



# The Elizabethan

SUMMER 2017



FOUNDER'S DAY: The Thanksgiving Service in the morning and the Roll Call and Reading of the School Chronicle preceded the successful Founder's Day Fête on the Stapylton Field.

## From the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

While life at Queen Elizabeth's School has continued calmly this term, the country at large has been beset by a string of terrible episodes, including terrorist outrages and the fire at Grenfell Tower in North Kensington. On a number of occasions, we have joined the rest of the nation in honouring the dead and remembering the injured and the bereaved through the observance of a minute's silence. Such events inevitably leave their mark on young and old alike.

Against this backdrop, I am acutely conscious that young people today face many challenges to their mental and emotional wellbeing in a world that has changed considerably since their own parents were children. The curtailment of outdoor play and the prevalence of family breakdown have been cited by commentators as 'dehumanising' factors deleterious to a child's ability to form loving relationships and to trust people. And while technology has undoubtedly brought benefits, an addiction to smartphones, to social media and to computer games is too

often replacing the normal human interaction that previous generations took for granted, reducing young people's capacity for empathy and leaving them socially isolated. Moreover, research is still uncovering the factors which account for the tendency of some older male adolescents to adopt unhelpful, and even risky, behaviours; the key is likely to lie in understanding how a combination of genes, childhood experience and the environment a boy had in early adolescence affect his behaviour at a time when the brain is undergoing physiological change.



**AN INSPECTOR CALLS:** Year 11 pupils gained insights into J B Priestley's classic play – and some even had the chance to appear on stage – when a theatre company visited the School.

Now, more than ever, it is important that teachers, parents and the boys themselves pay due regard to the mental and emotional health of our pupils. To this end, we already have pastoral strategies in place and are also currently developing a new mental wellbeing policy for the School. Pupils are encouraged to engage with political and social issues, as demonstrated by this term's mock General Election and by tutor-time discussions that have focused on the recent tragedies. Form

**“paying due regard to the mental and emotional health of our pupils”**

tutors have been working on developing in pupils the seven 'learnable skills of resilience'. Thus, we nurture **emotional awareness**, so that boys are able to identify what they are feeling and keep things in perspective. **Impulse control** helps boys to think before acting. By encouraging **empathy**, we seek to develop a supportive School community, not least because empathetic pupils are more likely to spot the early warning signs of any mental or emotional distress among their peers. **Self-efficacy** – knowing your strength and weaknesses – is another focus, as is **causal analysis**, or being able to consider problems from different angles. Finally, we promote **optimism**, helping pupils solve problems by remaining both positive and realistic, and **reaching out**, so that boys are open to accepting support or trying new approaches.

Alongside such collective approaches, more intensive support is available for individuals, whether to deal with an existing problem or to intervene pre-emptively at an early stage. Our School counsellor – the fruit of a partnership with the local Rephael House Counselling Centre – has completed a successful first year, providing unobtrusive expert help; our pastoral leaders are being trained in mental health first aid, and we are

planning training for all our staff next term to underpin our new policy.

Interestingly, several of our alumni have touched on such themes recently. At our recent Junior Awards Ceremony, the guest of honour, Prashant Raval (OE 2003-2010), spoke about the lessons he had learned from both successes and failures. He underlined the importance of hard work and preparation and of savouring achievements when they come. But, recalling that he had been “quite the perfectionist” while a pupil himself, he had some further wise counsel for our young award-winners: “What I've realised, alas, is that in the real world, it is nigh-on impossible to achieve 100% in everything, all of the time, and you will make mistakes along the way. Don't be afraid of these mistakes – instead, embrace them as opportunities to learn.”

Our guest speaker at the Thanksgiving Service on the morning of Founder's Day, Ashley-James Turner (OE 2001–2008), rightly reminded us that the commitment, sacrifice and diligence of QE parents are core not only to the success of their own sons but of the School *in toto*. The Founder's Day Fête in the afternoon was a splendid, if rather hot, occasion, which raised nearly £20,000 for the School – a truly magnificent effort. As usual, the success of the day was thanks in very large measure to the tremendous hard work put in over many months by the Friends of Queen Elizabeth's. I was pleased to see so many parents there on the day and to welcome a good number of Old Elizabethans, particularly from the younger generations.

**“making a contribution to society”**

More than any other event in our calendar, Founder's Day represents an opportunity for our whole School community – past, present and even future – to come together. It thus seemed entirely appropriate that this year's event coincided with *The Great Get Together*, a weekend of community events around the country inspired by Brendan Cox, the husband of Labour MP Jo Cox, who was murdered last year by a political extremist.

In these troubled times, I have been heartened by the poetic endeavours of both a former and a current pupil. Year 7 boy Arjun Arunkumar (pictured) won the Year 7–9 creative writing category in the Show Racism the Red Card National School Competition for his trilogy, entitled *Tolerance, Equality and Diversity*. He was presented with his award by England football manager Gareth Southgate at a ceremony at Leicester City's King Power Stadium. And Old Elizabethan George 'the Poet' Mpanga (OE 2002–2009) put his mastery of language to service in producing a poem to encourage people to report hate crime, which ends with the words “you can't fight violence with silence”. The poem, which was commissioned by the Equality and

Human Rights Commission to coincide with the anniversary of Jo Cox's death, reminds us of the need to be vigilant against all forms of hatred. I trust that our pupils will aspire to emulate George's example, giving their time to causes greater than themselves and fulfilling the tenet of the QE mission statement that they should seek to “make a contribution to society rather than pursuing only personal gain”.

I wish all QE families a peaceful and enjoyable summer holiday.

**Neil Enright**



**Milan's rare talent wins essay prize**

A sixth-former's essay examining the dilemmas faced by scientists working at the cutting edge of Physics won him first prize in a prestigious competition.

Year 12 pupil Milan Hirji won one of the four categories in the Royal College of Science Union's (RCSU) *Science Challenge 2017*. He rubbed shoulders with several leading scientists at the prize-giving ceremony at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich.

His winning entry answered the following question: “*High-energy physics probes the smallest structures*

*in nature, often using accelerators to get subatomic resolution. In the future, will we run out of resolution? What technologies might help us do better? And why should we even try?”*

Congratulating him, Chemistry teacher Susanna Butterworth said Milan's success had been both “encouraging and inspirational”. Dr Butterworth added: “In his answer, Milan demonstrated the rare combination of a thorough understanding of abstract concepts in Physics and the ability to explain them in a clear and accessible way.”



**Music: from Mary Poppins to the Godfather!**

The spring and summer brought ample opportunities for QE's musicians to showcase their talents, with a lively repertoire that spanned the genres and crossed the oceans, too.

The spring concert, *Sounds from the Screen*, brought familiar tunes from hit films to the audience in the Shearly Hall. There were performances from 11 School ensembles, from the four-strong Saxophone Ensemble to the dozens of boys who sang with the School Choir. The Senior Indian Ensemble's performance featured songs from two Tamil-language films – the family drama, *Yaaradi Nee Mohini*, and the comedy, *Jeans*.

Some of the pieces had been arranged by boys: Year 11 boys Binu Perera and Uday Kataria teamed up to arrange *Feed the Birds* from *Mary Poppins* for the Wind Quintet and Binu also arranged a medley from the *Harry Potter* films.

Summer saw a Junior Chamber Concert, in which younger boys gained valuable experience of performing. And the last concert of the year fell on 4th July – American Independence Day – so was curated around American music. As well as *The Godfather* film theme, there was a ‘mash-up’ of classic American songs arranged and conducted by Year 10 boy Drew Sellis, and a performance of *I Feel Pretty* from *West Side Story*.



**Where history is made...**

Year 10 historians heard from politicians and policy experts on a trip to central London – and relished the privilege of seeing the Mother of Parliaments in action. Head of History Helen MacGregor said: “The boys were fortunate enough to go into the public gallery of the House of Commons and witness MPs such as Caroline Lucas debating the Government's action following the Grenfell House tragedy – interesting and very relevant!” They heard a foreign policy talk at the US Embassy and thoughts on President Trump's European policy at SOAS.

**For the love of reading**

Queen Elizabeth's School hosted *Read4Barnet 2017* – a greatly expanded Festival of Reading bringing together seven local schools. Conceived and organised by QE's Ciara Murray and her librarian colleagues at other schools, the event built on the festival held last year at Wren Academy, but this year welcomed many more schools, authors and pupils.

The day's activities included talks from five authors writing for young people – Siobhan Curham, Richard Kurti, Non Pratt, Katherine Webber and Lisa Williamson – as well as book-signings and a quiz and poster workshop, with pupils split into multi-school teams. The festival ended with prizes awarded for the best of the 200-plus pupil book reviews submitted in advance.



# Excellence in STEM

As employer organisations continue to press for more to be done at a national level to address skills shortages, opportunities abound at Queen Elizabeth’s School in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics – the STEM subjects.

For several years, the UK Government has placed a special emphasis on the importance of STEM. As long ago as 2012, the Council for Science and Technology acknowledged the administration’s aspiration to create an excellent STEM education system, advising Prime Minister David Cameron in a letter that “the UK workforce’s skills in the STEM area will determine our ability to generate ideas and translate these into innovative products and services”. The letter highlighted the importance of the pupil’s classroom, workshop and laboratory experience: “Inspirational teaching is vital,” it stated.

However, a report commissioned from the Royal Academy of Engineering’s Education and Skills Committee, which was published last year, found there is still much work to be done.

“An ageing workforce means that hundreds of thousands of skilled technician and professional engineering roles will need replacing over the next ten years... Engineering also suffers from significant under-representation, notably with women and people from minority ethnic groups,” the committee’s report found.

The Headmaster says: “We are confident that QE is more than playing its part in addressing these issues. All the STEM subjects are highly esteemed here and the respective departments are well-resourced.

“We have a detailed programme of continuing professional development to keep teachers’ skills fresh. The many

positive comments from the large numbers of recent leavers who have gone on to take degrees in the STEM subjects and then pursue careers in these fields attest to the inspiration and encouragement they derived from their teachers.

“Furthermore, for some years we have been working to expand provision and opportunities, both within lessons and beyond the classroom.

“We are clear-sighted in our determination to prepare boys fully to meet the challenges of the modern world, equipping them through the STEM subjects with the particular skills that are so valued in the 21st-century workplace.”



## Snapshot of success

Below is a selection of STEM-related special activities and achievements from the brief period from mid-spring to the start of July this year. It is by no means an exhaustive list.

### BRITISH BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

QE has been named the top-scoring school in England for its pupils’ performance and invited to the Royal Society of Biology Education Awards Ceremony. Star performers included Year 13 pupil Bushry Basheer, who won a place among 16 national finalists eligible to compete to represent the UK in the International Biology Olympiad.

### SPACE DESIGN

Sixth-formers Aadil Kara and Brian Kong have been selected to be part of the European Union team in this month’s international finals of the Space Design Competition at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

### ROBOTICS

Even though it was the first year the School has entered the VEX IQ Robotics competition, two Year 8 and 9 teams drawn from QE’s new robotics club progressed smoothly through two regional rounds earlier this year. They were then named British Champions in different categories at the national final at the Birmingham NEC. As a result, both qualified for the international finals and travelled to Kentucky in the USA to compete.

### ENGINEERING DESIGN

A QE team who designed a helmet that warns construction workers when noise levels exceed safe levels were named recently among the country’s top five engineering prize-winners at The Big Bang – the UK Young Scientists & Engineers Fair. The helmet was developed under the Engineering Education Scheme by Yazad Sukhia, Tochi Onuora, Christopher Suen and Sachin Ghelani, all in Year 13.

### CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

Yuta Tsuchiya scored so highly that he was among an élite group of top performers invited to compete to represent the UK in international competition. Yuta was one of four QE boys to achieve a gold certificate, together with fellow Year 13 pupils, Harshil Kalaiya, Omar Mohamed and Craig Robertson.

### SHELL BRIGHT IDEAS CHALLENGE

Having won this competition at its first attempt last year, QE’s 2017 Year 9 team secured second place for its idea – a generator stored under every house powered by breaking down food waste. The team, all from Year 9, were, Gabriel Bednarkiewicz, Kaustubh Bhatnagar, Aagsathan Ilamurugan, Janujan Satchi and Rukshaan Selvendira. They won £4,000 for the School to invest in STEM teaching resources.

### BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

The Lower School Science department laid on special lessons and extra-curricular activities, including visits by external speakers. Topics ranged from centuries-old tales of vampires to the medical technology behind a new cancer treatment centre in London, which will use proton beam therapy requiring a huge gantry three storeys high and weighing hundreds of tonnes.

### MATHSBOMB

QE boys performed strongly in this national online Mathematics competition, with two teams winning prizes – one for being the first team out of 2,962 nationwide to solve two of the timed problems.

### JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

279 of the 292 Year 7 and 8 pupils from QE taking part in the UK Mathematics Trust competition won certificates, placing them among the top 40% of entrants nationally. The top 28 boys qualified for the Junior Olympiad, with a further 88 reaching the other follow-on round, the Junior Kangaroo.

### INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE

After a strong performance in the challenge, QE was heavily involved in the two follow-on rounds, with the top 19 boys from Years 9 to 11 taking part in the Intermediate Olympiad and 132 invited to compete in the European Kangaroo.

### TEAM MATHS CHALLENGE NATIONAL FINAL

QE’s team were among just 88 teams out of the 1,757 in this year’s competition to reach the national final of this competition, having first performed strongly in the regional round.



## From the archives: Hope's triumph over adversity

A glance at the School's Roll of Honour will reveal the name of one remarkable Elizabethan who refused to allow even permanent disability suffered in the First World War to end an impressive record of sporting success achieved during the golden age of Edwardian England.

Born in 1884, Hope Crisp was a pupil at QE in the final years of the Victorian era. Upon leaving the School, he went up to St Catharine's College, Cambridge, where he was captain of the university's tennis team.

His rise in the sport continued through the halcyon summers of the pre-war era. In 1913, he and playing partner Frances Tuckey became the first-ever Wimbledon Mixed Doubles Champions – a fact which recently featured as a 'pointless' answer on the BBC television quiz show of the same name. In that same year, Hope also reached the quarter-finals of the Men's Singles and Men's Doubles. He returned

in 1914 and was a losing semi-finalist in both doubles draws.

However, less than a month afterwards, war had begun and in early 1915, Hope was given a commission in the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment. Before that year was out, Hope was wounded at Hill 60 near Ypres and his right leg had to be amputated.

Yet, against all the odds, in 1919 – in the first playing of the Wimbledon Championships after the war – he was back on court. Fitted with a prosthesis, he lost a second-round, Mixed Doubles match 6-1, 6-2 with his playing partner, Mrs Perrett, having received a bye in the first round.

His exploits at the time were reported in both *The Times* and *The New York Times*. The American newspaper reported: "The spirit of a tennis player who lost a leg in battle but continues to play the game despite his handicap, has won great praise in England." For its part, *The Times* first

The New York Times

## ONE-LEGGED NET PLAYER.

Britisher Injured in War Continues in Tennis Doubles.

The spirit of a tennis player who lost a leg in battle but continues to play the game despite his handicap, has won great praise in England. Of a match at Rochampton The London Times says: "Captain Hope Crisp, who did much for the game at Cambridge, lost a leg in battle. He determined to keep up golf and lawn tennis and is playing in the gentlemen's doubles and mixed doubles. It was interesting to see how he managed. He is a strong volleyer and naturally half volleys many balls

Published 29 July, 1919. © The New York Times

praised his university record – "Captain Hope Crisp... did much for the game at Cambridge." Of his play, it reported: "It was interesting to see how he managed. He is a strong volleyer and naturally half-volleys many balls which a two-legged player would drive. The artificial leg is the right; accordingly service is fairly easy. When there is no hurry, he walks with a fair speed, approaching a run. At other times he hops. His cheerful temperament makes the game a real pleasure to himself and others."

Headmaster Neil Enright said: "He may no longer have been a champion, but he was certainly a hero: what drive and perseverance he showed simply to play in a grand slam main draw long before disability sport became recognised and established its own competitions!"

After the war, Hope was employed as a Regional Awards Officer for the Ministry of Pensions, receiving an OBE for this work in 1923. He died in March 1950.



## From glaciers to hipsters

Two Geography trips this term reflected the enormous diversity to be found within the subject.

While boys in the Lower School headed off to Iceland for a five-day tour of the nation's unique combination of geological features, Year 12 boys went to east London for a field trip designed to help them with their A-level research.

The younger boys saw a glacier, boiling mud pools, a volcanic crater, geysers, waterfalls and a geothermal power plant, while also enjoying the opportunity to swim in natural geothermal pools and enjoy a little sight-seeing in Reykjavik.

The sixth-formers took the Central Line firstly to Stratford – including East Village in E20, London's newest postcode – and then to the vibrant 'hipster' hotbeds of Spitalfields, Brick Lane and Shoreditch. They considered questions such as 'how is gentrification changing places in east London?' and used their findings to help decide the topic of their Independent Investigation – a 3,000-4,000-word piece of research making up 20% of their A-level.



## QE wins financial journalism competition – again

Sixth-former Nikhil Shah's essay took first prize in the 17-19 age category of The London Institute of Banking & Finance's *Young Financial Journalist of the Year* competition. His success mirrors that of Sahil Suleman last year, who is now in Year 13. Nikhil – whose essay was entitled *How will financial education help me meet the financial challenges I will face throughout my life?* – was one of four QE finalists, with fellow Year 12 pupils Nikhil Khetani, Chaouxuan Ouyang and Karnan Sembian also short-listed.

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In the *Student Investor Challenge*, four Year 11 boys – Bashmy Basheer, Akshat Sharma, Miphram Samten and John Tan – reached the national semi-final.



## Seeing the Somme

The grim reality of industrialised warfare was brought home to 45 QE boys on a History department trip to the battlefields of World War I. The boys, all from Year 9, visited trenches around Ypres and the sites of the battles of the Somme and Passchendaele. History teacher Matt Dunston said: "They have been studying the tactics and weapons of World War I and so this experience really highlighted how senseless the slaughter was." On the last day, they visited two World War II rocket production & launch sites which the Nazis used to bomb London.



## On the spot: quick-fire debating challenge

QE boys and their counterparts from a leading girls' school had just 45 minutes to prepare for debate at an afternoon of workshops chaired by the pupils themselves.

One hundred Year 8 boys and five QE staff headed to The Henrietta Barnett School (HBS), where the topics included *This house believes that students need more time to discuss religious and political beliefs in school, as part of the curriculum.*



## Power of poetry

QE's poet-in-residence, Anthony Anaxagorou, has been helping pupils in a six-week poetry workshop – and also played a role in the General Election. An award-winning poet and Old Elizabethan (1994–1999), he led Year 9 & 10 boys in after-school sessions, during which they learned about writing, editing and performing poems.

Anthony was commissioned by the Labour Party to write a poem, which Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn published on election day.



## Beyond Brexit: QE debaters reach national round of debating competition

Year 12 debaters scored an emphatic victory over other leading schools to reach the national session of the European Youth Parliament in Liverpool this summer.

The resolution they proposed was the first to pass and was one of only two motions passed out of six during the regional forum. QE's team were representing the Committee on Human Rights and were proposing the resolution: "With the aftermath

of Brexit showing a sharp rise in hate crimes, how can the EU protect its minority groups from racially motivated crime whilst safeguarding its citizens' rights to freedom of expression?"

The team comprised: Fawwaz Ahmed, Eddy Burchett, Atul John, Rahul Kanwar, Ravi Karia, Usman Merchant, Karan Sanghavi and Jathiesan Umaasuthan.

## Charity work winner

Year 9 pupil Senthuran Jeevan was in a fund-raising team named the overall winners in an international children's charity's annual awards. With three teammates from other schools, he raised £7,106.12 for The Wings of Hope. They won an expenses-paid trip to a school the charity supports in Chennai, India.

## Literature competition victory marks new chapter for QE

Year 7 boys Abdur-Rahman Ismail, Heemy Kalam, Leo Dane-Liebesny and Vedaangh Rungta and Divyam Shah won the 2017 Barnet Kids Lit Quiz. It was the first time a QE team had entered the borough contest, although the School has won the regional heat of the international Kids Lit Quiz for the past two years.

## Rugby home & abroad

Two squads of 18 Year 9 boys headed to Holland for a rugby tour, which included the opportunity to test themselves against teams from across Europe at the Hilversum International Festival.

PE & Games teacher James Clarke said: "It was an opportunity not only to develop boys' rugby skills and athleticism, but also transferable skills and qualities, such as teamwork and camaraderie."

Highlights of the festival included a 12-12 draw against Dundee High School by the A squad, who also won one match and narrowly lost one. The B squad beat Dutch team RC t'Gooi in "a thrilling contest", Mr Clarke said, and lost two other matches. The day before the festival, two mixed QE squads notched up a pair of early victories. Player of the tour was Jeff Hagan with six tries.

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QE's youngest rugby players rounded off their first season with strong performances in two important competitions. The Year 7 boys first won the shield in the Reigate Sevens. Then at the Hertfordshire 10-a-side Tournament at Berkhamsted School, they won four and drew two of their seven games, losing only to the eventual winners.



## Reaching out to local schools

Two recent QE events gave local primary children the chance to see the School at first hand and have some fun, too.

The Lower School Science department hosted a forensics workshop for 32 visiting Year 5 & 6 boys and girls, who were invited to solve a particularly dastardly crime – the (fictional) murder of the Headmaster!

QE also hosted its third annual Primary Challenge Day, when Year 5 pupils took part in activities focusing on English and Mathematics. There were competition rounds with interactive games, a spelling contest, a poetry-writing challenge, number puzzles and logic problems. The Headmaster presented the winners with their certificates at the end of the event, congratulating all participants, including the overall winners, Martin Primary School in East Finchley.

## First in fencing

QE's fencing team beat Aldwickbury School from Harpenden into second place to clinch the top spot in the Hertfordshire Schools Spring 2017 Foil League. The B team narrowly missed out on topping their league, finishing the season as runners-up. The QE A team consists of: James Ford, of Year 10; Daniel Radzik-Rahman, Year 9, and Reza Sair, Year 10. The B team is: Mrinaank Chilkoti, of Year 8; Abdullah Chisti, of Year 8, and Ayush Patel, Year 8.



## On the road

The School recently acquired two new minibuses with funding provided by the Friends of Queen Elizabeth's. "These Peugeot vehicles represent a significant investment – one which we were able to make outright, thanks to the stalwart support of FQE," said the Headmaster. Pictured with one minibus are Aditya Narayan (left) and Awad Shah, of the Year 8 First XI, who were heading off for the semi-final of the U13 county cup against Belmont School.



**DOING THE DOUBLE:** Wellington College won both the U16 and U14 cups in QE's 41st Rugby Sevens, while QE's own A teams reached both plate quarter-finals.

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