



Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Horncastle

NEWSLETTER 8

June 2010

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Dear Parents

Students have been working hard during the exam season. From the Y7s undertaking their first exams at QEGS to Y10 starting on GCSE modules, everybody has settled down to the task. We have been really impressed with the way that the students have conducted themselves. We are looking forward to getting the results and we will be sending reports home on Friday 16th July. This is earlier than normal as we are hoping that parents will have time to send in some comments about the report prior to the end of term.

If you have not already heard, I am very pleased to announce that the Parents' Association have agreed to help us raise money for a new school minibus. We need the new bus for September but we realise that it is going to take the Parents' Association a bit longer to raise the funds. We are grateful to the Governors for agreeing to help us in the interim so that the bus can be available for September. The Parents' Association have some great plans, the first of which is Party in the Park on Friday 9th July. It is going to be a fabulous evening courtesy of the Blue Stones band and your company. Tickets are on sale from the Main Office. We are also organising a special raffle to complement the minibus fund raising events. Please lend your support to this excellent cause; we can offer so many more activities for students if we have our own transport. The Parents' Association is aiming to raise £10,000. There is also Sports Day to look forward to and we hope parents can join us to watch the sport and enjoy a cream tea. Weather permitting, Sports Day is scheduled for Monday 19th July.

Following on from the success of Shine Week last year, we have organised two activity days themed on Tennyson's Lincolnshire on Friday 9th and Monday 12th July. Staff are currently busy organising events and activities related to the life and time of Alfred Lord Tennyson. It will be a super two days.

Thanks to Peter Jackson, one of our parents, for creating another wonderful calendar for this term; if you have not had yours yet please search through the school bag as they were sent home a couple of weeks ago! As well as being ideal to keep by the phone or on the fridge, the advertising also raises valuable funds for the Parents' Association.

The Lower Sixth have now returned from their study leave and have a busy few weeks; an ethics conference and a business conference to get involved in as well as rising to the challenge of prefect duties. Y10 are heading off on work experience next week and they also have a two-day Enterprise Conference to attend on their return. Y9 have volunteered to help buddy the new Y7 on Induction Day in July, Y8 are heading off to the Yorkshire Dales and Y7 are looking forward to their new form groups for Y8.

Some parents have asked if there would be an opportunity to meet form tutors when their children start Y8 and the Lower Sixth. We are going to organise some 'meet the tutor' evenings in September to give parents and tutors a chance to put a name to a face. These will be in addition to the usual parents' evenings that we hold.

Finally, we have been asking members of the school community about making some changes to Prizegiving. As you might imagine, there have been lots of ideas but we have managed to come up with some general suggestions. In the newsletter are some ideas for you to consider and I would welcome your feedback on the proposed changes. Please can you send your comments to me by the end June so we can make the necessary arrangements for this year's celebratory events. You can email your comments to school enquiries@qegs.lincs.sch.uk with the subject heading "prizegiving". Thank you!

Mrs H. Payne
HEADTEACHER

Recognising Student Achievement

There is still a lot of support for having the traditional, annual prizegiving but it has been suggested that we divide the school cohort into two evenings; one for Upper School (Y11 & Sixth Form) and one for Lower School (Y8 – Y10). Y7 would not be involved in this annual formal prizegiving because they will have only just joined the school. The timing for both evenings would be towards the end of the Autumn term and would be recognising the achievements of students in the previous academic year. Not dissimilar to what we do now.

The Upper School event would incorporate giving out GCSE certificates as well as recognising the achievements of students who have done AS examinations in the previous summer. It will still include the celebration of the achievements of those who did their A2 examinations and have progressed to university. It would be a formal event and be a celebration of mostly academic achievement. The Lower School event would also be formal and would be aimed at celebrating academic achievement. We would hope to involve some of our leavers who have progressed to university to inspire the younger students.

In addition, students and staff would like to hold year group celebration events where every aspect of student achievement can be publicly applauded and shared. Heads of Year and Form Tutors are keen to hold these on an evening and to invite parents along. Opinion is divided on when the best time of year would be to hold such evenings and it may vary depending on the year group. Some of the students were not keen for it to be on an evening and would prefer an afternoon.

Let me know what you think by emailing me at school or you may prefer to write. Please can you commit your ideas to paper rather than telephoning.

Horncastle Extended Schools Summer Activities

Emma Maltby, our Extended Provision Coordinator, has organised some fantastic activities for Y9 and Y10 students between 2nd and 6th August. There are master classes for film makers, creative writers, fashion designers and budding psychologists. Full details are in the brochure that we sent home with students last week. Please note that on the booking form the costs are incorrectly printed. The cost for the full week is £60 or £15 per day. All booking forms with payment should be returned to Emma Maltby at QEGS by Friday 2nd July.

PE News

Good luck to the Y9 Cricket team who head off for their inaugural tour to the Peak District this Wednesday.

Well done to all the girls who have been selected for the Lincolnshire Netball Academy. The academy is part of England's netball pathway to excellence where girls receive performance-enhancing training and have the opportunity to be seen by regional talent coaches. This is a great opportunity for players to move up the England Netball Excel pathway ladder.

Junior Academy (U14) Successes:

From Y9 Megan McQuade, Ruth Avison, Connie Foster and Melissa Hill, from Y8 Thea Barwick and from Y7 Jasmin Fotherby.

County Academy (U16):

From Y10 Elina Rhys-Davis and from Y11 Eloise Read.

Without help on the score table from Beth Lancaster and Abigail Hustler, umpiring courtesy of Helen Craggs, Leila Alayej and Melissa Craggs and organisation and enthusiasm from Mrs Smith, netball tournaments at QEGS would not happen at all. Thanks to one and all!

300 Club winners (May)

Well done to the following people, cheques should have made their way by now!

£25: John Tindall, Mike Roberts, Toby Ludlow; £15: S Richmond, Mr Alan Thompson, Mrs J Nuttall; £10: Mrs J Breislin, C Panton, Patricia Tomlinson.

Thank you to Sue Carroll for the organisation. The draw was made by Bev Gosling.

Can you Solve the Crime?

During exam week we invited lots of primary school children into school to get involved in forensic science activity days. It was great to see so many primary school children enjoying investigating fingerprints, hair samples, soil testing, chromatography and other chemical tests. The atmosphere was simply fabulous. Thanks to Ms Westoby, Mrs Alchorne and Miss Fairchild who planned and delivered the event. Prior to joining us as a science technician, Miss Fairchild worked in an industrial laboratory and used her training as a forensic scientist. The pupils were in expert hands!

Biology Challenge

In March, 25 QEGS' pupils took part in the Biology Challenge 2010. This is a national competition open to Y9 and Y10 pupils in the UK. The questions are set on the school curriculum as well as testing those students whose knowledge on Biology has been increased by reading books and magazines, watching natural history programmes and taking notice of the news media for items of biological interest.

Our pupils proved themselves very able competitors with the Y10s, who completed the full competition picking up a number of awards: Gold – Lauren Bird, William Daubney, Dhanuska Weerakoon; Silver – Tom Bird, Hannah Brass, Jacob Wilson; Bronze – Jessica Watkins, James Whalley.

Our Y9 pupils completed the first of the two papers in the challenge and we have awarded them the following: Gold – Sam Hough, Rhys Jones, George Needham; Silver – Eleanor Brown, Anurag Modi, Elanor Siriwardena, Sarah Gosling, Joanna Meng, Rhiannon Pearce, Ben Samra, Steven Price, Alexander Shaheen; Bronze – Jacob Lawson, David Aby, Sarah Bryant.

Congratulations to them all for their achievements.

A tale from 'the other side'

Mr Wright has gained national fame, not as the outstanding History teacher that we know he is, but as the author of an article about teaching Geography! The article appeared in the Geographical Association's summer magazine and it describes a recent project Mr Wright undertook with his Y7 Geography class. He managed to combine his love of History with his interest in Geography to create a series of lessons that required students to research their family and find out what occupations parents, grandparents and great grandparents had. The students then used the information to find out what had changed over time. It was a great success and, as Mr Wright says, there was not a map or a battle in sight! We have included a photo and a summary of his article on our website.

Facilities and Buildings Update

Gelders are making excellent progress with our new English Block located at the back of school next to the Arts Centre. We are ahead of schedule and are looking forward to having the four new classrooms ready for September.

With help from the Wolfson Trust, plans are in place to undertake the refurbishment and expansion of Engineering and Technology. This will also be ready for September and will involve taking over some of

the space vacated by English when they move into their new classrooms.

We were disappointed to learn that the County has not provided us with the necessary funding to improve our changing rooms. The Governors have been listening to student views on the matter and regard it as a priority. They are working hard to find a way to fund the work during 2010/2011 and continue to make representation to the Local Authority.

We have managed to get some additional funding to create a Tranquility Garden in front of the RS department; it will be an excellent resource for students to use. In addition, those wanting a more active experience will be able to use the outdoor table tennis tables that are being installed behind the Sports Hall.

We have been working with the Catering Manager to try to establish a café area for use by sixth form students during the day. Discussions are underway and we hope to have a suitably equipped area ready for their use in September.

Tesco Update

The school has had a further meeting with Tesco regarding the redevelopment of the old HAT site adjacent to school. Tesco have been talking through their plans with the school and the Governors were able to respond directly to these ideas. I will keep parents informed of any developments.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Party in the Park



Plans are well underway for the Party in the Park organised by the Parents' Association. The event promises to be a fantastic evening and will be held at QEGS on Friday 9 July, 7.00 for 7.30 pm until late.

Tickets are available from the school office at £7 for adults and £3 for children. Please bring your own picnic. Bottles of wine and water will be on sale during the evening.

Sports Day



Sports Day is scheduled for Monday 19 July and we start at 1.30 pm. Parents are warmly invited to attend. Cream teas will be available courtesy of the Parents' Association for those who would like to indulge – there are no parents' races so you won't have to run it off!!

Sports Day is an inter-form competition. A great many of our students between Year 7 and 10 are involved – there will be field and track events to watch. Please come and support us.

The Parents' Association Minibus Appeal Grand Draw will be drawn on Sports Day with main prizes of £100 and luxury summer hampers.



The Summer Music Concert

The Summer Concert is on Thursday 15th July, 7.30pm in the Main Hall. Tickets are £2.50 (concessions £2) and will be available from reception.

Evening Classes and Family Learning

The September programme is ready and about to go public. Look on our website for the Prospectus. Over 40 courses are on offer starting on week beginning Monday 27 September. The programme lasts nine weeks, with most courses offered initially as five week courses with the option of a four week continuation. Evenings are Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Time is usually 7.00 pm – 8.30/9.00 pm. Enrolment is by post or on the evening of the first class. All classes are guaranteed to start. Free coffee, tea and biscuits are available most evenings.

A new initiative is the Family Learning Programme on Wednesday evenings from 5.15 – 6.45 pm. Tea, coffee, squash, cookies and biscuits will be available. A dad, grandparent, mum, other family member or carer is invited to bring their child and enjoy learning

together. On offer are Spanish, Computing and Internet Safety. Each course lasts for three weeks, costs £30 and children are free. (Please contact Marianne Watkins if you would like/need to bring another child). Continuations are possible and adult courses in computing and Spanish are available. A course for Year 7 Maths is for parents only.

New courses this September include Arabic, German, Beginners Bridge, Film Making, Acoustic Guitar and Salsa Dancing.

Holiday dates and term dates for 2010/2011

Sun 20 – Tues 22 June	8G: Yorkshire Dales Trip
Wed 23 – Fri 25 June	8A: Yorkshire Dales Trip
Sun 27 – Tues 29 June	8GK: Yorkshire Dales Trip
Wed 30 June – Fri 2 July	8M: Yorkshire Dales Trip
<u>Wed 30 June</u>	Commemoration Service, St Mary's Church, Horncastle, 11.45 am
24/25 June	New L6 Induction Programme
28/29 June	Y5 Hungry Caterpillar Day
28 June – 2 July	Y10 Work Experience Week
Thu 1/Fri 2 July	L6 Business Conference
Thu 1 July	Sailing Regatta
Mon 5 July	Music Service Talent Competition
Tues 6 July	New Y7 Induction Day & Parents' Evening
Wed 7 July	L6 Ethics Conference Y7 Farm visits
7/8 July	Y10 Business Conference
Thur 8 July	L6 Theatre Studies Conference Y7 Theatre trip, London
Fri 9 July	PA Party in the Park
Fri 9/Sat 10 July	Duke of Edinburgh Expedition
Fri 9 & Mon 12 July	Tennyson Days
Wed 14 July	Y7 Biology/French Activity Day
Thu 15 July	World Challenge Team departs for Malawi Summer Music Concert, 7.30 pm
Mon 19 July	Sports Day
Wed 23 July	End of term