

Christmas is just a distant memory now, as spring knocks on the door. In the Sixth Form we have entered the New Year with good intentions and high spirits, and we're as busy as ever!

December

Charitable work

During the autumn term, the Eliot House Captain, Ayesha De Silva, and Vice-Captain, Abigail Poxon, and their team of Eliot Prefects organised a collection of items for North Walsall Foodbank.

The team collected hundreds of items including cans of food,

toiletries and other essentials, which were packed into boxes and delivered to the centre in Pelsall.

Their contribution to the local community shows their commitment to supporting others in times of need.



January

Panto Rehearsals and Set Design

Christmas is but a distant memory... Oh no it's not!

Well, it certainly isn't at QMHS, as rehearsals for the long-anticipated Sixth Form Panto continue into January (and February and March).



The Year 12 and 13's version of the classic, *Jack and the Beanstalk* is almost ready for its opening night on Thursday 19 March and the matinee performance on Friday 20 March both being held in Richardson Hall. Work is currently underway to transform the venue into Jack's back garden – beanstalk and all – as the set designers, painters and tech team work on the backdrop for the performance.

Please come and support the cast: Michaela Kenny as Jack, Sophie Sholl as Jack's mum, and Destiny Dunn-Browne as the villain.

Tickets will be available shortly at a cost of £3 each.

Sixth Form RS Conference with Dr. Vardy

January saw the return of Dr Peter Vardy to Queen Mary's High School, as the Sixth form took part in an RS conference held in the SFC.

The day involved all of Year 12 and 13 discussing and debating controversial ethical issues in sport, including whether transgender athletes taking part in sports meetings, such as the Olympics, is a fair and level playing field.

As always, Dr Vardy kept everyone riveted to their seats and enthralled by his presentation, but more importantly gave them all the opportunity to explore, question and reassess their own ideas about a very complex issue.



February

The Chemistry Olympiad

The Royal Society of Chemistry's Olympiad aims to open students' eyes to the diversity of Chemistry in the 'Real World', as well as inspiring more students to study Chemistry beyond A-Level. The 52nd International Olympiad did not disappoint with tough questions on truxinates, pigments, anammox and ladderanes. The test was sat in two halves, each taking an hour, and was quite the challenge!



We won't know what certificates we have been awarded until March but are keeping our fingers crossed that the extra revision was worth it!

Drama



What a fantastic year we have had so far with our A-Level cohort. We kicked off the school year with a Frantic Assembly workshop which challenged our students to build bonds and trust as they were encouraged to create physical movement sequences and lift one another. It was a truly memorable day and great inspiration for our Year 13s as they started their scripted performance in which they have to apply a practitioner. You guessed it: Frantic Assembly.





Under the watchful eye of Michelle, the Frantic practitioner, the group got around to some lifting which was quite an experience!

Since then, both the Year 13s and Year 12s have been very busy preparing their practical examination pieces. The Year 12s have decided on Kneehigh Theatre Company as their chosen practitioner and as a treat we took a train to London to go and see them live at Shoreditch Town Hall just before we broke up for Christmas. We were treated to a lively sing-a-long satire with plenty of audience interaction, laughs and silliness which has provided a great deal of inspiration for the Year 12s and their creative adaptation of *La Llorona*.



Currently, our Year 13s are working on a scripted performance called 'Monsters' in which they explore the brutality of children through physical theatre and dialogue. The Year 12s have created a lively performance based on their story of a spurned woman who takes revenge on her husband in the worst possible way. Both groups will perform these exam pieces on Thursday 13 February and we wish them a lot of luck for this. We also wish our Year 13s good luck for their upcoming mocks.



Mrs Rochfort and Miss Houlder

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Following the reported successful expeditions to the Yorkshire Dales by our silver and gold groups back in September, we are pleased to announce that Michaela Kenny in Year 13 has completed her Gold DofE award; she is the first of the current Year 13 students to do so.

Well done Michaela!



Enrichment

Friday afternoons in Sixth Form means enrichment. All Year 12 and 13 students have had the opportunity to take part in a number of activities this half term, including

- "Kissing it Better" and community projects at The Manor Hospital
- British Sign Language
- LAMDA
- First Aid with St. John's Ambulance Service
- Workshop by Wolverhampton University signposting opportunities available post-18.



Year 12 and 13 have also helped the Mental Health Awareness Ambassadors Simran Basra and Amerah Asif, to prepare for Children's

Mental Health Awareness week (3rd-7th February) by sewing ribbons, planting seeds and making display boards.

Future enrichment activities will feature workshops led by members of Aston University Outreach team.



Mental Health Awareness Week

Our Sixth form has been heavily involved in promoting awareness mental health issues this month as part of children's mental health awareness week.

Mrs Connell, Mrs York and Mrs Prosser led the mental health ambassador team in the organisation of a week of activities promoting the campaign and the

issues surrounding children's mental health, and some of the sixth form also shared experiences relating to their own issues surrounding mental health during a moving and informative assembly.

Activities during the week included planting seeds, mindfulness colouring and a Year 7 disco, and it also involved raising money for mental health charities through a non-uniform day and an epic samosa sale.



Forthcoming Events

February 24th – March 3rd: Year 13 mocks

March 5th:
Degree Apprenticeships Assembly- Capgemini

March 6th: Oxford Masterclass for most able (Years 10-13)- Oxford Town Hall

March 19th and 20th: Sixth Form Panto

March 25th:
Year 13 Parents' Evening and UCAS next steps workshops
Year 13 LAMDA exam- Edgbaston

March 26th:
KS5 Politics Debating Competition- Wolverhampton University

Best wishes,
Dr Darwood