

Queen Elizabeth's School

The Elizabethan

NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS

SPRING 2022



SENIOR AWARDS: Prize-winners from Years 10–12 gathered for the ceremony, where VIP guests included Professor Shitij Kapur, President & Principal of King's College London, and Councillor Saira Don, Deputy Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet.

From the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

This Spring Term brought news that 35 Elizabethans have received offers from Oxford and Cambridge universities – a magnificent effort. It is further confirmation that our pupils have successfully overcome all that the disruption of the past two years has thrown at them. I trust and expect that these leavers, together with classmates holding offers from other leading universities, will go on to assume positions of influence and responsibility in their careers and, for some, in wider society.

One of the ten priorities outlined in our 2021–2025 School plan, *Building on Distinction*, is to 'develop skills of both leadership and collaboration' in the boys. Our Senior Awards Ceremony is an important date in our calendar because it provides us with an opportunity formally to recognise those who have exemplified qualities of leadership, and to encourage their peers to emulate them. I was pleased to welcome our Guest of Honour at the ceremony, Professor Shitij Kapur, President and Principal of King's College London. Professor Kapur has himself amply demonstrated the leadership

qualities we seek to champion, such as bravery, hard work and high standards, in a career that has seen him work in five different academic settings across four continents.

One route by which leadership skills may be nurtured and developed is through participation in co-curricular activities. For example, our robotics teams are pressing on to ever greater success on the national and international stage, achievement which would certainly not be possible without effective teamwork. Another important avenue for some of our boys is sport. This issue of *The*



AUTHENTICITY: Old Elizabethans Arjun Paliwal and Matthew Chew (both 2006–2013) spoke on being true to oneself at the Year 12 Luncheon.



Elizabethan includes examples of sportsmen who have proactively taken up opportunities to assume the responsibilities of leadership.

We do not seek to encourage leadership among our boys merely for its own sake. As I pointed out in my address at Senior Awards, examples of poor leadership are, alas, all too common. Indeed, that is why the positive images of President Zelensky on the streets of Kyiv, or Her Majesty the Queen sat alone, socially distanced, at Prince Philip's funeral, have resonated so strongly. We aim instead to ensure that when our boys progress to positions of leadership in their adult lives, they will seek the greater good of their own communities and of society at large. To this end, we prize kindness, tolerance and compassion. By bringing in outside speakers in connection with this term's LGBT History Month and International Women's Day, we sought to stimulate boys' thinking around important issues and to inspire them to ensure that our School remains

a happy, safe and inclusive community. Consonant with this emphasis, as the horror of the war in Ukraine has unfolded, we have provided opportunities in pastoral time to reflect on the humanitarian crisis, which has affected some of our families directly.

Activities such as our Eco Partnership with North London Collegiate School, the Model United Nations debating competition, along with subject-related visits like the Politics trip to Parliament, all give boys insights into the complex problems with which aspiring leaders will have to reckon. By helping them to reflect

on and, importantly, to articulate their thoughts on these situations, we equip them to formulate their own positions, now and in the future. Our collaboration with Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School is not only, like the NLCS partnership, a valuable chance for pupils from our single-sex environment to work with female counterparts – an essential modern leadership skill! – it is also an opportunity further to deepen the involvement of the School in our local community.

Musically speaking, it has been another successful term. We have been making good use of our superb new Friends' Music Room and Friends' Recital Hall ahead of the official opening festival in May. The series of chamber concerts in the hall has been a delight, while it was good to see the facility used for its first competitive activity – a round of the Pro Corda Festival for Schools, a national competition in which our musicians performed with distinction. Several of our élite musicians have been selected to play with national orchestras, while some – demonstrating that Music is yet another arena in which boys can develop skills of leadership – have themselves been rehearsing ensembles, preparing their peers for our end-of-term concerts.

That we were able to complete the new Music School and equip it to such a high standard is due in large measure to the wonderful, consistent generosity of parents, alumni and others in the

Elizabethan community. The Martin Swimming Pool is an earlier example of the fruits of such philanthropy. It continues to serve us well: since it opened, the quality of swimming and water polo has steadily increased, and we remain one of the few schools able to host major water polo events. In these pages, you can read about our plans for the Robert Dudley Studio. Without the giving of QE families, we would not be able to countenance such an exciting project. As we seek to build for the future, we count on, and are grateful for, your continuing support.

The name of the studio honours the Earl of Leicester, a figure second only to Queen Elizabeth I in importance to the founding of our School. With next year's 450th anniversary fast approaching, various other initiatives connected to the School's history are under way. Among them, the Ties Through Time project shows us the last 140 years through the faces of Elizabethans from generations past, while our Palaeography Society sees our students developing new skills as they make extensive use of our archives in [QE Collections](#).

I have enjoyed seeing parents back in School, whether attending concerts and other events here such as the FQE Quiz Night, or celebrating their sons' successes, be those academic prizes at Senior Awards or endeavours on the sports field.

I wish all our families a pleasant Easter break.

Neil Enright *Headmaster*

Quality will out: Oxbridge success in a time of Covid

The 35 Oxbridge offers received by Elizabethans this year take the total secured by QE pupils over the past three years to 114.

Twenty-nine offers came from Cambridge and six from Oxford. They spanned a wide range of courses, with Engineering (six offers), Medicine (five) and Mathematics (four) among the most popular.

The candidates succeeded in gaining offers despite the extraordinary difficulties of their Sixth Form years that included repeated lockdowns,

the cancellation of public examinations, and university interviews moving online.

They were helped through participation in a detailed programme led by teachers, with significant support from alumni. Included were mock interviews, UCAS references, co-ordinating entries for admissions assessments and extensive enrichment opportunities.



Record ten robotics teams qualify for World Championships

A QE record of ten VEX robotics teams have won places at the World Championships in Dallas.

They comprise six IQ teams from Years 8 & 9 – Gearsquad, Nova, Eclipse, The Rubber Bands, CyberForce and Shattersquad – and four senior VRC teams – HYBRID, Vortex Invicta, Hex-Green and Hyperion.

Mid-season successes included home triumphs at the QE-hosted North London regional round: Nova won

the IQ tournament and Hex-Green were VRC Tournament Champions and Skills Champions, while Gearsquad took the IQ Excellence and Skills awards, and Hyperion the VRC Excellence Award.

While examination commitments prevent Year 12 from travelling, competitors from Years 8, 9 and 10 will all be heading for the States.

The Headmaster said: "Our robotics teams march on to ever-greater success, thanks to their technical skills, teamwork



Right on track!

Four Year 8 boys took first prize in a prestigious engineering competition with their eco-friendly design for a new railway station.

Snehal Das, Nafis Meah, Nayan Santheepan and Quaim Abdi suggested four different ways of reducing carbon emissions at the station connecting the Isle of Dogs to the O2 Arena in Greenwich. They triumphed over 26 other London schools teams in the Institution of Civil Engineers' I Can Engineer Awards.

A QE Year 9 team won a Community Award and a mixed Year 8 & 9 group received a special commendation.

and great commitment. I wish them all the best for the national championships in Telford and then for Texas in May."

The Technology department has been supporting local primary schools. QE donated 3D printers to Northside Primary and Foulds School, with sixth-formers visiting to show how they can be used. The Hybrid team introduced children at Monken Hadley CE Primary to competitive robotics.

Putting drama centre-stage

Drama has enjoyed a resurgence at QE in recent years – and, says the Headmaster, there's more to come.

Soham Sapra, the winner in Year 8's *Performing Shakespeare Competition* chose as his speech – 'All the world's a stage', from *As You Like It* – in which the bard famously compares life to a play, with 'men and women merely players'. Shakespeare's masterful soliloquy is a wry conceit suited to its context, yet the close connection he draws between real life and the stage bears wider application.

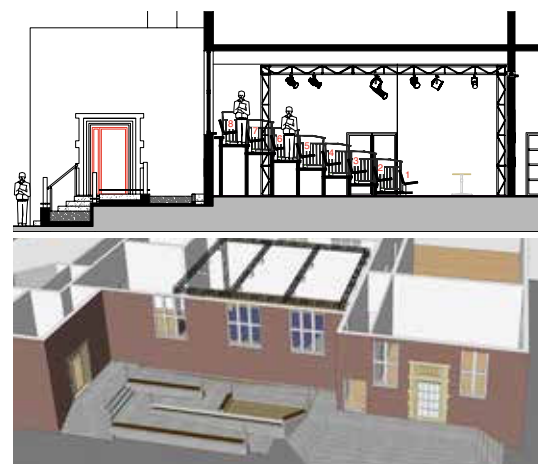
Through drama, boys learn oracy and self-presentation skills that will stand them in good stead later. They come to appreciate that communicating effectively means more than simply speaking words aloud: it is about posture, tone and projection, about understanding and 'reading' others. Moreover, by engaging with great minds such as Shakespeare, pupils gain a broader understanding of argument and nuance; they can savour, and hopefully make use of, the wonderful richness of the English language, and they learn to reflect more deeply on the

human condition. Participation in drama, public-speaking and debating, thus helps equip boys to become the leaders of the future out in the 'real world'.

Of course, some people 'come alive on stage', as the saying goes – and we certainly want to offer those boys opportunities to develop their acting further. We also want to provide avenues for others who find their métier in areas such as sound and lighting.

For all these reasons, we have decided that the next significant project in our estates strategy will be one that will enable us to strengthen the dramatic arts at Queen Elizabeth's School: we will develop a 104-seat studio and lecture theatre, the Robert Dudley Studio.

The studio will be created out of two existing rooms, CR1 and CR2, to the rear of Main Building, and given its own landscaped external entrance. The process is well in train: as can be



seen from the artist's impressions, the design is complete.

The timing of the final go-ahead for the studio is, however, still to be confirmed, since it is necessarily money-dependent. The project will require a substantial investment that the Friends of Queen Elizabeth's will be supporting, and it will take both time and effort to accumulate the funds required for this next act in the 450-year story of Queen Elizabeth's School.



"It gives me great joy and it's a great honour to support this incredible initiative at QE. I genuinely believe that the new studio will provide students with an exceptional space to cultivate self-presentation, empathy, reasoned argument, debate, and, deeply, confidence."
Jay Shetty

Old Elizabethan Jay (1999–2006) is an internet personality, storyteller, podcast host and purpose coach.

A former Hindu monk "who is making wisdom go viral", Jay started his career at Accenture. He has been on the prestigious Forbes 30 Under 30 list, and his podcast, On Purpose, had had 64 million downloads when figures were last released in 2020.

Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester

The School's new drama and lecture studio is to be named the Robert Dudley Studio. But who was Dudley, and what is his connection with the School and with the arts?

Robert Dudley, 1st Earl of Leicester, (1532–1588), son of the 1st Duke of Northumberland, was one of the great figures of the Elizabethan age: a statesman and longtime suitor for the hand of Queen Elizabeth I, he was a keen and influential patron of the arts.

included Will Kemp, later associated with Shakespeare, and James Burbage. Burbage built The Theatre in Shoreditch, London's first purpose-built theatre (and in its design a clear forerunner of the original Globe Theatre), which gave Leicester's Men a permanent base.

The greatest private collector of paintings in Elizabethan England, Dudley was a pioneer in bringing over Renaissance artists from Italy. He commissioned up to 20 portraits of himself, making him one of the most painted figures of his era. He also did much to champion the popularity and status of theatre, thus paving the way for Shakespeare, born a generation after him. The historical practice of groups of players going from inn to inn had been made illegal without a royal licence. Robert Dudley's troupe, known as Leicester's Men, was the first to receive such a licence under Elizabeth I. Its members

It was Robert Dudley who, in 1573, asked Elizabeth I for the Charter for 'the establishment of the Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth in Barnet'.

"His crucial role in the founding of our School is already commemorated through the name of one of our Houses – Leicester," says the Headmaster. "Now, in naming our next new facility the Robert Dudley Studio, we seek to honour and build on the legacy that this towering and colourful Elizabethan figure left to drama and the arts."



The inaugural QE Shakespeare Festival

This first-ever week-long creative celebration of England’s most famous writer featured a performance competition and a lecture by a visiting academic, with an acclaimed production of *Othello* as the centrepiece.

Othello

The cast began the term with a professionally-led workshop to help them prepare for their abridged production of the tragedy, with its still-compelling dark themes of jealousy,

race and passion. The workshop was run by Emma Howell of the Coram Shakespeare Schools Foundation, organisers of the national Shakespeare Schools Festival (SSF).

The play, featuring boys from Years 9–13, was then staged twice during the QE Shakespeare Festival week – once at Finchley’s Arts Depot as part of the SSF and then in School to Year 11.

There were generous plaudits both from Lisa Ors, of the SSF – “a dramatic, dynamic and deadly production” – and from the School’s Assistant Head (Pupil Involvement), Crispin Bonham-Carter. “Patrick Bivol [Year 11] played Iago with a hands-in-pockets insouciance that made his lies and plotting deliciously painful to watch,” Mr Bonham-Carter said, “while Sultan Khokhar [Year 13] gave the Moor [Othello] a calm nobility as he met his tragic downfall. Keiaron Joseph [Year 11] was particularly moving as the faithful Desdemona, and Augie Bickers [Year 10] set new standards in drunk acting as the reputationally challenged Cassio.”



Performing Shakespeare

Having started in the autumn, this inter-House competition for Year 8 reached its climax during the QE festival week, when 12 finalists ably demonstrated that Shakespeare’s plays were written to be performed, not just read. Boys were asked to select a Shakespeare speech to learn by heart and perform. This accompanied their curriculum studies of *Othello*.

The finalists duly performed some of the most famous speeches in the English language to their assembled year group. Soham Sapra, of Leicester House, was the individual winner with the ‘All the world’s a stage’ soliloquy.

The winning House was Stapylton. Head of English Robert Hyland praised Soham’s use of “physical and vocal mannerisms”. He added that “Nimesh Nirojan seemed like he was speaking to thousands in the Roman forum as he gave Antony’s funeral oration from *Julius Caesar*”, while Nimesh’s fellow Stapylton finalist, Snehal Das, “gave a powerful, empathetic performance as Shylock from *The Merchant of Venice*”.

Lecture

A lively lecture to Year 10 from a leading academic made for an inspiring end to the QE Shakespeare Festival. Professor John Mullan, Head of Department and The Lord Northcliffe Chair of Modern English Literature at UCL, asked the boys: “What links the following words: assassination, bloodstained, cold-blooded, deafening, fashionable, lonely, undress, vulnerable?” The answer is Shakespeare, he said. “He invented nearly 2,000 words never seen before in the English language.”

Mr Bonham-Carter said: “Professor Mullan was hugely entertaining and made a passionate case for further literature studies, noting, in passing, that his English Literature graduates were going on to the highest-earning jobs of all UCL’s departments...”



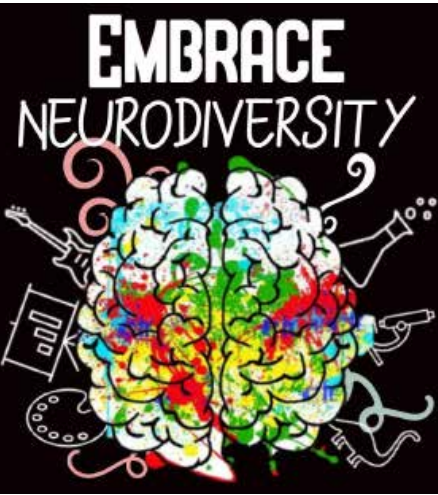
Together backing Barnet

Senior pupils from QE and Queen Elizabeth’s Girls’ School met as part of a new initiative to develop sustainable, community-based projects. The Sixth Form Vice Captains hosted the visitors, discussing ideas to clean local parks, visit the elderly, run activities in

primary schools, and petition Barnet Council on unsafe road crossings. Assistant Head (Pupil Involvement) Crispin Bonham-Carter said: “This initiative is in its early stages – so watch this space! – but this was a great start. with much animated discussion.”

Changing the narrative

In a lecture marking LGBT History Month, activist Shaun Dellenty told sixth-formers that LGBT history was about “making visible what has often been invisible”. Other activities included: a talk to Years 9 & 10 from LGBT+ young people’s charity Just Like Us; a House competition, and a well-attended quiz.



Seeing things differently

Dr Chloe Farahar and Dr Annette Foster, who both discovered they were autistic as adults, led a workshop explaining how neurodivergent people experience the world. The University of Kent academics gave the workshop to a selected group of pupil leaders, challenging stereotypes and providing hands-on activities to teach them more about autism, dyslexia and ‘attention differences’.

Assistant Head (Pupil Progress) Sarah Westcott said it was part of QE’s work to make pupils’ aware of their role in making society open and inclusive.

Acting as allies

Businesswoman, author and coach Gifty Enright outlined to Years 12 & 13 practical suggestions for how men can support women in escaping ‘gender bias traps’ at work as part of QE events to mark International Women’s Day.





Musical maturity on the national stage

Pupils made the most of the new Music School in a busy musical term, while five QE musicians now play with national ensembles.

Raphael Herberg, of Year 13, and Year 12's Jao-Yong Tsai are with the National Youth Orchestra. Conor Parker-Delves, of Year 13, plays in the National Youth Jazz Orchestra and is first tenor saxophone in the NYJO Big Band. Year 10's Joel Swedensky is in the National Youth Concert Band, and Ryuki Watanabe, of Year 9, passed his audition into the National Children's Orchestra.

The Friends' Recital Hall saw its first-ever competitive activity – a qualifying round of the Pro Corda National Chamber Music Competition. Ten

QE groups entered, with six reaching the semi-final and two – the Junior Violin Trio and Saxophone Quintet – getting as far as the final at Millfield School in Somerset. Director of Music Ruth Partington said all entrants “performed with great musical maturity at the highest level”.

March saw the Spring Concert and the Leavers' Concert, where Year 13 boys both played and led, Raphael conducting Senior Strings and Amit Ramakrishna Prasad directing the Indian Ensemble.

Serious start-up fun

An entrepreneurship workshop showed 30 Year 10 boys the ups and downs of running a start-up. They competed to build the tallest tower from spaghetti and marshmallows – while navigating changing business conditions – then had an extended debrief. Assistant Head (Pupil Involvement) Crispin Bonham-Carter said: “It was a fun simulation, but the purpose was serious indeed.”

Take it from us!

An Old Elizabethan trio of Economics graduates gave key insights from their own experience in a series of talks. Zainul Jafferji (2000-2007) told Year 12 members of the Economics Group about the Economics admissions process at Cambridge. Zain Gulamali (2005–2012) warned against choosing an unfulfilling career just to earn a large salary and impress others. And Yemi Falana (2008–2015) recommended applying for internships early – even during A-levels.



Ties Through Time

Thousands of Elizabethans from generations past can now be seen in Ties Through Time – a huge installation of 232 School photos.

Carefully curated by a team led by Surya Bowyer (OE 2007–2014), the display either side of the Main Hall reveals changing kits and uniforms, hair styles and even postures from 1880 onwards.

It has been made possible by [QE Collections](#), the School's free-to-use digital archive, and is part of the preparations for next year's 450th anniversary.



Batting for Pakistan at Habs

A Year 12 team won plaudits after taking part in one of the UK's biggest secondary-school Model United Nations conferences. The debating event at Haberdashers' Boys' School saw QE represent Pakistan.

The team comprised: Rahul Doshi (highly commended for his speeches on Kashmir); Abir Mohammed; Aryaman Madan; Muhammad Nayel Huda; Yash Makwana; Mukund Soni and Ruixuan Wu.

Economics teacher Sheerwan O'Shea-Nejad said: "Kissinger, Clausewitz and Talleyrand would have been proud of some of their manoeuvres!"



WAVE POWER: Year 12 geographers saw at first-hand the effects of rapid coastal erosion on their residential trip. The 20-strong group visited two World War II pillboxes that fell off the cliff at Walton-on-the-Naze in Essex and can now be seen at low tide. The boys' fieldwork involved investigating sediment size, infiltration rate and gradient at locations along the beach.



Story of a genius

Science writer and QE parent Dr Ananyo Bhattacharya gave a talk to A-level Mathematics, Physics and Economics students about his acclaimed biography of John von Neumann, one of the 20th century's most brilliant minds. In a life of only 53 years, the Hungarian-American made breakthroughs in fields from nuclear energy to economics.



Persuasive partners for eco change

Year 7 QE boys joined girls from North London Collegiate School in a partnership to look at global warming. They began the day by discussing in mixed teams the long-term impacts of the climate crisis, deliberating how the media portray data and how can we be sure what is credible. Later, pupils penned their own poems, drawing

inspiration from *Lament*, Welsh poet Gillian Clarke's elegy on the 1991 Gulf War, which highlights the damage done to nature, humankind and truth itself – ‘the ashes of language’. Working together, they used pitching techniques, ‘hook’, and the rhetorical persuasion strategies of pathos, logos and ethos to target various potential audiences.

From the archives: QE’s first female teacher

When the woman considered to have been QE’s first-ever female teacher, Miss D E Sims, was appointed in January 1916 in the middle of the First World War, opinions on this startling innovation were distinctly mixed.

Under pressure from a national staff shortage as male teachers left for the war,

make uncomfortable reading, then equivocates: “The introduction of women teachers into a boys’ school is an experiment calculated to make old-fashioned pedagogues turn in their graves.”

Another female teacher, Miss M H Buxton, was appointed in December 1916. Mrs Lattimer and Miss

mystery. But it is clear she was a somewhat formidable character in the classroom. In a booklet produced to commemorate the School’s 400th anniversary in 1973, W H Gelder (OE 1924-1929) described her thus: “Miss Simms [sic], declared protector of all animals... who, if the truth were known, probably preferred them to us”. And, as Philip Ward (OE 1935-1944) recalled in 2010: “The first teacher that a new entrant would meet in the 1930s was Miss Sims. Retained, I understood, to ease the shock of nine-year-olds, who had not yet experienced male teachers, she did nothing of the sort. She was short, mousy, elderly and TOUGH. She ruled 1B, teaching English, Maths and elementary Latin.”

Shown here in the caricatures of staff penned by pupil Peter R W Robeson in 1937 and in a 1930 staff photograph,



the QE Governors had authorised the Headmaster, William Lattimer, to employ schoolmistresses (female teachers) for the first time. And while an editorial

New cannot have lasted long, because the only female staff – albeit “temporary” – listed in a School brochure later in the war are Miss Sims and Miss Buxton. After



in *The Elizabethan* of July 1916 begins with a “hearty welcome” to Miss Sims, who was 29, and to two other women brought in that year – the Headmaster’s wife and a Miss M A New – the writer, apparently eager not to upset readers holding attitudes which today

of hostilities, both became permanent staff, with Miss Sims teaching in the junior section then existing at QE.

Little is known of her personal life beyond the fact that she was originally from the West Country – even her first names are a

she remained at the School long enough to see the end of another world war, although it was a close-run thing. With the sweeping changes brought about by the 1944 Education Act spelling the end of QE’s junior department, Headmaster Ernest Jenkins felt obliged to lay her off. But the

DR MARINCOWITZ’S BOOK: ORDER YOUR COPY NOW

Miss Sims features in the forthcoming definitive history of the School by former Headmaster John Marincowitz, covering the QE story from the 1573 founding through to the present day. [Pre-order now at a discounted price.](#)

Governors insisted she be treated fairly, instructing Jenkins to stay his hand while checks were made to see if she had served long enough to qualify for her pension. When it transpired that her service fell short, the Headmaster not only made arrangements to keep her on, but offered to extend her employment until July 1947, well beyond the requisite 30 years. She was, however, apparently keen to retire, and left QE in July 1946, just over three decades after she had joined.

That month’s edition of *The Elizabethan* was unstinting in its praise of her “good manners, directness, independence of outlook, humour, and above all unselfish Christianity and a sense of duty”. Though tinged

with the sexism of the time, the sentiment in the closing sentences of the long tribute is genuine enough: she was “that rare thing, a lady really suited to teach boys”.

Following Miss Buxton’s departure in 1930, Miss Sims remained the sole female teacher until the arrival of Mrs J S Winter, who taught from 1940-1945, and then intermittently through to 1954. There were four temporary wartime appointments of female teachers. No more women teachers were appointed up to 1960 – a stark contrast to today, when QE boasts 36 women among the current total of 85 teachers, with three women on the seven-strong Senior Leadership Team.



Linguists take the title

A-level students Theo Mama-Kahn, Olly Salter, Ansh Jassra and Jai Patel have won a prestigious German-language debating competition run by the Goethe Institut.

On their route to the title, the team successfully debated a variety of topics, from whether school canteens should offer vegan and vegetarian food, to whether using social media is harmful to the health of young people.

In the final, held at the Institut’s London base in South Kensington, they overcame a strong team from Farnborough Sixth Form College to clinch victory.



Delving deep

Year 12 members of a new School society, believed to be the first of its kind in the country, have been training in palaeography – the study of pre-modern manuscripts – and using their newly acquired skills to decipher QE’s earliest records.

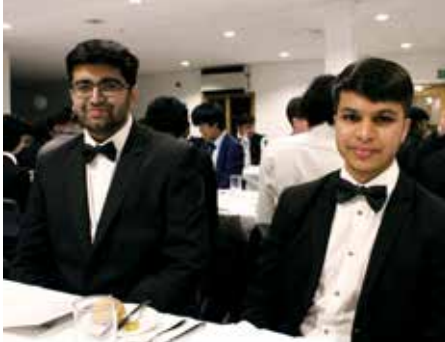
Led by English teacher Kanak Shah, the Palaeography Society have started transcribing Governors’ meeting minutes and researching the School Charter. “The earliest documents present an interesting challenge as they were written before the standardisation of handwriting, and so require careful decoding,” she said.

Benefits of experience

QE’s peer mentors produced a series of short videos to share their wisdom and experience with younger pupils – and had the best of their work recognised in an informal awards ceremony.

They covered topics from coping with stress to how to use a homework diary. All the videos are in the support & advice section of the [School’s eQE platform](#).

The Headmaster said: “There was great creativity and skill on display in these bite-sized videos, which communicated some very important and insightful messages.”



Current concerns

A Year 13 team successfully argued to ban all non-electric vehicles when they took on an alumni pair in the 55th Elizabethan Union Annual Dinner Debate.

Head of Enrichment Nisha Mayer said that although pupils Ciaran Price and Christan Emmanuel won the post-debate poll, Ravi Karia and Jathieesan Umaasuthan (both OE 2011-2018) argued effectively, too. “The event is tailored to give leavers experience of this type of formal occasion. It was a relaxed, pleasantly lively evening. Not only was it the first time some had worn black-tie, but I understand that one boy’s clip-on bow tie had been manufactured only that morning using a 3D printer!”

Rounding up

QIQE, the School’s University Challenge-style general knowledge quiz, has been extended to the Upper School.

Year 11-13 contestants from Pearce bested Stapylton by 215 points to 190 in the Shearly Hall grand final – with the action going down to the very last minute.



Champions and pioneers!

Year 9's Zayn Phoplankar and Yash Kedia won the final of the Eton Fives U14 Novices National Schools' Championship – a competition for boys who start playing the sport in this year group.

PE teacher Oliver O'Gorman said: "This is an extraordinary achievement: we believe it's the first time in QE history a pair has made it to a national Fives final."

Three QE pairs reached the quarter-finals, before Zayn and Yash went on

to take the trophy 3–0 against a pair from reigning tournament champions Shrewsbury School.

Congratulating them, the Headmaster said: "I am excited to see what the future holds for this pair and for QE Fives."

Spanning the ages

The U13 water polo team remain in the Nationals after going undefeated in their most recent round. And, in a QE first, 16 old boys played with, and against, current senior players in a friendly fixture. Head of Aquatics Richard Scally said he would like the fixture to be expanded in the future, adding that he hopes it will inspire current boys to continue playing later at university or for clubs.



Sevens: a welcome return

QE's own U16 side battled well as teams gathered from far and wide for the 46th Queen Elizabeth's School Sevens Tournament. In the event's first running since 2019, the U16 Cup went to Trinity School, Croydon. Tournament debutants Woodlands School were convincing winners in the Plate competition. Although QE's three hard-fought matches ended in defeat, there were some star performances, notably from Year 11's Taro Niimura. A crowd of alumni cheered QE on, their ranks swelled by 2001 leavers enjoying a reunion.

"The great issue of our time"

A-level students visiting Westminster observed Foreign Secretary Liz Truss setting out measures the Government is taking to help Ukraine and Labour's David Lammy responding. Politics teacher Liam Hargadon said: "We don't always have the chance to see the Commons at work, so boys were really lucky to see top ministers debating the great issue of our time."

For more sports reporting,
see [QE's new Sports Bulletin](#).



Queen
Elizabeth's
School

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