



WELCOME TO QUEEN KATHARINE ACADEMY'S NEWSLETTER

It's been a fantastic term here at QKA. The students have settled back into school extremely well and I've been impressed at the levels of hard work and involvement in all aspects of school life.

This term we have won the Gold Pearson National Teaching Award for our work with our Roma community and have also been awarded a commendation in the 2021 PTI's Bernice McCabe Award for Subject Leadership in English. These fantastic achievements highlight the passion, dedication and hard work our entire teaching team puts into their work with our brilliant students - which helps transform lives through education.

Across the academy our students have been very busy, celebrating cultural independence days, honouring Remembrance Day, winning languages competitions, organising our very first eco-week - and much more!

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and relaxing Christmas break. We look forward to seeing you in back in January.



Gold Pearson National Teaching Award

We've won a Gold Pearson National Teaching Award for our 'Roma – Narrowing the Gap' team in school.

This prestigious award is the result of lots of hard work to understand and support our Gypsy-Roma community and raise levels of education and attainment.

We've worked with other organisations locally, nationally and internationally to share good practice and have also founded a regional English as an Additional Language (EAL) hub to share best practice and provide regular training.

Amazing work everyone!





National Translation Bee winners!

Well done to Helio and Gabriela, who took home second and third place in this year's National Translation Bee - a competition which challenges students' language skills by asking them to translate as many phrases as they can into either French, Spanish or German.

The students needed to learn a range of verbs in past, present and future forms, and were marked on their accuracy and pronunciation. They had one minute to translate as many phrases as possible.

They worked very hard, practising the different combinations of words and perfecting their pronunciation - congratulations to you both!



Celebrating different cultures

This term we've celebrated two national independence days.

First was Guinea Bissau Independence Day on 24th September. Our students enjoyed finding out more about their culture and history, as well as sampling a delicious cake made by Community Liaison Worker, Carla Lopes. Feliz dia da Independência da Guiné-Bissau!

We also celebrated Angola's Independence Day on 11th November, an important event for our students of Angolan Heritage. We welcomed professional dancer, Bruno Wilson, who led some Kuduro dance workshops, a popular Angolan dance form. The students all had a great time practising the dancing. Scan the QR code on the right to watch our Kuduro dancing! Feliz dia da Independência Angola!





Eco-leaders at QKA fight climate change

This term we launched our first ever Eco-Week. Our Eco-Leaders did a fantastic job of organising a week of eco events, including Meat-Free Monday in the canteen, eco-themed tutor activities, a light-switch sticker competition and a litter pick in the local area. Well done to all those involved!

Our Eco-Leaders also took part in a Transform our World Youth Summit to learn more about the significance of COP26, and to reflect on what this historical conference means for the future of our planet. They engaged in discussions about how we can strengthen our individual and whole-school commitments to fighting climate change.



Honouring Remembrance Day

We were honoured to celebrate Remembrance Day on Thursday 11th November with our staff and students via a live-streamed virtual event.

Thank you to everyone who joined us to pay their respects to those who lost their lives in military service, and to our Combined Cadet Force for their great work in leading our ceremony.





Students become anti-bullying ambassadors

We launched Anti-Bullying Week by training 75 of our student leaders as anti-bullying ambassadors.

The students will be on duty at lunch times and around school to ensure that peer support is always available to anyone who needs it.

Wellbeing is a top priority at QKA and we work with our students to encourage and embed empathy towards their peers. We'll continue to work together to tackle any unkindness and bullying!



Visit from Korean Embassy

This term we were successful in our application to the Korean Embassy for support with our after-school Korean Club.

The Embassy has helped us provide language teaching resources and textbooks to support our students in our hugely popular after-school club.

We also welcomed a visit from the Director of the Korean Education Centre at the Korean Embassy! Director Ahn and his colleague thoroughly enjoyed looking around QKA and meeting the members of the Korean Club.

They were also very impressed by the enthusiasm of our students and the fantastic opportunities on offer at QKA to learn new languages and cultures.





Award for Languages department

We're delighted to share with you that our English department has been awarded the 2021 PTI's Bernice McCabe Award for Subject Leadership.

This award celebrates excellence in subject leadership within schools, recognising departments that put quality subject teaching at the heart of the classroom.

Congratulations to all involved, we're very proud!



KEY DATES

*These dates are subject to the latest Covid-19 regulations

END OF TERM

Friday 17th December 2021

SPRING TERM BEGINS

Wednesday 5th January 2022

FINISH FOR HALF TERM

Friday 11th February 2022

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