

BOARD GAMES
BOOK GROUP
CHESS
CLIMBING
CODING
CRICKET
DEBATING
DRAMA
FILM
FOOTBALL
GARDENING
GEOGRAPHY
GEOLOGY
HISTORY
HOCKEY
ITALIAN
LYRICS & POETRY
MICROBIT
MINDFULNESS
MULTI-SPORTS
MUSIC
PHILOSOPHY
PURSUITS
MEDICINE
RACKET SPORTS
ROWING
RUGBY
TABLE TENNIS
THEATRE TECH
WARHAMMER

AND MORE...

CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME





Sometimes children learn as much outside the classroom as in it. We believe in offering rich and diverse experiences beyond the classroom which complement what we do in school.

There is great variety in the clubs and activities programme and some change each term. The majority take place during the generous lunchtime break, while the rest bookend the busy QEH day or happen at weekends. Pupils are encouraged both to try something new and to extend their existing expertise. Some students set up and run their own clubs, under supervision of course. These are just some of the activities available.

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Book Group

Book Group, for boys in Year 7 and 8, meet every four weeks in the Fiction Room in the Library to discuss the current title. It's informal, fun and informative! Recent favourites are *Mortal Engines* by Philip Reeve and *We are all Made of Molecules* by Susan Neilsen.

Chess

Chess now runs online on a Tuesday at 5.30pm and is made up of pupils from every year from 7 to 13 and is probably the only club where pupils in that age range can compete on an even playing field. Some of those attending are achieving the skill element of their D of E requirements but most come for the competition and chance to beat their friends. The chess team has been hugely successful in the last few years, regularly coming in the top ten schools in the country in national competitions. We have also successfully qualified for the ECF U19 national finals over the last 5 years. Having said that everyone has to start somewhere and we welcome beginners as well as grand masters. Some of those pupils who compete with the school team learnt how to play Chess here at QEH.

Berkley Square

Sixth Formers founded and continue to publish this online magazine. Articles include interviews with political figures, film and restaurant reviews and comment on national and international events. The student journalists research, write and post their own articles. Students have recently been branching out and now video interviews have also been added to the magazine.

Coding

Pupils are introduced to the world of coding through coding simple animation in Java, giving them the chance to work through understanding coding language and allowing them to create their own games. Although the club was originally Year 7, there are many pupils who still come along to the club after that, and have gone well beyond the curriculum and are coding whole new worlds. The club has about 40 pupils attending during the year.









Curriculum Catch up

Teachers are on hand every lunchtime to support students with any specific difficulties they are having with topics they are covering. Sometimes students may be asked to attend by teachers, but generally they can pop in for help or to have any questions answered as and when they need to.

Board Games

A popular club in Year 9 for those who like a board challenge, the group meets on Tuesday lunchtimes to play a range of games including Scrabble, Monopoly, Pictionary, Articulate, Draughts, Backgammon and Uno, not to mention other card games of their choice. The atmosphere is fun, friendly and can often become fiercely competitive!

Film Club

A club designed for the members of Year 9 who enjoy a good movie to while away half a lunch hour throughout the year. The films selected and enjoyed by the boys have included St Trinian's, Skyfall, Sherlock (the BBC series), the Kite Runner, Inception, the Bourne series, Casino Royale, Now You See Me, Invictus, Monty Python's Flying Circus and Shaun the Sheep. All Year 9 boys are welcome.

Debating

Debating is just arguing - but with rules! The aim in a debate is to be the most persuasive team, having the best, most well-reasoned arguments and the most engaging style and rhetoric. If you've spent years honing your arguing skills against your parents, siblings and friends then debating is the activity for you! The club is open to all year groups and we participate in many external debates: ESU, Cambridge Schools, Oxford Schools, Rotary etc. and internal lively house debates. We have a weekly club in school to suit all age groups. In addition, we also take part in Public Speaking competitions.

Gardening Club

Gardening Club is open to all year groups. We harvest crops, plant seeds for winter harvesting, fight the weeds and generally get our hands dirty and learn basic gardening skills. It's great to have time outside connecting with nature so come and join us!

Drama Club

Drama Club runs each week and provides an opportunity for students of all ages to get involved in drama outside of their timetabled lessons. For more information on Drama Club see the Performing Arts section on page 23.





Space Club

Space club is one of the most popular clubs at QEH and runs on a Wednesday lunchtime for pupils of all ages. Pupils have the possibility to explore the wonders of science, maths, technology and computer science in the context of space, with exciting, innovative activities. The highlight of the club occurs in the summer term when we build and launch gun-powder fired rockets at Failand. The club is fun, friendly and inclusive of all who have a passion for space!

Geography

We use various media to expand our knowledge of the geography we cover in lessons and to explore geographical issues in the wider world around us. We meet at lunchtime and all year groups are welcome.

Geology

The newly formed Geology Club for Year 7s will explore various aspects of geology using a 'hands-on' approach. Chocolate rolls, toilet rolls and bananas are just some of the items we'll use to discover how rocks bend, earth evolves and fossils are found... not to mention how quakes shake. Come along on a Tuesday lunchtime to discover more.

History & Politics Society

This new club will give the students the chance to pursue history and politics beyond the realms of the classroom, with seminars and discussions and visiting speakers on a huge variety of weird, wonderful and fascinating historical subjects. There will also be a focus on present day political issues and events, as well as the occasional glance towards the future! The club represents a chance for keen history and politics students to engage in a wider range of topics, and will also introduce students to the type of seminar-style learning they can expect at University.

Learning Enhancement Drop-in Sessions

Whether you're struggling with a tricky piece of homework, or need some new ideas to help prepare for exams, Learning Enhancement drop-in sessions are available for you to get some support. Open to all year groups, you can come for as long as you like and get some help in an informal setting. You can work on homework, go over work that you have covered in lessons, or develop new learning techniques.

Enrichment

QEH cares about the way our students develop as human beings. All pupils in Years 7 to 10 take part in an exciting and meaningful programme that ensures our students are equipped to live a responsible and fulfilling life.

In their first four years at the Senior School, our boys are given the skills and guidance to cope with the pressures of the modern world, and to develop their talents and personalities beyond the academic curriculum. In these formative years prior to external examinations, all of our students spend an afternoon a week participating in activities and sessions that have been designed to support and challenge them.

This Enrichment Programme develops our students in the areas of personal development, mental wellbeing, physical wellbeing and creativity and innovation. This exciting programme continues to ensure that students at QEH develop as caring, considerate and talented members of a global community.









Philosophy Club

This is a weekly lunchtime club run by Sixth Formers, and open to anyone who is interested in big ideas and questions. It is fun, challenging and gives pupils the opportunity to present, discuss, question and think.

Philosophy Society

The Philosophy Society exists to offer Sixth Form students from QEH and Redmaids' High the chance to discuss ideas in a relaxed and mature way outside a classroom environment. There is ample opportunity for students to develop both their debating skills and their ability to deal with complex ideas in a relaxed social setting with refreshments provided! We meet once each half term after school.

One student said, "A club in which all the big ideas throughout history can be discussed in the setting of an open forum where all opinions are valid and everyone of any faith or belief is welcome (even if they do not take philosophy as a subject). Wish to challenge the thoughts of others? Wish to have your own thoughts challenged? Philosophy club is the place for you!"

Mindfulness

Mindfulness sessions run on Tuesday lunchtimes for Year 8s who have started their mindfulness course during tutor sessions. Mindfulness offers the opportunity to stop, breathe and be. It reduces stress, encourages brain connectivity and raises happiness. It helps you control your brain to allow the negative and unhelpful thoughts to pass by and instead make way for the opportunity to anchor your mind and body in the present, taking in the sounds and sights around us.

Microbit

Year 7 have the opportunity to develop their coding skills using the BBC microbit. The microbit is a pocket-sized codeable computer which allows students to express themselves digitally. Students will have their own microbit to keep and develop programs at home. In the club they will learn to code their microbit using 2 different software programs. This will be done through a variety of fun tasks ranging from game coding to digital pet creation.





Lyrics & Poetry Club

Open to boys and girls from Years 9 to 13, the club meets weekly in the library to share ideas and views on both song lyrics and poetry, looking at a range of writers from Bob Dylan to Carol Ann Duffy, from Chaucer to Joni Mitchell. The students will also be encouraged to discuss their own writing and perhaps to compile their own creative portfolio. A relaxed and informal group for all budding poets and lyricists!

Christian Union

We meet once a week and the club is led by pupils from across the year groups. It is informal and welcoming; anyone can attend.

‘Learning about the Bible and growing in our understanding of our faith is an important part of CU, but perhaps the most valuable part for me, is knowing other people who share my faith at school and walking with them in it.’

Warhammer

Warhammer Club meets after school every week in the library from 4pm to 5.15pm. Boys set up games with partners, play complex strategy battles and some weeks choose to paint models and individual game pieces. Warhammer Club is open to pupils in all year groups.

Sixth Form Italian Programme

The QEH Sixth Form Italian Programme runs at lunchtime on Tuesdays and includes an introductory course in Italian Language and Culture and a trip to Italy for four days during the Easter holidays. The programme concentrates on learning practical Italian for beginners, including correct pronunciation, building a working vocabulary for travelling in Italy (such as introductions, greetings, directions, and of course food and drink) and basic grammar. No previous knowledge of Italian is assumed, and the emphasis is on learning for pleasure rather than academic study. During the Easter holidays, students have the opportunity to apply their knowledge during a trip to Tuscany. Destinations offered over the past few years have included Florence, Siena, Lucca and Montepulciano.

Sixth Form Medicine Seminars

These weekly seminars support and advise students hoping for a career in medicine, dentistry or veterinary science. We discuss relevant issues in the news, the NHS, medical ethics, preparation for medical school interviews and applications. Visiting speakers come along to talk about their roles too.





Engineering Club

This weekly club tends to change its focus every few years but always keeps the practical application of science at its core. In the past it has taught students the basics of bike maintenance as well as how to build and repair radio-controlled cars, aeroplanes and boats. In its current guise it uses an engineering software package called Matlab to model real-life physical systems, in particular using models taken from the A-level physics content. We are then able to model the influence of different parameters in a way not possible through the exclusive use of theory. It is therefore a very useful addition to the studies of A-level students and gives them a sense of what to expect if they were to pursue graduate studies in engineering or physics.

Amnesty International Group:

Open to Years 11 to 13, QEH's Amnesty Group meets once a week to explore human rights issues both around the world and closer to home. As part of the group, students learn about and take part in Amnesty's latest campaigns and have the opportunity to gain a certification from the online 'Amnesty Academy'. This club would appeal to the next generation of human rights defenders!

Arts Club

In art, photography and ceramics we provide opportunities for each individual to fulfil their potential whilst developing and honing their skills. Art Clubs run most days in the department, providing a calm and creative place where students at all levels can continue with coursework projects or develop their own skills using a range of 2D and 3D materials. Throughout the year, pupils are able to display their work in exhibitions held around the school, where staff, parents and other pupils are able to engage and reflect upon their work and ideas.

Classical Greek

At the end of Year 9, students are offered the chance to study Ancient Greek. Initially students learn the alphabet (used in maths and science) but then they go on to learn the language, look at ancient Greek culture through archaeology and study sections of Homer's Iliad or Odyssey. The course culminates in the GCSE in Classical Greek.

SPORT

Many thrive on opportunities to develop their talents in sport; others just enjoy taking part! Some don't enjoy team sport at all and we offer a range of opportunities from hiking to climbing, which ensures that all can gain exercise without feeling miserable. Being involved, in every sense, is what counts.





Sport continued





Rugby

Adrian Jarvis is our Director of Rugby. Adrian, who recently retired from Bristol after sixteen outstanding seasons in professional rugby, oversees coaching and game plans for pupils from the Junior School to the 1st XV. He also organises after school training and runs Strength and Conditioning sessions in school each morning before school for all students (not just rugby players) to develop their health and fitness.

Rugby is our main winter sport and we play weekend fixtures throughout the autumn term, from U12s to 1st XV. We have good links with Bristol Rugby Academy. In the spring term, we play Sevens and take part in several tournaments including HSBC National Rosslyn Park Sevens. Recent alumni Alex Davies and Jack Cuthbert play Sevens for England and Scotland respectively.

Football

Our football is very successful. For the last five years we have won the ISFA leagues in which we participate at 1st XI and 2nd XI. We have won at other age groups too. Simon Albon, Assistant Director of Sport, is our leading football coach and, as a former professional player himself, leads the coaching and development of football in the school. We have regular fixtures throughout the spring term.

Cricket

Damian Forder, ex-Gloucestershire player, has been our cricket professional for many years and he works with individuals and teams in indoor nets during the winter and in our outdoor nets at school and at Failand in summer. We have several district and county players, whose skills and experience help to inspire their team mates too.

Hockey

A number of pupils take part in a weekly Indoor Hockey Club, ranging from those who have competed in national competitions to those who are completely new to the sport. Competitive games and drills are used to develop their understanding of the sport, and the number of pupils attending has increased significantly since the club was first introduced. The club is coached by a member of staff who is a National League hockey player.

'It is great to be able to play hockey at QEH, alongside the rugby, football and Cricket seasons. The club has definitely developed my skills as a hockey player, and is a really fun way to exercise!' - U13 National Finalist





Climbing

Climbing has become a major sport at QEH with pupils taking part across all year groups. A weekly climbing club is run on site for students to hone their bouldering skills but the real work takes place in games afternoons for Year 9-13 and through the QEH Climbing Squad. The Squad compete in the South West Schools' Bouldering League, with individual and team entry at junior and senior level. We also compete in the annual South West Schools' Climbing Championship where students take part in an 'Olympic style' event consisting of bouldering, top roping and speed climbing.

Senior Circuits

A twice weekly hour of intense physical activity focussing on functional fitness, explosive power, speed and stamina. Exercises Include; Olympic lifting plyometrics, boxing, rope climbs, rope pulls and much more. These are perfect sessions to improve your sporting performance or just to get into excellent shape. All Year 11, 12 and 13 students are welcome and exercises can be tailored to different levels of fitness/strengths.

"I have been going to circuits for two years. It is physically very demanding and I have certainly noticed a massive improvement in my fitness and strength. It has given me more confidence and I feel better in myself. I will Certainly be carrying on next year!" - Year 12 student

Multi-sports

A chance to let off some steam at lunchtime in the gym. Sessions vary between 5-a side football, basketball, indoor cricket or dodgeball. The games are invariably highly competitive.

Racket Sports

Badminton, squash and tennis are options on Games afternoons for older students and specialist coaches are on hand to develop their skills.

Table Tennis

Players of all abilities are welcome. Sessions vary between general play, coaching tips, inter-form competitions, year group and a whole school singles tournaments.

Players can borrow bats, though most choose to bring their own or to buy one from the school office for approximately £3. Boys are also free to play table tennis before school, at breaktime and after school.

Rowing

A new sport at QEH, rowing is developing under the expert guidance of a coach from British Rowing. Students have taken to the water with great enthusiasm and we will be developing the rowing squad further in the coming year.

PERFORMING ARTS

Music and Drama are at the heart of school life at QEH and play a key role both socially and academically.





Performing arts continued





Drama

There are a number of productions throughout the year, ranging from whole school productions to smaller performances directed and produced entirely by the Sixth Form. Some of these also involve working with other local schools.

Drama Club runs each week and provides an opportunity for students of all ages to get involved in drama outside their timetabled lessons. It is informal and students do not need to attend every week. We do lots of different things such as spontaneous and polished improvisation, whole group improvisations, comedy, storytelling and much more! Sometimes our Sixth Form theatre mentors help run the club and it is always good fun. All are welcome!

Theatre Tech

Students of all ages are welcome to come to the QEH Theatre to find out about all the technical equipment in the theatre. They learn about projection mapping, sound engineering, lighting design, intelligent lighting, programming, plotting and operating for shows. Some also help building the sets for show, get in and get outs, plus rigging and painting. All of our crews for the production in the Theatre shows are student led by Theatre Tech regulars. It's a lot of responsibility, but they really rise to the challenge.

Recent leavers have also been very successful in technical theatre and have gone on to design lighting shows for big festivals and venues in London.

Music

We aim to offer everyone the opportunity to get involved in the many varied musical activities we provide. There are twenty musical ensembles in which pupils can participate, most of which rehearse regularly during the school week. We also run a Music Tech Club and regular recording workshops which allow those more interested in composing and recording, the opportunity to develop these skills.

The music diary is jam packed with concerts and performances throughout the year, ranging from the school choir singing in Bristol Cathedral for the Carol Service and Charter Day, right through to the hugely popular 'Unplugged' concerts that play host to the variety of bands created by the students themselves.

Lessons are available on a range of both classical and more contemporary instruments as well as Voice, from our visiting music teachers.

PURSUIITS AND TRIPS

Outdoor Pursuits

QEH pupils love to be active and regularly take part in Outdoor Pursuits. QEH encourages wider participation from pupils who would not normally consider themselves to be 'sporty' in the conventional sense.

In addition to Senior students participating in the annual Ten Tors event, over 150 pupils are involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award with six weekends a year dedicated to Bronze, Silver and Gold expeditions. The 'QE Award', our own variant of the scheme, is extended to pupils in the lower part of the Senior School and in Years 5 and 6 of the Junior School.

A variety of activities is on offer during term time, added to which there are many trips abroad in the holidays. Recently, groups have climbed high in the Matterhorn region, achieved Base Camp on Everest and tested their physical and mental endurance in adventurous activities in Slovenia.

Safety is paramount. We are very fortunate in having a strong team of highly experienced staff with advanced Mountain Leader and first aid qualifications to accompany students in their outdoor activities.

Students' success in such activities builds confidence and encourages them to feel good about themselves.

It comes as no surprise that their fuller engagement in wider school life adds to their performance in the classroom.

Trips

Holidays invariably see a QEH party abroad; historians to World War 1 battlefields, linguists to Spain and Germany, classicists to Italy, geographers to Iceland and Finland, biologists to the Galapagos Islands, artists to Barcelona, musicians to Italy or the USA, cricketers to the West Indies and rugby tourists to South Africa. Every year the school offers travel awards of up to £1000 to individuals for their own expeditions.

During term time, there are trips to Bristol Zoo, local museums and galleries to enrich topics being taught in school. Year 7 historians take a trip to Chepstow Castle, Year 9 Latinists travel back to Roman times in Caerleon, while linguists go to debates and carnival celebrations and GCSE and A-Level Drama students head off to the theatre in London.

Younger pupils throw themselves into team building activities, older ones tackle the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the annual Ten Tors Competition.









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