



QUEEN'S GATE  
SCHOOL

QG NEWS  
AUTUMN 2023



# FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S STUDY

Dear Parents,

I write this foreword a few hours before we have the joy of gathering together as a whole school for our Carol Service. The School has been running on festive spirit for a full two weeks now, ever since the PTA spent their busy Saturday morning festooning our buildings with decorations, ahead of really kicking the season off with their fabulous Christmas Fair. This time last year I was but a newcomer, with no real idea of what to expect from a QG Christmas; now I've been able to look forward to all the merriment that's already occurred, as well as that still to come in the remainder of this week.

Of course, this term is not just about our December celebrations. Once again we have really 'lived' as a School, with drama, music and sport all nestling alongside events such as our Old Girls' Party, Black History Month, the Careers Convention, outreach work and an array of trips and visits. The pace of activity here is sometimes quite exhausting – but in a truly wonderful way. The opportunities available to your girls really are quite exhilarating, and it's wonderful to see them making the most of all that is on offer. So often I see the same girl on stage one week, then perhaps at an MUN conference a few weekends later, before diving into a set of mock exams. At Queen's Gate, it's less #thisgirlcan and more #thisgirldoes.

I hope you will enjoy delving through all this term's highlights in the pages that follow. We really are so very proud of our girls – and grateful to you for all your support and encouragement for them and us.

For the weeks that come, I send you my warmest wishes for happy Christmas celebrations with friends and family, and look forward to seeing you and your daughters back with us ready for 2024.

All best wishes,

Amy Wallace  
Principal



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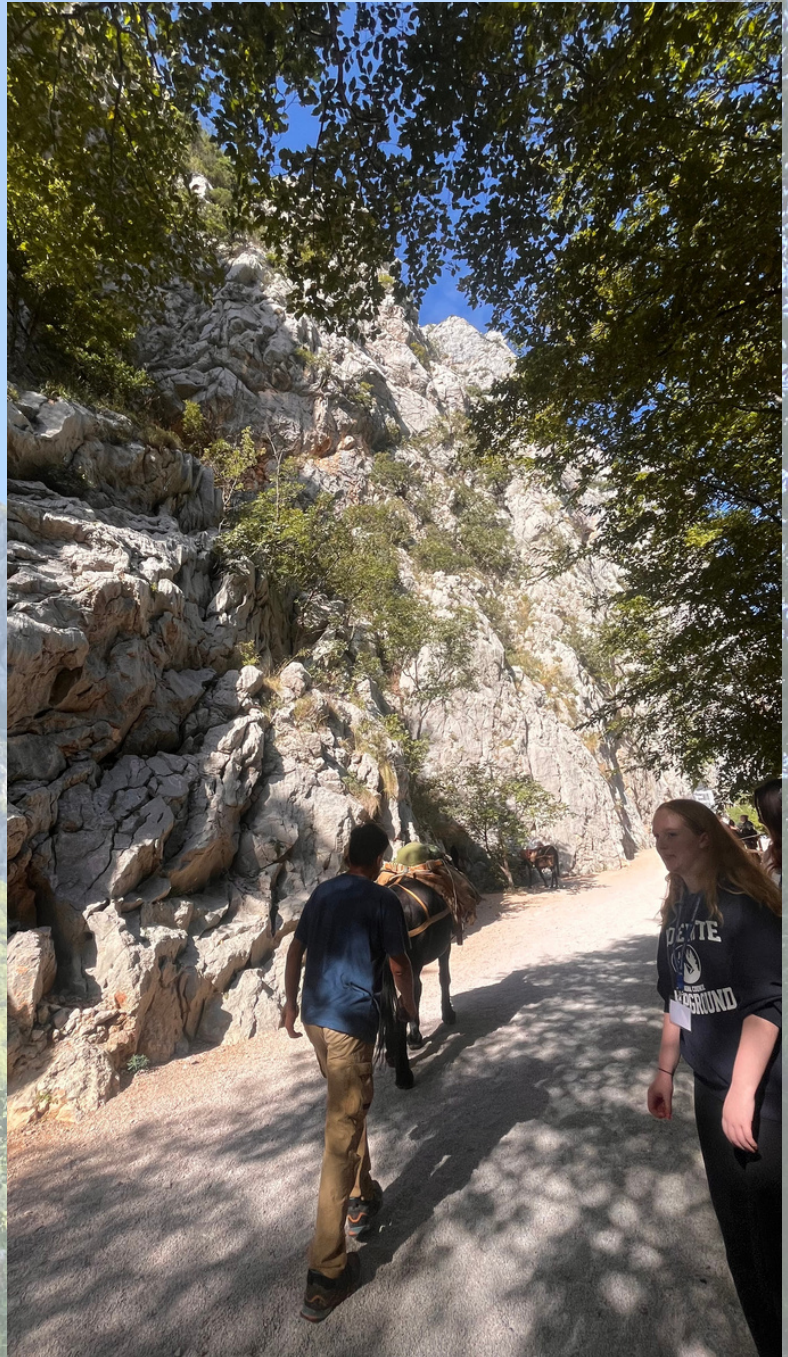
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# CROATIA





During the October Half Term Break, girls from LIV to Sixth Form travelled to Croatia to explore the best of the National Parks. We were lucky to visit Kornati National Park, Zadar, Paklenica and Plitvice Lakes in our week-long expedition. The girls also crossed the border into Slovenia for the day to see the underground caves of Postojna, home to the rare and wonderful Baby Dragon: Proteus!



# VENICE

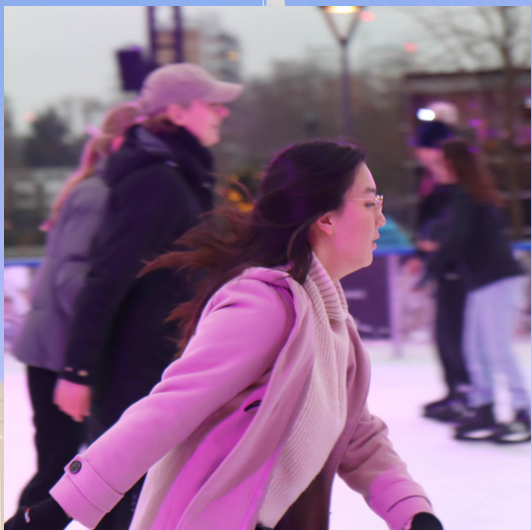








# UNICE-SKATING TRIP



# YEAR 1 AND 2 - WINDSOR CASTLE TRIP



Our Year 1 and Year 2 girls thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Windsor Castle. The girls toured the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world and were enthralled by the photos and stories of the Windsor Castle fire in 1992. They were also excited to see the guards and stewards sporting a very similar uniform to their school winter coats! After lunch, the girls took part in a Royal History Workshop where they learnt how to be a Guard at Windsor Castle, how to be Knighted, how to lay the table for a State Banquet and finally how our Monarch is coronated. A great day was had by all.



Year 7 students participated in the "Designer Maker User" workshop at The Design Museum. It was an insightful introduction to the museum's permanent collection and the evolution of modern design. In addition, the students saw the collection for the exhibition "REBEL: 30 Years of London Fashion," sponsored by Alexander McQueen.





IJA had the fantastic opportunity of taking over the Royal Society of Sculptors Museum for an afternoon. The girls created their own museum manifesto before touring the current exhibition entitled "Making Together". They looked closely at work that has been created by neurotypical and neurodivergent artists working together. They then got the opportunity to create their own group piece which will be turned into an interactive sculpture in the exhibition itself.

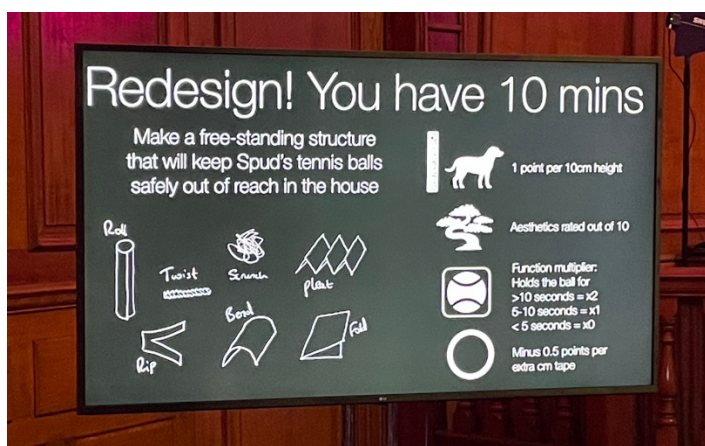


# Education in ACTION

Five Queen's Gate A-Level Product Design pupils attended a lecture and activity event at The Emmanuel Centre, Westminster, on 1 December. Featuring five acclaimed speakers from a diverse range of disciplines, this unmissable day offered students an exclusive peek behind the scenes of the design world, from delving deep into the world of materials to uncovering the secrets of design development, including sketching, modelling, and CAD.



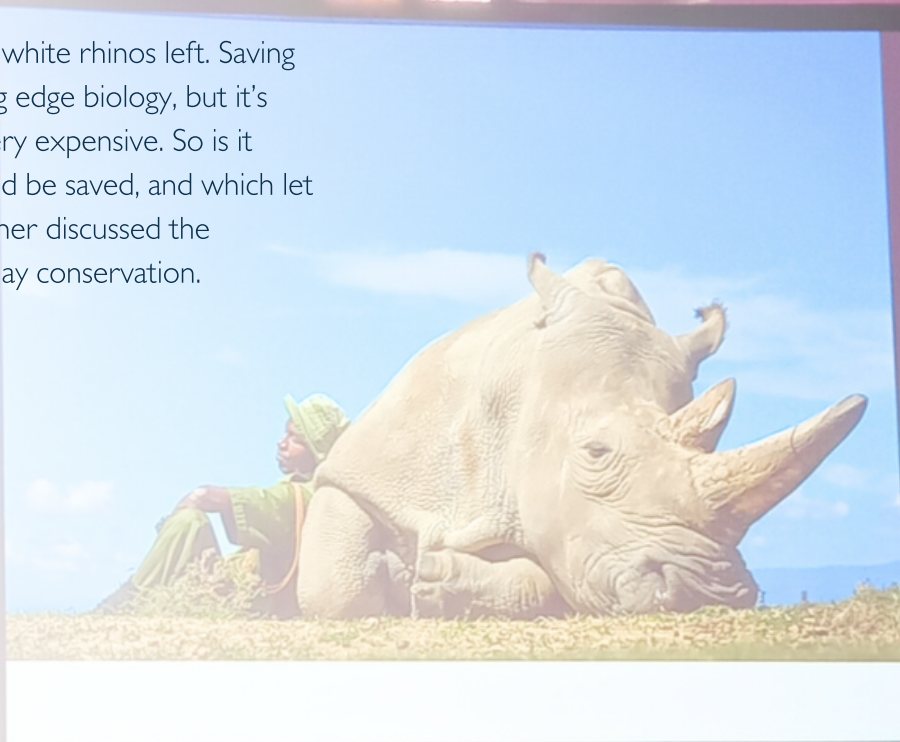
In the design challenge set for all pupils in the event's second half, our three Year 13 pupils won the challenge against stiff opposition from a wide range of other schools! They were each given a design book written by the event host.





# Biology in ACTION

There are only two northern white rhinos left. Saving them will involve some cutting edge biology, but it's going to be challenging and very expensive. So is it worth it? Which species should be saved, and which let go? Science writer, Helen Pilcher discussed the dilemmas posed by modern day conservation.



"I really enjoyed the lecture about whether or not it is worth it to save the northern white rhino by Helen Pilcher. This is because I found the fact that animal conservation uses stem cells very interesting and amazing. Furthermore, the resilience the researchers needed to have in order to come up with a solution was very admirable. Lastly, I was very interested in how human conflicts can endanger species."

**Innaya Kebe**  
LVI

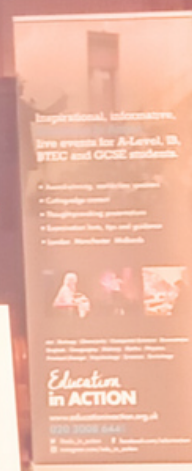
Design  
Biology History  
Science Geography  
Physics Economics  
Computer Science  
Maths Sociology  
Design and Technology  
English Chemistry  
KS3 STEM Biology

Education  
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Education  
in ACTION





Year 11 Physics students spent the day at Thorpe Park at the start of the term. You may think this sounds like an excuse to go on a fun trip, but you would be wrong - a lot of serious physics is involved! While queuing for the roller coasters - particularly "Stealth", which is 13 seconds long - we contemplated the velocity with the equation  $\text{speed} = \frac{\text{distance}}{\text{time}}$ . Throughout the rides, we enjoyed thinking about the energy transfers from the bottom of the rides (kinetic energy) to the top (gravitational potential energy) as well as the thermal energy lost due to friction.

Overall, it was a fantastic day full of physics and fun! Thank you so much to Dr Mercer and Mr Tsang for organising this trip and making it happen; it was so much fun and a great start to the year!

**Bobbie Bryson**  
UV









Queen's Gate was pleased to work with DAWN (Disability and Wellness Network) this term. The students' artwork is on display in The Royal Brompton Hospital. Their work has brought a smile to many faces. Here are just a few comments that The Royal Brompton Hospital forwarded to us:-

*"It added life, and I temporarily forgot my clinical problems"* - A patient

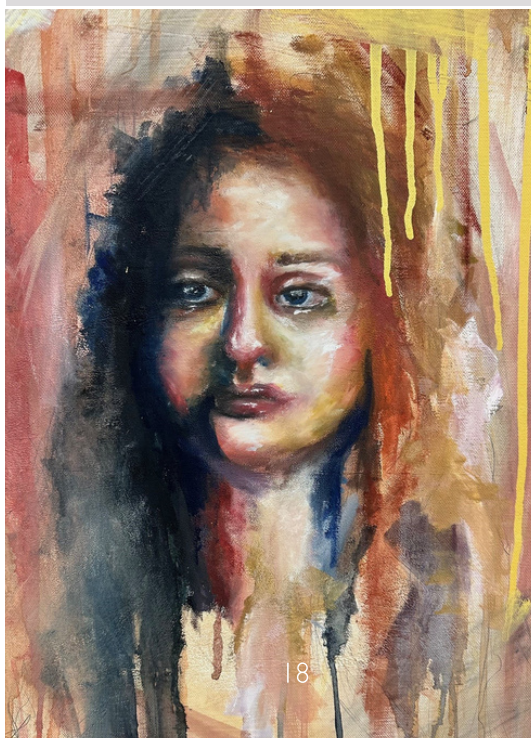
*"I really appreciate the artwork done by the School. It has brought life to our department and somehow changed the atmosphere to be more positive. The colours are lively and make us happy. Wish we could have more of these."* - Sarah S (Admin)

*"The pieces of artwork are absolutely amazing. It is very colourful."* - Sarah B (Admin)

*"Can I have mine at home as I cannot afford artwork? They are the main topic of conversation between patients and nurses now, and everyone has been coming to OPD West to see them. I feel we have our version of an art gallery."* - Florence - Sister OPD

*"Sister, could we have more put in OPD East? I cannot believe for a second that these are all done by young people. They are truly talented - I am amazed!"*:- Anonymous

Click the picture below to watch the video.





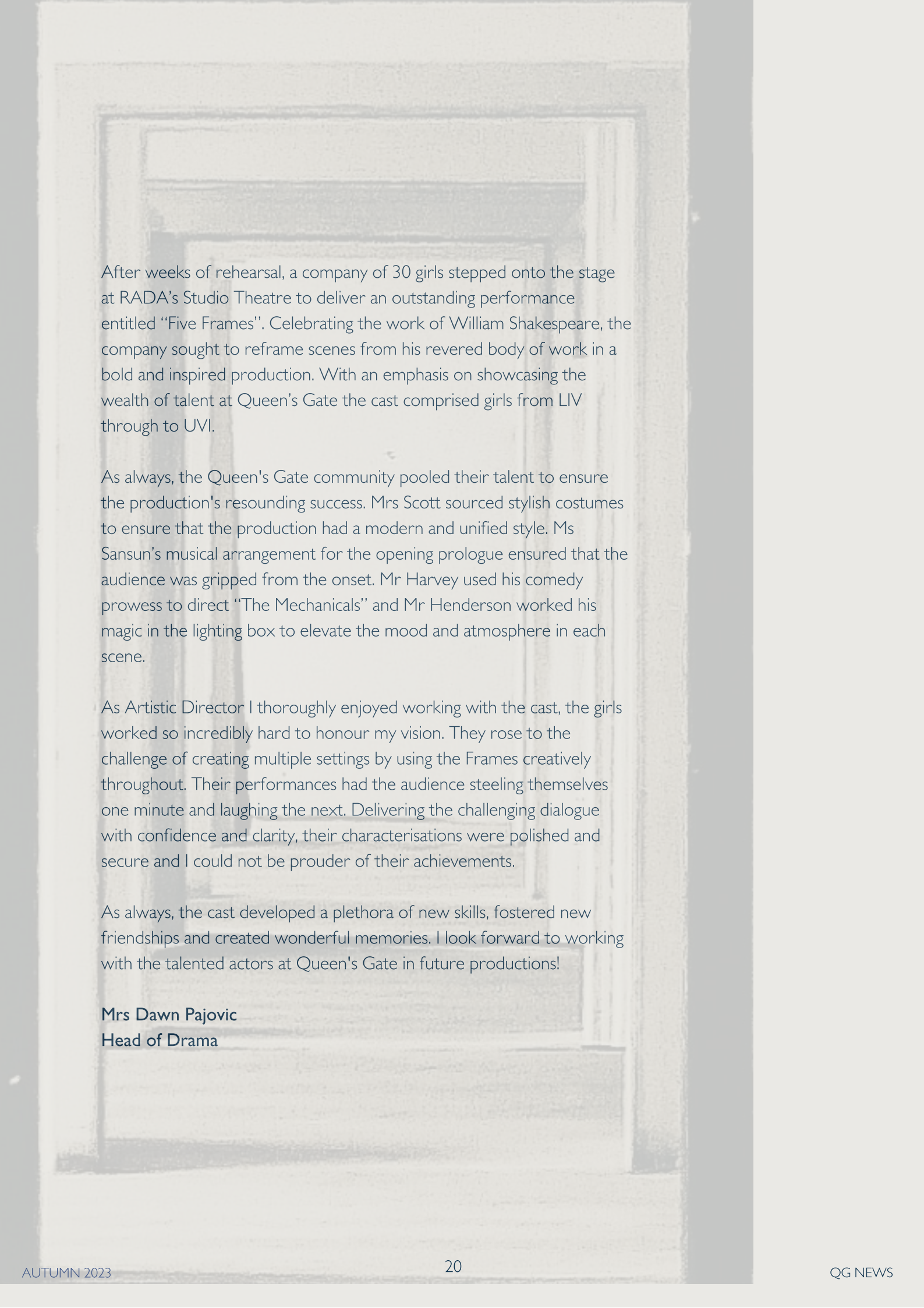
QUEEN'S GATE  
SENIOR SCHOOL

PRESENTS

*Five Frames*

Celebrating the plays of  
William Shakespeare

The Studio Theatre  
RADA  
16 Cheries Street  
WC1E 7EX



After weeks of rehearsal, a company of 30 girls stepped onto the stage at RADA's Studio Theatre to deliver an outstanding performance entitled "Five Frames". Celebrating the work of William Shakespeare, the company sought to reframe scenes from his revered body of work in a bold and inspired production. With an emphasis on showcasing the wealth of talent at Queen's Gate the cast comprised girls from LIV through to UVI.

As always, the Queen's Gate community pooled their talent to ensure the production's resounding success. Mrs Scott sourced stylish costumes to ensure that the production had a modern and unified style. Ms Sansun's musical arrangement for the opening prologue ensured that the audience was gripped from the onset. Mr Harvey used his comedy prowess to direct "The Mechanicals" and Mr Henderson worked his magic in the lighting box to elevate the mood and atmosphere in each scene.

As Artistic Director I thoroughly enjoyed working with the cast, the girls worked so incredibly hard to honour my vision. They rose to the challenge of creating multiple settings by using the Frames creatively throughout. Their performances had the audience steeling themselves one minute and laughing the next. Delivering the challenging dialogue with confidence and clarity, their characterisations were polished and secure and I could not be prouder of their achievements.

As always, the cast developed a plethora of new skills, fostered new friendships and created wonderful memories. I look forward to working with the talented actors at Queen's Gate in future productions!

**Mrs Dawn Pajovic**  
**Head of Drama**



I was very privileged to participate in our school's showcase, "Five Frames", which incorporated extracts from several Shakespearean plays. My main role was Iago from Shakespeare's Othello. I started off my rehearsal process by running through the soliloquy and annotating my given circumstances, aims and intentions. I also considered how my character should be perceived. Later, I focused on improving my diction and using my physical skills to develop the character. I also had some smaller roles, such as the Prince in "Romeo and Juliet" and Warwick in "Joan of Arc" and was involved in the ensemble of other scenes from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "A Winter's Tale". I found it thrilling to be involved in many different aspects of the play, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be experimental in the rehearsal space. We spent many rehearsals thinking creatively about how to use the frames in our pieces. These frames were used in various ways to create fences, picture frames, mirrors and even a casket. It required much imagination, and it was a lot of fun.

We started rehearsing at RADA Studio Theatre on 1 October for our performance on 5 October. I found the rehearsal process very professional and stimulating thanks to the tremendous setting – the large stage with lights and the dressing rooms backstage. Our technical rehearsals involved us performing with lighting, seeing where our exits and entrances would be and the running order. For the scene where I played the role of Iago, because the character is manipulative, calculated and plotting a plan in his soliloquy, we used eerie dark-blue lighting that helped amplify the atmosphere. Once we performed our first full run, I felt accomplished and elated. When it came to our performance, I felt excited, proud, and appreciative, showing my parents and friends what we had put together.

### **Katarina Lind - LVI**

I really enjoyed working on "Five Frames" as it was a new experience, and I learned so many new skills as a performer. Our rehearsals were so exciting, and I enjoyed working with my friends. However, the actual performance was my favourite part. I loved performing for the audience, and being a part of the musical prologue, where a few others and I sang and played musical instruments and took part in all the costume changes backstage. I am proud of my performance which was confident and convincing.

### **Alexandra Bachari - IV**

When rehearsing my duologue from "Othello", and my monologue from "The Winter's Tale", I enjoyed the challenge of capturing the diverse feelings within the two scenes. I would get honest feedback in rehearsals that really helped enhance my performance and made me think deeper about my character's intentions, as well as the meaning behind the lines. During production week I had a wonderful experience. The facilities were amazing and seeing the scene that Katarina, Cecily and I had worked so hard on with lights was really amazing. When I saw the first run through of the whole play, I was in awe of what the Drama Department had helped us all to produce. Performing in front of the audience was truly one of the biggest highlights of my entire year, and I am so grateful for the amazing opportunity that the Drama Department gave me.

### **Santa De Marco - LVI**

The "Five Frames" production was the first time we had both performed with the school to a live audience. We were both very nervous before starting but also excited to express our hard work. Once our section started, we were not as nervous, and we embraced the audience around us and made them laugh several times. It felt incredible to finally show our families and teachers the play we had been rehearsing for weeks. We felt lucky to be able to do a comedy play, unlike the others, because it lifted the heaviness of the entire show and it was also very entertaining as well as fun to perform. We had lots of fun, made new friends and improved our drama skills. We are both so very grateful that we got chosen to have the opportunity to perform.

### **Amelia Nowalany and Mia Bodereau - LIV**

Performing at RADA Studio was a surreal experience. It certainly gave me a peek into the theatre industry. I have enormous pride in my performance as Benvolio from "Romeo and Juliet". It was a memorable experience that I will hold dearly.

### **Leena Saadi - IV**

I really enjoyed performing in the school showcase. It was such a lovely, memorable experience. I will never forget the hard-working, fun rehearsals the cast shared.

### **Naiara Pontes Silva - IV**



## Remove Drama Society

To cap off an exciting Autumn term, the Remove Drama Society delved back in time to explore Ancient Greek Theatre, with a focus on using chorus, unison and canon to retell tales on a grand scale. The group ended the term with their reimagining of the classic Greek myth, Theseus and the Minotaur. This, coupled with their work before half term on Melodrama, has garnered girls with new skills whilst forming fast friendships. Well done to all involved!

For those who are interested in joining Remove Drama Society in the Spring Term we will be looking at Improvisation and Naturalism. A link is provided on MyQG and we welcome returnees and new girls alike.







Despite what feels like a rather wet and windy few months, PE has not been deterred, and we have had an extremely busy and active Autumn Term across the Junior and Senior Schools.

The Junior School have completed their term of gymnastics; they have been working on their Inter-House competition sequences, which they performed to their peers and teachers, who then deliberated as to who won important points for their House totals! There were football matches, a wealth of netball fixtures both against other schools across our borough, and plenty of hockey practice ready for next term's fixtures.

Netball Inter-House competitions took place from IIB right through to V Form, which, as usual, provided hours of enthusiastic team spirit, competition, goals and cheering! Let's keep this up as we roll into next term's Cross Country Inter-House and of course, the all-important Swimming Galas!

There was an array of competitions and fixtures across the Senior School, too, with a range of cross-country taking place, a swimming gala and, of course, plenty of netball fixtures, where hours of training at early morning and afterschool club were put into practice.

Sports Clubs were again well attended, with pupils dedicated to their early morning training, lunchtime commitments and after-school sessions; don't forget to sign up for the Spring Term Sports Clubs over the Christmas Holidays.

Well done to all on a jam-packed term, and we are looking forward to the New Year and the next chapter of sports.







Autumn term is always the busiest for a music department, and this year, that has rung true again at Queen's Gate. We have had girls performing for our numerous Open Evenings and school assemblies, entertaining prospective parents and the whole school. Numerous girls learning instruments within the school have taken music examinations, all passing successfully.

Our peripatetic staff held concerts for their respective instruments, with a fantastic Little Mozart's Concert showcasing piano pupils of Miss Chua and Miss Tham, and Miss Beyer arranged a concert of her harp pupils. This was the first harp concert we have had at Queen's Gate for many years, and it is lovely to see and hear this instrument becoming so popular.

The Junior School String Groups performed to an appreciative audience, with Mr Irwin, assisted by Miss Tham and Miss Jang, leading the class ensembles in a rousing early morning concert.

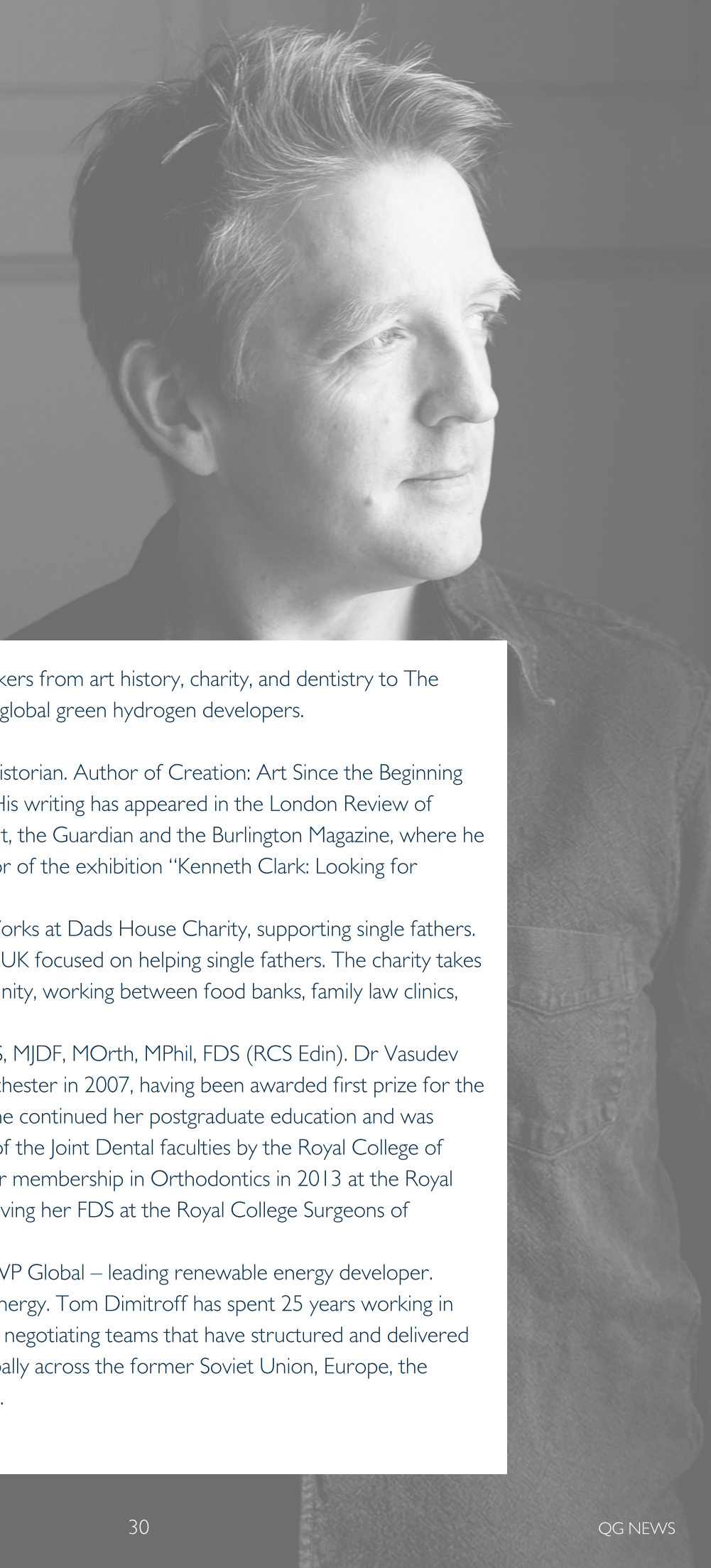
Our choirs have been busy as well. The Senior Chamber Choir led the School's moving Remembrance Service, and they were joined by the Junior Chamber Choir singing for the Kids for Kids Charity Concert. This was sold out weeks in advance, and the girls sang beautifully. The Senior Chamber Choir sang for the AgeUK Christmas Concert in the beautiful Wren Chapel at the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

With only the School's own Carol Service and Christmas Concert to go, the girls will deserve a well-earned break before more wonderful music-making continues next year.









This term, we have welcomed guest speakers from art history, charity, and dentistry to The Head of Strategy from one of the largest global green hydrogen developers.

Our Guest Speaks included:

- John-Paul Stonard. Author and Art Historian. Author of *Creation: Art Since the Beginning and Chatsworth, Arcadia and Now*. His writing has appeared in the *London Review of Books*, the *Times Literary Supplement*, the *Guardian* and the *Burlington Magazine*, where he worked as an editor. He was a curator of the exhibition “Kenneth Clark: Looking for Civilization” at Tate Britain in 2014.
- Dana Barber (QG Old Girl 2012). Works at Dads House Charity, supporting single fathers. Dads House is the only charity in the UK focused on helping single fathers. The charity takes a holistic approach within the community, working between food banks, family law clinics, sports and grant relief.
- Dr Joyti Vasudev – Orthodontist BDS, MJDF, MOrth, MPhil, FDS (RCS Edin). Dr Vasudev qualified from the University of Manchester in 2007, having been awarded first prize for the National Hartley's Endodontic Prize. She continued her postgraduate education and was awarded a Diploma of Membership of the Joint Dental faculties by the Royal College of Surgeons of England. She pursued her membership in Orthodontics in 2013 at the Royal College of England, followed by achieving her FDS at the Royal College Surgeons of Edinburgh and Glasgow in 2016.
- Tom Dimitroff. Head of Strategy, CWP Global – leading renewable energy developer. Talking on renewable & sustainable energy. Tom Dimitroff has spent 25 years working in energy and infrastructure. He has led negotiating teams that have structured and delivered significant infrastructure projects globally across the former Soviet Union, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and the Americas.



This term, Queen's Gate continued taking LVI students off their timetables on Friday afternoons to allow them to participate in the School's outreach programme. This opportunity allows our students to engage actively in the local community and to assist those in need.

Our students can select from the following options, which all have been well-supported:

- Age UK lunch: approximately 10 members of the Kensington and Chelsea Age UK branch attend lunch at Queen's Gate each Friday during term. Students who select this option enjoy their lunch with the guests and take time to share stories and foster good cheer. A special Christmas lunch was provided on the last Friday of term which involved a festive menu and carols from the Queen's Gate choir.
- Age UK games: our students travel to Earl's Court and assist K&C Age UK members in a variety of games and activities such as bingo, walking football, and afternoon tea. This provides a safe and supportive environment for intergenerational interactions.
- Food Bank: A group of QG students travel to Kensington and Chelsea Foodbank to drop off our generous donations and to sort them ready for distribution. Demand for the food bank continues to grow, and so our contributions are greatly appreciated. To support families during the festive season, a special donation took place on the final Friday of the term which was filled with Christmas goodies to ensure each family had a special Christmas treat.
- Singing at Chelsea & Westminster Hospital: We launched this new activity this year and it has proven to be highly beneficial to our students, Age UK members, and patients at the hospital. Students go to C&W hospital to have singing lessons with two professional singers from Holland Park Opera. Students share these sessions with Age UK members and are each paired up with an Age UK member. Students receive training on dementia as many of the Age UK members involved in this activity have dementia and are enrolled in this programme to help them maintain a routine and help with memory retention.
- Volunteering at Oxfam and Royal Trinity Hospice: We have partnerships with seven charity stores in our local area: students attend the store and help to sort donations and serve customers. Their contributions are highly valued.
- Volunteering in our Junior School.
- Volunteering to assist with PE lessons.

















QUEEN'S GATE  
SCHOOL

125-126, 131-133 QUEEN'S GATE,  
SOUTH KENSINGTON,  
LONDON,  
SW7 5LE

TEL: 020 7589 3587

EMAIL: [SECRETARY@QUEENSGATE.ORG.UK](mailto:SECRETARY@QUEENSGATE.ORG.UK)  
[WWW.QUEENSGATE.ORG.UK](http://WWW.QUEENSGATE.ORG.UK)

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