year 10 Mocks

Thursday 17th August - GCE Results Day

Thursday 24th August - GCSE Results Day