



The Elizabethan

SUMMER 2016



From the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

We are currently living through turbulent times politically, but here the term has progressed calmly as normal. We continue to hold steadfastly to our values and will ensure that Queen Elizabeth's School remains an open, tolerant community in which all can express their views.

The highlights of the Summer Term included, as ever, our Founder's Day. The day's formal elements proceeded smoothly, starting with the thanksgiving service at Chipping Barnet Parish Church, followed by the procession of staff and boys back to School and the reading of the Roll Call and School Chronicle. There was then the chance for everyone to relax at the afternoon Fête on the Stapylton Field. This was a well-organised, well-attended and, above all, enjoyable family event. My thanks go to all the parents, staff and boys who supported it in any way and especially to the Friends of Queen Elizabeth's, who work so tirelessly over many months to plan the Fête.

It was a pleasure to welcome many Old Elizabethans during the course of the afternoon, including the cricketers who played against our current First XI in the annual Stanley Busby Memorial Cricket Match towards the end of the day.

In the morning, our Guest of Honour for the Founder's Day thanksgiving service was also an old boy, Edmund Watson, OE 1999–2006. A fast-rising junior doctor who shone both at Oxford University and subsequently in his medical studies, Edmund hopes to become a consultant haematologist. In his address, he had some thoughtful counsel for the boys, urging them to become masters of asking good questions – about themselves, about others and about the world around them.

The importance of asking questions was, in fact, a prominent theme in our 2012–2016 School Development Plan. Our subject heads and senior staff have spent a considerable time this term visiting lessons to evaluate them, and the staff as a whole have

“asking excellent questions is important”



been reflecting on the progress made in the past four years. I am pleased to report that they have observed many instances of excellent questioning – boys asking really good questions of each other and also being brave in what they ask teachers, thus being adventurous in their learning and taking risks. Now we look forward to our new School Development Plan, covering 2016–2020. Full details will be announced next term, but it is already clear that the importance of character attributes such as resilience will be to the fore.

This is closely tied to the willingness to take risks: resilient people see failure not so much as a negative, but as an opportunity to learn for the future. They know that they must step out of their ‘comfort zone’ in order to thrive. Stress is not necessarily a negative; it is natural and healthy to feel nervous when attempting something that stretches you. Recognising the physical signs of stress for what they are – the body and mind preparing themselves for action – can in itself be helpful, allowing us to understand those feelings not as fear but as excitement.

Resilience is built through the gradual accumulation of a stock of accomplishments and successes, the recollection of which can help to sustain boys through those inevitable times when things become more difficult. Specific, positive feedback can also strengthen pupils mentally and is an important facet of our bespoke tutoring system.

To cultivate resilience, boys can certainly gain confidence by seeing their peers successfully achieve certain tasks or learning specific skills and then recognising

that they can do likewise. They must, however, guard against comparing themselves too closely to others, and should instead focus on their own development.

Paradoxically, they should avoid becoming self-obsessed and should firstly recognise the importance of positive personal relationships with family and friends, and secondly give time to causes greater than themselves. We seek to encourage this through our voluntary service programme and, more broadly, in our mission to produce young people who are responsible as well as confident and able.

“a willingness to take risks”

Our emphasis on enrichment through extra-curricular activities also assists greatly in the fulfilment of that mission, with pupils’ wider involvement in

School life outside lessons contributing heavily to their development as rounded individuals. An important innovation this term has been the launch of our Enrichment Week, which you can read more about elsewhere in these pages.

The sheer breadth of our enrichment work at QE is most impressive. We have an enviable array of worthwhile activities – including sport, the performing arts, debating and chess, as well as a wide range of trips at home and abroad, together with charity work and our work experience programmes. Our House system is integral to much of this. Alongside the extra-curricular activities, we have an extensive academic enrichment programme. This is designed to complement and deepen the taught syllabus, and like the extra-curricular programme, it is led by its own dedicated staff team.



In order to deliver our enrichment programme we need high-quality facilities, and we continue to invest in our Estates Strategy. I am pleased to say that work started on the Heard Building last month. When complete, the building will be entirely reorganised and structurally strengthened, and will incorporate a new link with the Fern Building. It will provide a self-contained home for our English Department, with eight classrooms and offices.

The project costs of more than £1m are being met exclusively by charitable giving through the Friends of Queen Elizabeth’s – another remarkable feat of organisation and generosity by FQE and our families and supporters. The Heard Building is named after George Heard, Chairman of Governors before our current Chairman, Barrie Martin MBE. It dates back to the 1990s and was, in fact, one of the very first projects to be funded by FQE. This extensive refurbishment therefore bears testimony to some 20 years of liberal and resolute support for the School on the part of the Friends.

I wish all readers of the Elizabethan an enjoyable summer and I look forward to celebrating the public examination results with our senior boys in August.

Neil Enright

Finding QE's fallen

Following consultation with retired QE Headmaster Eamonn Harris (1984–1999), the Year 9 History trip to the French and Belgian battlefields this year sought out the last resting places of the School's war dead.

Visiting just weeks before the centenary of the first day on the Somme, 1st July 1916 – acknowledged as the worst day in the history of the British army – they explored that battlefield's huge Lochnagar crater, and saw the names of QE alumni on the Thiepval memorial. Other OEs' names were inscribed on the walls of the Menin Gate, which records those lost who have no known grave, while some were buried at Tyne Cot Cemetery near Ypres.

Helen MacGregor, Head of History, said: "Our current pupils found it poignant to reflect on the lives of Elizabethans past who went to war and never came home – men who would have had the same hopes, dreams and fears as them. It gave them a great sense of connection to the sites we visited, and such links are crucial in boys understanding and learning from the events they study."

The trip involved a visit to Ypres – where the boys enjoyed Belgian chocolate and waffles – and to 'Hill 62', where they walked the original World War I trenches, including a very dark and wet tunnel system.



They were able to compare the Tyne Cot Commonwealth graves with the German cemetery of Langemark.

The final day took in the sites of World War II, including the sinister Blockhouse, where V2 rockets were produced, and La Coupole, built into a mountainside by prisoners of war to house the deadly V1 flying bombs.

The trip was undertaken as part of the boys' History course on the changing nature of warfare.



Going up! Lift film wins prize

An anti-smoking film made by QE Sixth-Former Brian Kong and four friends he met as part of a community engagement initiative has won an award in a borough competition. Large numbers of QE boys take part annually in The Challenge – part of the National Citizen Service (NCS); it aims to encourage the cohesion of young people from different sections of society.

Brian, of Year 12, and his teammates, who were not from QE, shot the film as part of the community action element of The Challenge, entering it for the Barnet Cut Films Anti-Smoking Competition. The competition is run by Barnet Public Health and the Deborah Hutton Campaign, a smoking prevention charity.

The film, entitled *The Lift*, used the strapline 'Let life give you a lift, not smoking'. Made at Middlesex University in Hendon, it shows people going up in a lift, with every floor representing a more harmful effect of smoking, leading to the 'final destination', death. It first reached a shortlist of four, before winning second prize in the 16-19 category. A special screening and presentation ceremony was held at the Phoenix Cinema, Finchley.

Brian is studying Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics and Economics, and is aiming to read Mathematics at Cambridge.

Top volunteer title for Sanchit

Year 12 pupil Sanchit Agrawal has been named the British Heart Foundation's Young Volunteer of the Year 2016 for the whole London and South East region.

Sanchit started volunteering with the BHF shop in Harrow as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award involvement in 2014. Since completing his award he has continued to work there, putting in three or four hours every Saturday, and more as needed.

Asked what made him stand out among the volunteers at the 71 BHF shops in the region, he said that, unusually for a volunteer, he was trained in all areas – handling refunds & exchanges, providing sales reports, compiling volunteer figures and even serving



as an assistant manager of the shop. He also organised a fundraising event at the Family Fun Day at Tesco in Borehamwood in summer 2015.

Sanchit hopes to study Mathematics and Economics at university.

Enrichment: key to QE's success

Enrichment runs both wide and deep at Queen Elizabeth's School.

Throughout the year, boys have innumerable opportunities to participate in the tremendous breadth of School life that takes place outside lessons, both within and beyond the classroom.

Music ensembles, sports teams, debating, drama, chess and academic subject clubs are just a few examples of what is on offer on a weekly basis. A wide range of visits, competitions and House-based activities takes place, and enrichment can include volunteering, charity fundraising and work experience.

At QE, enrichment activities are considered to be either academic, complementing and deepening aspects of the syllabus, or extra-curricular. Each category is overseen by its own team of experienced teachers, although there is considerable overlap between the two.

The Headmaster says: "The enrichment of the core curriculum is fundamental to the success of our boys, providing them with a set of skills that will prove valuable to them throughout their life. It is thus fundamental to the success of the School. We expect pupils to take advantage of the opportunities and we guide their choices to ensure these are appropriate to their aptitudes and interests."

Recently, QE held its inaugural Enrichment Week – a new initiative aimed at strengthening the School's provision even further. It featured activities which do not normally form part of the curriculum, developing in Years 7–10 boys a range of academic, personal and thinking skills. The English department arranged for a visit by Old Elizabethan Anthony Anaxagorou (1994–1999), who is a popular poet and performer. He spoke about his own writing and led two workshops, each for 90 boys, on creative writing. Music spent two mornings exploring rhythm 'through alternative means' – such as body percussion and beatboxing – in workshops led by world music specialists *Inspire Works*.

For Humanities, Year 9 pupils were encouraged to look at potential biases in the curriculum. The boys were split into groups, with one looking at the Geography curriculum, one at Religious Studies and one at History. In the Languages sessions, boys learned about life in Roman Britain, discussing how and why the Roman Empire invaded. There were interactive opportunities to sample life as a Roman soldier and a demonstration of weapons in action.

Year 10 enjoyed days devoted to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and Art during Enrichment Week, while Year 8 could turn sleuth in their own murder mystery.

Sports Day is a prominent example of enrichment at work. There are more than 50 track races, as well as many field and indoor events, ranging from Eton Fives and rowing to table tennis and tug of war. Like much of the School's enrichment activity, Sports Day is run on an inter-House basis. It is the final event in the year-long House competition: the overall winner is worked out taking the Sports Day results into account, and a trophy presented on the day.

Enrichment at QE is so extensive that it is impossible in a brief article to detail more than a fraction of the provision. In one recent eight-day period, as well as sports fixtures and a Music concert with the theme, *Myths, Legends and Fairy Tales*, the following trips took place:

- Senior boys heard explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes give a lecture at The Royal Institution
- Year 8 boys went to the Olympic Park national awards ceremony of The Bright Ideas Challenge (for Science, Technology,



Engineering & Mathematics) – and won the top prize!

- Year 12 pupils attended The Big Bang Science and Engineering event
- Latin teachers took a Year 8 group to St Albans' Verulamium Museum
- Twenty Sixth-Formers went to a London Mathematical Society Popular Lecture at the Institute of Education
- The English department ran a West End theatre trip to see *The Woman in Black*
- Senior boys attended a lecture on *Moving from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals* at The Royal Geographical Society
- The Combined Cadet Force were away for the week at the St Martin's Plain Training Camp, Kent
- Pupils studying Art visited the Henry Moore Foundation

In addition to local trips, boys also benefit from a number of international visits, including language exchanges and Geography field trips. Planning is meticulous: preparations are, for example, well under way for next February's skiing trip to Jasper, Alberta, in the Canadian Rockies.



From the sublime mind to world conflict

Year 13 Art students produced some high-quality work for their A-level. Using a variety of media, they created collages inspired by a number of different themes.

Queen Elizabeth's School has a strong record of helping boys secure places on to degree courses in Fine Art or Architecture.



Raj Singh: Acrylic and collage, exploring sublime landscapes of the imagination.



Pralad Patel: 3D collage exploring organic symmetry and 'micro-worlds'.



Sahil Handa: 3D collage exploring world conflict and protest.



House Art

A competitive Art activity was held during Enrichment Week, led by artist and Old Elizabethan David Shillinglaw (1994-1999). The artwork shown below, right, is the winning piece, produced by Broughton's Year 10 team. It explores street art and identity. The team comprised: Risharn Chandrann; Amar Isam-Abdu; Abishek Kengeswaran; Patrick Owen; Dharren Santhalingam and Ajith Suthakaran.



From the Archives: Harold Abrahams and a wartime visit to QE

Harold Abrahams (1899 – 1978) was an English athletics champion, famously winning gold in the 100m at the 1924 Olympics. His story became well-known to modern audiences through the 1981 film, *Chariots of Fire*.

Following his retirement from athletics, he trained as a lawyer and subsequently spent many years as a sports journalist, retaining a very keen interest in track and field. In 1939, Abrahams reported in *The Times* on schools athletics: "I came away from the White City Stadium yesterday afternoon with a very comfortable feeling that all was exceeding well with British

athletics... We had a series of really class performances... Undoubtedly the standard of performances throughout our Public Schools is very much on the up-grade."

He reserved particular praise for QE's own Eric Shearly (1920 – 2005), a former pupil and School Captain, and later teacher, Head of PE & Games and Governor, who dedicated 76 years of his life to QE and after whom the Shearly Hall is named. Abrahams continued: "I think the two best performances were J.P. Thornicroft's 440 yards in 50.2 seconds, and E.N. Shearly's mile (4 min. 29.2 sec)... the running of



E.N. Shearly (Barnet) suggested a fine reserve of power... Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet who last year tied for the Schools Challenge Trophy, this year won the Cup outright" (*The Times*, April 19th 1939).

Abrahams visited QE on 27th May 1944 as Guest of Honour, presenting the prizes at the Hertfordshire Schools Athletics Association games, which were hosted by the School. The photo

shows him on the Stapylton Field, giving the award to the winner of the long jump, with Headmaster Ernest Jenkins at the microphone.

He supported the career of international athletics coach Franz Stampfl, who also happened to be a former PE teacher at QE. Stampfl was the coach of Roger Bannister, and Abrahams was at the trackside when Bannister achieved the first four-minute mile in 1954.



QE's best for the bard

QE actors received special invitations to perform in front of the country's most famous actors in the celebrations marking the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death.

Six Year 13 boys who performed an abridged version of *Hamlet* earlier this year in the Shakespeare Schools Festival (SSF) were among just 52 pupil actors from across the country chosen to perform at the West End Piccadilly Theatre. And, at a gala dinner afterwards, QE was one of only two schools to perform extracts of their play before an audience that included Simon Callow, Juliet Stevenson, Tamsin Greig, Sir Derek Jacobi, Mark Rylance and Sir Michael Gambon. Pictured with QE Drama Co-ordinator Elaine White are Jordan Tob-Ogu (who played Hamlet), Miles Huglin, Konstantin Nikolov, Alex Wingrave and directors Sahil Handa and Paavan Sawjani.



Sixth-Former wins national journalism competition

Year 13 pupil Sahil Suleman's article examining the growing problems young people face in getting on to the property ladder won him the national *ifs* Young Financial Journalist Award and a cash prize of £150.

Sahil's 1,000-word entry, entitled *Generation Homeless*, answered the question *What is the biggest financial challenge your generation will face?*

His fellow Year 13 pupil, Akshay Ruparelia, also reached the final shortlist of just six students.



England honours

Year 9 pupil George Ivanov has been selected by the English Chess Federation to represent his country in the Glorney Gilbert International, one of the world's longest continuously running junior international chess events.

Hosted by England in Daventry, it features the home nations and France.

George was among those competing for QE in the national Schools' Chess Finals at Uppingham School, Rutland, together with Anantha Balaji, of Year 12, Jake Breindel, Year 13, Rishul Karia, Year 11, Federico Rocco, Year 9, and Devin Karia, Year 8.

Exploring English in all its forms

Visits by writers, a debating competition, a trip to the theatre and a mock trial all featured in a busy term for the English department.

A 13-strong team from Year 9 won their regional heat in the Magistrates Court Mock Trial Competition, with lawyers and witnesses working hard to prepare their cases and prosecutor Saifullah Shah winning admiration for wrong-footing opposition witnesses. English teacher Peter Morton said: "It was the most convincing team performance I have seen from QE in this competition, and the team were pretty unlucky not to get through to the national finals."

There were further opportunities for public-speaking in the Inter-House Debate Competition for Years 7-10 – an event run by the English department separately from other QE debating. Forms debate against each other, before the two highest winners compete in a final debate in front of their entire year group. Motions ranged from a call to lower the minimum age for Facebook to 11 to one calling for the return of the Elgin Marbles to Greece.

Year 9 savoured some spine-chilling thrills at the long-running play, *The Woman in Black*, in the Fortune Theatre in the West End.

Award-winning children's author Candy Gourlay gave boys tips for improving their own writing and, having had her early work rejected, stressed the importance of perseverance with publishers.



Packed programme on French exchange

Twenty-nine boys from Year 8 visited Bourg-en-Bresse near Lyon this term, completing the 2016 French exchange.

Welcomed into their hosts' homes, they sampled local cuisine such as frogs' legs and quenelles, and enjoyed excursions including a riverboat trip on the Saône, a visit to the market and a walking tour of Lyon, where they explored the old town's famous 'traboules' or passageways. They also spent a day at the exchange school, Collège St Pierre.

"The boys impressed both with their behaviour and their language skills," said French teacher Rosemary Hall. "They gained a greater cultural understanding of how the French live, noting that the area is much more rural, that French boys watch less TV and that, much to their alarm, they had to greet girls by exchanging kisses ('faire la bise')!"



Olympiad successes

Twelve Year 13 pupils received certificates for performing well in the Chemistry Olympiad, with Sam Carling, pictured above, named as the highest scorer in School. With material significantly beyond A-level requirements, the Olympiad theory paper is a stern test of the application of knowledge.



Pictured left-right, front row, are: Cormac Creagh, James Bunyan, Michael Yeung, Varun Manivannan and Eddie Revell, and in the back row: Zaheer Badat, Rishi Umeria; Haider Manzur; Saif Rehman, Kamal Shah and Reece Patel.

Switzerland: cheese, chocolate and challenging weather!

A Key Stage 3 Geography trip to Switzerland gave 45 boys the opportunity to enjoy nature at its most spectacular and to learn about two great human institutions.

The five-day tour for Years 7-9 featured visits to the Olympic Park Museum at Lausanne, where interactive displays explained the history of the Games, and to the United Nations Office in Geneva, where boys sat in one of the main assembly rooms and observed meetings taking place around the building in several languages.

The Monteviers rack railway gave the party superb views as they climbed to 6,000ft, but a cable car ride at the Col du Pillon exposed them to the full force of Alpine conditions. "We could hardly see 10 metres in front of us, emerging into a blizzard where boys walked across an aerial walkway," said Geography teacher Helen Davies, who organised the trip.

Other highlights included boys enjoying the whirlpool in the thermal baths, a ten-pin bowling trip, a cruise on Lake Geneva and visits to a Nestlé chocolate factory – including free tasting – and La Maison du Gruyère cheese factory.





Fencing progress

QE's after-school fencing club goes from strength to strength and is now run by the Paul Davis Fencing Academy, based in St Albans. The club sent a team to compete against St Albans Fencing Club: the boys, who are coached by the academy's Rhys Melia, lost by just one point against a team drawn from several St Albans schools. QE fencers also staged a display at Founder's Day.

Pictured left-right are: Kaustubh Bhatnagar (Year 8); Samir Shah (Year 8); Eeshan Banerjee (Year 8); Kai Pentecost (Year 8); Reza Sair (Year 9); Dylan Foster (Year 8); Aryan Jain (Year 9); Ben Phan-Nguyen (Year 8) and Daniel Radzik-Rahman (Year 8). The team who competed in St Albans comprised Rezam, Aryan and Daniel, together with James Ford, of Year 9.

A fine sporting summer

2016 brought cricketing success to both ends of the School.

The Year 7 team became county champions after beating Teddington in the Middlesex Cricket Cup Final at Harrow St Mary's Cricket Club. And the First XI, pictured, relished their victory in the Read Cricket Tournament, particularly since QE was hosting the inter-school event this year. The annual tournament also involves: Aldenham School; Hutton Grammar School, near Preston in Lancashire, and Liverpool College.

In athletics, QE is now ranked tenth in the country, having amassed 450 points at the A final of the English Schools Athletics competition held at the Mile End Stadium in East London. PE teacher James Clarke said: "We performed very well to finish tenth nationally – this was over 40 points more than we achieved to make it into the A finals."

Outstanding performances came from Nick Shaw, of Year 8, who ran a 100m personal best of 11.9s and achieved 5m 23 in the long jump. Team captain Yuwan Vasanthakumaran ran 12.3s in the 80m hurdles, netting many points



for the School. "Despite being ranked in the top ten in the country and outscoring virtually every other regional winner, unfortunately we did not qualify for the national final because we did not win our own regional final," added Mr Clarke.

In water polo, eight QE boys represented Barnet in the London Youth Games: Year 10 boys Jordi Fray, William Morris and Samuel Wong, as well as Year 9's Zeke Essex, Rushil Patel, George Popa, Daniel Radzik-Rahman and Rushil Shah. They won their group, beating Haringey 10-2 and Enfield 10-3. Barnet lost 5-4 to Sutton in the quarter-finals, but progressed to the lower tier semi-finals, where they beat Croydon to finish fifth overall.



THE STANLEY BUSBY MEMORIAL CRICKET MATCH: The Founder's Day fixture was won by the current First XI, who replied to the Old Elizabethans' total of 139-6 with 140-4, winning with one ball to spare.

Showgo's royal appointment



Year 11 judo star Showgo Kimura was invited to perform his sport at a special celebration hosted at Kensington Palace by The Duchess of Cambridge to mark the 40th anniversary of the charity SportsAid. Showgo, reigning U21 British Judo Champion for his weight category, this term took part in the Junior European Cup in Lithuania.

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