



Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Horncastle

NEWSLETTER 6

March 2010

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Dear Parents

Time seems to be flying at the moment and I cannot believe that Easter is almost upon us.

You will, no doubt, have heard about our sad news and I know you will join me in offering our heartfelt condolences to Mr and Mrs Heathcote, Steven and Emily. Jennifer was an outstanding student; she left us in 2005 to take up a place to read Medicine at Cambridge and was undertaking postgraduate studies at Edinburgh.

We also received news of the sudden death of Mr Douglas, the headteacher of Kirkby on Bain Primary School. We have a long and successful history with the school under the leadership of Mr Douglas and know that he was looking forward to a well-earned retirement in the summer. Our thoughts are with his family and his school.

As ever, the Newsletter is full of news, updates and information about forthcoming events; I do hope you will feel able to come along and lend your support. The Parents' Association have organised two events before the end of the term. 'Are You Smarter than a QEGS Student?'; a quiz evening with a difference. This is an opportunity to show that experience triumphs over youth any day (or so we hope!). The Sixth Form have been organising teams of students from across the year groups. Please get involved as it will be a great evening and we need plenty of staff and parent teams to give these whippersnappers a run for their money! Food is included in the evening; a hog roast. Tickets are available from the School Office where you can register your team.

On Thursday we are hosting a wonderful performance called Parallels which is a showcase of Indian classical dancing performed and choreographed by Sonia Sabri. The dance company have agreed to put on a workshop for students during the day exploring both music and dance. It will be fabulous. Tickets are on sale from the School Office.

Finally, Mrs Addis and Mrs Brown have assembled a wonderful programme for our Spring Concert on the 31st March including an art exhibition.

Last Friday I was invited, along with a dozen or so other educational professionals, to dinner with the Archbishop of Canterbury hosted by the Bishop of Lincoln. It was a huge honour and a pleasure to be in such august company. Both the Bishop of Lincoln and the Bishop of Grimsby remembered QEGS from previous visits and, at the time, had been impressed with our students. The Archbishop was keen to engage in debate about education and the worries and concerns we all had. He was passionate about the need for education to nurture thinking people who can go out into the world and to make a difference with the skills they possess. It was a sentiment few would argue with and one that I feel, I am proud to say, we try embrace here at QEGS.

Mrs H. Payne
HEADTEACHER

SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN

A big thank you to those parents who kindly responded to the recent travel survey. The results have been carefully noted and many comments have proved very useful indeed. Here is a brief summary of the findings.

From III returns:

- Due to the distances travelled by many of our students, the majority do come to school by bus. Main reasons given—quickest, safest or cheapest way or parents already on their way to another destination.
- Comments on the school bus service varied between very positive and very negative, possibly depending on the type of bus, number of pupils using the service and the route. We are looking into ways of addressing the main areas of concern.
- Several parents expressed interest in a car sharing scheme so we have plans to help them get it underway.
- From the students' returns, many would like to increase their health and fitness by cycling to school, but road traffic issues and distance are problems.

We hope the travel plan may be able to address some aspects of the congestion outside the school site and go a long way towards increasing the safety of access for our students.

Islam Awareness Exhibition

On Friday 5th March, the Religious Studies Department was delighted to host an exhibition of information and artefacts from the Islamic faith. Students from all year groups visited the display and were able to sample traditional Islamic food and drink, see their names written in Arabic, try on a variety of styles of Islamic dress and have their many questions about the faith answered. We hope that the exhibition enabled students to consider and reflect on some of the many misconceptions and misrepresentations of the Islamic faith and we are extremely grateful to Mrs Mohamed and Mrs Abdulla who led the event so brilliantly.

British Biology Olympiad 2010

Six student recently took part in the Biology Olympiad; this is a competition organised on similar lines to the Maths Challenge but for Biology! 1600 students took part from all over the UK with many of the most prestigious schools in the country represented. David Neal, Nikhil Mirajkar, Imogen Proctor and Jade Symons did exceptionally well. David gained a Gold Award and was placed 68th. Nikhil earned a Silver Award and Imogen and Jade both achieved Highly Commended. Frances Laird and

Matthew Short also braved the competition. Simply excellent – well done to everyone.

Charity Endeavours

7B did a fabulous assembly recently about a disease called Trachoma which affects the sight of many people in poor countries across the world. They followed up their assembly with a sponsored silence and a cake stall which has raised over £200 for Sightsavers International. A remarkable team effort.

Duke of Edinburgh successes

Well done to Joe Earley, Simon Redfearn, Amy Macrury, Sarah McMullan and Claire Maddock who were presented with their Silver Award Badges and Certificates by Roger Lindley in assembly last week. Charlotte Lindley and Josh Waring were also presented with their Bronze Awards.

Music

In January students from all years took part in a Taiko Drumming workshop. They learnt about the music culture in Japan and had great fun learning to play the different instruments. Later on this term there is a further opportunity for GCSE students to take part in an Indian Music workshop.

The Music Department has been successful in gaining free tickets to see the BBC Concert Orchestra on Friday 19th March. Y9s who have expressed an interest in taking GCSE Music will be attending.

The Spring Concert

The Spring Concert is on Wednesday 31st March, 7.30pm in the Main Hall. Tickets are £2.50 (concessions £2) and will be available from reception. The Programme for the evening features the Junior Choir and Orchestra, the Senior Choir and Orchestra, the Male Voice Choir, instrumental ensembles alongside an Art Exhibition.

GCSE Coursework: An important reminder

For all Y11 students taking any of the Design and Technology subjects, the final date for coursework submission is **Friday 19th March 2010**. This is a final deadline and coursework needs to be completed and handed-in by 3.45pm on this date. The coursework accounts for 60% of the final grade at GCSE so it is vital that all sections are completed.

Gliding Scholarship

Gareth Bates in the Lower Sixth recently completed an Air Cadets Gliding Scholarship. He earned his 'Silver Wings' which did involve flying sole around a prescribed circuit. He now has the opportunity to progress to Gold Level. A great achievement.

Army Scholarship Competition

Well done to Cameron Hill in the Lower Sixth who has made it into the final round of the selection process. We wish Cameron all our good wishes for the Final Board assessment.

Prime Minister's Global Fellowship

We are pleased to announce that Saad Khalid has made it into the next round of the selection process for this prestigious new opportunity. We look forward to hearing how he fares later on this month.

Squash

The U19 Squash team have been progressing well in the National Schools Squash competition, earning a place in the last 16. They were up against Millfield School (champions for the last 5 years!) but set out with determination and excitement. The match was played at the prestigious Edgbaston Priory Club in Birmingham. Kitted out in their new hoodies and arriving first, they were able to occupy the moral high ground. However, Millfield's team had a squad of internationally ranked players; Saudi Arabia's top ranked U19 player, Israel's No. 2, India No. 1 and No 5 and Wales' No.1. They were a class act and yet our boys played well and professionally and scored some hard-won points. The competition is fierce and it is impressive that this is the fourth year we have made it into the last 16. We are amongst top quality schools, largely from the independent sector. Well done to Dominic Price, Phil Roberts, Sam Gould, Oliver Fixter and Mark Hurrell. A great experience and you did us proud. Thank you to Mrs Parsons who not only supports and encourages the team but also provides the transport.

Swimming Gala

20 students from Y7-11 who competed in the Coastal and Wolds School Sports Association Swimming Gala enjoyed a successful morning at the newly opened Meridian Centre in Louth. Records were set by Suzannah Yielding in the Y9 Girls front crawl and in breaststroke, Ose Ikhenia in the Boys Y11 front crawl and Kelly Hoodless in the Girls Y11 Butterfly. The team did brilliantly coming 3rd overall.

Lincolnshire PE and School Conference 2010

Melissa Cook and Andrew Flatley, our Young Sports Ambassador, have been invited to attend this conference at the end of March. Both students have been identified as having outstanding leadership skills and as being excellent ambassadors for young people in Lincolnshire. An excellent opportunity and well deserved.

Y8 Civil War Day

In January we ran the annual Y8 Civil War Day. As ever, the firing of the cannon proved a popular part of the day. Students were invited to create a piece of work based on their experience. Six winners were selected and received a certificate in assembly. The winners were Alice Mundy, Charlotte Walker, Mollie Ingram-Hill, Josie Renshaw, Polly Devereux and Aimee Myers. Well done.

The Lion Theatre Pantomime

Well done to Sophie Bark, Glyn Bates, Hannah Birchall, Holly O'Neill, Gemma North, Billy Baxter, Jade Dando, Teddy Kavanagh, Harry Grau, George Fairs, Gareth Bates, Lauren Bark, Sasha Grau, Demi Morrison and Joe Ritjakis who all took part in Jack and the Beanstalk with the Lion Theatre this year. There were 11 shows in all with audience figures of over 1000!

Lincolnshire Parent Carer Council

www.lincolnshireparentcarercouncil.org.uk

We have received a flyer about this network for parents and carers of children with a disability or additional needs. The network provides an opportunity to find out about changes that affect your child, about conferences and consultations, to share your views about the County Council services and NHS and to recognise and address common problems. If you would like more information about this organisation, visit the website above or telephone 0845 3311310.

Free School Meals – Benefits for you and the school

Is your household income less than £16,040?

If so you may be entitled to Free School Meals. Please contact Mrs Howe, Finance Office, to discuss your eligibility.

Not only will your child benefit from eating a healthy school meal every day, you will benefit financially too!

Perspectives on Lincolnshire Display

Miss Cooper has been busy encouraging all students and staff to submit photographs which represent Lincolnshire or any aspect of living in Lincolnshire. The response was phenomenal with hundreds of photos emailed in. A small team of students and staff then worked on bringing together a representative sample of photos to create a breathtaking display in the Main Hall. The World Map has gone and been replaced with an astounding display – come and have a look! Thank you to Miss Cooper, Mr Hull, Mr Mullarkey, Mr Bird and Sixth Form helpers (Kate Green and Emily Colley) for all their hard work. Fabulous!

Study Leave (for Public Examinations) for Y11 and Sixth Form

Y11 will start their Study Leave on Tuesday 18th May (normal school on the Monday). Lower Sixth will start their Study Leave on Monday 24th May and the Upper Sixth are in school until the end of the May Half Term and start their Study Leave on Monday 7th June.

Lower Sixth Return Date

Lower Sixth are due back in school on **Monday 14th June**. Apart from a very small minority who have a public exam on the Tuesday, all Lower Sixth will be attending the Lincoln University Higher Education Day on this day. Students need to be in school on the Monday to be included in the visit to Lincoln University on the 15th.

School Council News

The School Council has been thrilled with the whole school response to raising money for Haiti. Money is still coming in from the competitions and activities which are continuing in school. Lower 6D raised over £140 (and a few laughs at teachers' expense) with their staff version of "The Weakest Link", Mrs Bourn making a very scary Ann Robinson. The grand total stands at £1382.23 at the moment. Council members are now active on a number of projects and committees connected with promoting student wellbeing and addressing our immediate environment and it is good to see them so active.

Foreign Exchanges 2009-2010

This year's exchanges have once again been extremely successful, with more than 80 students from years 9-12 participating in either the German or the French exchange. This week, French students and their partners in years 9 and 10 took part in a bilingual Maths Challenge, which was a great success. The school libraries have also benefitted: English students each took a copy of a recommended English book as a gift for the library of our partner schools, which was reciprocated by the French and German students during their visits here. QEGS students will therefore find that our library has grown and now

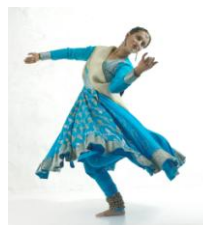
contains a wide range of books in French and German, in addition to the many foreign language magazines and DVDs already available.

Next year's exchanges will be launched in the coming weeks and will be open to students currently in years 8-12. It is a fantastic way to make friends, enhance your understanding of the language and culture and is highly recommended by those who have participated this year!

Forthcoming Events

Parents' Association Events

Thursday 18 March – 7.30 pm



Parallels

A sumptuous two-part performance by internationally renowned and award winning dancer and choreographer Sonia Sabri who takes a fresh and individual approach to the Indian classical dance form of Kathak spanning classical to contemporary & East to West. There will be a dance and music workshop for some pupils during the afternoon.

Tickets are available from the School Office or on the door. Cost £5 (£4).

An Artservice Rural Touring Programme

Friday 26 March at 7 pm

Quiz Evening

Are you smarter than a QEGS student!



A fun quiz evening for all the family, including delicious food. Get organising your team now; competition will be fierce; pride and reputations are at stake on both sides.

Student teams are now in place and parents are invited, if they are brave enough, to enter a team of 6.

Teachers are worried, students are confident but how will parents respond to the challenge? If you would like to enter a team or be part of a staff/parent team contact the School Office. Included in the price is a Hog Roast.

Tickets are on sale from the School Office. £4 for adults and £1 for students.

Wednesday 31st March

The Spring Concert

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