

# Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College

## Report for the Student Committee of Governors

April 2008

Students have been involved in a wide range of activities since the last report in November. Some activities have been arranged by subject areas, others have been organised by students themselves.

### Student Association

- In the run up to Christmas, the Student Association arranged a number of fun activities in the Student Common Room – acoustic sessions, quizzes, scavenger hunt. A trip, at the end of the College day, to the Metro Centre gave students the opportunity to do their Christmas shopping.
- To mark Remembrance Day, the Student Association teamed up with the English Department and held a lunchtime meeting of reflection and poetry readings. The readings included students' own work as well as poems of famous war poets. It was a poignant occasion with the thoughts of a number of students being with relatives engaged in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- This year's Battle of the Bands was a resounding success. Following two heats at the Forum, the eleven bands that entered the competition were whittled down to five that played in the final at College. The heats and the final were sell outs and the quality of music was very high. The first prize – 10 hours recording at the Forum – was awarded to the Hornosexuals, a band formed by students specifically for the competition. Since their success, the Hornosexuals have had some gigs and plan to keep on playing together.



- Students marked Valentine's Day by putting money where their hearts are. The Student Association organised a love note and red rose delivery service around the College and, in return, students made donations to the British Heart Foundation. In addition, a Couples' Quiz



was held at lunchtime to raise further funds for the charity. Also on Valentine's Day, representatives from Darlington's Road Safety Unit had a stall in the Common Room promoting safe driving.

- Students and staff used Fairtrade Fortnight to highlight fairtrade issues and raise funds for charities in the developing world. Staff raised £132 by baking cakes and holding a coffee morning; students hosted a Body Shop stall in the Common Room. The stall sold fairtrade cotton bags and other products with 40% of the takings being donated to charity.
- In April, the Student Association secured Key Funds from Darlington Council to assist in the planning and organisation of the Leavers' Ball. This enabled the Student Executive to have a working dinner at Pizza Express and finalise their plans.
- This year's presidential election campaigns were lively and entertaining. The candidates gave election speeches in the Student Common Room and recorded short video clips which were put



on Fronter and used in tutor groups before voting took place. The new President of the Student Association is Justin Ramsden and the Vice President is Jessica Grundy. Justin and Jessica now have to process applications from students for the various jobs undertaken by members of the Student Executive.

- Students have been involved in the selection process for staff appointments. They have fed back from lessons delivered by candidates for various posts and formed a panel as part of the interview procedure for the appointment of the Vice Principal (Guidance.) In addition, during the Ofsted Inspection they met inspectors and, as a follow up to this, recently met an HMI to give further input into the 'learner voice' and mentoring at QE. This was in relation to the production of good practice guides.

## **Business and Leisure**

- AS Business and Applied AS Business students attended an AimHigher day. The day focussed on designing a marketing campaign for the new Mini Clubman. Students prepared information on the target group of customers, devised slogans, used images and prepared proposals for the advertising and promotion of the new product. Their ideas were then presented to the class. The students worked very well and produced some innovative ideas.
- The GCSE Business group visited Sainsbury's supermarket. The purpose of the visit was to investigate job roles and functions within the business.
- Second year Applied Business (single award) students attended a presentation at Darlington Building Society. The students were particularly interested in the training offered by the

company and interviewed a recently promoted branch manager. The information obtained from the interview was later used in their assignments on training and development.

- AS and A2 Dance students performed their examination work in front of public audience in the theatre at Darlington Arts Centre on 12th March. The audience was appreciative of the students' work.
- Dance Supplementary Programme students created a short piece through contact improvisation workshops. They performed it at the Darlington Dance Festival in February and at the College's Alternative Fashion Show in March.
- A2 Travel & Tourism students study a unit which requires them to look at the area of adventure and niche tourism. As part of this, they have undertaken a series of skiing lessons but, as complete beginners, it was a bit of an up hill struggle for some!
- A2 Travel & Tourism students planned and organised a three night visit to Krakow as part of their course. 6 students were allocated individual job roles to plan the visit and made all of the arrangements for the trip, whilst 13 others organised the fund raising with a Film Theme Night at Mowden Rugby Club. The trip provided many educational opportunities and raised greater awareness of Polish culture. Students included visits to Auschwitz, the Salt Mines and Wavel Castle in their itinerary.
- GCSE Leisure & Tourism students took part in an outdoor activity day at Weardale House in the North Pennines. Weardale House provides a variety of activities to challenge students to overcome fears and anxieties and develop new skills. The students were involved in team building activities including aerial ropes courses and trust activities.
- A2 Travel & Tourism double awards students along with GCSE students visited the Blue Reef Aquarium at Tynemouth. They used the visit to collect information towards a unit on human resources and recruitment and had the benefit of listening to a talk by the manager. The GCSE group carried out a full investigation into their marketing and produced a piece of promotional material for the facility. To provide contrast, the students then went on to Wet and Wild, a water park in North Shields where they battled with the flumes including Calamity Canyon.
- As part of their A Level Leisure Studies course, students organised a three day visit to Adventure Wales, Porthcawl, South Wales. The students took on responsibility for every aspect of the trip and had to work together to ensure the event was successful and enjoyed by all. Whilst in Wales they completed challenges such as: high ropes course, gorge scrambling, raft building, kayaking. To raise funds for the visit and as a requirement of one of their study units, they held a race night and casino evening. The evening was a huge success and was superbly supported by students' friends and families.

- More than 50 Leisure Studies students took part in some volunteering in West Park, the newest park in Darlington. In conjunction with the charity organisation ' North East



Community Forest', the students weeded an area and covered it with bark to prevent weeds growing back through. They also enjoyed lopping off the lower branches of a large number of trees to assist in their growth.

- Inspired by her Leisure Studies course and the unit on volunteering, student Jess Horsman is going to do voluntary work for 7 weeks after her A Levels. She will travel to India with the youth development charity Raleigh International, and is now busy fundraising £2000 to help support the community and conservation projects she will work on.



- Leisure Studies students visited the Tees Barrage to study how customer service is delivered within the facility and to evaluate the effectiveness of it. Following a talk and a tour, wet suits and life jackets were issued and students went on to experience the thrill of white water rafting.

## Creative Arts

- Darlington Borough Council re-launched the Dover Prize – a regional arts award to promote art in and around Darlington. The theme was Northern Heart with artists depicting what they



enjoy about living or working in the North East of England. Art Foundation student Alexander McDonald won the first prize of £500 and his work was central to an exhibition in the Arts Centre. The work of students Chris O'Grady, Emma Chairman and Isobel Watts was also commended and exhibited.

- A grant for special projects from the Dover Family Fund enabled art students to learn about art and design professional practice and to participate in special workshops during November and December. As part of the Critical and Contextual Studies programme, Brian Lee gave two lectures on the History of Illustration and talked about his own career as a book illustrator. He also led a special workshop for AS students on the use of Photoshop. Yvonne Sewell

talked about the History of Photography and showed students examples of her own photography and painter Brian Sutherland led whole day Life Painting master classes for Art Foundation students. The grant also assisted with the production of manipulated digital images from a study day at Belsay Hall, which formed an exhibition in the College.

- Talks by visiting speakers from Art and Design Departments from several universities helped to inform students about career paths and specialism choices. These included Lulu Hancock from DeMontford University, Peter Wolland from Sunderland University, Sarah McDonnell from the University of Northumbria and Lesley Hicks from Teesside University. 17 Art Foundation students later attended taster days and participated in Fine Art and Graphic Design workshops at Teesside University.
- 33 Art Foundation students and 6 staff made the annual visit to Manchester's GMEX Centre for the UCAS Design Your Future Fair. It was a very informative day, researching what different Universities from throughout the country had to offer.
- 40 Textiles students participated in the annual visit to the Knitting and Stitch show at Harrogate. This very inspiring event enables students to see a variety of work on exhibition and to purchase exciting textile materials.
- In January, 33 Art Foundation students visited the Bauhaus Exhibition at MIMA in Middlesbrough. This was to assist them with their Critical and Contextual Studies coursework. 45 AS Fine Art students and 33 Art Foundation students later participated in two days of workshops in the Myles Meehan Gallery, Darlington linked to an Albers Prints exhibition. They worked with collage, exploring different ways of using colour and shape, being inspired by the Bauhaus style of the work around them.
- An exhibition of the work of two A2 Fine Art students was mounted in the College Library to commemorate the Holocaust Memorial Day. They had been very moved by what they had learnt about the Holocaust and depicted the appalling sense of inhumanity and loss in their large scale paintings.
- An exciting evening of alternative fashion delighted a sell out audience in the Hall in March. More than 200 students studying a range of subjects got together with pupils from Hummersknott, Hurworth, Branksome and Sedgfield schools to create and stage a stunning fashion show. They used a variety of unusual



materials such as recycled paper, plastics, fabrics and metals to produce creative wearable pieces which they modelled, strutting their stuff on the catwalk to a background of music and video projections. The show also featured dance routines and the College's junk band.

- 5 Art Foundation students successfully presented their ideas for an important live project for Darlington Borough Council. The Art in the Yards Project gave them important experience of making a professional presentation to a client and to be involved in all stages of the production of final artwork for installation in Darlington's Yards. The culmination of large-scale paintings will form altogether about eighty feet of art work. This is the first time that Art Foundation students have had such an opportunity and major funding to carry out personal work for their Final Major Project.
- Joe Ellis's design for a Logo for a local swimming group was accepted for print and he received a £100 prize.
- 16 Art Foundation students who intend to specialise in Textiles and Surface Pattern Design visited the headquarters of Hallmark Cards in Shipley, West Yorkshire. They were given a presentation about the company's work and set a card design project by the Studio Manager of Tigerprint - a division of Hallmark which deals exclusively with Marks & Spencer, producing greeting cards, stationery, gift wraps, children's toys and games. In addition, they had the opportunity to look around the studio and talk to the 70 designers who work there. The project will be completed in May and the designer of the best card will earn £100 and may get their card into production.
- For the first time, Art Foundation students have worked collaboratively to produce artwork for their own art magazine, based on the Learn & Pass it On idea and inspired by ID magazine. They did this as part of their Critical and Contextual Studies and had to work together as a team, taking on responsibility for different aspects such as editorial roles and working to real deadlines. The Dover Family Fund has given a grant to enable the book to be professionally printed and CPS Print have engaged with the students on every aspect of the design and production process, with students visiting their premises to see how work is produced. The book will be launched in June to coincide with the students' Final Show; copies will be on sale in College and at various places, including Darlington Arts Centre.
- The Christmas Concert took place on December 19<sup>th</sup> in front of a capacity audience who enjoyed contributing to the carol singing. With over 65 participants, items were provided by the Big Band, College Orchestra, Choir, Brass Band, Junk Band and various soloists. One of the soloists was Jonny Brewer, on the Double Bass, who had just been accepted in the National Youth Orchestra.

- The Recital Concert in February was very good and featured soloists and small ensembles. Included on the programme was an impressive brass item arranged by students. Another novelty was a mandolin solo by student, Edd Maughan. The evening ended well with the Big Band.
- In March, the Big Band went to Sunderland to compete in the Great North Jazz Festival at the Stadium of Light. They were defending their title from last year but this proved to be one step too far. Nevertheless, the Band was still a credit to the College and gained lots of praise from the adjudicator, top British saxophonist Paul Jones.
- The third annual Big Band concert took place in March and was a huge success. There were great performances from the Soul Sisters and Funk Brothers, the Hornosexuals and the saxophone quartet. The full-house audience was appreciative of the whole concert which involved every member of the Band performing an improvised solo and the premiere of a piece written by Edd Maughan, the Band's guitarist.



- 11 competitors took part in the Leschinski Music Prize event, including soloists on the piano, flute, saxophone, cornet, bassoon and trombone. The adjudicators were Vincent Smith and Carolyn Wigham-McLaren. The winner was Katherine Auster who played a Rachmaninov Prelude on the piano and second was Joseph Donlan, playing a Poulenc Sonata on the flute.

### **English, Media and Drama**

- A2 Film Students went to the Bradford Media Museum for a day in November. The visit helped them with their study of the political significance of surrealist and fantasy cinema, exploring 'Pan's Labyrinth' in the context of its representations of the trauma of the Spanish Civil War.
- In December, AS Film students went to Hartlepool Vue Cinema to tour its digital projection facilities and gain insight into the workings of a multiplex cinema. They were given talks on piracy issues, the exhibition of film in Britain and audience response to British products in comparison to Hollywood products.
- AS Drama & Theatre students saw a very good performance of Mike Leigh's 'Abigail's Party' at Darlington Arts Centre. This included an interesting post-show discussion with the cast and

director. Also at the Arts Centre, QE arranged a performance for all Theatre students of 'Mistero Buffo' by Antonio Venturino, the only actor licensed by Dario Fo, the playwright, to perform this piece.

- In April, all Drama & Theatre students saw Northern roadside's characteristically inventive production of Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet' and an after-college group has been working on the Reduced Shakespeare 'Complete Works' since then. Also in April, students gave impressive public performances of their recently completed A2 practical work at the D.I.Y. Drama Festival at a local school.
- A2 Drama & Theatre students saw a very useful production of one of their set texts, Brecht's 'Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui' in Stockton, and a stunning production of Shaffer's 'Equus' in Newcastle; first years visited Durham to see 'Our Friends in the North'.
- In March, AS English Literature students attended lectures on the modern novel 'Spies' at the People's Theatre in Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne.
- 6 English Literature students attended a gifted and talented session at Teesside University in March. They analysed literary adaptations and found it thought-provoking and stimulating.
- The Intertextuals English Literature group continues to meet regularly during lunchtimes. They have been considering Metaphysical Poetry and are currently focussing on 'Half of a Yellow Sun'.

## Enrichment

- Following on from an October workshop based on motivation, transition students participated in another workshop in February. Entitled 'Learn from your mistakes', the aim of this was to enable students to focus and reflect on what they want to do as a next step by boosting their confidence and motivation. About 50 students were involved and they worked with mentors in groups of 8-10. The event was successful and was well received by the students.

## Humanities

- The annual Christmas History Quiz saw more than 100 students forming teams of four to test their historical knowledge. There was a great atmosphere in the Hall when the students (and some members of staff) pitted their wits to answer challenging and fun rounds on a range of historical topics. The music and picture rounds were the most popular.



- The History Club has continued to meet on a monthly basis with the lunchtime sessions being well attended. Topics have included the Normans, the Holocaust, and the war between Athens and Sparta. An interesting development is that some sessions have been led by students.
- The History Department was invited to take part in Darlington Borough Council's Holocaust Memorial Day in January. Student, Natalie Lowes and Head of History, Gary Darby, gave a presentation at the Arts Centre about their experiences visiting Auschwitz Concentration Camp.
- In March, 14 GCSE History students and 2 members of staff spent a day in London visiting the Cabinet War Rooms and the Imperial War Museum. It was a busy day, thoroughly enjoyed by the whole group.
- 45 Tudor History students braved difficult weather conditions in March when they visited Fountains Abbey. In spite of the weather, the students learned a lot and enjoyed the guided tour and splendours of the site. All agreed that the visit brought the Reformation to life!
- 4 AS Level History students and 1 member of staff were invited to Newcastle University for a Martin Luther King commemorative event. As well as attending a lecture about the American civil rights campaigner, the group toured the University's History Department and found out more about the University, generally.
- In April, 13 A Level Modern History students visited Beamish Museum. The day was organised to enhance their knowledge of poverty in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The morning was spent in the museum's resource centre where students were privileged to see behind the scenes and allowed to wonder at the massive array of artefacts. The rest of the day was spent exploring the open air site – the highlight was the trip down the coal mine.
- In November, a team of 13 A Level Law students participated in the Bar National Mock Trial Competition at Newcastle. The team performed strongly and, although they did not progress to the National Final, they were commended by one of the judges for the quality of their advocacy. Students prosecuted and defended a case concerning the theft of a computer and another relating to the destruction of exam papers. They played the roles of witnesses, court staff and advocates. The team was assisted by a Middlesbrough barrister.
- In November, the Access Law class was visited by District Judge John Mainwaring-Taylor who spoke about his role as a judge in the County Court. He shared his experiences both as a country solicitor (who once had the real James Herriot as a client) and as a judge for nearly 20 years.

- In February, local Magistrate and current Access Law student, Sarah Cardew, spoke to AS Law classes about her recent appointment as a magistrate and her experience of sitting on the Darlington Bench.
- Second year A level Health & Social Care students registered as Millennium Volunteers this year. Most students logged at least 30 hours of volunteering during their work placement experiences in local nurseries, primary and special schools, elderly care homes and hospitals. Many continued to volunteer on a regular basis after their placements and some have gained experience as volunteers for DASH play schemes for children with disabilities. Feedback from supervisors was extremely positive and the work that the students did was valued by the organisations. Volunteering within this nationally recognised and certificated scheme will be advantageous in UCAS and employment applications.
- Politics students welcomed MP Alan Milburn to College. More than 100 of them were involved in a one hour question and answer session with him. This was an extremely valuable opportunity.



- In March, more than 100 Politics and Citizenship students enjoyed a presentation by Darlington's Local Democratic Support Unit on how the council is structured. This was followed by Councillors' Question Time, when councillors from the three main parties were questioned by the students.
- The Politics Department took 59 students to the Houses of Parliament in April. They were taken on a guided tour, met with their local MP Alan Milburn and took part in a question and answer session with former Labour Chief Whip, Hilary Armstrong. They then walked up Whitehall, past Downing Street and Horse Guards Parade to finish their day at the British Museum. It was a long, but extremely enjoyable, day.

## **Maths and Computing**

- In February, 60 first year Computing and Applied ICT double award students took part in a discovery day at Teesside University. The students were given a choice of 3 taster topics: Networks, Multimedia, Programming and enjoyed a tour of the University's computing facilities. This included a demonstration of 3D game development and how real people are used to capture data, using realistic movements via motion sensors and cameras. They also

had a talk on student finance and advice on university application procedures. The visit was extremely worthwhile and gave the students some insight into what to expect at university.

- In March, all AS Level Computing classes were visited by Assistant Principal, Mike Loftus. He talked to students about the use of software in businesses, focussing on the College's Management Information System and its applications.

## Modern Foreign Languages

- In November, 12 students and 2 teachers from our German partner school – Otto-Pankok-Schule, Mülheim – visited College. They attended German lessons over 2 days and students had the chance to converse with them and find out more about life in Germany. This was followed up in February, when a German student from Regensburg visited College and in March, when Marie Rethmann from Osnabrück spent three weeks on work placement at QE, assisting students with their speaking practice.
- In November, AS and A2 German students went to Stockton Arc to see the film 'Die Fälscher' and travelled to Salford to watch a German play, 'Stones'. They also visited the German Christmas Market in Leeds and enjoyed a tour of the market, receiving many free samples.
- Two A Level German students went to Berlin at the end of March to work on a four day project with other young German and English people. Sean Kerr and Amy McDonald won places to attend the UK German Connection Creative Media Seminar, following in the footsteps of Anna Cheesman, who took part in the project in November. All found the experience stimulating and felt that their German had improved as a result.
- Three AS German students won Youthbridge Awards (British-German Association) for their outstanding work in German: 1st Gary Lodge (£40), 2<sup>nd</sup> Katie Lamb (£30), and 3rd Caroline Baker (£20). Three AS/A2 students - Caroline Baker, Katie Graham, Amy McDonald, Lucy Guille - also won £50 each for entering the Bosch/Independent Technology Awards. They had to write an essay about technology in Germany. In addition, Becci Bell has been nominated for a special prize, the London Bach Music Award, for her outstanding work in German and Music.
- In February, 15 second year A Level French students experienced a French Day - *Réalités françaises* - at the People's Theatre in Newcastle. They enjoyed some entertaining lectures,



debates and quizzes on topical themes, all delivered in French. They coped very well with an intensive day of listening to French and learned much that will help them in their A2 exams.

- 12 students have completed a course in Critical Appreciation of French Literature, which they studied over 2 terms during their lunch hour. This course introduced them to the delights of a wide variety of literature, ranging from 20th century Albert Camus to 16<sup>th</sup> century poetry by Ronsard.
- In the Spring Term a group of 36 A Level French students and their teachers embarked upon a visit to Paris to take part in a home stay with a number of very kind families. The students took part in various activities including two full day excursions to Paris itself, as well as a day spent enjoying the attractions of Disneyland. Visits included the famous Conciergie prison, Le Musée d'Orsay, a Bateau Mouche journey along the river Seine and, of course, the Eiffel Tower. The visit proved to be an invaluable opportunity for students as they were able to put their language skills into full practice, given that most of the host families spoke very little English. All in all, the trip was a great success and many of the students eagerly anticipate their next visit to La Belle France!

## Science

- In November, Dr Pete Edwards gave an illustrated lecture on modern developments in Cosmology to students involved in the after college Astronomy sessions. The students found it fascinating.
- In December, 80 AS/A2 Physics students attended the Christmas Lecture at Durham University where Professor Georg Weiglein gave an illustrated lecture on 'The LHC - Exploring the mysteries of Matter, Space and Time'.
- In April, 22 A2 Physicists went to Durham University for a one day Masterclass in Particle Physics. This was a joint venture between Durham University and the Institute of Physics, and included talks and practical sessions where the students learned first hand about the design of particle detectors and the interpretation of data they record.
- During November and December, 8 second year students took part in 'ChemPlus'. This involved a series of extra Chemistry lessons covering topics beyond the A Level specification. The idea was to equip students with some extra knowledge to help with university interviews for competitive courses.
- 4 first year A Level Chemistry students took part in a 'Chemistry Problem Solving' event at the Wilton industrial site in December. This was an enjoyable experience which added to their practical knowledge.

- In December, Dr Jones from the University of Northumbria spoke to all second year Chemistry students about spectroscopy techniques and the University in general. Over 50 of these students then went on a follow up visit to the University for "hands on" experience of the spectroscopy equipment.

- February saw several second year A Level Chemists compete in the Royal Society of Chemistry's Olympiad. The competition is used to select a team of 4 UK students for an international Chemistry Olympiad. Jagjeet Singh Hans made it through to the national semi finals at Cambridge University - an amazing achievement which put him in the top ten nationally.



- In February, a team of 4 first year Chemists attended Teesside University for a 'Chemistry to the Rescue' session which involved various practical activities. 4 more first year students later participated in the University's 'Chemistry for the Enthusiast' initiative.
- In March, speakers from TTE and GlaxoSmithKline gave a talk to over 40 students about the Young Scientist Programme which provides an alternative, salaried route to training within the Chemical industry.
- In November, all 18 A2 Geology students enjoyed a residential week on the Isle of Arran, immersing themselves in Geology and doing some preparation for their A2 coursework. In March, they spent a day in Teesdale completing their last piece of coursework.
- AS Geology students completed basic field skills at the coast near Tynemouth in March and finished their field outings with a visit to Roseberry Topping and the Cleveland Dyke in April.
- During March, all AS Geography students spent a morning collecting data in Darlington to create the database for their coursework.
- In April, A2 Geography students experienced the interesting urban environment of Middlesbrough and its environs to support work for their final module.

## **Sport**

- British Colleges' Sport is a national organisation which is the voice of sport in further education. It organises sporting events and competitions on a regional, national and international basis. This year, QE students have participated in more of these events than ever, gaining much success. They have competed in the regional Merit Leagues in netball, basketball, mixed hockey and girls' football playing colleges from Northumberland down into Yorkshire. In addition, they entered the National Knock Out Cup Competitions and over 120

students participated in trials for the North East Team - 38 winning places in the regional team that went to the British Colleges' Championships at Loughborough University in April.

The pinnacle of any sportsperson's career is to represent their country and BCS provides this opportunity for students with their national representative teams which play international fixtures and usually tour abroad. The selection process for this begins in October with regional trials and selected players go through to a "North" trial with players from 3 other regions. Success at this stage means attendance at the final national trial, where the national squads are picked. This is the first year we have attended these trials and many students gained representative honours: 19 students were selected to represent the North East at the North trial and a further 7 students went on to be selected to play for England Colleges.

- Rugby players have had a fantastic amount of success this year. Four players - Dominic McAlorum, Pat Haley, Mark McConnell and James Robson – participated in British Colleges' trials and were selected to represent the North East against the North West. Subsequently, Pat and Mark won places in the North of England side and, following further trials, Mark was selected for the full England squad and has played in a series of international matches as a back row forward. In addition, Kathryn Parker, Katherine Hobson, Chloe Atkinson and Lauren Morgan attended British Colleges' trials and were selected for the England girls' squad. They have been involved in rigorous training weekends and have all played in matches against Scotland and Wales. Kathryn is a scrum half, Katherine plays on the wing, Lauren is a back row forward and Chloe is a full back. Kathryn and Katherine were in the England squad last year but it is a first for both Lauren and Chloe.
- Footballers have also enjoyed incredible success.

A squad of students travelled to Soccer City at Huddersfield for the annual British Colleges' North East boys' 5-a-side competition in November. They won every game they played and came away as North East champions with a place in the national finals at Loughborough.

After highly competitive local, regional and national trials, Lewis Henry won a place in the British Colleges' England under 19 football squad. His first international match was at Oxford City's ground on Sunday 3rd February against Australia Schools where he scored the opening goal after just 3 minutes. He has since played games against Wales and English Schools and his season will culminate with a tour to Villarreal in Spain.

The football A Team won the Cleveland Schools' League 1<sup>st</sup> Division for the first time in many years. Playing against colleges from across Teesside, QE won 7 and lost just 2 games all season to finish clear at the top of the table on 21 points, 3 ahead of Stockton and Hartlepool Sixth Form Colleges. This year's league was very strong, with the top 7 teams all being capable of beating each other.

QE's Football C Team won their League Cup, beating Hartlepool Sixth Form College in the final. The final, played at Billingham Town's Northern League ground, ended in a convincing 3-0 victory for QE with 2 strikes from Jack Dell and one from Stephen Rowsby. The C Team had its most successful season ever after also finishing 2nd in the Cleveland Schools' 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, beating QE's B Team into 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the process.

- The netball team has enjoyed its most successful season ever, reaching the final of the British Colleges' Sport North-East Merit League and the quarter-finals of the British Colleges' Sport National Knockout Cup. The Merit League involved the team playing fixtures across the North



East region from Northumberland down to South Yorkshire and they met Hull College in the semi-finals, triumphing 28-15 but, unfortunately, lost to Wyke College in the final. The team played their way through 5 regional rounds in the National Knockout Cup to reach the quarter-final stage

against Cardinal Newman College, Preston – the reigning champions of all 3 national titles – and were unlucky to lose. In the 5<sup>th</sup>-round, in what was effectively the North East final, they beat local rivals Hartlepool 37-32, showing great character to come back from 4 points down at half-time and avenging the defeat by Hartlepool in the North East qualifiers for National Finals at Loughborough University.

- Following well deserved success at national, regional and county level, 36 students won places at the British Colleges' National Finals at Loughborough University. The Finals took place over the weekend of April 4 - April 6 with QE representing the North East in 7 different sports – table tennis, badminton, trampolining, swimming, cross country, girls' rugby, 5-a-side football. They competed against champions from 6 other English regions plus Wales and were part of a contingent of more than 2000 young athletes participating. 9 QE students came away with 10 medals in 6 different events – the most medals ever won by the College. Sarah Robinson played superbly to win silver in the girls' table-tennis singles, narrowly losing out on gold to an England player. In the girls' doubles table-tennis, Carly Yau and Katie McTague, playing in their first big competition, played above expectation to win bronze and in badminton, Nick Chapman-Thong and Bryn Lovell also took bronze in the boys' doubles. In the pool, Janine Phillips won 2 silver medals in the 50m and 100m breaststroke and John Springett and Tom Mason were both part of the regional team that won bronze in the cross-country.

- Three students - Jamie Rutherford, James Askew and Tom Mann - qualified to run in the English Schools' National Cross Country Championships at Sefton Park, Liverpool. They earned their places by performing superbly well at both County and Inter County Competitions.



## Miscellaneous

- Sophie Craggs won a prestigious international dance competition at Blackpool. Competing against 80 other dancers, she regained the title that she won for the first time in 2005.
- Talented musician, Jonathan Brewer, has won a place in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. He was selected for the orchestra after auditioning in Glasgow and London and won one of only 160 coveted places, fending off competition from more than 500 applicants.



Playing the Double Bass, Jonathan will be involved in a series of two-week residential courses, each of which will culminate in performances at some of the country's finest concert halls. He will work with world-leading conductors and be taught by top, professional musicians.

- The College continues to work with Darlington Building Society, promoting its management development programme which is aimed at academically able people who want to enter the workplace rather than go to university. Since 2002 a number of QE students have benefited from the scheme and, recently, 5 of them came into College to talk about their current management positions within the Society.
- 2 second year A Level students - Rob Tugwell and John Hassan - have won Entrance Scholarships from Aberystwyth University. They both sat the University's Scholarship Examinations – Rob in Politics and Chemistry, John in Politics and Information Studies – and came out with excellent marks, earning them unconditional offers to read International Politics and Strategic Studies and a financial award of £1000.
- 5 QE students were amongst those honoured at the Best of Darlington awards ceremony. 80 year old John Perks won the Student of the Year Award. John has done so well with his Access studies that, next year, he hopes to read English at Teesside University. Charlotte Clewlow won the Award for Academic Excellence. She left Hurworth School last summer with 12 A\* grades and is now



studying AS Levels at QE. Amii Freeman and Rachel Tosh are members of the Nickstream Lane Youth Forum which won the Young Persons' Contribution to the Community Award for setting up a drop-in youth centre in Branksome. James Deane was named Volunteer of the Year for his work with Groundwork & the Darlington Young Caretakers Project which is committed to improving the environment in Albert Hill and Lascelles Park. James also had the honour of being named Young Citizen of the Year.

- In February, a series of events was organised in relation to LGBT Month. There were displays, tutor group campaigns and a stall in the Student Common Room to promote tolerance and understanding of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender issues.

- A diversity and equality day - 'Breaking Down Barriers' – was held to raise the profile of equal opportunities, to celebrate the differences of



individuals and groups in society and to promote tolerance. A variety of different groups and organisations came into College to participate in a 'market stall' event where they put on displays and had the chance to talk to students. Amongst the organisations represented were: GOLD, GAD, Bondgate Methodist Church, The Gurdwara, Amnesty International, First Stop, YMCA, 700 Club, Millennium Volunteers. This was a new venture and the day was extremely successful.

- A small group of students has worked together to promote health within the college all year. The group identified health issues relevant to their age group and researched the topics well. Each member of the group demonstrated commitment and a mature approach to promoting health. Activities included using ICT to design information posters, preparing and setting up displays around the building, writing messages for Fronter and bulletins, selecting, ordering and giving out leaflets in the student common room and assisting visiting health practitioners during health promotion events. Following the annual Health Road Show in November, successful events have been arranged for safe drinking and driving in December, National No Smoking Day in March and a sexual health event in April.
- In March, former QE student Robin Goodfellow talked to first years about his experiences as a doctor and about studying medicine at university. Second year student Naz Abbas, who is currently holding 3 offers from universities to read medicine, had previously talked to the same group about the UCAS procedure and her views of the process.
- In March, 24 students attended an Oxford and Cambridge awareness raising event at St. James Park, Newcastle and 2 students attended a Law Open Day event in Oxford.

- Prospective Oxbridge candidates and their parents were invited into College in April to find out more about Oxford and Cambridge universities and their entrance requirements. An evening talk was given by an admissions tutor from King's College, Cambridge and students enjoyed a lively workshop session with former QE students who are currently studying at the universities.
- More than 400 first year students attended a higher education careers convention at Spennymoor in April. The mass exodus from College was an excellent opportunity for students to meet tutors from a wide range of universities from all over the UK and to find out more about courses available.
- During the Easter holidays, 7 students completed the PADI open water diver course. This involved 5 theory sessions where the group studied topics such as Equipment, Dive Planning and the Effects of Pressure on the Body. Upon passing the theory test, there were 4 pool sessions at the Education Village, Darlington where the students were able to practice essential skills such as mask removal, buoyancy, air sharing and emergency ascents. The final part of the course was 2 days of open water diving held at the purpose built dive centre at Capernwray, Morecambe Bay. During this time the students completed 4 dives and were required to demonstrate the skills they had mastered during the pool sessions.
- The Christian Union continues to hold weekly lunchtime meetings. They concluded the Spring Term with a week of prayer which ended in a meeting that focussed on people's requests.
- The Christmas service took place at Holy Trinity Church. Mince pies and mulled wine were served after the service.
- A Chess Club has been set up by student Samuel Ilori-Ewruje. This meets at least twice a week during the lunch break.



**Anita Blackburn**

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