



Newsletter

February 2023

We believe all students have
the ability to unleash their
limitless potential.





A message from The Executive Head Teacher

Dear Parents / Carers,

Well the new year got off to a great start, whether you are a Blues fan or a Villa fan... the two Queensbury School football teams won all their matches at the SEND football festival on January 10th 2023 at Aston Villa Academy. What was more pleasing, was the comments from spectators and volunteers on the sportsmanship and 'winning with grace' that was demonstrated by both teams. A big thankyou to Mr Swain, Mr Sehra and Mrs Hassan who provided regular training clubs, enhancing the schools personal development programmes and taking the teams. Equally the volunteers from Tesco and the Erdington Rotary club that organised the competition for our school and the special school communities. The team has set the bar high !



Chris Wilson
Executive Head Teacher

Dates:

Half Term ends:
Friday: 17th Feb 2023

Return to School:
Monday 27th Feb
2023

**School closed for
students:**
Monday 27th Feb 2023

Training day:
Monday 27th Feb 2023

Term ends:
Friday 31st March 2023



Year 11 students studying Fine Art and CDE visited The Reel Store Art Gallery in Coventry to view the Frida Kahlo Exhibition. Enhancing their knowledge of artists and how to apply this skills is essential within the curriculum. Based on the artist's diary, this award-winning, multisensory experience tells Kahlo's story combining a 360-degree projection and original soundtrack. All students has a wonderful time in this immersive exhibition.

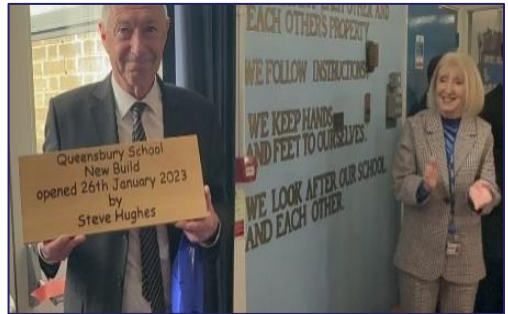




A message from The Executive Head Teacher



Chinese New Year continued the creative talents of our students ending the year of the Water Tiger and embracing 2023, the year of the Rabbit. Their talents are endless and it was fantastic to see them work so cohesively together.



Students also performed to our guests for the official opening of the new build extension. It was a pleasure to invite the former CEO Steve Hughes to be special guest but also thank our partners in helping supporting the project: Birmingham City Council EDSI team, Ridge Consultants, E- Manton Construction and the late Jack Dromey (MP), Trust Board, Local Governing Body members, the Education Impact Academy Trust Central Team. All of these partners helped the school secure the funding required to improve the facilities. Student Council Reps gave our special guests a tour of the facilities and students also performed some incredibly emotional and moving poetry, to a live audience “unleashing their limitless potential” as Better never ends!





A message from The Executive Head Teacher

Uniform: Recently, within school we have noted a number of students' not wearing correct school uniform and an increased number of students wearing hoodies. Please can I ask parents to ensure that students are in correct school uniform, the school policy link is below if you are unclear. If there are any concerns you can contact the school office or Mrs L Richards who can offer help & support.



Tel - 0121 373 5731

enquiry@queensbury.eiat.org.uk
sch.family-support@queensbury.eiat.org.uk

School Uniform Policy
<https://queensburysch.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/School-Uniform-Policy-2021-2024.pdf>

I would also like to thank our staff who have been incredibly professional and open regarding the NEU strike action days. We have a good relationship with the union representative and this has enabled us to plan coherently and be partially open, minimising disruption to the students has been all parties' aims. I do want to acknowledge our parents and families who have been incredibly supportive and understanding despite the disruption – thank you for your patience.

After Easter, we have appointed three new leadership posts to continue to enhance the quality of education and leadership in the school. Mrs Hayley Dyer joins our team as Director of Learning for Core Subjects. Mrs Lucy Weston joins our team as Director of Learning for foundation subjects (Arts, Technology and Life skills) and Mr Ali as Director of Learning foundation subjects (Science, Humanities and PSHE).

Further to these appointments, Mrs Bushra Adnan has been appointed as the Head of Post 16 to lead the provision on the future site, off station road, from September 2023. After Easter, we will be holding some additional meetings to update parents and students on the Post 16 developments, future arrangements and any questions families may have. In the meantime, please direct these to Mrs Adnan if you have any queries for sixth form provision for 2023-2024 academic year. Henry, one of our Therapy Dogs for the Venture Curriculum has his final assessment next term. We wish him and Mrs Greenway all the best but know they will pass with flying colours!



I wish you all a very happy and safe half term and look forward to seeing you next term.

Regards

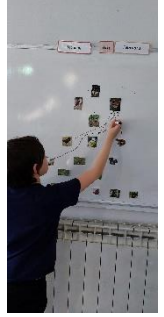
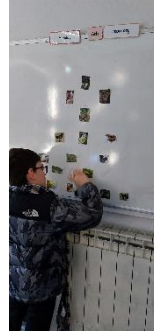
Chris Wilson

Executive Head Teacher



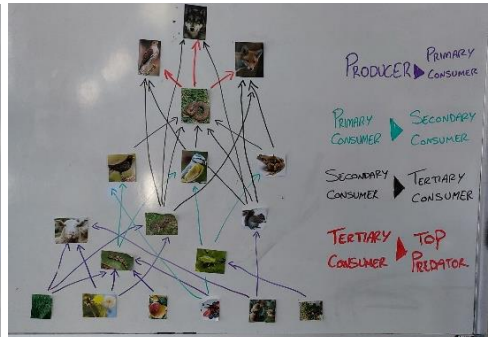


News from 8V



8V in science have been exploring the different food chains and food webs.

They worked together to created a food web with given creatures and some great problem solving of who would eat who or what.





Internet Safety

Internet Safety week - Feb 2023



This week, students at Queensbury School have been learning about internet safety. In celebration of Safer Internet Day 2023, students have been discussing how to stay safe online. The day began with form activities and quizzes, in preparation for workshops with PC Duncan. Class 7N were the first to have their workshop with PC Duncan where they spoke about some of the legal ramifications of online actions. PC Duncan also gave real-world examples of how poor internet safety can affect people and families.

Throughout the week there have been lots of conversations about internet safety. This is in line with this year's Safer Internet Day theme of 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'.

Queensbury School's internet safety week was a great success, teaching the children valuable lessons on how to stay safe online. After a special day and workshops with individual classes, children across the school felt that they improved their knowledge of Internet Safety.

News article published in Erdington Local: <http://www.erdingtonlocal.com/category/back-to-school/>



Cody was awarded with a special medal; these were made for the volunteers who put in extra effort over the Commonwealth Games.



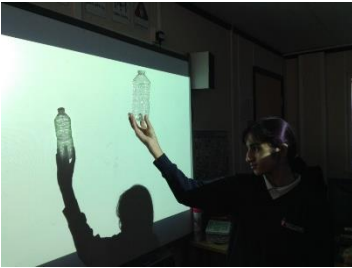
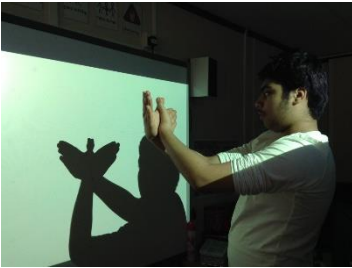
Exams

Students have been undertaking their Mock examinations and these can be anxious and stressful times. It's been really pleasing to see students undertaking them with the rigour and understanding the importance of these, equally our other students who have shown consideration when walking past the hall and foyer demonstrating one of our values; respect.

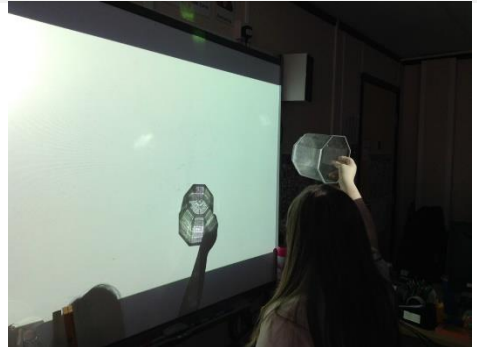




3D Science



In Science this term, 3D have been learning about Light. The students looked at shadows and how they are made. We went outside and looked at shadows in the playground, the sun was the light source. The students looked at the shadows and identified what objects made them. Then we walked around the playground and made shadows of our bodies. The students looked at their shadows and then drew round each other's shadows. We also investigated shadows in the classroom, we made animal shadows with our hands. The students investigated how objects made from different materials cast shadows. We used different objects made from transparent, opaque and translucent materials and looked at the shadows they made. It was a fantastic lesson!



School Uniform Information

School Uniform Swap Shop

Children always seem to be growing
.....and it can get pricey!!



Our School Uniform Swap Shop is open for you to pass on any good quality school uniform you don't need anymore and then pick up a bigger size for FREE. So you can save a bit of money and be environmentally friendly too!!

If you have outgrown school trousers, shirts and jumpers please send them in or drop them off to school.

If you don't have any uniform to drop off – that's totally fine! Ask us for uniform anyway.

You can email sch.family-support@queensbury.eiat.org.uk or call school and ask for School Uniform Swap Shop.

BVSC Hardship Grant Community Fund

BVSC has announced that, from Monday 6th February, they are open to new applications for their Hardship Grant Community Fund. They are offering grants of up to £200 for families experiencing hardship, particularly with the cost of food and energy.

To apply for the grant you must:

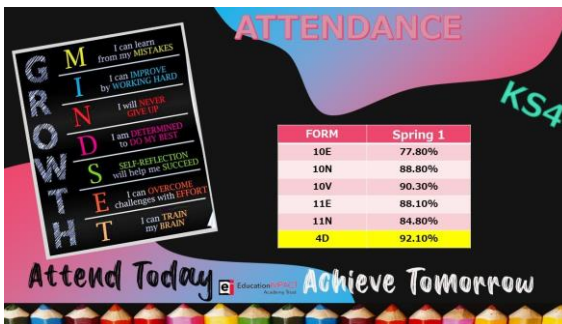
- live in Birmingham
- be facing hardship
- and NOT have received a grant from the BVSC Household Support Fund since June 2022.

Please visit www.bvsc.org/hsf if you wish to apply.

Or, if you would like support in completing your application, please get in touch with Lynsey, Family Support Worker at sch.family-support@queensbury.eiat.org.uk



Attendance



Attendance Matters
Every school day counts!





Tom Ellis (Artist) Workshop in Design & Technology



On Thursday 16th February sixth form DT Arts Award students were involved in a 3D mask making workshop with practicing Artist Tom Ellis. Some fantastic work was produced and a great day enjoyed by all.



Thank you to Blackwood Butchers UK

Thank you to Blackwood Butchers for donating eggs for the Pancake day.





Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Join the PTA!



What is the Queensbury School PTA?

Our School PTA is a group of parents and teachers who meet to organise events and activities to improve communications and experiences amongst all members of our school community: school as an organisational body of staff and teachers, parents and pupils. Our primary purpose is to raise funds for items the school would not normally be able to afford and to have fun whilst doing so. Every parent automatically becomes a member of the PTA when their child enters the school. Meetings usually take place via Zoom 1 per half term, and last approximately an hour.

Why do we do this?

Simple – for Our Children whose welfare and best interests are our paramount consideration. We try to organise fun events for them. What does the PTA do? The PTA usually gets to organise a lot of the fun stuff! Main events may include: Christmas/Summer Fetes; school discos; parents' social evenings. The PTA always welcomes feedback and new ideas.

Join Queensbury school PTA team by emailing us on
pta@queensbury.eiat.org.uk
OR
Contact us on 0121 373 5731 to speak with PTA team





Queensbury are collecting Blue Tesco Tokens

We are delighted to let you know that Queensbury's application to the Tesco Community Grants Scheme has been successful and your project will be put forward to a customer vote in Tesco stores. Voting will commence in store from first week of October 2022 and continue until Mid January 2023.

The project with the highest number of votes across your region will receive £1,500, the second placed project £1,000 and the third placed project £500.

Please see below a list of stores taking part in the voting on our project.

2483	Erdington Express B23 5TW Express
2933	New Oscott Extra B73 6RB Extra
5098	Whitehouse Common Road XP B75 6HD Express
5227	Streetly, Exp B74 3NA Express
5318	Birmingham Road Sut Exp B72 1QL Express
604 6	Kingstanding Bham Exp B44 8PP Express
6441	Sutton Coldfield Walsall Rd Exp B74 4QY Express
6570	Sutton Coldfield Birmingham Rd, Maney Corner Exp B73 5UB Express

If you are shopping in any of these stores, please ask the cashier for a blue token to help our school reach first place to continue to support our in-classroom breakfast club activities





Useful Information

PLEASE NOTE - There is NO Staff supervision in School before 8.15am.
Students must not be in School unaccompanied before this time.

Also, if your child is being collected by a different family member/friend
please notify Reception.

Without prior permission we are unable to let your child off school
premises until we have contacted you.

Magic Breakfast

"Breakfast in the Classroom

We have re-joined the National School Breakfast Programme alongside
Fareshare-go.

This means students will be offered a breakfast of bagels, toast or
pastries in class every morning free of charge"



Consultation Letter



CEO MR JON HARRIS

PROPOSAL TO INCREASE STAFF TRAINING DAYS (CPD DAYS) FROM SEPTEMBER 2023

13 February 2023

Dear Parents / Carers

Please read this letter carefully and respond to the consultation. I really hope that we have earned your trust over time so that you appreciate that our proposal is needed and in the best interests of your children and young people. If we are going to continue improving so that our students have the very best experiences, we need to make some significant changes to the amount of training that our staff receive.

Proposed change to the school year from September 2023:

Mayfield, Queensbury, Wilson Stuart and The Hive College will have 10 CPD days per year from September 2023 onwards. The proposed calendar for CPD days is attached to this consultation. We have tried to place many of them either side of school holidays. School will be shut to students on these days. You will be told in the summer term what the dates for the following school year are. These will only change in exceptional circumstances.

The consultation period runs from Monday 13th February until Wednesday 15th March (10.00am). This document will be available electronically on the school and college websites.

Reasons (R) for our proposal

R1: It has become increasingly difficult to provide the required amount of training that our staff need to best meet the needs of our students. There are a range of extra things that staff working in special education need to be trained in.

R2: The creation of extra training time will enable staff to engage more in Continuous Professional Development (CPD) alongside more regular team-based planning and assessment. This will have a positive impact on the skills of staff, student progress and emotional well being

R3: The majority of our staff are 'support staff' who work set hours. Time for CPD, planning and reflection are very limited within these times. There is very little time before the students arrive and after they go home. It is essential that Teaching Assistants and teachers have time to train together.

R4: Recruitment and retention of great staff has become very difficult. We need to invest time in the development of our staff so that they stay and develop with us rather than leaving for other, often better paid, jobs. This has become a huge challenge recently.

R5: Our expectations in terms of curriculum opportunities for students and meeting their individual needs are very high. There are hardly any 'off the shelf' resources and time is needed to make resources and discuss how to use them.



R6: All of our students have additional challenges in their lives. Most have very complex needs. Staff need more time and regular input in terms of CPD so that we can really provide the opportunities and provision that match our high aspirations with an increasingly 'complex' cohort of students.

R7: The school day is very intense. In terms of safety, engagement and learning, the staff have to operate consistently at very high levels of alertness and skill. It feels very different to the mainstream environment and there is no time for staff to 'slow down'! Providing more regular learning and training time will really help everybody.

R8: The additional training days may allow families to spend quality time with children and go to places that may be too busy at other times. We will work closely with a range of organisations in Birmingham to provide opportunities on some of the training days. Please let us know of any places that you would like us to develop closer links with. For example, Star City, a local theatre, Legoland Discovery Centre. The proposal will also help with the cost of family holidays at certain times of the year.

R9: Like other educational establishments, we are allocated a minimum of 5 training days per year. We use 2 at the start of term as there are lots of things to set up so that we are prepared for the students arrival, alongside training on things such as safeguarding. 3 days spread over the year is not enough for the regular training we need. Therefore, a different approach is needed. This change will also allow staff to benefit more from shared training with other places in the Education Impact Academy Trust.

R10: Staff feedback from our Wellbeing surveys shows that staff want more time for regular training and we know that this would help us to improve further.

R11: The vast majority of our staff do lots of 'unpaid' work and really do go the 'extra mile'. We cannot rely on this as a way of keeping our standards high in a context of cost of living challenges. The fact that many other jobs are now more financially appealing means that we have to provide opportunities for staff to develop. These changes would help with recruitment, development and retention of great staff to a modern, more professionalised workplace. This isn't a change designed to save money directly but it would increase the wellbeing of staff and hopefully reduce absence levels.

R12: There has been an increase in terms of safeguarding training requirements and what we need to provide to keep our students safe. This has had a significant impact on the time available for professional development in other areas.

Consultation events

Each of the schools and the college will provide group meetings for you to attend and discuss the proposal. There will be one in person and one on Teams

	In person	Microsoft Teams
Mayfield	Heathfield Road: 02/03/23 - 2-3pm Wheeler Street: 09/03/23 - 2-3pm	Heathfield Road: 02/03/23 - 4-5pm Wheeler Street: 09/03/23 - 4-5pm
Queensbury	09/03/23 - 4pm	10/03/23 - 10am-11am
The Hive	02/03/23 - 2-3pm	09/03/23 - 2-3pm
Wilson Stuart	07/03/23 - 1-2pm 07/03/23 - 5-6pm	07/03/23 - 1-2pm 07/03/23 - 5-6pm

Please let us know if you are planning to attend any of the above events. You are welcome to discuss the issues either face to face or over the phone with myself or a member of the team.

Feedback: Please use the space below to share your views (attach separate sheets if necessary)

We will take the feedback from the consultation to Local Governing Bodies and the Trust Board before any final decision is made.

Yours sincerely

Jon Harris

CEO

The word 'vired' is used in this consultation. This is the idea that instead of taking a full training day in one go, you can spread out, or 'vire' the 6.5 hours over a period of time. For instance, you could do 5 x 60 minutes sessions and 1 x 90 minute session over a half term. This can be very effective in terms of 'little and often' and building regular time for collaborative work.



PROPOSAL TO INCREASE STAFF TRAINING DAYS (CPD DAYS) FROM SEPTEMBER 2023

Consultation period runs from 13th February until 15th March (10.00am)

To provide feedback online, visit <https://eiat.org.uk/consult>

Alternatively, use the form below.

Name and school / college:





Proposed Training days



CEO MR JON HARRIS

2023-2024

Proposed Training Days

September '23							October '23							November '23						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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							30	31												
December '23							January '24							February '24						
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March '24							April '24							May '24						
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June '24							July '24							August '24						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31	

Holiday

Proposed Training Day

*1 Training Day TBC



A message from our Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

It remains a challenging time for all of us working in education and I am so pleased with how the staff have worked together this half-term. We know it is tough for students and families, and our pastoral teams have been trying to help the best that they can. There is a real effort to provide great opportunities for our students and to help prepare them for adulthood. Our new Careers Advisors are helping with this.

Please take the time to engage with the consultation about increasing CPD days - it all comes back to providing a better education for our students. If you want to find out more about how the Trust works - please get in touch with me: jon@educationimpact.org.uk



Jon Harris
CEO

Have a great half term!!







We believe all students have
the ability to unleash their
limitless potential.



e Education**IMPACT**
Academy Trust

 @queensburysch  @queensburysch  @queensburyschuk  @queensburytv



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