



WELCOME TO THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE QUEEN KATHARINE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first Queen Katharine Academy newsletter and the start of the new academic term. I hope you all had a great Christmas break and are ready for the year ahead.

It has been a fantastic first term for Queen Katharine Academy and I am proud of everything we have achieved so far. In November, we welcomed the new Peterborough MP, Fiona Onasanya, to the Academy to meet with our staff and students. Fiona's comments about the school fill me with pride and I was particularly happy to see her praise our new environment and ethos. You can read more about her visit below. We've also been busy with extra-curricular activities and you can find out more about these throughout the newsletter.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and have a great spring term.



QKA WELCOMES NEW CITY MP FOR TOUR OF SCHOOL

In November, we welcomed Peterborough's new Member of Parliament, Fiona Onasanya, to our Academy to meet with our staff and students.

Ms Onasanya was elected as the city's MP in June 2017. On her visit she was given a tour of the school, discussed the benefits of collaboration between schools, particularly the role of the new Thomas Deacon Education Trust, and answered questions from the student leadership team and head boy and girl.

Ms Onasanya explained to the students that she refers to herself as 'MP Fi' – an acronym for 'making people feel inspired' – and made clear that where people start in life has no limits on where they can go.

Fiona said: "I am a firm believer that location says nothing about destination because where you start in life has no bearing on who you can become and what you can achieve. It was great to see how our young people here felt that they not only belong, but were happy to challenge and contribute. I look forward to working closely with the school and seeing this continue.

"I was particularly impressed by the engaging lessons that I saw. My memories of school lessons were full of a teacher standing at the front of the class writing and reading from text books – the modern lesson has moved on a long way from this and teachers have real passion and creativity in the way they talk about their subjects and encourage learning. This is much more engaging and stimulating for our young people and gives them 'real-life' applications to the ideas they are learning about.

Fiona also commented that she was impressed by the environment and ethos that has been created by our new leadership team and Trust. She expressed it was evident that providing the right opportunities, knowledge and guidance is given, much can be done. All agreed that significant improvements have already taken place and the students are mature and responsible young adults.





CELEBRATING OUR NAMESAKE

Throughout this half term, we are joining Peterborough Cathedral for the annual Katharine of Aragon festival to celebrate the pioneer of female education in England, who the school is named after.

Our students joined with students from Thomas Deacon Academy to lay a wreath in memory of Katharine of Aragon, the first wife of King Henry VIII, and Thomas Deacon at a service held at Peterborough Cathedral. Additionally, our students attended the Katharine of Aragon service at the Cathedral to pay their respects and perform a reading to the Cathedral visitors. The academy will also be running a series of themed activities for students, in school and in lessons during the next few weeks.



QKA STUDENTS TAKE ON MOCK EU DEBATE REPORT

In November, two QKA sixth form students, Viktoria and Matthew, went to London to take part in a Mock EU debate organised by the European Council. They had already competed in one series of heats in London where they debated on the topic of Brexit with teams from other schools and colleges across the country. Although there were many independent schools and teams with considerable debating experience Matthew and Viktoria were selected for their brilliant performance to go through to the final debate.

In the EU mock debate, each school or college was in a simulated negotiation which represented an EU delegation at the European Council, negotiating over two issues following Brexit. The negotiations were chaired by real European Council officials while others advised the UK and EU delegations.

Throughout the day different delegations put forward ideas and proposals in formal meetings, as well as engaging in private negotiations on the sidelines over coffee and lunch. At the end of the day the Commission group put forward two proposals and these were both carried, although there was some opposition on the EU citizen's proposals.

Viktoria and Matthew performed really well. They had done a lot of homework, made excellent speeches and seemed to really enjoy their day of being EU ministers. We were particularly proud that we were the only school in Cambridgeshire represented and were one of a minority of state schools which made it through to the final stage.





A VISIT FROM SOCIOLOGISTS

Last term, we had first and second year undergraduate students from the University of Northampton to come and visit the Academy. They presented their current research to our A level Sociology students, showcasing their work and demonstrating how A level Sociology can be translated to higher education. Lecturers from the University were also on hand to discuss the modules on offer in the Sociology course.

The undergraduates were wonderfully confident and were clearly knowledgeable in their subject area. They also highlighted some new areas and research which relate to the A level Sociology course. The presentations from the undergraduates inspired and engaged our students, showing how studying a Sociology degree can include some totally unexpected aspects of the subject.



REMEMBRANCE

In November, our students and staff came together for a one minute silence in remembrance of those who have served for our country, both past and present.

The remembrance service was led by students in the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) and a wreath was laid by the Cadets to pay respects to the servicemen and women who have sacrificed themselves for our country. The minute silence provided a time for reflection for all those involved.

We would like to thank all those who joined us for the silence.





AMAZON'S CHILDREN'S WARD

Five of our students delivered toys to the Amazon Children's Ward at Peterborough City Hospital. The toys were bought with money raised in the first term at the Academy. The students worked incredibly hard to raise £185 by running many fundraising activities, including some very popular cake sales!



Thank you to Sahare, Oktawian, Jennifer, Matilda and Ieva for their hard-work in raising the money and delivering the toys.

QKA SWING BAND PERFORMS AT THE CATHEDRAL

Before Christmas, our QKA swing band performed at a packed Peterborough Cathedral as part of the Thomas Deacon Education Trust Concert.

The swing band joined the other schools from the Trust and performed favourites such as 'Winter Wonderland' and 'Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree'.

The band did the Academy proud and really stole the show with their contemporary take on the Christmas songs. Well done Jake, Rob, Steph, Sue, James, Luca, Lea and Lena!



KEY DATES

Half Term

Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February

Year 9 Pathways Evening

Thursday 1st February

Year 10 Parents Evening

Thursday 1st March

Last Day of Term

Thursday 29th March

Summer Term Begins

Monday 16th April