



Wednesday 22nd December 2021



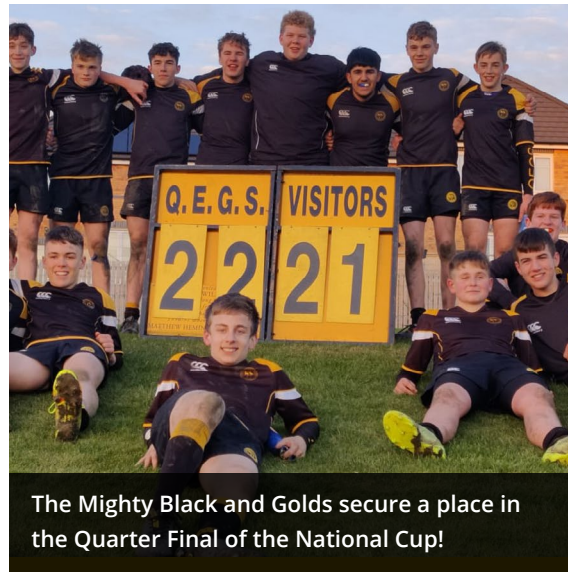
# E-BULLETIN

From Junior Section to Sixth Form, keeping you up to date with everything at QEGS.

## Inside this issue...



Our Y4 stars shine bright in the JS Nativity!



The Mighty Black and Golds secure a place in the Quarter Final of the National Cup!



Cave wins the JS Inter House Football Competition...



Our talented musicians take centre stage in the Foundation's Christmas concerts...

## Welcome from The Head

Dear Parents,  
At the end of a year, it is normal (I think) to look back at what you were doing at the same time a year earlier. Well, on the Wednesday of the last week of term last year I was putting the finishing touches to a presentation that I would deliver the following day as part of my final interview for the position of Head at QEGS. At that time we were being discouraged from travelling and mixing, though it was permitted for the purposes of work and education and the Governors, quite rightly, had decided that the interview would take place in person. The next morning I would leave Sevenoaks around 5am to begin the journey of three trains to get to Wakefield. By the time I'd done the journey in reverse, arriving home to hugs from my wife and daughter, there was a voicemail from Mr Chamberlain, Chair of Governors, asking me to call him back. And so 2020, a difficult year for so many, ended on a personal high for me.

Arriving at QEGS in September 2021, I was delighted not to have to close the school on Day 1, as Mr Shevill had had to do in January at the start of his time as interim Head. But the threat of COVID was still looming. At half-term, I counted us fortunate to have escaped any further restrictions in school. Those did, in fact, come after half-term, and we have been wearing masks, restricting attendance at events, educating remotely those boys who have tested positive, and covering absent staff who have also tested positive. And now, at the end of term, we are again being discouraged from travelling and mixing. With the current, and to some extent unknown, threat from omicron, perhaps not that much has changed in a year (though, as someone who studied ancient Greek to GCSE, I know there are ten more letters between delta and omicron, so if I understand the naming conventions correctly we can be pleased that those variants have not posed the same threat).

Of course, for me personally, so much has changed in that year - I am now here, after all. And I have very much enjoyed my first term at QEGS. I was told by many people before I moved here that I would find Yorkshire folk to be warm and welcoming, and that has certainly been the case. I would like to say thank you to all the boys, staff and parents who have made me feel so welcome, and, in doing so, reinforced my view that I was right to give Mr Chamberlain an unequivocal "yes" when I called him back. Saying "thank you" is the theme of this letter.



Firstly, thank you to the boys, for all that they are contributing to the school community. This term they have returned to a "normal" school experience ... though, in fact, it's not really "normal". Face masks, last minute cancellations of fixtures, different staff covering lessons, a reduced number of trips and visits ... the boys have responded marvellously to all of these enforced changes. Our Year 8 boys have been getting to know the school, something they would normally have done a year ago had they not been in bubbles. The Year 7 boys have too, of course, and a highlight of the term for me was attending their residential visit to the Lake District - I have been meeting them for lunch this term, and they have picked this out as their highlight too.



But alongside this hybrid of "normal" and "COVID normal", some things have not changed. Oscar Smith in Year 9 won the Historical Association's national fictional writing competition with a story based on the Trojan War; William Swap was the Key Stage 5 runner up in Exeter University's Politics Essay competition; and 275 boys, from Year 6 to Year 8, were presented with a book of their choice from 17 titles through the BookBuzz initiative as part of the Book Trust charity. Engagement with academic enrichment beyond the sometimes narrow confines of exam board specifications is one of the hallmarks of a QEGS education, and we have enjoyed celebrating these achievements (and I could have listed more) with the boys.

The boys have been excelling outside the classroom too. Henry Hunter in Year 6 and Mayon Jayawickrama in Year 7 have become national champions, in Taekwondo and Karate respectively. And our U15 Rugby XV are through to the last 16 of the National Cup, following a thrilling 22-21 win against Sedbergh - we look forward to seeing how they fare after Christmas. Year 4 put on a wonderful Nativity last week (with Mr Darnton, sat in the front row, providing direction, not to mention singing every word), and a range of soloists and ensembles have provided wonderful music for the two Carol Services at the Cathedral and the Year 7 Christingle Service at St. John's. As I write, rehearsals for the two Christmas Concerts are well advanced; so are rehearsals for Sister Act next term; we are looking forward to all of these.



This term has seen the relaunching of Houses, and associated competitions, in the Senior Section, joining together with the already well-established houses in the Junior Section. Dr Clark delivered an inspirational assembly before half-term (back when we were still doing

whole-school assemblies) to launch it all, and he writes elsewhere in the newsletter with an update. It has been great to see the boys getting stuck into House competitions.

Charitable fundraising has remained central to life at QEGS. Boys from the Junior Section attended a 'handover' of a minibus to Variety, supported by funds raised by the school; two Year 8 boys attended (virtually) the dedication of a school in Nigeria for which they had raised funds by undertaking sponsored walks; the recent Green Jumper Day raised over £800 to support charities focused on environmental awareness; we raised over £1400 for the NSPCC through the music pass day; and the Junior Section charity day raised over £600 for Cancer Research UK. There was a sponsored dog walk for Children in Need, a clothing collection in the Junior Section for the Wakefield Community Awareness Programme (which threatened at one point to take over Mr Thompson's office), and we have a non-uniform/Christmas Jumper day to conclude the term. Boys support other organisations outside of school too, of course.



Secondly, thank you to our wonderful team of staff, both teachers and support staff. Their focus throughout has remained on the very best interests of the pupils in their care, and despite the compromises we have had to make they have never lowered their expectations, of themselves or the boys. One of the features of QEGS that has struck me most this term has been the positive attitude of the staff, allied to their energy and good humour, that has kept the school community going amid any uncertainty with a reassuring sense of normality. Learning has remained key. Pastoral care and inclusion are their overriding priorities. And cleaners, caterers, porters, grounds staff, admin staff and others have done the most fabulous job to ensure the pupils can enjoy the education they deserve.

Four staff are leaving us at the end of term. Fuller accounts of them and their service are given elsewhere in this newsletter, but I should like to recognise here the contributions to QEGS, over so many years, of:

Lynne van der Schans, who has been a wonderful teacher of Modern languages, and now departs to take up an opportunity outside of education.



Christine Denison, who joined the Junior Section in 2002 and from 2008 was Mrs Gray's PA, admissions' coordinator and provider of administrative support to all in the Junior Section; she takes a well-earned retirement.



Katy Norgate, School Nurse for the last 17 years, who leaves us having set a very high bar for her successor who will join us in the Spring Term. Katy has always had the pupils' best interests foremost in her thinking, and has provided a sanctuary for boys who have needed one (whether they were ill or injured or simply needed a quiet word). Katy also takes a well earned retirement, and I understand this will involve dog walking and mountains (lucky her!).



Sue Howe, who joined QEGS as Mr Shevill's, and more recently my, PA but who will be well known to many of you for her years of service in WGHS Senior and Junior Sections. She has been a great support to both Martin and me as we have got to know QEGS and she will be sorely missed.



I know enough about QEGS by now, though, to know it is a hard place to leave, and I will not be at all surprised to see these staff popping in to say "hello" over the coming months. Before that, we wish them all the very best for their next steps.

We have also been joined this term by Usman Khalid, Noha Salah and Tara Atkinson as trainee teachers in the History, Chemistry and Design & Technology departments respectively. They leave us at the end of term to move onto their second school placement in the Spring.

We thank them for their contributions this term, and wish them all the best on their continuing journeys to becoming qualified teachers.

I mentioned above the determination of staff to provide an inclusive environment. As something of a cricket fan (who approaches the Christmas break and the opportunity to stay up late to watch the Ashes with more trepidation than excitement), it has been an interesting - if that's the right word - time to move to Yorkshire. I am sure that I will not be the only one amongst the school community who has been paying close attention to the fallout from the Azeem Rafiq racism scandal. It is clear that there are serious lessons to be learnt there, albeit the kinds of behaviour at the centre of YCCC's problems are societal issues and not those of cricket alone. As part of the wider society, QEGS is not immune to these issues, and so it is that I and other staff have had cause to speak with a (fortunately small) number of boys about their use of racist language at times this term. I am pleased that the boys feel confident to "call out" such disappointing behaviour when they witness it. I am pleased, too, that we as a community are seeking to address these issues, sometimes with a sanction but always with a determination to educate boys about the impact of their words, regardless of their intent. The further I have moved through my career as an educator, the less I have liked the word "banter", and to see it used as an excuse by some of the former Yorkshire players - and, indeed, at times by some of our boys - means that the work we are already doing needs to, and will, continue. In my start of term addresses to the boys I said: "What is my advice to you? Be ambitious. Work hard. Have fun. Respect each other and your teachers. And be kind, to yourselves, to other members of the school community, and to those beyond the school gates. Success must go hand in hand with decency." We are all aiming for kindness; sometimes we may fall short, but, like so much in school, and life, we will seek to learn from our mistakes.

Before I conclude, I fear I must mention COVID again. We are all aware of the rising number of cases of omicron, but it is not yet clear what the impact of that will be. For now, I would encourage the boys to prepare as well as they can for the start of next term by:

- + Continuing to take twice-weekly lateral flow tests throughout the holidays (boys in Year 7 and above will be provided with a box to take home).
- + Exercising caution with overseas trips in order to avoid getting caught out by any quarantine requirements that may be imposed at short notice.
- + Considering, if they are eligible, whether to take a vaccine (to do so is, of course, a family decision).

When we return in January boys (where consent is given) in the Senior Section will be asked to take a lateral flow test before mixing in the school community. More information about this will follow.

A final thank you goes to you, our parents. Some of you have contributed to the consultation conducted by Mungo Dunnett Associates over recent weeks. I do not yet have the results of that consultation, but I thank those of you who contributed for your time and for what I hope will have been candid feedback. You will also have received the news recently that Butterflies will cease supplying our uniform from the end of term. We are in the process of confirming the arrangements for the supply of uniform going forwards, but with this change of supplier we are also going to take the opportunity to consult with you regarding what works well with our existing uniform arrangements and what we might do differently or better.

I shall write to you again in the New Year about this. Beyond providing us with feedback, whether in a survey, an email, or standing on the touchline, we know that you do so much in so many ways to support the boys and the school. Thank you.

In conclusion, I have been asked by many what my reflections are at the end of my first term at QEGS. My principal reflection is how fortunate I am to have become a part of such a wonderful School and Foundation. In my meetings with pupils and staff this term I have been asking them "what do you love about QEGS?". The most common answer, normally the first answer, is "the boys" or "the staff": the relationships that exist between boys and boys, boys and staff, and staff and staff are what underpin all that is good about this School, and I am delighted to have become a part of that.

However, you mark this festive season, I wish you and your families a restful holiday, and a happy 2022.

With all my very best wishes,

**Richard Brookes**  
**Head**



Congratulations to Cameron Jackson in the Junior Section and Roman Tempest in the Senior Section, who were selected as the winners of the QEGS Christmas Card Design Competition.

## Junior Section News

As ever, it has been a busy term in the Junior Section but one that I will look back on with fondness. We were able to operate in an almost normal way for the first time in a long while and it was a pleasure to be able to run many of our school events.

I have to start by saying what a wonderful show the Year 4 boys put on in their Nativity. Superb acting, singing and comedy performances made for a memorable occasion, elevated further by the enthusiastic audience who clearly enjoyed it as much as the boys. A huge well done to all involved and I look forward to seeing the acting talent develop as the boys move through the school. Parents, thank you for your support and positive feedback which made it a rewarding experience for all.



It was wonderful to see so many parents at the Carol Service and hearing the boys sing again was a real joy.



All involved should feel very proud of themselves and a special mention to the Year 2 boys who sang and read brilliantly and didn't appear at all daunted by the occasion. My thanks to the staff and pupils whose hard work and organisation meant that the service was such a success. Also, a huge thank you to our parents for the wonderful support and appreciation throughout the service, and for the kind collection donations which will be sent to Open Arms, Malawi.



The eagerly awaited visit to the pantomime did not disappoint and the boys certainly got into the spirit. After being dragged up on stage by the Dame during our previous visit, I skilfully positioned myself on the top tier this year to ensure I avoided embarrassment. Mr Charlesworth was not so fortunate and was the subject of some heavy-duty teasing, although it was clear he actually enjoyed it.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you and very well done to our Head Boy, Oliver Rose, and our Deputy Head Boy, Pranav Nair, for their work and commitment this term. They carried out their duties superbly and the information from a recent interview with both boys can be found later in this section.



I would also like to write a few words about some very special members of the school who will be leaving at the end of this term. Mrs Norgate, our school nurse (or Matron) has probably seen each and every boy in the Junior Section over the years for some ailment or other and her contribution to the school cannot be understated.

Mrs Norgate has been part of the school for many years, her role developing and changing with the various demands of school life, including a huge shift recently to manage the various implications of COVID-19, including managing day-to-day cases and running the various testing and vaccination programmes in the Senior Section - a huge logistical and pastoral feat. Mrs Norgate, thank you for all you have done for us at QEGS - the staff and boys will miss you an immeasurable amount and we are very grateful for all you have given us.

Mrs Denison is also retiring at the end of this term after 19 years at QEGS. She has taken on many different roles in her time here, including being the school secretary for Mr Bissett (a previous Junior School Head), being Mrs Gray's PA and managing Admissions for the Junior Section. Mrs Denison also played a pivotal role in organising the Carol Service, Speech Days, Open Mornings and other major events in school. I know Mrs Denison will miss the school a great deal but she is very much looking forward to spending a lot more time with her beloved dog, Alfie. Mrs Denison, thank you for all you have done for us at QEGS, and especially for me as I began my new role this year.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable Christmas break and a happy start to the New Year.

**R Thompson - Cave  
Director of Junior Section**

## Junior Section Housepoints

### Housepoints for w/e 17th December

1st	Freeston - 626
2nd	Cave - 580
3rd	Savile - 575
4th	Bentley - 481

### Most House Points for their Year group

Year 2	Ezra Fowode
Year 3	Horacio Winch
Year 4	Aneesh Parnandi
Year 5	Fraser Roebuck
Year 6	Aurav Vinta

## End of Term Totals

Bentley	Cave	Freeston	Savile
1702	1963	1983	1769



### Junior Head Boy

Oliver Rose

**M**y name is Oliver Rose, I'm in 6R and Cave House. I joined the school in Reception so I have been here for a long time. My interests outside of school are playing sport and playing the piano. In particular, I love playing football for my local club, Wetherby Athletic.

My main duties as Head Boy include collecting Dr Brookes and Mr Thompson for assembly, helping to hand out and tidy away equipment at break time and lunch duties with the other prefects. I also give speeches at school events and the cheers at the end of term. I am very grateful to have been chosen to be Head Boy and I will always remember the honour of reading at the Remembrance and Carol services. There have also been many times when I have had my photo taken at school events such as Founders' Day.

My favourite things about QEGS are my friends, rugby and the amazing opportunities we have to go on residential trips.

My greatest source of inspiration while growing up has been my parents but also Mrs Gray, Mr Thompson and all the fantastic teachers at QEGS JS.

My most cherished memories of JS will always be the Charity Days - the costumes, the sweets and having so much fun!



### Junior Deputy Head Boy

Pranav Nair

**H**ello, my name is Pranav Nair, I'm in 6K and my house is Savile. I joined the school in 2014. My hobbies and interests include football, cricket, golf and motorsport, and I also enjoy playing on my Xbox. On top of this, I enjoy playing chess and reading!

I enjoy imitating golf legends and doing trick shots while on the golf range. My coach was so impressed with my Happy Gilmore and Matthew Wolff Swing that he put them on Twitter!

The duties of a Deputy Head Boy can be really fun. They could be representing the school for events, delivering speeches on special days, or showing visitors around the school on Open Days. As a Deputy Head Boy, students look up to me and I am humbled by being their role model.

I will always cherish my time as a Deputy Head Boy and the most memorable event was the Carol Service. Oliver and I were chosen to read an extract from a poem, and I enjoyed reciting it from the lectern in the cathedral in front of the parents and teachers.

QEGS is an awesome school and the opportunities it provides are even better. Here at QEGS a lot of importance is given to extra-curricular activities and not just the academics. The sports facilities we have are amazing and the sports field is incredible. We are so lucky to have brilliant teachers who help us to become the best versions of ourselves.

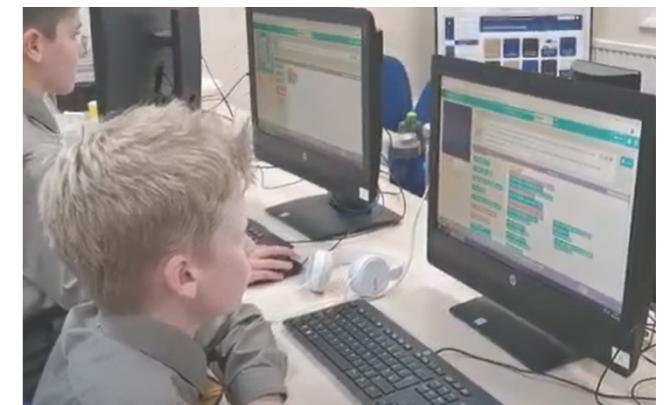
For my greatest source of inspiration, I can't think of anyone better than Lewis Hamilton because his journey in Motorsport is so remarkable and is an inspiration to all children! He is also a 7-time world champion in F1.

It could have been 8 on Sunday but the stewards had other plans! The way he handled the defeat and losing the championship was even more inspiring.

My most cherished memory in the Junior Section has got to be the Year 4 residential trip to the National Forest. We did a lot of activities but by far my most favourite one was the disco on Thursday night. Having said that, it was an incredible experience going away from home and spending all that time with my friends. I am looking forward to the residential trip in the summer and I am hoping that the pandemic will be over by then.

## Autumn Term ICT Update

It has been an exciting term for Junior Section Computing. All the year groups have hit the ground running with their various topics and tasks but it is the Year 6 boys who really need a special mention. After dabbling a little with some coding in Year 4 they have really gone above and beyond with pushing themselves out of their comfort zone to design, programme and debug their own computer games! They have used the programme Scratch for this (I'm sure many parents will be familiar with this as so many boys have voluntarily worked on their projects at home!). At first they had to recreate the classic arcade game PONG and then, once they felt confident, they moved onto writing their own game. Some of the ideas and technical details that they have included have been excellent and they should be very proud of their efforts! We certainly have some future computer programmers in the making with our current Y6 boys!



Mr A Charlesworth - Bentley

## Music Update

As always, this has been a very busy but rewarding term in the Junior Section. We have had a number of musical events beginning with the Harvest Festival earlier this term, followed by our Remembrance Service, Founders Day, the wonderful Year 4 Nativity and of course the Carol Service. All of our QEGS' boys have been working hard to prepare for all these events this term.



Both the Lower and Junior School Choirs have been really busy and have worked extremely hard this term to learn the music and words to all the songs for this term's programme.

The Carol Service was a huge success and we are very grateful to have been able to host this in the Cathedral once again. Even though we had limited seating this year, it was still a beautiful occasion and is always one of the major highlights of the school calendar. The Lower School Choir sang with clarity and confidence and were a real delight to listen to in the Cathedral. The Junior School Choir performed our own arrangement of Hark the Herald to the tune of Clocks by Coldplay, as well as the more traditional Gaudete and again sung with strength, passion and confidence. Honourable mentions go to all the soloists, including Leo Fisher, Teshomi Kayode, Charlie Baldwin, Luke Gallagher and Kevin Lingavassan, and of course to the amazing Mrs Barrett with her version of In the Bleak Mid-Winter accompanied by Mrs Clayton on the piano.



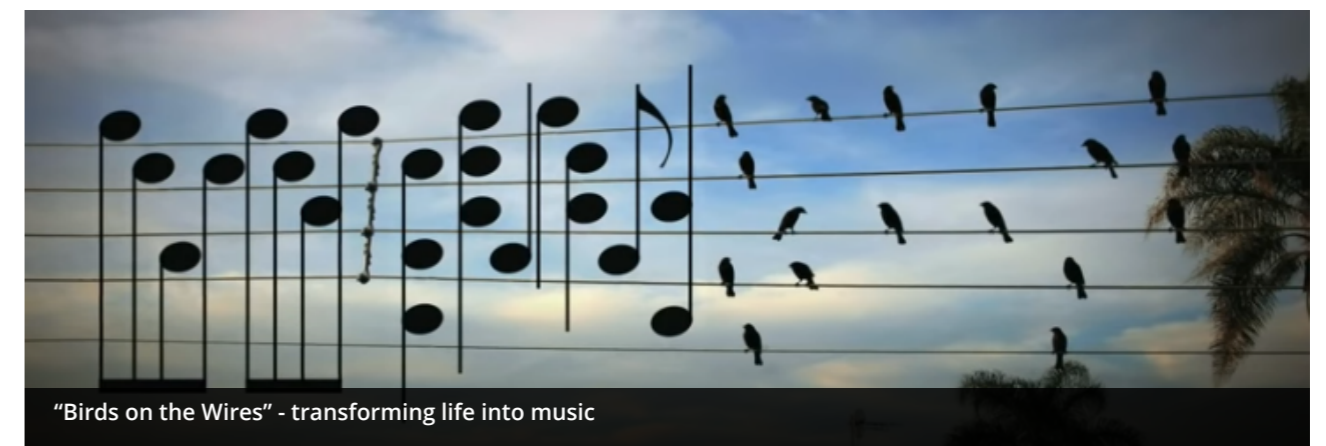
With LIVE performances to an actual audience back, the Year 4 Nativity was particularly successful this year and took place in the Elizabeth Theatre for the very first time, in front of an excited crowd of parents.



The Year 4 boys have been working on singing, acting and production ideas for their play this term within music lessons and have had a lead role in devising the scenes, characters and roles for the play too. It was wonderful to see the boys working together as teams to create such a wonderful production this year. Well done to all the Year 4 boys - you were simply superb! Liam Hart took the starring role as the Late Angel who just couldn't get to the right scene at the right time! The 3 rather cool looking wise men perhaps showed they weren't quite as 'wise' as people imagine and of course, their camels had some of the dads in the audience in stitches with a subtle but effective Monty Python reference!



In other areas of the curriculum, Year 6 have been exploring music from the 20th Century in which we have discovered composers such as John Cage and his '4'33"', Pierre Boulez, Terry Riley's 'In C' and Steve Reich's 'Clapping Music' to name but a few. We have looked at the idea of Minimalism in Art, Music and in the world around us too. We have also explored aleatoric music compositions such as 'Bubblegum Music', 'Catcerto', and 'Birds on the Wires' to find out how much can be made from almost any starting point.



In Year 5, we have studied Programme Music from the Romantic Era, especially focusing on 'Carnival of the Animals' and 'Danse Macabre' by Camille Saint-Saens, as well as works by other composers such as Mussorgsky, Grieg, Dukas and Sibelius. In addition to exploring the music through listening and performing, Year 5 boys have also had the opportunity to explore original composition ideas through the creation of their own musical stories using a range of given starting points such as pictures, texts and poems and have explored ways to create and arrange their ideas using our music technology suite.



A good number of boys in Year 3 have now taken the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument in school and we very much hope to build on this in the coming terms so that all boys have the chance to find their instrument.

In Year 3, our Qeglets have been focusing on "Timbre and Sonority" by exploring a range of different musical instruments in their lessons. We have discovered the different musical families such as brass, woodwind, strings, percussion and electronic instruments and have had presentations from some of our brass and woodwind teachers so the boys can get more of a hands-on experience.

If your child is interested in learning to play a musical instrument, please contact me directly and I will be happy to help. You can find out more on firefly too by going to the following page:

<https://qj-wgsf.fireflycloud.net/music-home/learning-to-play-an-instrument-at-qegs>



To bring sport in the Junior Section to a close the Inter House Football competition took place. All boys participated and represented their House with pride. A change in format meant that all boys in Y3-Y6 took part in the event in their games lessons, with the Y6 A team winners being presented with the traditional Inter House Trophy and a new competition where all results would contribute to an overall House Football Winner. House captains were given the responsibilities to select their teams after training sessions in lessons. As always, the matches were hotly contested with all boys showing great pride and passion to represent their House.

### Y3/ Y4 Results

	Y3	Y4
1st	Bentley	Freeston
2nd	Cave	Cave
3rd	Savile	Savile
4th	Freeston	Bentley

### Y5/Y6 Results

With Freeston going into the competition as hot favourites it was going to be interesting to see if they could live up to pre-tournament hype. With only 10 minute games in the semi-finals, all matches were close affairs. Cave beat Savile 1-0 in the first semi-final. Then Bentley played Freeston in the other semi-final. Freeston were the dominant side, but a brave Bentley defensive effort kept out the Freeston boys, and at full time the match was 0-0. Sudden death penalties were going to be the deciding factor. In the cruel nature of penalties, Bentley came out victorious, setting up a Bentley v Cave final. Again, the final was another tense match, with end to end action and both teams had the opportunity to win the match. With a score line of 0-0 at full time the match went to penalties again. Misses and scored penalties were traded by both teams, until Bentley finally cracked and Cave took the victory. Nathan Leadbeater (Cave House Football Captain) was presented the House Football Trophy by Mr Thompson in front of the whole school.

	A Team	B Team	C Team
1st	Cave	Freeston	Bentley
2nd	Bentley	Savile	Savile
3rd	Savile	Cave	Cave
4th	Freeston	Bentley	Freeston

### Overall standings - All results taken into account

1st	Cave
2nd	Bentley
3rd	Savile
4th	Freeston



Congratulations to Cave for winning the Y5/ Y6 Inter House Football Competition.

Congratulations to Cave for winning the overall Inter House Football Competition, consistent results across all the year groups was the deciding factor in the victory.



### Senior Section News



Q EGS hosted Sedbergh school in a hotly anticipated clash in round four (last 32) of the National Schools Rugby Cup.

Both teams played their part in living up to the hype around the match, with a fine display of school boy rugby that would have pleased any neutral supporter or rugby enthusiast.

Sedbergh were a constant threat with quality skills across the squad, aiming to play fast paced and wide early. They took an early lead with a quality team try.

QEGS responded and stoically accepted the challenge ahead.



The black and gold were galvanised and they applied relentless pressure, playing with variety, intensity and guile to power over with two tries of their own. Sedbergh chipped in with another in that time too, it was a real contest in every area.

The final third of the game was tense, with some abrasive defensive efforts from both sides, no backward steps were taken.

Sedbergh took the lead again with a try against the run of play, making the score 21-17. QEGS responded immediately with an interception try, taking the score to 22-21 leaving a nail-biting finish until the final whistle.

The match day squad were formidable throughout and their fellow players were in a jubilant mood, supporting their team mates from the touchlines.

This will be spoken about as another National Cup classic played on our turf (quoted as "the best grass in Wakefield") and it rightfully deserves its place there.

The hard work continues as we now prepare for the last 16 clash against St. Peter's York in the new year. Earlier in the season this was a 19-19 draw, so expect another thriller on the cards.

**Mr C Head - Freeston**

Following the COP26 United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Glasgow in early November the Geography Department invited the Year 12 A Level geographers to enter an essay competition - "Evaluate the possible impacts of COP26 on people and the environment." All of the 26 Year 12 geographers entered the competition and the standard was consistently high with students researching the subject thoroughly and showing high levels of understanding about the challenges that climate change pose globally going forward.

Prizes were awarded both within the 3 sets and overall across the year group. In Y12B the winners were: 1. Connor Singleton; 2. Max Ludewig; 3. William Thomas. In Y12C the winners were: 1. Daniel McCourt; 2. Charlie Otter; 3. Jack Harwood. In Y12D The winners were: 1. Ronnie Parker; 2. Luke Bailey; 3. Austen Copley.

The overall winners were:  
 1. Connor Singleton  
 2. Daniel McCourt  
 3. Max Ludewig

Connor was rewarded with a £10 Amazon voucher and all of the other prize winners received a free panini from Janini's in the 6th Form Centre.

House points were also awarded and Bentley House were awarded 20 points overall, Cave House were awarded 9 points, Saville House were awarded 5 points and Freeston House were awarded 3 points.

As mentioned earlier the overall standard of the essays was very high but the winning essay from Connor came out on top because it was a particularly well written, mature, perceptive and insightful essay on what was a very complex subject. Congratulations, Connor.

Thank you to all students who contributed entries.

QEGS Senior Geography Department.



**OVERALL WINNER**



## One Thing Less Photo Competition

Selected from a wide range of excellent entries here are the winning entries to the #onethingless photo competition. Well done to everyone who entered #tothepowerofQEGS



Using a shampoo bar instead of plastic bottle of shampoo that contains palm oil.

WILLIAM B



JS WINNER

Braving the windy weather, not using the tumble dryer.

FRASER R



SS WINNER

Not eating animal products.

CONNOR S



SEBBY W



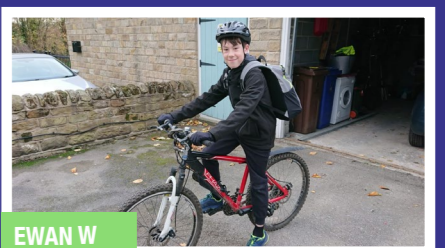
ARTHUR R



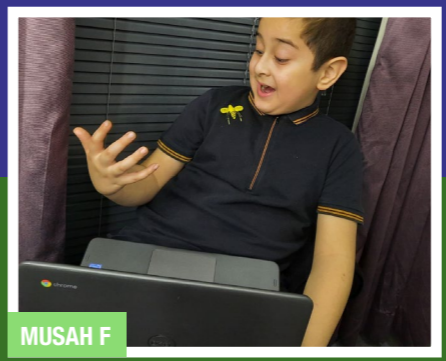
AYAN S



MUHAMMAD H



EWAN W



MUSAH F



ZANE N



JACK B



We took part in the inaugural Green Jumper Day to raise awareness for climate change and to help educate the next generation.

The heating was turned down to save energy and we wore our green jumpers or green accessories. Senior boys and juniors boys raised an incredible £828. A sincere thank you to everyone who took part.





## Art Printing Workshop

What a 'printastic' day! Our sixth form artists were given the opportunity to spend a day at Wakefield Art House. They learnt how to create art work using mono-printing, collagraph and drypoint etching. The day was a tremendous success. All of the students managed to get a great deal of work done and use tools and inks that they'd never used before. Each student adapted their own style of working and got creative with new materials and techniques. A great day out for everyone!



Here's are some of the students' final pieces of work...



## Year 10 Design & Technology Workshop

The Year 10 D&T students are currently designing and making a lighting solution, inspired by the flat-pack and self-assembly products found in IKEA. As part of their project all students visited IKEA last week, to conduct some primary research and investigation into existing products. The boys represented the school in an exemplary fashion and have used their findings to produce a series of research pages that will aid them in the designing of their product.

Mr Everett - Savile

**Who are IKEA?**  
Ikea was founded by Ingvar Kamprad in 1949 and came to life as a mail order catalogue business in the forested town of Almhult Sweden.

**Materials**  
Ikea use a wide range of materials to create products. However, all of these must be sustainable and recyclable for the IKEA ethos. IKEA also works with global partners including WWF and forest. This means the wood that they use is replanted. They use a replanting to make sustainable wood like wood that is FSC certified.

**What are they most known for**  
Ikea are most known for their simple but effective flat pack furniture. Massive closets or beds can be broken down to a small box and then reassembled into the bed it was before.

**Range and Variety**  
There is a range of colours and designs to fit a wide range of customer needs. This attracts more people to come and buy products.

**Client Needs**  
Product must be sustainable and should be made from recycled materials.  
Must be branded properly with the IKEA colour scheme or logo.  
Must be Flat packed.  
Must follow price guidelines.  
Lamp must do its function.

**Design Brief**  
I am making a solution to an IKEA light which is flat packed and must be able to be assembled by the client. In my case, it should be a desk light with the feature of task lighting to help the client doing work at a desk. Overall, the product must also be satisfactory to the customers needs and ideally could be modern. The design can be simple, with a light bulb or light strip for efficient light. As for who, this product will be for students or adults who need a small, modern lamp on their desk. This light will be used when it is too dark but the customer doesn't want a massive light in the room. This will focus the light onto a certain part of the room. Ikea need a light that is used by many customers so should be aesthetically pleasing but needs to also be within the measurement limits of 400mmx400mmx400mm. Also, the light needs to be a specific colour, shape and size for the customers ideals. For manufacturing, I will be using techniques that I know to create the light no whether it is temporary or permanent.

**IKEA's Sustainability**  
Ikea have invested in many companies around the world to help reduce waste or consumption for the customers of Ikea. Organisations such as rainforest alliance or one acre fund are prime examples of world changing investments for IKEA. This is why their products are made to be sustainable and not harmful for the environment.

**Climate action starts at home**

**Measurements**  
Max.: 7 W  
Height: 17 cm  
Diameter: 17 cm  
Cord length: 1.9 m

**Function**  
Its primary function is to produce an ambient light around a room. Light can be spread softly and it creates a cosy mood.

**Aesthetics**  
The aesthetics the light uses a multi coloured scheme to add. It has a smooth cosy feeling. The overall design is something that Ikea would sell.

**Sustainability**  
They are very efficient with their LEDs at a level E so energy consumption is very little. The light itself is not very sustainable as it is made from polystyrene plastic.

**Materials**  
This specific light uses polypropylene and a translucent ball to almost 'cloud' the light and not focus it on a certain point. This material does have a glass shade and is sustainable.

**Ergonomics**  
Light weight, small and easy to use is what this light is. The designs simple and grippy so it will not slide of a surface you put it on.

**Safety**  
This light is safe because it is a curved ball and there are no sharp corners. There are also no exposed wires and won't shatter if dropped on a floor.

**Cost**  
This light is probably very cheap to make as it is only a few parts. The LED bulb inside is also cheap relative to other bulbs on the market.

**Manufacturing Processes**  
It is injection moulded to create the balls round shape. The base is made of polypropylene which is a thermo plastic so it is moulded into its shape. The parts inside I believe would be the technology side and also where the bulb would sit. The top should be able to come off if there is a problem with the light.

**Tech info**  
To use it is a simple switch plugged into the wall. It uses minimal technology to be sustainable.

**Materials & care**  
Base: Polypropylene plastic.  
Shade: Glass.  
Clean with a duster.

**Sustainability & environment**  
We want to have a positive impact on the planet. That is why by 2030, we want all materials in our products to be recycled or renewable, and sourced in responsible ways.

**FADO white Table lamp**

**This light is easily a useful inspiration for my light later on. I can use its circular base for structure and aesthetics. I don't however like the sphere shape of the light so I will not use that. I hope I can take in something more from this light so my light can fit in with other IKEA lights.**

**Photo of the Week**



Congratulations to Samuel, who is the first boy to reach 100 merits in the senior section this year! Here is a photo of him being presented with his certificate with the Head.

**Artist of the Week**



Our artist of the week is Ibrahim!

Ibrahim has used black biro to create these immaculate tones and textures in his drawing. Perfectly executed!

Well done Ibrahim.  
**Mrs Caines - Freeston**

**Year 7 and Year 8 Boys Enjoy a Special Guest Visit**



This week both Year 7 and Year 8 were given a talk from 'The Guide Dogs'. Barry Wood (and his Guide Dog Nick) discussed with the pupils what it is like to be blind and how he lost his sight.

The boys had a Q&A session with Barry allowing them to understand some of the struggles that he faces daily. The talk was inspirational and showed how resilient Barry had to be when he lost his sight.



**Music Department Update**

It was a long time coming, but finally we were able to put on some large-scale musical events! Our musicians were eager to get back to Wakefield Cathedral for the end of term carol services and the Foundation Brass Band formed the backbone of the carol services for both QEGS and WGHS. Also performing at the QEGS service were the boys from the QED Trio, with some beautiful renditions of In Dulci Jubilo and White Christmas, whilst the Foundation Chorus sang Adam lay ybounden and Midwinter.

In the same week, a new venture took place in St. John's Church, when Year 7 took part in a special Christingle service. There was some sparkling singing from the whole year group, as well as Mr Varley's choir 'Mantablie', and a sublime piano solo from Emmanuel Richards. Thanks to Mrs Fitzsimons for supporting the readers in both of these events.

The final week of term saw the welcome return of the two Foundation Christmas Concerts, with an eclectic mix of musical items and entertaining interviews. Thanks to all who helped ensure success - the performers, VIMs, the sound and lighting team (SALT), stage crew, the Parents' Association, senior leadership teams from both schools, the porters and office staff.

**Mr C Lewis - Savile**



## Global Entrepreneurship Week Competition Final

In celebration of Global Entrepreneurship Week 2021 boys were challenged to compete in vertical house teams to embrace their innovation and creativity in an upcycling challenge requiring them to design,



It was wonderful to see boys from Year 7 all the way through to Year 13 working together and supporting each other and their ideas were fantastic - we saw two different phone holders, Christmas decorations, coasters and of course The Hexapot!



The challenge culminated in an exciting presentation event judged by a panel whose difficult job it was to decide on the various awards; product idea and execution, branding, best promo video, sustainability, pitch content and pitch delivery.



The judges were highly impressed with all teams and our very own Marketing expert Mr Williams was wowed by the standard of the boys' presentations! Well done to all the boys that participated - QEGS is definitely home to many of the next generation of successful entrepreneurs - and an extra congratulations to winning house team Bentley - though it was a close set of results overall!

**Mrs C.Mackay - Bentley**

## JACOB'S JOKES



Who is Santa's favourite singer?

**A: Elfis Presley**

Why can't you tell a joke while ice skating?

**A: The ice might crack you up**

**Jacob S - Savile**



## Year 9 Bowling

The afternoon of Tuesday 7th December saw the whole of Year 9 set off to Xscape for the inaugural Year 9 Interhouse bowling competition. The aim was simple, the House which produced the highest average score per person would take the glory. Some excellent scores were posted by both boys and members of the Year 9 tutor team with Marcus English (Bentley House) posting the highest score of the day. Despite his 130+ score it was not enough to help Bentley to an overall victory. The overall victory went to Savile with an impressive 94.9 points per player, with the others tightly bunched behind (Cave 93.6, Bentley 93.4, Freeston 93.1). Savile claimed their chocolate prizes, as did the top scorers for each House (Cave - Jean-Benedict Tam-McMillan, Freeston - William D'arcy, Savile - Ewan Walsh). Most importantly, a good time was had by all, and it was a great way to end a productive first term for Year 9. Same time next year for the other houses to get their revenge!

**Gareth Thomas (Head of Year 9 - Savile)**

## Catering Review



Over the last few weeks, a group of students from the junior and senior section have been given the chance to share our thoughts of the school meals and catering. I think this was a great idea as it provided the reviewers a better insight into the preferences of these different age groups. This could help with directing the changes.

We spoke to three companies and were asked questions ranging from simple ones such as 'What is your favourite food?' (although that is quite hard for me to decide!) to more specific ones like 'Do you believe there is enough variety?'

Other questions included:  
 'What type of cuisine would you like to see being featured more on the menu?'  
 'What do you think of the meal portions?'  
 'Do all students across the school receive the same food?'

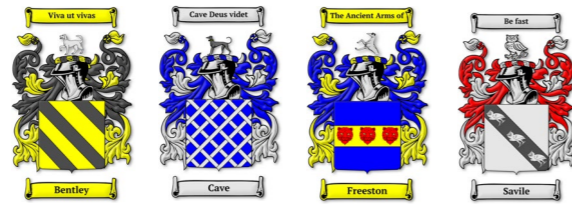
Students from different ethnicities and with different dietary preferences/requirements were invited and I believe this was great because different types of food from around the world could be promoted.

There was particular emphasis on the vegetarian options and how currently there is only one available. We thought that introducing another one/ basing the current main meals more on vegetables rather than meat-substitutes could persuade other students to consider the option.

I thought this was a great opportunity for everyone to express their thoughts regarding school food and look at how it can be improved even further.

**Chris A - Freeston**

# House Matters



So, after a full term and a huge learning curve for all things Housey in the Senior Section, we have made a lot of progress towards what we see as the ultimate dream of the QEGS House system...basically Hogwarts in Wakefield. We have a full selection of eager and enthusiastic House Captains from Y6 to Y13 and we've begun work on redeveloping the old Learning Support area into a new House Hub where boys can work and socialise together. The boys have also designed their new ties which are now ordered and (hopefully) are on their way shortly after Christmas. We must thank the PA for very generously funding the order of these new, bespoke editions to the ever growing tie range of QEGS delivery.

In addition to these initial planning ideas, the boys have also been partaking in the fun stuff; throughout the last few months a lot of competitions and challenges have been held - some within year groups, but some across whole school and in one case, thanks to Mr Higgins, all the way through the Boys' Foundation from Y2 to Y13! In no particular order.....the winners have been:

**Staff Challenges**  
Savile



**Cross Country**  
Savile



**Heads or Tails**  
Cave



**Pub Quiz**  
Cave



**Proud to BE**  
Cave



**English Poetry**  
Cave, Freeston,  
Savile



**Xmas Cards**  
Freeston



**GEW**  
Bentley

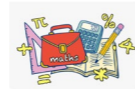


**#OneThingLess**  
Bentley in SS,  
Bentley in JS,  
Freeston in Preprep Section



William Birch in the Preprep was also the overall winner - very well done and congratulations!

**Senior Maths Challenge**  
Cave



**Bowling**  
Savile



All in addition to the Junior Section events that have always traditionally been held.

And as you read this, there are various Masterchef and badminton tournaments also being held.



As we move through the next term (with COVID and the weather willing), we aim to start bringing online the more outdoor sporting activities that everyone is clamouring for. However, as we stand after the awarding of 25000 House points across the school, we have only 300 points between 1st and last - showing how competitive the boys seem to be - and importantly how unbiased the staff are in their awarding of them!

The Xmas honours in the Senior section go to Savile; the Junior section is currently being held by Freeston but by their consistent approach, under the enthusiastic leadership of Mr Affleck, Cave are currently out front overall.....lots to play for, have a good break and Merry Xmas from the House teams.

Totals: Senior Section (to end of week 12)			
Bentley	Cave	Freeston	Savile
4412	4429	4307	4434
Junior Section			
Bentley	Cave	Freeston	Savile
1702	1963	1983	1769
Overall			
Bentley	Cave	Freeston	Savile
6114	6392	6290	6203




## Farewell Mrs Norgate

**K**athryn Mary Norgate, or “Katy Matron” using our preferred title in school (!), was interviewed by School Medical Officer David Fyfe and Headmaster Mike Gibbons on the 11th October 2004, having submitted a rather impressive 9 page CV! At that point, I didn't know her at all, and having had a sneaky look at her file in preparation for writing this, with her permission of course, I particularly enjoyed reading about her hobbies and interests at that time. At this point, you'll assume I'm going to embarrass her by including a comical list of highly unlikely and dubious activities, the sort of fantasy items that most of us put on our CVs to make us sound either more intelligent, more appointable or both, but actually, Katy's are quite intriguing.

She describes playing tennis at a local club, something which I can definitely verify as true, even if it was some years ago and her knees are no longer willing. She also mentions walking the dog, making greeting cards, photography and being devoted to her children. Well, anybody who knows Katy will know that seventeen years on, all of these things remain as true now as they were then.

With Katy, therefore, you get what you see - there are no airs and graces, she tells things as she sees them and is crushingly honest and unnervingly professional. Katy's CV was hugely impressive and it is difficult to imagine why she ever joined us, although when you get to know her, and her story, that is easier to understand. She finished her time with the NHS in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit as an F Grade sister where she was very much a manager as well as a practitioner. Prior to that she had worked for BUPA nursing services at Roundhay and also in the Department of Critical Care medicine in Auckland, New Zealand, which hints at her thirst for travel, something that I know will play a major part in her retirement. She also served on an ENT ward in New Zealand, and in the Renal and General Surgery units at Leeds. In summary, Katy knew, and still knows, her stuff and I often describe her to new parents as everything you might imagine the typical title of School Matron not to be, particularly if it conjures up images of Hattie Jacques in Carry On films.....

The transition to being a School Nurse was a challenge for Katy, as it would be for any nurse with that kind of professional and hospital based pedigree and it was also a huge leap of faith to move out of the NHS to a school based role.



Having been given the task of managing Katy when my role changed in 2010, she has become not just a colleague or friend, but one of my best friends. If you go into Katy's room, otherwise known as our Health Centre, she has a collection of the most incredible cards that she has received from parents and boys over the years and I know that she remains in contact with many of the lads who she has cared for in different ways over the years. It clearly isn't right to discuss private and confidential individual cases in a newsletter article but I am fully aware that she has spotted and acted on potentially life threatening conditions in school, missed by other health professionals, and provided a level of care to many, many boys requiring specialist support that goes way beyond what could realistically be expected of her in her role. But it is also the small things. Literally thousands of boys, and indeed many staff, will at some point have sat in her room and cried - some for reasons that you couldn't make up, some that are genuinely heart breaking.

Katy has a mischievous side to her, and loves a good wind up. She also loves a night out and some might say that I have taken advantage of this to ensure that on many of my, let's say, “extra curricular” outings, I also have access to high quality medical support! It is fairly well known that she has carried out an urgent repair to a huge split in my head in several venues, including The George pub in Upper Denby. She has also, with some kind of weird sharp implement, gouged large pieces of gravel and oily mud, with a look of pure delight, out of my calf muscle and also fastened various bits of my fingers back on, the last one being after a battle with a Stihl chainsaw that I lost.



My wife Cathy and I have travelled all over the country with Katy and her husband Darren, who I was to meet fairly soon after I started managing her. Over the years our favourite holiday spots have been The Lakes, Norfolk and Western Scotland and we are looking forward to another holiday on the Dordogne in the summer, still booked, but cancelled for the last two years due to COVID. We are due to head off to Bridgnorth in Shropshire for a few days on Sunday where I will, of course, be expecting free drinks throughout for all of the nice things I have said in this article! Over the years, we have shared important family milestones together - big birthdays for our children and the adults, anniversaries, academic success and now, perhaps predictably, we move to the first retirement in our friendship.

Katy has brought so many things to the life of my family, but many, many more to the QEGS community. She has been a true professional in every sense of the word but beyond that she will remain for me one of the most kind, hard working and perhaps under-stated people this organisation has ever seen in my time here.

QEGS will miss Katy enormously and so will I. It is fitting, I think, to finish on a quote from another nurse.....

Florence Nightingale said

**“ To be in charge is not only to carry out the proper measures yourself but to see that everybody else does too. ”**

And that, as our School Nurse and a Safeguarding Lead, is exactly what Katy has spent the last 17 years doing, and I've never met anyone who does it better.

I had no idea how we would begin to even think about replacing “Katy Matron”, but I am delighted to report that we have just recruited another School Nurse to join us at QEGS next year, someone with huge experience in school nursing in our local community and someone who, quite fittingly and perhaps typically, Katy also played her part in recruiting.

Look out for more news from me on this appointment in January!

**Mr J Palin - Savile  
Deputy Head**

## Farewell Mrs Van Der Schans

As a department, we are so happy for Lynne as she embarks upon a new and exciting adventure...if a little envious! She has been a member of our department for nearly 17 years now. My maths doesn't quite stretch to approximate just how many students she will have taught, but I know full well that all of them will remember her for the teacher and person we know her to be: kind, dedicated, supportive and encouraging.

As her colleagues, she inspires us with just how much love and care she unwaveringly gives to the planning of all her lessons and the efforts she goes to to provide quality feedback to all her students. For her students, they quickly learn that they are being taught by someone who cares deeply about their education and enjoyment of languages, and who is passionate about getting the very best out of them.

Lynne will leave a great hole in our department and will be sorely missed. Indeed, she is a loss to the teaching profession. We wish her all the very best in her new role and give her much thanks for all the hard work, good times and laughs we have shared over the years. Viel Glück. Wir werden Dich vermissen.

Mr B Konopinski - Freeston  
Head of Modern Languages

## The Last Word from the Head Boy

As we approach the end of what has been a busy first term, it seems only right to recognise the collective effort of the QEGS community in ensuring that everything has run as smoothly as possible within these tumultuous times. As a school and, particularly within my peer group, we have truly demonstrated the resilient qualities instilled throughout our many years in the Foundation.

As a Head Boy team, we are a group of individuals in whom we can all take pride. At no point have we been short of volunteers and, more often than not, it has fallen to me to

decide who isn't required, rather than who is: a far more positive reality than having to chase and persuade prefects to help! Such willingness to engage is a testament to the sense of community that runs through the school, as well as the recognition of the honour of being in the senior prefect team.

Personally, it was Open Morning that showed just how impressive our school is, and in particular the work of the Senior Prefects. Whether it was conducting impromptu tours, aiding specific departments or running the car parking, we demonstrated the adaptability so crucial to any successful team. Such qualities were not exclusive to just these boys, however, and the school as a whole executed one of the most impressive Open Mornings I've been involved with - which considering the return from an online format is ever the more impressive!



As well as the Foundation's Open Morning, myself, the deputies and the senior prefects have helped out with a multitude of other events: Founder's Day; the Carol Service; the Headmaster's 'Welcome Breakfasts'; Culinary Club, just to name a few.

Finally, I would like to reflect upon what I hope myself and my prefects can be: a warm, approachable voice for students of all ages. In what is still such an unpredictable - often unforgiving - time it can be easy for divisions amongst society to be amplified. It is therefore crucial that we at QEGS are all a part of a wider collective and that no student should feel they aren't being heard or valued.

I wish you all a very merry festive period and urge everyone to utilise these two weeks to relax and recuperate!

Edward Marsh - Bentley  
Head Boy

## Key Dates

5 Jan	Term begins	25 Jan	11+ Entrance Exams (Y7 out of school)
5 Jan	Onsite Lateral Flow Testing Y7-13	29 Jan	SHINE at QEGS
6 Jan	Y8 HPV1	31 Jan	KS4 French play at WGHS
8 Jan	SHINE at WGHS	31/3rd	Sister Act rehearsals 4-6pm
10 Jan	Y9 Shakespeare workshop (tbc)	4 Feb	Y9 at Lakeside Challenge (tbc)
10/13 Jan	Sister Act rehearsals 4-6pm	5 Feb	SHINE at WGHS
13 Jan	U15 National Cup	6 Feb	Sister Act Technical Day
15 Jan	SHINE at QEGS	8 Feb	Sister Act matinee
17/20 Jan	Sister Act rehearsals 4-6pm	9-11 Feb	Sister Act Foundation Production
20 Jan	Y11 Parents' Evening (online)	15 Feb	Y9 Parents' Evening (online)
22 Jan	SHINE at QEGS	18 Feb	Y9 DTP/Meningitis vaccine
24 Jan	Y9 Radcliffe Scholars creative writing workshop	18 Feb	End of term at 4pm
24/27 Jan	Sister Act rehearsals 4-6pm		