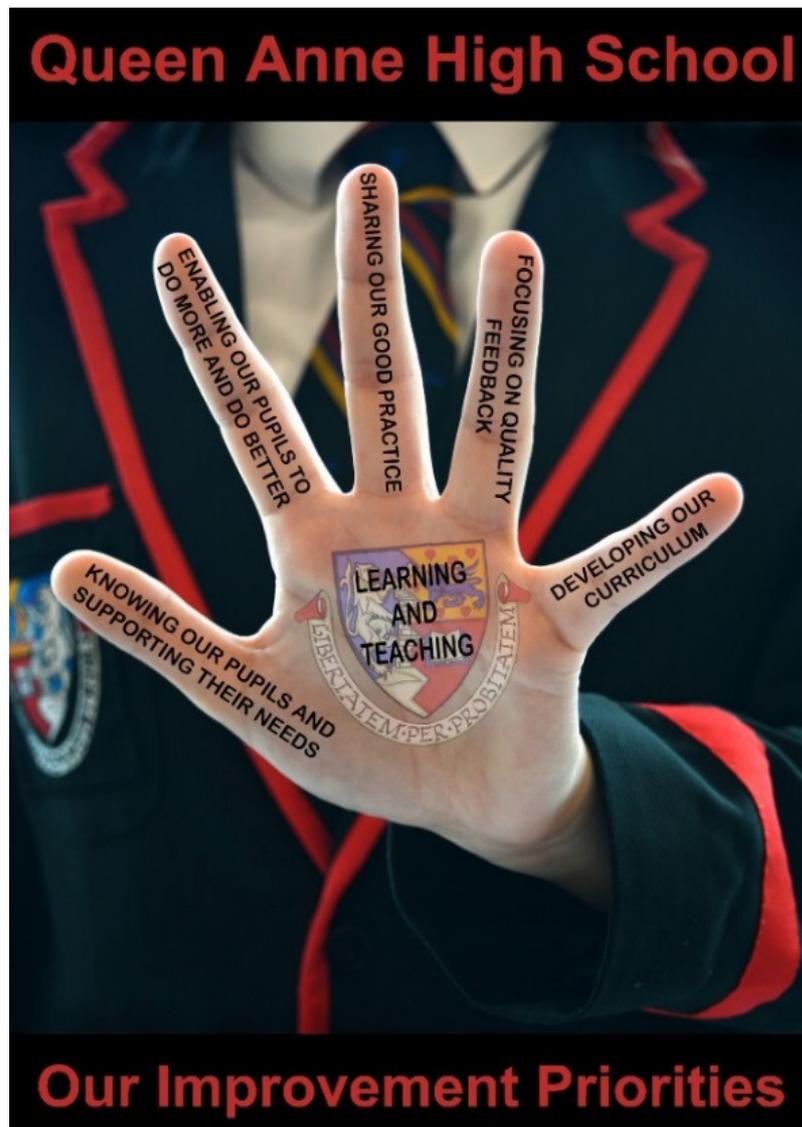




**Queen Anne High School**  
**E-bulletin for our School Community**  
**6-10 November 2017**

[www.qahs.org.uk](http://www.qahs.org.uk)



### **S1 Parents Information Evening - QAHS Literacy Box**

On Wednesday evening the English department launched the 'QAHS literacy box' to parents and carers which consists of a range of resources to support literacy development across all areas of the curriculum by providing materials to enable parents to help pupils develop skills in reading, writing, talking and listening.

This was well received with over 80% of parents opting into a pilot to trial the literacy box resources at home with their child. This will be evaluated to ascertain impact.

In addition to presentations from Mrs Malcolm, Mr Kirkham, Mr Laird and Mr Graham parents also heard from QAHS pupils.

These resources are located on GLOW as demonstrated on the evening and are available to all parents.

Many thanks to all who attended.

### **QAHS Communication Strategy**

The topic for staff development and reflection on Tuesday afternoon was Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). This was delivered to all staff by the Rector. The Rector stressed that although many staff would be aware of ACEs she hoped she could make staff feel something as a result of the presentation and hopefully motivate staff to make small changes in their practice to benefit QAHS pupils.

The presentation included the impact of toxic stress on neural development and organ development in children and how this affected learning, behaviour and health.

Examples of highly effective practice were presented and the efforts of staff recognised.

### **Staffing**

We are delighted to have appointed Nicola Copland as PT Computing. Nicola's interview was nothing short of outstanding and we look forward to welcoming her to QAHS very soon. To have secured a candidate of this quality within the current national shortage of STEM teachers is really good news for QAHS and we are confident that she will deliver a high quality experience for pupils.

Well done also to Kirsty Culloch (nee Mason) in CDT who has secured a CDT teaching in post in Aberdeen Grammar. Having recently married Kirsty is relocating north. Kirsty has contributed much to the CDT department and the wider school and we wish her every success. As a result we will have a 1.0 FTE CDT vacancy from January 2018. An advert for this post is currently sitting with Fife Recruitment and it is hoped it will go live next week.

We have also recently appointed two new members of staff in our Integrated Support Area 2 to provide specialist care and curricular support. Audrey Davies has joined us as a class teacher on a part-time basis from Hillside School in Aberdour. We have also recruited Sophia Ogbukwa as a Pupil Support Assistant who will be supporting pupils with our sensory curriculum. We are delighted with the skills and experience that both Audrey and Sophia bring to ISA 2 and they have already built up very positive relationships with pupils.

### **Associated Primary Roadshows**

The final roadshow targeted at P6 and P7 parents in our associated primary schools took place at McLean Primary School on Wednesday evening. Mrs Watson (DHT) and Mrs Davie (DHT) presented to parents alongside our school captains Hannah and Ross. As always these sessions provide an excellent opportunity to clarify procedures and alleviate anxieties around the transition process.

Many thanks to those in attendance and to our primary colleagues for their support.

### **Remembrance Service and Assemblies**

Remembrance assemblies have taken place for all S1 - S4 pupils each morning this week. These were delivered by pupils and provided an opportunity for all of us to reflect on the past and to 'be the change..' in future.

We were delighted to welcome many visitors to our Remembrance Service in QAHS this morning including: Barbara Dickson who has been working with a group of pupils in the History Department, 5 former QAHS pupils now in their 80s who were recently reunited and the mother of Liam Tasker who lost his life serving his country. It was a pleasure and privilege to be joined by our war veterans, friends from Probus, Poppy Scotland and so many supporters of our school.

Many staff and pupils have worked hard over a number of weeks to ensure the service was respectful and clearly expressed the impact of war.

The QAHS Kelpie was spectacular! Created from over 1000 poppies made from recycling plastic bottles - each hand painted by pupils. It is hoped that it will be on display in the Kingsgate Shopping Centre.

### **Counselling Service - Drugs, Alcohol and Psychotherapies (DAPL) Ltd**

QAHS has invested in three days of DAPL counselling to better support pupils. This is a multi-faceted provision including art therapy delivered to groups as well as one-to-one sessions. This week there were two drop-in sessions available for parents, carers and members of our community to come into school to meet our DAPL Team and to receive a presentation about the work of DAPL with QAHS. As part of our commitment to Family Learning and as part of our Mental Health strategy we have extended DAPL support to the parents and carers of individuals who may be referred to DAPL via Guidance PTs.

Many thanks to the parents and carers who dropped in and also to our DAPL Team. This is being coordinated by Mr Main (DHT) and should you wish to enquire further about this service then please contact your child's Guidance PT in the first instance.

### **Parent and Pupilwise Surveys**

This session all nurseries and schools in Fife are carrying out online surveys to gather views from pupils, parents and carers. We are writing to invite you to take part in the Parentwise Survey and to let you know that your child/children may be asked to take part in the Pupilwise survey.

To access the Parentwise online survey, please use the following direct link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ParentW2017> which remains live until Friday 22 December 2017. Paper versions of the survey are also available. We strongly encourage all parents and

carers to complete this survey as it will help guide and inform our school's improvement priorities for next session and beyond.

The pupil survey will be completed in school. The questions that will be asked can be found below. Very young children and pupils with additional support needs will be asked a smaller number of similar questions and will be supported by staff to take part. We also ask some additional questions in order to find out if pupils are in care or may be young carers. We ask these questions so that we can make sure that these pupils are supported well in school/nursery. We have created an animation to explain the Pupilwise survey to children. You can watch this using the following link: <http://sho.co/19ABM>.

The last time we ran the surveys in 2014-15, pupils, parents and carers provided valuable feedback that was used to inform priorities for improvement. The feedback overall was very positive and it also helped us to identify some very important areas for action, including:

- How we provide better feedback to children about their learning.
- How we encourage pupils' positive friendships, self-confidence and ability to cope with peer issues.
- How we take parental views into account, support learning at home and provide more advice about keeping children safe when using technology.

We have worked hard to address these areas and to provide the best possible service for your child/children. You can let us know how we are doing by taking part in the Parentwise survey. We look forward to hearing your views.

### **Pupilwise Questions:**

#### **SAFE & NURTURED**

I feel safe and cared for in school.

At least one adult in school knows me well.

I know who I can talk to in school if I am upset or worried about something.

People in school help me if things go wrong.

In school, I learn how to stay safe when I am using technology to communicate with others (such as the internet, social networking, mobile phones, email, etc.)

#### **HEALTHY & ACTIVE**

In school, I learn about healthy life choices (such as healthy eating, taking exercise, risks of alcohol, drugs, smoking, etc.)

My school encourages me to be physically active both in and out of school.

I have the opportunity to be physically active both in and out of school.

I have friends I can go to if I have a worry.

My school is helping me to become more confident.

My school is helping me to become more resilient and able to cope with challenges.

I am happy at school.

#### **ACHIEVING & RESPONSIBLE**

Staff talk to me about how I can improve my learning.

I think I am making good progress in my learning.

People in school help me with my learning when I need it.

My school has helped me know what skills I might need for a range of different careers.

I have a range of opportunities to use digital technology to help me with my learning.

My school knows about the things I am good at.  
My school knows what I like doing when I am not at school.  
I enjoy learning at school.  
My parents/carers talk with me about my learning at home.  
I feel my school and my parents/carers work together to support me (S1-S6 only).

### **RESPECTED & INCLUDED**

My school makes sure I know about my rights and responsibilities.  
Staff listen to me and pay attention to what I say.  
I am treated fairly by staff in school.  
I am treated with respect by other pupils in school.  
I get the chance to share my ideas about what I like most and least about school and how to make school better.  
I feel respected by the people in my local area.  
I get the chance to share my ideas about what I like most and least about my local area and how to make things better.

### **Transition Questions**

#### **S1 only**

I was given help by school to feel prepared for my move from primary to secondary school.  
Overall, when I started secondary school, I felt that my learning was at the right level for me.

#### **S4-6 only**

I have been given support to think about what I want to do when I leave school.  
I have been given help to find out about further education, training and/or job opportunities in preparation for leaving school.  
My school has helped prepare me for the world of work

### **Fundraising for ISA2 Football Team**

Our Integrated Support Area 2 raised £117.00 towards costs for their ISA2 football team. Thank you to everyone in the school for taking part in the fundraising.

### **Dates for the Diary**

14 November – Senior Phase reports issued  
17 November – Inservice Day (school closed to pupils)  
11 December – S2 reports issued  
15 December – Senior Formal  
19 December – Senior Phase Tracking reports issued  
20 December – Seasonable Celebration Concert  
22 December – end of term (pupils half day)

Wishing you and your family an enjoyable weekend.

Ruth McFarlane  
Rector