

**ROYAL WELCOME:** HRH The Duke of Gloucester visited to herald the start of QE's 450th anniversary celebrations, 90 years after his uncle, Prince George, came to open the Main Building. See p4-6.



1573 — 2023

## From the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

**As I told HRH The Duke of Gloucester in my formal address during his historic visit last month, 2022 has been an *annus mirabilis* for Queen Elizabeth's School – a wonderful year and a year of wonders!**

We got off to a joyous start in January, having been named *State Secondary School of the Year* for 2022 by *The Sunday Times*. May's opening festival for [The Friends' Recital Hall and Music Rooms](#) was a great celebration, with musicians and the concert audiences enjoying fun aplenty while savouring some seriously

impressive performances. Just weeks after that, Ofsted confirmed our status as an 'outstanding' school, the inspectors awarding us this highest rating across all five of their categories.

Underpinning such success is, of course, our academic record. It was tremendous to celebrate with our senior boys their truly stunning A-level and GCSE results in August. Following the first set of public examinations since the pandemic, a remarkable 98.3% of A-levels taken received grades A\* - B (and 70.8% were at A\*) – a performance that only this week was adjudged the best in the country in

*The Sunday Times Parent Power* survey. Year 11 put in their own record-breaking performance, with the proportion of GCSEs at level 8–9 (equivalent to the old A\* grade) rising to 85.9%. The Autumn Term therefore opened in an atmosphere of high optimism.

The death on 8th September of Queen Elizabeth II, and the national period of mourning and reflection that followed, suddenly brought home to us all the extraordinary nature of her seven decades of exemplary service. It was also an opportunity to appreciate the remarkable continuity that her reign brought to the





**TOP TEAM:** Darren Lee will be School Captain in 2023, QE's 450th anniversary year, heading the prefect team with help from Senior Vice-Captains Ugan Pretheshan and Mustafa Sayfi, and from the wider Vice-Captain team.



**FESTIVE FAVOURITES:** The Winter Concert featured diverse repertoire in various genres, including music traditional at Christmas.



nation, and thus to this School, which so proudly bears the name of her Tudor predecessor.

At QE, the tradition of service is nowhere better exemplified than in the work of The Friends of Queen Elizabeth's. The new Music building is but the latest example of the 56-year-old charity's remarkable work in support of our School. Within FQE, the farsighted professionalism of the directors, the fundraising activities of parents, alumni and boys alike, and our growing culture of philanthropy all cohere to powerful effect. I hope you have enjoyed reading our first annual [FQE Impact Report](#). Continuity is found in our adherence to the School's traditions and through celebrating our long and illustrious history. This term's *Julius Caesar*, for example, maintained with some aplomb QE's tradition of performing in the Shakespeare Schools Festival. The Combined Cadet Force played their customary leading role in the annual Remembrance events. And we continued our record of success in securing prestigious Arkwright Scholarships in engineering.

QE's history was very much to the fore in our royal visit. This was a singularly happy occasion, with the

Duke showing a ready appreciation of the boys' endeavours. Coming almost exactly 90 years after the visit of his uncle, Prince George, to open our then-new Queen's Road site, the visit was timed to herald our 450th anniversary celebrations in 2023. The Duke was shown our 1573 Royal Charter and artefacts from the 1932 visit; he saw School photos dating back to the

1880s; he met members of the CCF; he listened to music; he drove robots, and he watched rugby.

Whilst our term has thus been heavily inflected by history and tradition, there have been new experiences, too. Our Chamber Choir enjoyed singing choral evensong at the parish church for the first time, while Years 7 and 9 revelled in their days out at Stubbers Adventure Centre. These are among a large number of trips and activities, which all fall under the ambit of *Flourish*, our new, School-wide enrichment programme. The programme is now fully up and running and, dare we say it, flourishing!

We trust that the commemorative oak tree planted by the Duke at the end of his visit will flourish, too. During the tree-planting ceremony, we heard lyrics from the anniversary anthem commissioned from acclaimed composer Howard Goodall for our anniversary year: "That like an oak,

*we draw our strength from ancient roots spread deep and wide."*

Those words, and the tree itself, stand in many ways as a metaphor for Queen

Elizabeth's School as we move towards the anniversary itself on 24th March 2023. We draw succour both from our deep history and from the breadth of our community, embracing, as it does, pupils, staff, parents and old boys, as well as friends and partners in other schools and in the local area. Those roots then feed strong growth to take us forward and to

respond to new challenges, as outlined in our School plan, [Building on Distinction](#).

Furthermore, just as we hope our new tree will in time become a mighty mature oak, we look forward to our

anniversary year leaving a lasting legacy. Not only will that be achieved through the creation of items like Dr Marincowitz's history book, the anthem, the new banner we have commissioned and a time capsule, but also through our enhanced profile and the fundraising momentum the anniversary will generate in support of projects of enduring benefit such as [The Robert Dudley Studio](#).

I wish all our families a merry Christmas and a thoroughly enjoyable 450th anniversary New Year.

**Neil Enright** *Headmaster*



### QE: THE DEFINITIVE HISTORY

Former Headmaster John Marincowitz (1999–2011) sets out QE's sometimes surprising history from its foundation in 1573 to its pre-eminent position today. To be launched on 1st March 2023 for the 450th anniversary. **Pre-order now at a discounted price.**

*"Strong growth to take us forward"*

*"Ancient roots spread deep and wide"*

## Right to Rome

The School's actors donned modern costume as they performed *Julius Caesar* – Shakespeare's hard-hitting account of power struggles in ancient Rome.

The boys performed the tragedy, with its clear warnings for today about the dangers of political chaos, at North Finchley's artsdepot in the Shakespeare Schools Festival and then twice in School to Years 9 and 11.

Head of English Robbie Hyland's review praised "one of the strongest

productions" of recent years, which "clearly demonstrated how impactful one voice can be on the many". Year 11's Saim Khan, who played the eponymous murdered Roman dictator, said portraying a "hardened political genius...was a great opportunity to try something completely new".

## Leading the way in classics

*QE has been chosen as a Hub School for developing the study of classics in North London.*

*QE will be working with the charity Classics for All, which is based at King's College London and was established to arrest the decline of classics in UK state schools.*

*The announcement follows this term's inaugural Shakespeare and Latin Festival, which included not only the Julius Caesar production, but also lectures by academics from King's and from UCL. QE re-introduced Latin as a full curriculum subject in 2012. All boys studying more than one language at GCSE are invited to take classes in Ancient Greek.*

*Crispin Bonham-Carter, Assistant Head (Pupil Involvement), said: "Since we are one of the few state schools to teach Latin to all, it's not surprising that universities are keen to forge closer links. As a Hub School, we will host events such as classically themed debates, symposia and lectures for other local schools."*



## Play hard: flourish at QE

*Flourish*, QE's new enrichment programme, helps boys make the most of School life, with everyone involved and having fun. Activities are organised under the headings of Care, Challenge, Compete & Create. Younger boys explored what is on offer at the Clubs & Societies Fair, from the Sikh Society's turban-tying to the Forensics Club's skeleton.

## Praise from the top

*Schools Minister Nick Gibb has congratulated QE on its "leadership in continuing to promote the teaching of languages". All 191 boys in last year's Year 11 were entered for at least one modern foreign language GCSE – and this 100% rate places QE "amongst the top schools in England for the proportion of pupils studying a language at GCSE", Mr Gibb wrote.*

*Danyl Malchuk, of Year 10, Year 11's Shreyas Mone and Year 12's Arjun Patel were among the prize-winners in the European Day of Languages 2022 writing competition. Nine other boys were commended, while the School itself also won a commendation.*



# Our very special day: visit from HRH The Duke of Gloucester

Like his uncle almost exactly 90 years before him, HRH The Duke of Gloucester honoured Queen Elizabeth's School with a visit at a very special juncture in its history.



- Deputy Heads **Anne Macdonald** (Academic), **David Ryan** (Pastoral) and **Tara O'Reilly** (Operations)
- School Captain (head boy) **Theo Mama-Kahn**, and Senior Vice-Captains **Ansh Jassra** and **Antony Yassa**, all of Year 13.

Jenni Blackford, Curator of QE Collections and Head of Library Services, and Year 13's Ishaan Mehta and Gabriel Gulliford showed the Duke QE's 1573 Royal Charter and Royal Seal, together with artefacts from the 1932 royal visit.

A formal welcome in the Main School Hall before 100 selected pupils followed. QE's Senior Barbershop group sang

*Abide with Me*, with the new banner brought in by a CCF representative and passed to the Duke, who presented it to the Headmaster. The royal visitor then saw School photos of the past in the *Ties through Time* installation and got hands-on with the robots in the Conference Centre, before heading to the new Music building to watch Winter Concert rehearsals.

After walking down the drive, now lined by Year 7, the Duke enthusiastically completed the tree-planting started by pupils from QE's Eco Network and the six Houses. Senior Vice-Captain Antony read an apt extract from the lyrics of an anniversary year anthem

commissioned from internationally renowned composer, Howard Goodall, which will receive its debut performance in Westminster Abbey: "Let us fill this place with hope. Face fate and fortune in our stride. That like an oak, we draw our strength from ancient roots spread deep and wide. From ancient roots spread deep and wide."



In 1932, the visit of Prince George was to open the new buildings in Queen's Road as the School moved from its historic home in Tudor Hall.

In November 2022, Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester, came to Barnet to herald the start of celebrations for the School's 450th anniversary on 24th March 2023, when a special service will be held in Westminster Abbey.

Presented to the Headmaster on his arrival by Martin Russell, Representative

Deputy Lieutenant of the Borough of Barnet (and a former QE parent), the Duke inaugurated two lasting anniversary mementos: he formally presented Mr Enright with a specially commissioned banner, and he helped plant a commemorative oak.

The Headmaster said: "It was certainly a great honour to welcome the Duke among us, but, more than that, it was a thoroughly happy occasion. What made the day so special was the great interest he showed in everything,

which even extended to him eagerly trying his hand at the controls of robots built by the boys."

The Combined Cadet Force flanked the main entrance as the Duke arrived against a sporting backdrop of senior rugby players on Stapylton Field. He was introduced to:

- **Barrie Martin**, MBE (Chairman of Governors; Chairman of the Friends of Queen Elizabeth's)
- **Nick Gaskell** (Vice-Chairman of Governors)





# From the archives: QE's other royal visit

On Thursday 3rd November 1932, Prince George, the fourth son of King George V, came to Barnet to set the seal on the first and, to date, only move in Queen Elizabeth's School's long history.

Tudor Hall, QE's Wood Street home since it was completed a few short years after the 1573 foundation, was no longer adequate in either size or facilities for the fast-expanding School. Hertfordshire County Council had instead decreed that new premises capable of accommodating 375 boys be built adjacent

to Stapylton Field, owned by QE since 1886. Constructed of dark red brick with Weldon stone dressings, the design of the new school – today's Main Building – purposely echoes the Elizabethan age.

Residents waving flags joined QE pupils lining the streets as the prince passed through the town on his way to the School, where a marquee was erected in the grounds to accommodate the visitors. The VIP party at the School naturally included Chairman of Governors Harold Fern and Ernest

(E H) Jenkins, then just two years into his 31-year tenure as Headmaster. With Sir Joseph Priestley, county council chairman, presiding over the 3pm opening ceremony, the 500 people packed into the new Main Hall rose to welcome the prince. As well as leading figures of the town and county, they included "as many pupils of the School as the gallery would accommodate", as one newspaper report put it.

Prince George praised the "fine range of class-rooms, laboratories, hall, and gymnasium". And, while



others mostly appear stern in the photos (perhaps overawed by the importance of the occasion; it was, according to *The Barnet Press*, royalty's first ceremonial visit to Barnet), an engaging smile often plays on the prince's face. It certainly seems he knew how to win over an audience. He began his address by referring to the "stout-hearted people of Barnet" and moments later spoke of a saying attributed to Queen Elizabeth I that "speeches have ever pleased us best when once they were fairly over." That raised some laughter, while his penultimate sentence brought loud applause from

the pupils' ranks: "Before sitting down, I will ask the Headmaster to give the boys an extra holiday to celebrate this occasion."

His speech concluded thus: "I now, therefore, have great pleasure in declaring these buildings to be open, in the hope that within their walls new generations will carry on the fine traditions of the last 350 years."

At the call of one of the senior boys, there were three cheers for the prince. A new era for Queen Elizabeth's School had begun.

# Out and about: a term of trips



## The fast and the curious

Year 12 Product Design students quizzed delegates at the Advanced Engineering 2022 exhibition at Birmingham's NEC before finishing their day learning about F1 and other motorsport at Silverstone.

## Memories are made of this

One greatly appreciated addition to QE's extensive list of trips was this term's visit to Stubbers Adventure Centre by Years 7 and 9.

Their days in Essex included climbing, canoeing, archery and laser tag, with activities run by the instructors at the centre near Upminster. While there was plenty of competition and friendly rivalry, some of the activities also demanded a degree of trust: for example, climbers had to rely on teammates below them to hold their ropes.

The trips were also an opportunity for the boys to cement existing friendships and, especially for the new Year 7 intake, to make new friends.

Year 7's Siddharth Josyula said: "On the coach journey home, I had my left-over snacks from lunchtime, thinking what fun I had and what memories I made."

## Going up in the world?

On their human geography fieldtrip to Wandsworth in south London, Year 12 AS Geography students investigated the controversial topic of gentrification, using a combination of questionnaires, environmental quality surveys, residential decay surveys and land-use mapping.

## Full Marx at the theatre

Year 12 & 13 German students took the train to Kingston to see Bertolt Brecht's *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. The Marxist playwright lived in East Berlin for much of his career; the city, with its cultural scene, features in the Sixth Form course.



## Hampton Court Palace

Year 8 learned about all who stayed at the palace, from Tudor monarchs to Indian soldiers who camped there ahead of peace celebrations after World War I.

## Capital experience

Fourteen A-level Languages students took in the sights and sounds of Paris – with those sounds including guided tours delivered in French. Moving around on the Métro, the boys visited diverse cultural attractions, from Montmartre to the Stade de France.





## QE Together for good

Shocked by the quantity of litter in the Dollis Valley, 20 sixth-formers from QE and Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School donned gloves, grabbed bin bags and headed into the countryside together.

The litter pick was run by the community-oriented QE Together partnership, which is led by senior pupils and has organised a series of joint events since the start of 2022, including a primary school assembly and concert for nursing home residents.

A group from the girls' school also came to QE to hear from veteran political campaigner Peter Tatchell – a talk described as “thought-provoking” by the Headmaster. Mr Tatchell has been campaigning since the 1960s on issues of human rights, democracy, civil liberties, LGBT+ equality and global justice. This was one in the series of QE Flourish lectures aimed at stimulating thought and enriching the curriculum.



## Engineering elite

School Captain elect Darren Lee and his fellow Year 12 student, Yash Patel, have been named as Arkwright Scholars following a long and demanding application process. The prestigious engineering scholarships will provide the pair with financial and mentoring support during their A-level studies.

Darren, enjoying something of a personal *annus mirabilis*, also won a prize as a runner-up in King's College London's A-level German writing competition with his essay on the theme of how to tackle the climate crisis (*Wie bewältigen wir die Klimakrise?*).

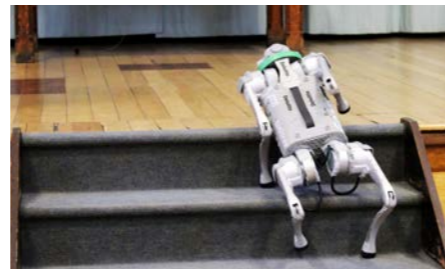


## Harvard Hackathon: Soumil's success

Year 12's Soumil Sahjpal's solo effort in an online 'hackathon' won him third place, ahead of university student teams worldwide. The event – which involved developing blockchain software for cryptocurrency TRON – was a follow-on from a 24-hour coding marathon at Harvard University in the US, which Soumil attended in person.

## A parliamentarian's perspective

The pupil-led Politics Society invited Chipping Barnet MP Theresa Villiers to speak during UK Parliament Week. She reflected on her ministerial career, the scrutiny role of backbench MPs and the previous day's Autumn Statement, before taking questions from the floor.



## Love problems, unleash solutions

Ed Greig, whose job title at consultancy Deloitte Digital is Chief Disruptor, urged boys at a lunchtime lecture to fall in love with the problem, not the solution.

Mr Greig, who works with new technologies to understand how they can benefit clients, suggested that problems are really always about cultural change rather than technology – even if technology might be the solution. He gave the real-life example of a prosthetic arm for a six-year-old girl, where the issue was not just its functionality, but designing something fashionable that she would want to wear. He also gave demonstrations of both AI-powered software robots and hardware robots. He made a robot dog walk downstairs at QE and sent a remote robot around Deloitte's offices.



## A musical first

The Chamber Choir sang choral evensong at St John the Baptist Church – the first time in recent memory that QE boys have sung in the sunset service in the Chipping Barnet parish church.

Their involvement came shortly after the Chamber Choir visited Westminster Abbey, where they went on a tour and heard a special evensong sung by the choirs of the abbey and of Westminster Cathedral.

The boys are also looking forward to taking part in the School's own special service at Westminster Abbey on 24th March 2023, the 450th anniversary of QE's foundation.

## Action-packed!

Combined Cadet Force members experienced the contrasting aspects of military life, with a busy half-term camp followed by solemn ceremonial Remembrance duties.

Year 11–13 cadets, supported by six staff, headed off to Thetford for the field training exercise, which included patrols, a night assault on a village and extracting a casualty from a downed helicopter under fire. The CCF took part both in QE's act of remembrance in on 11th November and in Barnet's Remembrance Sunday parade and church service.



## “Panache” at prestigious dinner



The Barbershop group impressed guests when they were asked to sing at a London livery company's dinner.

Martin Russell, who is Master of The Worshipful Company of Farriers, invited the septet to the dinner at Founders' Hall in Cloth Fair, Barbican, where they performed a varied programme, ranging from the mediaeval to the modern.

Mr Russell, who is the Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Barnet, as well as the parent of an Old Elizabethan, said the boys sang with “élan and with panache”, while other diners also praised the seven's performance.

## Double top

Year 11's Pavan Kovuri took the top spots on a two-day financial trading event, earning overall first place on day one with a score of 96% and winning the asset management side of the simulation on day two. The national programme was run by finance sector specialists Dartmouth Partners and Amplify Trading. Twenty QE boys, including Pavan, won judges' commendations.





## Stellar! QE's new world champion

Year 13's Heemy Kalam is a world champion, after first qualifying as one of only 12 UK representatives at the International Space Settlement Design Competition at NASA's Kennedy Space Center and then being one of the stars of the winning team.

Congratulating him, Head of Physics Jonathan Brooke said: "At the ISSDC, Heemy was elected Chief Systems Engineer – the second-most senior role in his 50-strong team drawn from various nations. The team won and thus, from the many thousands of young people from all over the world who took part in the various regional and national competitions leading up to the ISSDC, he is one of the 50 world champions for 2022. It's a truly fantastic achievement and one richly deserved."

Heemy said: "I made countless friends there and the whole experience was one I'll cherish forever."



## Hard-fought against Habs

Parents, alumni and staff turned out in force to watch QE take on Haberdashers' Boys' School at Saracens' StoneX Stadium.

This year marks Habs' centenary of rugby, and despite the best efforts of QE's First XV and supporting U12 and U13 sides, the boys in blue were unable to spoil the party for their rivals, who won all three games.

Head of Rugby James Clarke reports that the senior boys had a good start, but were "inaccurate at crucial moments" in the first half. "The second half was a cagey affair, described best by Habs' Head of Rugby, Al Metcalfe, as resembling trench warfare." Despite "significant possession and endeavour", QE could not quite overturn the half-time deficit. QE's man of the match was Year 12's Anthony Bartlett.

## Powering ahead

Ten Year 12 pupils were selected for WhyOhYou – a five-week personal development and empowerment programme run by the DVS Foundation, which was set up by the parents of Priyan Shah (OE 1991–1998) to support the family's philanthropic work.

## Active alumni

Some 40 alumni took part in 110 mock university interviews with Year 13. OE Sandeep Mazumder (1993–2000), Dean of Hankamer School of Business at Baylor University, Texas, arranged for mock interviews from his Head of International Admissions for QE's US applicants. Alumni lectures included Sandeep's to the Gresham Society and lawyer Sam Lester's (OE 1995–2001), of TD Securities, to Year 12.



Queen Elizabeth's School

FOUNDED IN 1573

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