



The Executive Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that, in writing this first newsletter to you all, a whole term has already gone by! It has been great to finally start in my new role as the Federation's Executive Headteacher. Staff and pupils have been very welcoming and extremely patient as I gradually learn everyone's name. The next step will be for me to get to know more of you and I hope to do this in the new term.

You will see from the newsletter that children and young people in both schools have been very busy this term, both in a wide range of activities at school and also outside in community visits and activities. The staff team has continued to work extremely hard to support and encourage the children in their learning and I am sure that you will want to join me thanking them for all their hard work and dedication this term.

I am also very pleased to be able to tell you that we will be employing a Family Worker from January. We were successful in a bid for funding from the Trustees of the Westminster Almshouses Foundation, who have been extremely generous in their financial support for this very important post. The Family Worker will be employed through the Westminster Society and will be working for two days per week with parents and carers across both schools. I am sure that this will prove to be of great benefit to our work with you all and I will write to you again in the new term with further details.

Thanks to all of you who joined us for the special events that took place in both schools over the past few weeks to celebrate the festive season. I was delighted to get to meet a number of you at these events. Finally, I would like to take the opportunity of thanking you for your continued support and to wish you all a happy Christmas break and a very peaceful New Year.

Best wishes,

Andy Balmer

Executive Headteacher



**Check out the Westminster Special Schools
website for the latest news on your School.
www.qe2cp.westminster.sch.uk**

**Last day of term is Wednesday 21st December and the students return on
Wednesday 4th January**

Acting Head of School– Pamela Murphy

As this newsletter shows, this has been a really busy term at QEII! We've been delighted to welcome new students and new staff, all of whom have settled in really well. The Christmas activities; lunch and a visit from Fr Christmas, the Strictly Christmas show and Nativity, are always highlights, but the term got under way with a big celebration at Sports Day and then Harvest Festival. We have had some wonderful assemblies hearing about how each class has used the Olympics topic to learn a wide range of skills.

As always, thank you for your generosity and support as we have raised money for Jeans for Genes, Children in Need and Save the Children Fund and you have provided t-shirts, costumes and spots for all our different events.

Attendance and feedback from Parent Support Group meeting is always really positive and we hope this will continue to grow with the new family worker post in the New Year.

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas a lovely holiday and looking forward to seeing you in the New Year. Best wishes, Pamela

Christmas Nativity

Our now traditional nativity was another highlight of the term with students bringing up the different letters of the alphabet to spell out the word C H R I S T M A S. Each letter reminding us of something special about this time of year. The story of the first Christmas was told by readers, switchers and actors and every class sang a Christmas carol to move our story along. We were joined by Jackie Barry, the vicar, and some parishioners from Emmanuel church and lots of parents and friends. It has put us all in the holiday mood!



Royal Academy of Arts at QE11

Students from the upper school visited the abstract Expressionist exhibition at the Royal Academy of arts in September.

When we arrived we played the drums to say hello to the artists; Lucy and Abi who worked with us.

We choose the paintings that we looked at by voting, we then we looked at these in the gallery. In the gallery we talked about what we could see.



Millie is choosing the painting that she would like to see.

After we had been in the gallery we went back to the studio with Lucy and Abi to paint some pictures.

We worked in groups and painted with sponges, rollers, sprays and all kinds of different tools that made different marks.

We had a great day!

Terrence and James are painting with sticks and brooms!



Eftin is painting with a sponge on a stick.



Maria standing in front of her beautiful painting.

Jack Petchey Achievement Award

Terence Quarthey from Class 8 was nominated and received the Sporting Achiever award for his skills in the boccia tournaments he has been involved in across the school year.

Terence has performed well at these events supporting younger team members through modelling. Terence was invited to the Westminster Jack Petchey Achievement awards at the Olympic Suite which overlooks the Queen Elizabeth II Olympic Park.

Penathlon Ambassador Liz Johnson, Triple Paralympic medallist, presented Terence with one of the three main awards Outstanding Achiever, Sporting Achiever & Leadership Achiever.

We are all very proud of Terence for his achievements.



Sports Day at QE2

This year in QE2 we celebrated Sports Day on the 3rd of October. It took place in Paddington Recreation Ground in Maida Vale area. Many of us walked from school to the venue and the rest used the school buses to get there. We were so lucky to have such a beautiful weather and it was very nice to have loads of parents joining us to participate and have fun with the kids. Within our teams, each with a different colour, students worked with friends from different classes. We had opportunities to take part in a range of activities that were set up: egg and spoon races, dressing up races, sensory circuits, bowling, throwing etc. Adults and staff also have their turn to participate in some races while the students were cheering them on. When all the races finished the medals were given out and because everyone did so well, everyone received one!



It was a fantastic day when we all had so much fun and students had the chance to play with friends from other classes. We are already practicing for next year Sports Day!

Healthy Schools Gold Award

As part of our ongoing commitment to 'staying healthy' we continue our work on being a 'Healthy School', our latest achievement has been that we have now been awarded the Healthy Schools Gold Award. The focus for achieving the award was for the school to try to help those students that find it difficult to access physical activity to be more involved.

In order to achieve this all class teams looked at creating different ways of being physical and encouraging all students.

The Gold Award was presented to us by the Mayor of Westminster, Cllr. Steve Summers, and Councillor Rathbone; both were very impressed with their tour of the school and with the work that we do. You can see a photo of this on the back page.

We were very proud when they presented the Healthy School Gold Award to us!

We have done so well to achieve this that we have also been nominated for an Active Westminster award!



Class 8 The New Rooms

This term our students in class 8 have been learning about life skills, focusing on clean & dirty items in the kitchen and in the classroom. The students have been learning how to clean plates, sweep the floor and wash their hands. We have also been on a few outings, the students have been travel training to Hammersmith on the tube every week and also attended an art workshop at the Royal Academy of Art. They have made great progress in using the rooms in upper school with much greater independence!



Winter Wonderland

Class 5 went on a fantastic trip on the 30th of November let me tell you the story.....

We walked around Winter Wonderland on the search for Father Christmas, around and around class 5 went and who did, we found in his grotto waiting for the lovely class 5 Santa Claus! There he was his arms full of gifts for the pretty students' faces of class 5. Here we are, in his grotto ready to take a picture or two, what a big smile class 5 had when the picture was taken, giggling, laughing and smiling to fill up the room. Unfortunately, We had to say good bye to Santa and class 5 was ready to make its way to the bus along the serpentine in Hyde Park. We had a lovely long walk with a lovely sun above us and the bird singing along.

Class 5 had a fantastic experience their first trip this term and they have done really well in coping with transition as well as being in an open area full of music, noise, lights and people.

The team is proud of class 5... Merry Christmas



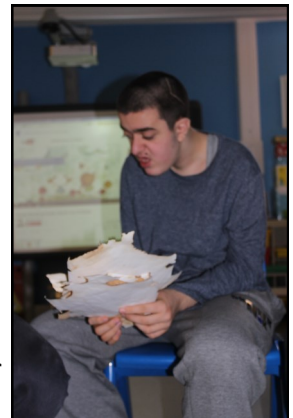
Drama

The students of QEII have been hard at work this term, settling in to different routines and acquiring new drama skills to help improve their communication, confidence and overall understanding of the world they live in. With lots of new faces and new dynamics in groups, I have been delighted to see our younger students adjust so well to the drama sessions, sensory games, costumes and creative play.

Whilst our older students have continued to build on their skills by dealing with more public speaking, makaton and sensory stories. Drama and intensive interaction with class mates and staff, serve as a great source of inspiration for our students. Imaginative play and improving listening, speaking, team building and story telling skills can serve our students well on their journey towards independence.

We also use Drama to help our young people understand about potential dangers that surround them and increase their overall awareness of the world they know and understand.

J. Rigby (The@trical)
Drama Teacher



The Federation Governing Body

The Governors welcome the opportunity of contributing to the end of term newsletter. This enables us to keep in touch with parents and carers and we can also let you know about some of the activities that we undertake in support of the Federation and its pupils.

One of the Governors' jobs is to make sure that the Federation's funding and resources are used effectively. This mainly means ensuring that the money we receive from Westminster is well-spent and that our pupils are learning in a safe, well-staffed school, with access to the facilities they need.

However, the Governors are also interested in helping the Federation to secure extra funding from other sources wherever possible.

The recent QEII sports day is a great example of this. We were able to secure some extra money from an outside organisation, which paid for the hire of Paddington Recreation Ground for the day. There was some extra money left over after paying for sports day, and this will go towards the purchase of new PE equipment for the school. In order to access this funding, we needed to draft an application and work with Federation staff to ensure that we had all the details correct. The time we spent doing this was well worth it in the end and we are pleased that the sports day was a success.

Over the coming months we will be doing our best to ensure that we are maximising the Federation's income. We have started to think more deeply about how we can raise funds by approaching organisations that give money for specific projects and activities. This is a new activity for the Federation schools and Governors but it is a way of securing additional resources for the schools.

We will keep you updated on our progress and hope that parents will support our efforts to raise further money for the Federation.

Thomas Jones

Member of the Governing Board

The Jack Petchey Awards

This term at QE2 we have awarded two of our students with Jack Petchey awards. Our first winner was Ahmed Makki. Ahmed is a member of our class 7 group, he has a wonderful laugh and smile and has really engaged in the multisensory activities class 7 have been involved in. He really enjoys using the resonance board and has worked very hard when doing stretches during his physiotherapy.

Our other winner this term was Farjana Kadir. Farjana is a member of class 6 at QE2. Farjana has a great personality and always greets people around the school with a huge smile. She has worked very hard this year and has really improved her sentence work. She loves to go out on outings and is very inquisitive and asks lots of questions. QE2 is very proud of both Ahmed and Farjana and are pleased to present them with this award.

Stacey Beddoe has just been nominated by staff and students for this year's Jack Petchey Leader Award! Congratulations Stacey.

Strictly Christmas at QEII

The ballroom was packed, the dance floor was polished, the weeks of rehearsals would all pay off—it was a dancing extravaganza for the QEII Christmas show this year!

With ballroom, latin and jive; songs from musicals and the theatre it was a really special event. The judges agreed that everyone had done an amazing job!



Class 5 danced the can– can!



Class 1 were shining stars!



Class 7 rocked it to Sister Act



Class 8 were jiving the night away!



Creative Futures Project



Since the beginning of the term, Creative Futures (which is a multi – arts organisation based in north Westminster) and the Lower school department have organised a creative project run by three artists: Sophie, a musician, Thor a sound artist and Tania a movement artist. They have been working weekly with students exploring how sound, movement and visual arts can combine and engage the students, following the children’s lead and enabling them to explore and expand on their creative, communication and expressive skills. Together we have been developing songs, activities and individual artistic profiles for each participant.



In the new year we will have to find a space for the wonderful wall hanging this group produced!

Celebrating Black History Month

Lower school took part in different activities to celebrate “Black History Month”. We explored the themes of Art, Food and Music.

Some classes read the story “Handa’s Surprise” and tasted some fruits, other classes made African prints and masks and some enjoyed dressing up in traditional African clothes.

All classes across the school had the opportunity to play African drums with a drumming we workshops. We got to follow different rhythms in drumming sessions we all had lots of fun.



Harvest Festival 2016

As in previous years, all students from QEII took part in the annual Harvest Festival at the very beginning of the month of November. The harvest service was held in **Emmanuel Church** on the Harrow Road where the students and staff from our school were joined by some students and staff from College Park School, parents and people from the local parish. Through the celebrations we wanted to give thanks for the food, remember the people who are helping us to get the food on our tables and share the goodness we have with the very needy people in the local community.



The gifts of non perishable foods and toiletries were donated towards the **North Paddington Food bank** and the **Winter Shelter**. We would like to thank to all parents and carers who so very generously supported the good cause and the shops on the Harrow Road who donated via the school.

At last but not least we would like to thank **Jackie Barry** Vicar from

Emmanuel Church for leading the service and making us so welcome in the church.



Fundraising for QEII



Pushtiparivar UK Trust has been running for three years with the aim of helping local communities.

The Trust patron, Shri Yadunathji Goswami, a Hindu religious leader based in Ahmedabad India, encourages his followers not to just practice religion but to enhance life by offering support to the communities they live in. Via the PPUK trust, it's chairman Mrs Bhavna Lakhani, her trustees and Kaimini—one of our TAs—they organised "a walk for a cause" which raised money under the Banner of "JOY OF GIVING".

On a rainy day in September a joint walk took place with the PPK team and QEII staff which raised £1,500 for the school! We are very grateful for their support. The cheque will be handed over by SHRI Yadunathji Goswami to QEII on his visit to UK in May 2017.

The Outreach Team

It has been a busy term with the team involved in a range of activities including centralised training in the Access and Inclusion Centre, bespoke training in individual schools and working with the Local Authority around benchmarking the activity of the service. As a team we have been reviewing our practice and developing processes.

Congratulations to Kathryn Gilgallon and her family on the arrival of her new baby and welcome to the team to Rob Rattray who is working with us 1 day a week as Teacher of the Deaf.

The Advisory Teachers for children with Autism have delivered a number of well received parent groups in addition to the Early Years training. The Teachers of the Deaf are working on developing practice with other triborough colleagues. Our Occupational therapist continues to deliver Occupational Therapy to children over 5 with statements /EHC Plans in mainstream settings and we are working with colleagues around recommendations made preschool and how they may be implemented with children in school settings. Our advisory Teacher for children with visual impairment has attended several events with NATSIP (National Sensory Impairment Partnership) looking at the EHC process and outcome setting. Mindfulness practice has continued to develop across tri-borough schools with support from our Advisory Teacher for Children with Speech, language and communication needs.

Eye Gaze donation to school

On the 12th December we were delighted to welcome Sarah Ezekiel to school. Sarah is an artist who uses eye-gaze equipment to make beautiful artwork. Sarah is getting a new piece of eye-gaze equipment and was looking for a new home for her current equipment. Jen, who previously worked with us a QEII, explained to Sarah how some students at QEII use the same sort of eye-gaze equipment to help them to communicate and make choices and so Sarah decided to make a donation to us. This is incredibly generous of her and will be used to enable students who are learning to use eye-gaze techniques to communicate to be able to practice more often as we currently only have one eye-gaze that they share.

Sarah had a tour of the school and meet everyone in assembly, she too uses her eye-gaze to communicate and she told us about her art work and what she thought of our school. After school she stayed to answer questions from staff. We had a piece of our artwork to give Sarah as a small token of our thanks and were delighted when she presented us with 3 of her prints.

Sarah's artwork can be seen at www.sarahezekiel.com and www.eyegazeartists.tiscail.com

An exclusive family charity event:

Kids yoga, magical storytelling
& uplifting live music



With Jahnavi Harrison

A unique opportunity to see the amazing **Jahnavi Harrison**, world renowned singer and musician in this intimate setting.

Transport your children to another world with Jahnavi's magical, interactive stories with singing, movement & mantra music.

We'll also be integrating a fun, healing and connecting childrens yoga practice with stretching, breathing and creative visualisation. Enhance your children's wellbeing and natural energy with this nurturing and inspiring session.

Children of all ages and abilities are welcome to join the fun at this one-off exclusive gathering - to sing, laugh, dance, and celebrate life together!

All proceeds go to SYF, a charity dedicated to reaching as many children with special needs as possible with their therapeutic yoga programme.

Limited spaces only – book early.



Sunday 22nd Jan | 10:30am-12:30pm

Unit 7, 557 Harrow Road, W10 4RH

Suggested donation: £10 per family

To book call 0208 968 1900 or email info@specialyoga.org.uk

Special Yoga Foundation CIO, Registered charity 1163374 | www.specialyoga.org.uk



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Happy Christmas from all of us to
 all of you!

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 April 2017

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Steve Hudson