

# Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College

## Report for the Student Committee of Governors

### October 2010

Students have been involved in a wide range of activities since the last report in April. Some activities have been arranged by subject areas; others have been organised by students themselves. Individual and group achievements have been celebrated and community links have been developed.

#### Student Association

- Students marked the end of their A Level studies with a Leavers' Party at Blackwell Grange Hotel. It was a "Glitz and Glam" themed event where a magician amazed party-goers with his tricks and a chocolate fountain kept everyone sweet! Students and staff partied the night away with the students enjoying some well deserved relaxation after two years of intensive academic study. The event was organised by the Student Association Executive and was a huge success.
- 
- During A2 Fortnight in June, the new Student Association Executive had lunch with the Principal and other members of Senior Management in order for everyone to introduce themselves and their roles to each other. Students were given their new college name badges, as well as being congratulated on their successful appointment to the Executive.
  - The new Executive also took part in a team building session organised by Beccy Stannard, Student Services Co-ordinator, in order to develop communication and trust, as well as to provide an opportunity for new members to get to know each other. The Executive were also presented with their new Student Association Executive t-shirts.
  - The first major task for the new SA Executive was to help out at Bridging week, where their main role was to help prospective students get a feel for the College and to offer a friendly face if any advice or help was needed. Members of the Executive gave a series of presentations in the Main Hall to new students, describing the work that the Executive does and discussing the opportunities that there are for students to get involved in college life. The Executive also arranged for former student Hayley McKay to perform two acoustic sessions in the Common Room over two lunchtimes, as well as organising a cake sale in aid of St Teresa's Hospice, which raised a grand total of £168.

- At the start of the new college year, members of the Student Association Executive played an important part in meeting and greeting new students, as well as helping them to find their way around college. They made sure they were always on hand to answer any queries that new students had. The Executive wore Student Association polo shirts which proved very successful when being recognised around College as kind, friendly people who the new students could come to for help or guidance.
- The Student Association took part in the organisation of Freshers' Fair; an event designed to promote the College's Supplementary Programme and various community projects. The event was successful with students signing up for a range of extracurricular courses and activities. The SA Executive had its own stall where they gave out free sweets and spoke to students about what the Executive does. Kate McLoughlin and Abi Boyd, Community Links Co-ordinators on the Executive, distributed leaflets and application forms for NUS cards which will enable students to get discounts at top stores and restaurants.
- At the end of September the Student Association held its first meeting. It was a huge success with many representatives from different tutor groups attending. Various issues affecting students were discussed and those attending offered a lot of feedback that was really useful. Actions arising from the meeting have already been put in place.
- Students have been encouraged to take part in a healthy eating scheme. Rebecca Fisher, Health Co-ordinator on the Student Association Executive, managed to arrange free fruit for the Student Common Room and other healthy options such as porridge were available. "Testers" were offered so that students were able to see whether they liked these healthier alternatives. Feedback from students was, overall, very positive.
- Emily Thompson, Charity Co-ordinator on the Student Association Executive, arranged for the College to participate in the popular, nationwide event of "World's Biggest Coffee Morning" in order to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. The Student Association and members of staff baked goodies for a cake sale in the Common Room, and the College caterers served tea and coffee in special Macmillan cups. Giant mugs and posters promoted the event and the students put together a display to advertise the charity. Donations were also encouraged as buckets were placed by the tills in the Common Room. This event was a massive success with £184 being raised for the charity.



## Business & Leisure

- Leisure Studies second year students hung from the trees in Grisdale forest when, as part of their outdoor leisure unit, they visited the Go Ape facility. Go Ape is an award-winning high wire forest adventure course of rope bridges, Tarzan swings and zip slides up to 40 feet up in the trees. Students were fitted with a climbing harness, given instructions, and then swung from tree to tree high above the forest floor. This was followed by a talk from a local farmer on the impact of the Environmental Stewardship scheme.
- As part of their course, A Level Leisure Studies students organised a three day visit to YMCA Lakeside in the Lake District. The Leisure 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 there, students completed challenges such as: high ropes course, Gorge Scrambling, raft building and kayaking.
- Travel and Tourism students travelled to the seaside in order to visit the Blue Reef aquarium at Tynemouth. The students had a talk by the manager and looked at a range of strange sea creatures. The visit was designed for the students to collect information towards a unit on human resources and recruitment. 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.



## Creative Arts

- Twenty-eight students on the BTEC Diploma in Foundation Studies in Art and Design showed work from their Final Major Projects in an exciting end of year exhibition. The students chose to investigate a diverse range of individual topics and their exhibition was a reflection of our times, commenting on fundamental concerns about humanity, the environment and pressures of the recession. Study of anatomy, thoughts about mortality and cycles of life and death also featured strongly, along with expressions of memories, nostalgia and loss. Two students took the opportunity to study the human body first hand by drawing specimens in the Anatomy Department at Newcastle University. Jessica Everitt used this research to produce an effective sculptural installation that featured hanging skin-like forms and constructed parts housed in household bottles. Gareth Wood produced a collection of exquisite studies and a giant anatomical drawing of a skeletal body on paper. Death of celebrity and the short-lived notoriety



of popular idols were expressed in Chloe Tate's vibrant installation, which juxtaposed hundreds of images and captions from popular magazines, which formed a backdrop for a skeleton adorned with fashion accessories. On the theme of shelters, Jennifer MacCallam constructed a massive structure using an assortment of materials, including scrap wood, paper, string, cardboard and various abandoned objects. This created a huge spiraling centre-piece which stretched up into the roof of the exhibition area. The exhibition contained innovative fashion design, imaginative graphic design and illustration, thought-provoking fine art,

lively photography and imaginative installations. All the students have successfully secured places on degree courses at universities throughout the country, including Goldsmiths, Falmouth and Middlesex, as well as local universities such as Northumbria and Teesside.

- Six Art Foundation students have unveiled an installation of their work in Darlington town centre. Their work focuses on aspects of Darlington's heritage and can be seen in Buckton's Yard, between High Row and Skinnergate. The work forms another part of the 'Art in the Yards' collaboration between Darlington's Town Centre Management Team and the College which now is in its third year. This year's themes have been inspired by Darlington's well-known historical buildings, people who have lived in the town, maps and little known facts. Justin Ramsden, who has a passion for Lego, has dedicatedly created the façade of Barclay's Bank using thousands of tiny pieces of Lego. It is a delight for children and adults alike to explore, for as well as being an exquisite representation of Victorian architecture, it also contains humour with little figures such as Amy Winehouse, a busker with puppets and a business man speaking on a mobile phone. Down one side of the building can be glimpsed a workman on a ladder and a cheeky skeleton. Charlotte Clewlow has produced a layered panel that uses local maps and landmarks but, when you look more closely, streets and locations have been shifted around and different places created. Joe Cocking, who is fascinated by typography, has taken one little known historical fact about a fire that struck the Yards in the past and created a panel using hard-painted decorative letterforms to commemorate the event. Jessica Everitt has created a clever layered Perspex design of a head and names; James Mckeown produced a mixed media photo-montage inspired by documentation from a census and James Snook has created a figurative painting illustrating the gateway to Tees Valley with a Saxon warrior.
- Twenty-eight Art Foundation students travelled to London to visit special exhibitions in major galleries and museums to inform their Critical & Contextual Studies in Art. They visited Tate Britain to study the Turner Prize Exhibition and then took the Tate Boat along the River Thames to Tate Modern. Here they had the opportunity to see the Pop Life Exhibition.

- Art Foundation students visited the GMEX Centre for the annual UCAS 'Design Your Future Fair – Art & Design'. This event gave the students the opportunity to gather information about a huge range of Art & Design courses offered by about a hundred universities present at the fair. The students also were able to talk to university tutors who were able to advise them of what was on offer and what qualities they were looking for in applicants.
- Examples of project work from Art Foundation students were displayed in the Glass Corridor Gallery in the Arts Centre. There was a variety of artwork on show which reflected the students' interests in textiles, graphics, photography, fine art and spatial design. Several students were also delighted when their artwork was purchased by members of the public.
- In September, an exciting day exploring Belsay Hall and Grounds in Northumberland was experienced by Art Foundation students. They gathered research, made drawings and took photographs of architecture and interiors in the Hall and the natural features in the Quarry Garden and the ruined Medieval Castle. 'Extraordinary Measures' was a group exhibition with artists making work to be discovered in selected locations. It was a hot and sunny day and ideal for gathering a rich assortment of important visual information to be used as the basis of their first Fine Art Project, which was to create an 'Altered Book' inspired by the location and its history. It also fired their imagination as part of their task was to hint at invented memories from different eras.
- Two separate visits to the Baltic were arranged to see the Martin Parr photographic exhibition 'Parrworld' and Damien Hirst's installation 'Pharmacy'. A total of seventy-five students studying AS Fine Art and the Creative and Media Diploma participated in this visit which aimed to inform their coursework.
- Forty Art students and four staff travelled by coach to Barcelona as part of an exciting week's art study visit. The students stayed in a traditional hotel in a picturesque square off the famous Ramblas in the Gothic Quarter. The students visited many iconic buildings designed by Gaudi and drew and took photographs in Parc Guell, the Sagrada Familia and La Pedrera. They also enjoyed seeing the sights around the harbour, the Olympic Stadium and spending time working in the Miro Foundation, the Catalonia Museum, the Picasso Museum and the Textile Museum. The students also spent a morning drawing in Barcelona Cathedral and the Contemporary Arts Museum. Free time gave everyone the chance to enjoy human sculptures and the stalls on the Ramblas and to



visit the colourful traditional market place, as well as sampling Spanish food and the atmosphere of lively café culture.

- Art students had the opportunity to participate in two separate Artist Talks and Workshops linked to exhibitions in the Myles Meehan Gallery. The first was with Derek Hill, whose work consisted of large multi-media abstract canvases. The second was the American artist Randy Klein, whose work consisted of colourful drawings and sculptures inspired by his memories of Coney Island. Both events gave the students a real insight into the working practices of two very different artists.
- Early in September, all of the A2 Graphics students made the annual pilgrimage to Whitby for the day. The weather was miserable but did not dampen the spirits or enthusiasm of the students who spent the day collecting first hand research for their A2 coursework. The students have used the research they collected since coming back to College and have produced some excellent project work. Staff and students thoroughly enjoyed a very successful field day.
- A mixed group of 40 A Level Textiles students and some specialist Textiles Art Foundation students journeyed to Harrogate to view the huge array of textile and fashion stands and special exhibitions in a major show for students, designers and enthusiastic hobbyists. It is a colourful spectacle of innovative work from top contemporary textile designers, exciting new directions from art students and a fantastic resource for an abundance of seductive textile materials. The students were inspired and returned back to College with different products to incorporate into their own work.
- The final concert of the previous academic year was held in May, and the programme included the choir, orchestra, Big Band and a wide variety of solo items. In particular there were some excellent guitar solos following the success of the Leschinki Music Prize. About 50 students took part in the concert.
- The Big Band concerts took place on two dates in March, playing to a total audience of around 200 people. Wine and cheese was served and the evenings had a great atmosphere with excellent entertainment. A Bob Marley tribute act, made up of students from AS and A2 Performance Studies led by Mike Hepple, ably supported the Big Band.
- The new term has seen new students volunteering to join the various musical groups in College. The Big Band has already shown huge potential and has a full complement of saxophone players for the first time in three years which is contributing to a big, full sound. The



orchestra is very well balanced with five Violins, two Cellos, one Double Bass, three Flutes, three Clarinets and two trumpets whilst the choir currently has fifteen members including three male students.

## English, Media & Drama

- Safety has been very much on the mind of Media: Communication and Production student Stephen Smith who, as part of his A Level course, took on a live brief from the Police and



designed a campaign to raise awareness of safety issues amongst young people. The project was intensive and involved detailed research into the requirements of the client and the target group. The Police and College are delighted with Stephen's finished work and both will use his designs and materials to raise awareness of safety issues amongst students. Indeed the Police are planning to use Stephen's posters, pamphlets and stickers with pupils in all of Darlington's schools.

- In English Literature, "Intertextuals" continues to meet every Friday lunchtime. The group is voluntary, made up of AS and A2 students and meets to study texts from beyond the syllabus. So far this term they have looked at the poetry of WH Auden, Chaucer's *The Pardoner's Tale*, and some Shakespearean speeches. The students and Course Leader meet informally but engage in rigorous discussion about the texts with a view to stretching the most gifted whilst keeping all levels of ability interested.
- In September, 42 English Literature students travelled to Manchester's Royal Exchange to see a moving and dramatic production of Marlowe's *Dr Faustus*. This is an exam text that the students will be examined on in January. As usual the students' behaviour was exemplary but more importantly they were incredibly enthused by the play. Through a structured interview all A2 students have been able to make detailed notes about the production and are in the process of writing a review.
- A2 Media Studies students attended a critical theory day at Sunderland University in March. The day was made up of a series of lectures and seminars relating to the A2 Critical Perspectives unit.
- In September, A2 Media Studies students participated in a practical moving image workshop which involved them filming and editing a short trailer.
- AS Film Studies students undertook a visit to the Tyneside Cinema in Newcastle in order to attend a study day. The event centred on the production of British films and included a

screening of the successful new release 'An Education'. The visiting students were invited to debate the relative merits of National Cinema as opposed to Hollywood texts, exploring the construction of narratives relevant to British audiences and the construction of new star persona through analysis of lead actress Carey Mulligan. The day provided useful insights into the workings of the British industry and much of the information informed student responses to their AS exam.

- During the Summer term, Drama and Theatre Studies students visited the theatre several times in preparation for their examinations. An A2 group went to see a very enjoyable production of "Oh What a Lovely War" at Newcastle's Stage North. At the same venue, a group of AS Level students were fortunate to see Peter Brooke's new production, "11 and 12" which proved a very memorable experience. Another group saw a Hull Truck Company production of "Me and Me Dad", while the whole of this year's AS students have already been to see "Blood Brothers" at Darlington Civic Theatre.
- Eighteen AS Level Dance students performed as part of the inaugural Darlington Festival of Dance. The event was held in the Market Square and attracted a large and enthusiastic crowd.



The students performed in a Mass dance choreographed by Darrien Wright and then in four of their own pieces. Impressively, they had only met each other just three weeks earlier. They danced brilliantly, in a range of Dance styles, and were a real credit to themselves and the College. Amy Cossins was awarded the

teacher's prize and all performed to a high standard. The process of rehearsal and live performance is invaluable for the students' progress: they benefited a great deal from it and have already been asked back next year.

## Enrichment

- A team of nine students took part in the Norvic Sixth Form College Debating Competition. The first heat was hosted by Hartlepool Sixth Form College and our students debated the motions: "This house believes that Sixth Form Colleges are oases in an educational desert" and "This house believes that British society is broken/has disintegrated". Teams from QE progressed to the final in Wakefield in March where they debated whether torture can ever be justified and the abolition of the monarchy.

## Humanities

- In March, 24 Archaeology students participated in a Study Day at Bradford University. They took the opportunity to analyse human bones in a laboratory setting in a hands-on workshop that studied age, sex and evidence of disease or injury. They were given disarticulated skeletons that they had to reconstruct, and made calculations to estimate height using the major bones. A second workshop focused on ritual killing, allowing the students the chance to experience a university style lecture, and this was followed by another practical session handling artefacts. Our students were able to talk to current undergraduates and get a clear picture of what is involved in the study of archaeology at degree level. The experience also proved beneficial to them in building skills and knowledge for the summer exams.
- Five AS Law Students with an interest in applying to study law at Oxford/Cambridge attended the 2010 Conference which ran from 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> March. Students were able to attend lectures and workshops, meet students and members of the legal profession and undertake tours and a range of other activities. The feedback from the students who participated was very positive.
- Sam Hurst has been shortlisted for an award in the Attorney General's Youthnet Competition and has been invited to attend a ceremony in London in September. The competition asked students to submit a short video in response to the title '*If I had 10 minutes to talk to the Attorney General.*' Sam submitted a film on the age of criminal responsibility. Sam has also been invited to join the Attorney General's Youth Advisory Board and, following his A Level results, has secured a place to read Law at Oxford University.
- Laura Williams has won an essay writing competition run by A Level Law Review. The brief was to write an essay on an area of law in need of reform. Laura submitted an essay on assisted suicide and her entry will be published in the magazine later in the year. She was also awarded an ipod. Following her A Level results, Laura has secured a place to read Law at Cambridge University.
- Two History students have been selected to visit Auschwitz concentration camp as part of the Lessons from Auschwitz Project 2010. The two students, Hannah Scott and Emily Thompson, will travel to Poland on 13th October with a member of staff and will be reporting back on their visit after the event.



- The annual QE History Essay Competition was won by Peter Hall with an essay on the Boer War. Rebecca Evans was awarded second place, Luke Mcleod was third and Jared Kelvey-Brown was fourth.



- History Club continues to be held regularly. The March meeting was a great success with about 25 students attending. This session was a teacher debate on Oliver Cromwell (Gill Laws attacking and John Gilmore defending) with the students voting on the winner. The May meeting was entitled 'At Home with the Habsburgs' and was delivered by Linda Chadd, another member of staff at the College.

### **Mathematics and Computing**

- The Heckscher – Wolf prize giving ceremony has once again been held at College. Each year prizes are awarded to students who have excelled in Advanced Level Maths and Science examinations held at the end of the first year (AS) and at the end of the second year (A2). This year's winners from Mathematics were Ross Lindsay (AS Maths) and Ian Atkinson (A2 Maths). Ian has a place to read Mathematics at Warwick University.
- For the third year running, the Mathematics department held a mathematics competition for Year 9 students from partner schools. This year the competition was held in June and we were delighted that eleven of our fourteen partner schools each entered a team of four students in the competition. The competition comprised five rounds of mathematical challenges, each focusing on different skills including spatial awareness, problem-solving and number skills. First prize was awarded to Hummersknott School with all students receiving a certificate to recognise their participation and achievement.

### **Modern Foreign Languages**

- In July, British - German Youthbridge Awards were awarded to Clare Storey, Katie Palethorpe and Andy Page for their commitment, motivation and effort in German.
- 14 students and 2 teachers from our partner school in Germany, Otto-Pankok-Schule, visited the College in September. They worked with AS and A level German students throughout the day. This is the fourth time that Erich Bittmann, one of the teachers, has brought his students to work with our German students in College. Erich's son, Bjorn, who is training to be a teacher is currently undertaking a 4 week work placement at the college and is helping students to improve their spoken German.

- Two A Level French students, Charlotte Pollock and Jonny Snowden, managed to get jobs working on French campsites in the summer. Charlotte worked as a courier for Canvas Holidays in Brittany whilst Jonny was based in Les Charmettes in the Vendee (Atlantic coast), working as a courier for Siblu Holidays. Both students did exceptionally well to get the jobs as they are usually reserved for university students.

## Science

- The Heckscher – Wolf prize giving ceremony has once again been held at College. Each year prizes are awarded to students who have excelled in Advanced Level Maths and Science examinations held at the end of the first year (AS) and at the end of the second year (A2). The Science winners were Josh Phillips (AS Chemistry); Adam Shield (A2 Chemistry); Owen Cundy and Max Garner (AS Physics); Jonathan Coulthard and Michael Parry (A2 Physics). The A2 second year winners have all secured places at either Oxford or Cambridge University. Adam has a place at Cambridge to read Natural Sciences whilst Michael and Jonathan will both study Physics at Oxford.
- Students are excelling in Chemistry at QE. An increasing number of students are opting to study the subject, results are excellent and interest is so high that students enthusiastically take part in extra activities, including national competitions for young scientists. A team of AS Level Chemistry students – Abigail Barnett, Michael Boylan and Josh Phillips - entered the Royal Society of Chemistry's Schools' Analyst Competition and won its Teesside section. Their



impressive victory resulted in them representing the North East at the national finals at Huddersfield University in June where they completed a series of practical experiments based on problems related to industrial or social needs. Leila Elliot from the RSC came to College to present their prizes and shield.

- Abi Boyd, Sarah Summerbell and Robyn Connolly attended the University of York's Chemistry Conference in July. This included a tailored chemistry lecture, a molecular model building workshop, and a session focusing on spectroscopy, including a tour of mass spectrometry, Nuclear Magnetic Resonance and infrared spectroscopy facilities.
- Peter Beveridge, from the Forensic Science department at Teesside University delivered a talk to Applied Science and Chemistry Students in March entitled 'It's a Mystery' where he explained the role of analytical chemistry in helping to discover what had happened at crime scenes.

- In May, Andrew Scott from Chemnet, a division of the RSC talked to first year Chemistry students about careers in Chemistry and the effects of Chemistry on the environment, offering them the opportunity to take out a membership at a reduced rate to keep them up to date with the latest developments in Chemistry.
- 28 A2 geologists visited the Island of Arran for a week's residential field course. This gave students practical experience in the subject, and allowed them to use some of the skills acquired in their coursework submissions. The group also included a "guest" student who was completing Geology as an external candidate. Students benefited greatly from the close relationships which were fostered, especially in the face of adverse weather conditions.
- In March, all A2 Geology students visited Banks opencast coal site in Cramlington. They were shown round by Liz Shaw, a former student, who gave the students an insight into her job as Chief Geologist for the Banks organisation. This visit also allowed students to have firsthand experience of a case study in Geology and the Environment for their examinations.
- The beginning of the academic year was marked by a visit to Roseberry Topping for 16 A2 Geology students in August. An experience like this is good for helping students to get to know one another, as well as providing a practical start to the course.
- 29 AS Geology students visited the coast at Tynemouth in April to practise basic field skills in preparation for their practical examination. This was followed by a visit to the Cleveland Dyke later on in the month.
- A2 Geography students have just finished their residential fieldwork experience in the Lake District during the month of September. This was quite a challenge this year as 80 students are on this course. As usual we accommodated them on two separate visits, but we did have the Youth Hostel at Wasdale at near capacity. The highlight for most students is the collection of river data which on both occasions was collected in reasonable weather conditions. The students enjoyed the challenge of wading across sections of the River Calder and a couple were seen to take an early bath. In addition this year, we were treated to a guided tour round the flood damaged areas of Cockermouth by volunteer members of the Civic Trust. Staff felt that this was an excellent opportunity to add to the students' portfolio of case studies for the hazardous environments section of Global issues.
- All AS Geography students were invited to participate on a trip to Middlesbrough which took place on three separate mornings in order to accommodate all the students. They were



supporting their studies of deprivation and affluence within an urban area, by looking at a variety of land uses within Teesside which is amongst the bottom 10 areas of deprivation as described by government tables.

- Jonathan Hall, who studies both Geology and Geography, won a prize offered by the British Geological Survey for achieving a full 300 marks on the AS Geology exams. This is a remarkable achievement as the competition was at national level and, in many independent schools, students have had experience of Geology over 4 years to A2, having done GCSE. Jonathan achieved this after only one year of study. His prize was an all expenses paid trip to London with his Dad, to attend a question and answer session with a panel of experts. The panel included Sir David Attenborough and Professor Ian Stuart, both of whom present popular natural history programmes on the television.

## Sport

- 24 students competed in the British Colleges' Sport national finals at Loughborough University and enjoyed great success. At Loughborough, champions from 7 regions in England, plus Wales and Scotland, competed in 14 different sports to determine the British national champions.

Over 2500 young people took part in this year's championships and the QE students, having already won their respective regional titles, represented the North East in events across 6 different sports. Remarkably, 8 of them came away with 11 medals - 9



gold and 2 silver - in 4 different sports. In cross country, Tom West, Glenn Donaldson, Josh Phillips, Liam Fletcher and Sam Wood won gold medals as the winning college cross country team. On the golf course Steph Peareth was part of the gold medal North East girls' team and Lucy Atkinson was a member of the North East trampoline team that won silver medals. In the pool Kyle Boyek won 3 individual gold medals and was part of the North East swimming team that finished in silver medal position. In addition, Andrew Penney, Laura Goram and Taigh Connor-Watson put up creditable performances in the badminton competition and the girls' rugby team were impressive against very strong opposition.

- Hannah Marshall has been selected to travel to India to help develop sport in deprived areas of Rajasthan and to raise the profile of volunteering amongst young people in this country. Hannah was selected as one of British Colleges Sport's National Ambassadors – a position held by only 10 students across the country. As a National Ambassador her role is to promote sporting opportunities, particularly football, to young people. In this respect Hannah has done a

tremendous amount of volunteering within the College, the local community and nationally and the project in India will be the culmination of this work. At QE Hannah studied A Level PE, Biology and Leisure and, in September, went to Northumbria University to read a degree in Applied Sports Science.



- Andrew Kelly has had a superb football season. Andrew has represented Durham County Schools FA Under-18 Boys and has also been an integral part of the England Schools U-18 Squad for the Centenary Shield Campaign against the other home nations. The Centenary Shield Campaign was staged at Football League grounds and was screened by SKY TV. Andrew - a central defender - started all four games against Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and put in eye-catching performances.
- QE is establishing a strong reputation for excellence in x- country. Five students in particular - Tom West, Glenn Donaldson, Sam Wood, Josh Phillips and Liam Fletcher - have had a superb year, competing on tough courses all over the country. Representing the College, the boys won the team Army North East Schools' Event and also won the regional qualifying event at Gateshead to go on and represent the College and the North East at the British Colleges' Sport National Finals at Loughborough. At the Finals they performed exceptionally well and came back to Darlington as national champions. Alongside these great team achievements Tom West and Josh Phillips have excelled individually. By running great races and clocking up impressive times at Gateshead, they were both selected to represent England Schools for Cross-Country, therefore becoming elite level athletes in their sport.
- QE student and American Football prospect, Paul Richardson, has won a place in the GB Youth team for the first qualifying away fixture against the Netherlands in the European Junior Championships. Paul's initial trials, held at Gateshead, went really well when the GB Youth trialists beat Gateshead Senators in a scrimmage. Paul's name was taken down for his



contribution to the win -2 sacks and a 'pick-6' - then he had to wait until the Bristol try outs were over before he knew if he was on the programme. More than 200 people were at the try-outs and the coaches selected 75 players to be involved in the programme for 2010. Paul was delighted to be named in that 75. This led him to travel to Colchester in May for the GB Lions Youth Training Camp and final selection for the Lions' first game in the European League. Paul was tried-out at both Line Backer and Full Back. After a long journey down and then a full day of football, the coaches made their choice of the 45 players

they would take to Holland. Coach Rains, Head Coach of GB Lions Youth, gave Paul the good news that he had been selected for Full Back and back-up Line Backer as well as gaining a place on special teams. Understandably, Paul was thrilled by his selection.

- QE's Football C Team completed a great season by winning the league and cup double! The team played in the Cleveland Schools 2nd Division and finished the season having played 9 league games, winning 8 and losing only 1. They scored a total of 44 goals and conceded only 6 in the process. This achievement is even more impressive as the team is the College's third team but play in a league of mostly first and second teams from other colleges. As well as the successful league campaign, the team also defended the Eric Bell Cup where they played Stockton Sixth Form in the Final at Darlington RA. The game ended 1-1 after extra time and the lads held their nerve to win 4-3 on penalties with keeper Chris Lupton saving two Stockton spot kicks.
- Two students from QE have won places in the British Colleges' National Hockey Squads. Sophie Watchman and Richard Bowker were selected to represent England following their success at Regional, Northern and National trials.
- Sophie Watchman's talent, hard work and commitment to training in hockey has also been acknowledged by her selection for an international tour to Portugal with British Colleges' Sport. In July, Sophie travelled with the England squad to train with elite Portuguese hockey players and played 5 matches against them. Sophie is an exceptional all round sportswoman, has represented QE in a range of sports including football, rugby and hockey and has made a massive contribution to sport in the College generally.
- At the annual Sports Award Ceremony students, coaches, staff, friends and parents came together to celebrate the considerable sporting achievements of QE's students. The Hall was packed and the awards were presented by tri-athlete Georgina Rutherford – a renowned international athlete and a former QE student. The evening celebrated the success of individuals, teams and the extraordinary contribution made to sport by so many who volunteer; willingly giving up their time to encourage others to participate and reap the benefits of being involved in sport. For their all round sporting prowess, Sophie Watchman and Ryan Ford were named Sportswoman and Sportsman of the Year. Other key awards were presented to John Chapman for Outstanding Sporting Achievement - John represents the UK in volleyball - and to Matt Carnelley for Service to Sport. In addition, Heidi Wood won the Student Management Team award and Hannah Marshall was presented with a new award for Special Contribution to



Sport in recognition of her sporting commitment and for the extensive volunteering she does in the College and the community.

- QE students joined forces with students from Darlington College to raise funds for Sport Relief. Using the Abbey Road playing fields, students and staff from the two colleges got active to raise cash and change the lives of disadvantaged people in the UK and across the world's poorest countries. Joint activities included a sponsored football match, supported by Darlington Football Club's community coaches Neil Maddison and Kevin Stonehouse, and a women's fancy dress tag rugby game.
- Four students - Matt Carnelley, Sophie Watchman, Hannah Marshall and Jade Armstrong - spent part of their summer helping to organise a major international sporting event. They were amongst volunteers who helped at the 2010 Football Blind World Championships. Held in Hereford in August, the Blind World Cup was the biggest disability sports event ever to be held in this country. Over the past year, the College's leadership and volunteering programme has developed a strong partnership with British Blind Sport (BBS). This has allowed QE's students to undertake training provided by BBS and subsequently many have volunteered at various sports events for children who are blind and visually impaired. Following on from this work, Matt, Sophie, Hannah and Jade were nominated by Durham County Football Association and BBS to be volunteers at the Blind World Cup.



## Miscellaneous

- In June, 20 QE students held an ice cream day to help to raise funds for the adventure of a lifetime. In June 2011 they will visit Namibia with World Challenge, a youth development organisation which provides educational expeditions in the developing world, teaching life skills, stretching comfort zones and expanding minds outside the classroom. Whilst in Namibia the students will work on a community based building project, including building sustainable gardens, repainting school buildings and creating recreational grounds and playgrounds. They will also undertake a 5 day self guided trek in the Fish River Canyon, go sand dune boarding and visit the Etosha National Park to take in the magnificent beauty of the area and view some of the native wildlife. Each student has to raise £3000 to fund the trip and a wide range of activities have been organised by the group and by individuals within it. During the ice cream day, they sold ice creams to fellow students on what turned out to be one of the hottest days of the year. The group had been supported with kind donations from Antonelli Bros and Greco

Bros who donated the ice cream cones. The students are also planning a Christmas Ball and seeking individual sponsorship. Student Charlotte Hullah has done particularly well, obtaining £1000 sponsorship from Carillion which is currently constructing the A1M from Dishforth to Leeming. Charlotte has promised to visit Carillion on her return and give a presentation about her experiences on the expedition.

- Four budding engineers have won bursaries to help with the costs of university study. Fraser Edwards, Gary Mason, Ben Appleby and Ian Wilson submitted successful applications for engineering bursaries bequeathed to Darlington by Rothmans to promote engineering locally after the closure of their factory in 2004. The boys underwent a rigorous interview process



before being selected and each will receive £1000 per term for each of the three years they will study engineering at university. During their time at university they will be expected to achieve high standards and will have placements and links with Cummins, Henry Williams, Mech Tool and CTC Marine.

- A variety of activities have been organised to support students' progression to destinations of their choice. In April, the Higher Education Convention at Spennymoor was extremely well-attended by first year students who spoke to representatives from a large number of universities, brought back prospectuses and amassed the usual array of "goodies". Students also benefited from a programme of speakers from universities and employment during the College's HE/Careers fortnight in June. Students chose the session most pertinent to them and there was no limit on the number of talks they could attend. Towards the end of June, a large number of first year students and their parents attended one of three Higher Education and Finance Information Evenings. These sessions included input from College staff about applying to Higher Education and from Student Finance Officers at Teesside University.
- For the majority of second year students this term is dominated by the UCAS application process and several speakers have been invited into College to help students prepare for a variety of applications. Firstly the "Partners" team from Newcastle University gave a talk to students interested in applying there. The scheme enables students from local "partner" colleges, who meet particular criteria, to apply for special consideration resulting in lower grade offers. Applicants must accept the offer as their "conditional firm" choice and they must pass an assessed summer school in order to meet the conditions of the offer. Over 50 students attended to hear more about the scheme.
- Teaching is always a very popular option and we were pleased to welcome Admissions Tutors from Leeds Trinity University College into QE to advise students on how to write impressive

UCAS personal statements. This session was very popular with more than 20 students receiving individual guidance. Feedback from the students has been very positive.

- Medical applicants have to meet an early UCAS deadline of October 15<sup>th</sup> along with those applying for Dentistry, Veterinary Science and Oxford and Cambridge. Michael Boylan, one of our second year Medical applicants, set up a Medical Careers discussion group during his first year at Q.E. Earlier this term he organised an excellent session on "Surgery as a career" led by Professor Brian Avery, an eminent Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon.
- In early October, two ex students, Jonathan Manson and Gemma Campbell, returned to College to talk about their experience of the Lancaster University Degree in Accounting, Auditing and Finance which is run in collaboration with Ernst and Young, one of the world's most successful companies. The course includes a total of 18 months on paid placement (2x3 months and 1 block of 12 months) and the necessity of taking 7 of the 10 qualifying exams of the Institute of Chartered Accountants (Scotland). This gives Graduates a competitive advantage both within the company and outside if they choose to look elsewhere.
- Personal Statement drop-in sessions have been held on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes to enable second year students to benefit from extra help from the College's Higher Education Advisors. This is in addition to the assistance they receive from their tutors and subject teachers.
- At the end of the summer term, residential visits to Oxford and Cambridge Universities were organised for students interested in applying to these prestigious institutions. The students were able to visit a range of Colleges and participated in activities arranged by the universities. As well as enjoying themselves immensely, the students benefited from gaining invaluable insight into life and study at the two universities. Follow up debriefing sessions were held in College before the summer holiday when the potential applicants received guidance from ex QE students who are currently studying at Oxbridge and talked to staff about wider reading to be completed over the summer holidays. Students who have applied to study at Oxbridge have benefited from regular support sessions and individual guidance interviews.
- Hannah Sykes has been commended as a shining example to others! The 19 year old received A Level results which made her and her teachers extremely proud - results that were achieved against the odds and which have taken her onto Northumbria University to study Pharmaceutical Chemistry. Eight years ago Hannah dislocated her hip and, for most of her secondary education, she was in considerable pain and got around as best she could on crutches. Her education was severely disrupted and she missed a lot of time at school. In May 2007, when she was just about to take her GCSEs, her



surgeon decided to operate and replace her hip. This was a decision that was not taken lightly as her surgeon had never replaced a hip on anyone as young as Hannah and it was deemed an extremely risky procedure. The operation was a success and, remarkably, Hannah was awarded GCSEs that enabled her to progress to QE in September 2007. However, her rehabilitation was not easy and learning to walk unaided resulted in knee problems and another operation at Christmas 2007. This again disrupted her progress but Hannah soldiered on. At the end of her first year at College, Hannah had some success in her AS Levels but she was disappointed with a grade E in her Chemistry – the subject she had come to love and the one she needed to go onto university to follow her chosen career of working in a laboratory developing new drugs. Hannah now has full A Levels in Psychology, Media: Communication & Production - both gained in 2009 - and Biology, Applied Science and Chemistry which she found out about in August 2010.

- Matthew Carnelley's A Level results are testament to his determination to succeed. The QE student received A Level results in PE, Psychology, General Studies and Business which will take



him on to Leeds Metropolitan University to study a degree in Sports Coaching. Diagnosed with hydrocephalos at 6 weeks after having contracted meningitis 6 days after birth, he has had numerous operations over the years. He has actually been treated in 9 hospitals in this country and abroad when the shunt which drains the fluid from his brain

needed attention. Matthew's results are a culmination of his determination, perseverance and desire to be involved in sport – particularly sport in the community. Matthew is exceptional and has lived a normal, active life excelling in sport, particularly football.

- A QE student has been named the best student of all those who won Rotary Club Youth Leadership Awards. The Rotary Club asks for students to be nominated for the highly competitive, prestigious scheme which involves a week's residential with outward bound and team building activities. 17 year old Kate Pilbeam was one of four students from QE who won places and she was delighted to be named the best of all those who participated. Brogan Fraser, Anna Brassell and Alycia Hodgson were the other QE students who won places on the scheme. At QE Kate is studying A Level PE, Dance and French and hopes to become a professional contemporary dancer.



- Maggie Szymczak, an A2 Level student at College, was a winner at Teesside University's "Passport Pride" award ceremony to recognise her determination to succeed. Upon arriving in the UK in July 2008, from Poland, Maggie honed her now excellent English before applying to

College. She is driven to succeed in all that she does and this is evident in the A and B grades she is achieving, including the fast track GCSE Spanish course she is completing outside of college hours, in tandem with the ab initio AS Spanish course. She is quite remarkable and has a tireless capacity for hard work, together with obvious ability. She is single-minded in the pursuit of her ultimate goal to pursue a career in medicine and to this end will shortly be completing some relevant work shadowing. All of this must also be viewed in the context of Maggie's family background: Dad has remained in Poland to run his wholesale business whilst it is just Maggie and Mum here in the UK. Maggie won £100 from Teesside University as a reward for her drive to succeed and to contribute to her studies.

- Patience Wambui, an adult student on the College's HEFC Access course, was awarded the Outstanding Student Achievement award by Northumbria University. Patience has been in England since 2008, arriving alone as a refugee from Kenya where her family were caught up in the pre and post election wars. She arrived in Glasgow and was moved to Darlington, neither places she had ever heard of. Despite the amount of violence she has witnessed, she made extraordinary progress in College although she had no family here to support her. Patience was extremely ambitious to succeed and was recognised by her teachers as an intelligent and thoughtful student who was performing at Distinction standard in Maths and had made quick progress in English. In addition to her studies, Patience had to fulfil course requirements laid down by the job centre and undertook two cleaning jobs in the very early mornings. Patience was successful in her desire to read Forensic Psychology at University and she began her course in September. Northumbria University wished to recognise and reward Patience's resilience, independence and academic success and she also received £200 to contribute to her studies.
- Bondgate Methodist Church continues its close links with the College by opening up its Hall every Monday and Tuesday lunchtimes to QE students. Students can eat their lunch and enjoy free tea and coffee, pool and table football.
- Shara Yasmin won a competition to design a logo for a campaign to improve health in youngsters. With a friend at Longfield School, Shara entered the competition run by Darlington Primary Care Trust and Darlington Borough Council's youth services. Entrants were asked to design a symbol for the Healthy Youth Work Standards which are guidelines to promote health in projects for young people such as youth clubs. Shara's winning logo will be used on all standards information.

**Laurence Job**

**October 2010**