



WELCOME TO QUEEN KATHARINE ACADEMY'S NEWSLETTER

It has been an exciting and enormously productive term at Queen Katharine Academy since January, and I think everybody feels ready for the holiday ahead.

When we return, we are launching an important initiative to ensure that we have an outstanding start to every school day and that all our students are supported to be ready to learn. I am very proud of the outcomes of our collective hard work over the last few months and the quality of and engagement in the Sustainability Conference that we hosted on behalf of the Trust. It just goes to show the positive impact that collaboration can have. There are many, many people to thank for the numerous events and activities that you will read about in this newsletter, and there are many more people to thank for our day-to-day achievements.

For now, I would just like to wish all of our staff and all of our students, and their families, a restful and enjoyable holiday. Our particular thoughts and best wishes go to our Year 11s, and our Year 13s and Year 14s who will of course be revising tirelessly over the next few weeks before coming back for their final preparations before they take the important exams that lie ahead for them.

Thank you in advance for all your support and positive engagement over the course of next term and please do look out for our Community Sway, which will be published every two weeks from the start of next half term.

Best wishes,

Philip Masterson, Principal



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QKA hosts TDET Sustainability Conference

A huge thank you to everyone who supported and participated in the Trust-wide 'Sustainability Conference' that took place on Thursday, 21st March. The vibrant energy from everyone who attended and supported the event truly made it a day to remember!

The students from all Trust schools were the heart of the occasion, diving into the array of activities with zest and curiosity. Thank you to Victoria, Cameron and Sally who were amazing! They led workshops on Travel, Food and Waste, leaving a lasting impact on the students who returned buzzing with excitement and a newfound knowledge! Thank you also to our fabulous Post 16 Student Leaders and Eco Leaders whose dedication and commitment played an integral role in shaping the day's success. It wasn't just about fun and games, it was a valuable opportunity for learning and growth and at the end of the day, students had the opportunity to both reflect through engaging activities and thought-provoking discussions to gain a deeper understanding of 'Sustainability' and its significance in shaping our future.

Thank you again to everyone who contributed into making the event a success!





Students and staff celebrate World Book Day



Students and staff all enjoyed our World Book Day celebrations!

The enthusiasm and creativity of our staff truly shone through with their amazing outfits! Students were invited to a celebratory tea party in the library, where they had opportunity to enjoy some amazing treats and food, as well as discuss their favourite books!

Students were also invited to attend an Escape Room experience where they got to put their problem-solving skills to the test, working together to unlock the mysteries and challenges and save the princesses!

Alongside these exciting activities, there were also hidden books for students to find around the school, which once found were for them to keep!



Festivities to celebrate the Lunar New Year

Our Korean Club students were thrilled to send a New Year's wish to students and parents in Korean: 새해 복 많이 받으세요.

This Lunar New Year marked the year of the dragon. To celebrate, Ms In Wha Kim hosted a special Seollal Community Café with her K-club students, akin to the Korean version of Chinese New Year celebrations.

The festivities were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who came together. There were lots of tasty Korean snacks, games and music, and we welcomed Healthwatch Peterborough, who conducted a survey on the NHS 111 services. Thank you to Ms. Kim, Cristina, and the K-Club students for hosting!





Sponsor our staff walking 24 miles

In May, staff will be taking on the Yorkshire Three Peaks challenge, covering a total of 24 miles across Pen-y-Ghent, Ingleborough and Whernside mountains.

They are gearing up with plenty of practice, recently completing an eight-mile walk around Stamford, which is just one-third of the actual distance!

All the funds raised will support QKA's own charity, Pomegranate Opportunities Trust, which raises money to help students take part in enrichment activities they might not otherwise be able to afford. Please click on the QR code to the right if you'd like to sponsor them!



Year 9 enjoyed a modern twist on Jekyll and Hyde

Students studying Evan Placey's modern adaption of Jekyll and Hyde in drama in Year 9 had an exciting opportunity to watch National Theatre's school tour production of the play, right in our own theatre.

Having the professionals in school was fantastic. Their classical renditions of modern tracks, clever staging, and production tricks perfectly complemented the raw and engaging performance from the professional actors - one of whom is a local from Peterborough!

The enthusiasm leading up to the event and the feedback from students afterwards showed how much they valued this experience. After enjoying theatre live, students had the chance to get close and personal with the cast, enjoying a Q&A session at the end.





A brilliant time at Drag Queen Bingo

The biggest thank you to Kelly H, Ian A, and everyone who supported our Drag Queen Bingo night before half-term!

It was fantastic to see so many staff supporting the event, and the positive responses from our community were heartening.

There was an amazing buzz in the air, with lots of singing (shoutout to the SEND team!), and laughter.

Special thanks to Teddi, who was the star of our Bingo evening. All proceeds will support The Pomegranate Trust, which provides further opportunities for our young people here at QKA. Thanks to all who attended and supported this wonderful cause!



Success at the Higher Education Fair

We were delighted with the success of our recent Higher Education fair, which guided and inspired Year 12 students from both QKA and Thomas Deacon Academy on their higher education journey.

Thank you to our external providers, who were passionate about shaping the future of these students. Their expertise and resources made the event extremely valuable and gave students the chance to ask questions, seek advice, and gain a better understanding of the higher education opportunities available to them.

Special thanks also go to Anne M, our Post-16 Intensive Adviser and Health & Social Care Teacher, as well as everyone who supported this fantastic event.





A fantastic event for Post-16 Early Years students

Our Sixth Formers studying Early Years enjoyed a visit to the Childcare Expo at London Olympia.

This event provided them with a valuable opportunity to explore the Early Years sector event and interact with professionals in the field.

They also gained inspiration for activities and discovered resources for their work experience placements.

Huge congratulations to our outstanding students who were excellent representatives of QKA!



Impressive readings and views at the Cathedral

February began with two history students, Al-Aqsa in Year 7, and Charlie-Joe in Year 8 representing the school in a Commemoration Service at Peterborough Cathedral.

This was part of the Katharine of Aragon Festival, the namesake of our academy, and was supported by our Head Student, Victoria.

A huge well done to Al-Aqsa and Charlie Joe, who impressed everyone with their articulate reading of a passage from the Bible in Spanish.

The students were also part of the procession during the service and had the chance to lay pomegranates at the foot of the burial place of Katharine of Aragon.

The day ended with students climbing the Cathedral Tower, looking out over Peterborough after a brilliant service. Students loved exploring the 900-year-old building and its impressive architecture. What an incredible experience!





Lots of enthusiasm in our Careers Fair

A big thank you to Ms Akbar and everyone who supported our Careers Fair, which took place at the end of January.

The event brought together students, professionals, and employers in a collaborative environment. It allowed students to connect with industry leaders, explore diverse career paths, and gain valuable insights into different fields.

We were thrilled by the enthusiasm and engagement of all attendees, making the fair a truly informative and enjoyable experience.



Geography students enjoy field trip

Our Geography students had a fantastic time on their field trip to Wales! They arrived to beautiful blue skies and enjoyed a day trip to Ynys Las dunes, completing dune profiles and biodiversity transects in relation to dune succession.

The youth hostel was amazing and the food was fabulous! The geographers also visited Aberystwyth and Borth and enjoyed an informative visit to the university. It was an amazing experience for our students, who will cherish the memories from this trip!

Thank you to Miss Griffiths and Miss McKimmie for all your hard work in arranging and providing this great experience for our young geographers!



KEY DATES

**TERM ENDS— Thursday 28
March 2024**

**TRAINING DAY— SCHOOL
CLOSED— Monday 15 April
2024**

**TERM BEGINS FOR STUDENTS—
Tuesday 16 April 2024**

**MAY BANK HOLIDAY—Monday
6 May 2024**

**TERM ENDS FOR STAFF AND
STUDENTS - Friday 24th May
2024**

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