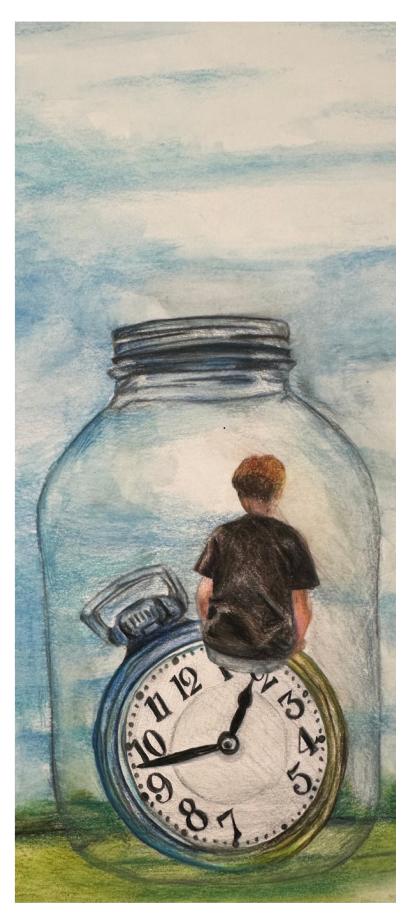






- ART 02
- SPORT 06
- DRAMA 09
- MUSIC 12
- CLASSICS EVENING 13
- MUN CONFERENCE 14
- THE FIVER CHALLENGE 15
 - SCIENCE WEEK 16
 - TRIPS 19
 - GUEST SPEAKERS 27
 - PTA QUIZ NIGHT 29
 - GIVING DAY 33
 - FUTURE EVENTS 33





FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S STUDY

Dear readers,

All Spring Terms tend to feel short, but this one exceptionally so – a combination of the Queen's Gate principle of not returning until after our families have had a chance to celebrate Epiphany and the early date for Easter this year. Ever energetic, Queen's Gate has nonetheless crammed as much as we always would into the weeks since January, making for an exciting, exhilarating and exhausting time. From concerts to swimming galas, Science Week to World Book Day, there has been so much to engage and challenge our girls.

In particular, I'd like to highlight the academic successes we have enjoyed this term. Since November we have been revelling in a steady flow of outstanding university offers for our leavers, with places now achieved at elite institutions such as UCL, LSE, Durham, Oxford and Cambridge. To be able to aim so high is a direct result of the rich super-curriculum we offer here, ensuring the girls have plenty of opportunities to take their learning beyond the confines of the curriculum. The Classics Evening, which features in this issue, was a treasure chest of scholarship, presented with that characteristic QG 'twinkle in eye'. More recently we have celebrated some phenomenal work from our LIV and LVI pupils who have been completing FPQ and EPQ projects. The range of topics defied description, and were evidently informed by the girls' genuine personal interests – another QG characteristic of which we are so proud, our pupils' authenticity.

The Summer Term will see us finalise our plans for the various refurbishment projects we have planned for July and August. I have been very grateful for, and proud of, the wise observations offered by the Senior School Council as we plan their new spaces, even if they did come up with several more suggestions: "Miss Wallace, this table would look great in..."! None of this would be possible were it not for the generous support from our parent body during our first ever Giving Day, which raised over £30,000. To all those who donated, I send you not just my gratitude, but that of our girls; I know how much it means to them to have wonderful spaces in which to grow and learn, and the difference your support makes cannot be overstated. There is so much to look forward to in the coming months – which will no doubt be as frenetic as those that have just passed. To that end, I wish you a restful few weeks, and happy times to all those celebrating Easter and Eid over the holidays, and Passover soon after our return.

All best wishes.

Amy Wallace Principal







From bold paintings to intricate pencil sketches, the School's art gallery showcases diverse pupils talent. This term, we focused on vibrant watercolours, creative mixed-media compositions, and thought-provoking oil paintings, all revealing our art department's artistic depth and creativity. Each piece tells a unique story, reflecting the passion and skill of its creator. Explore this term's gallery to witness the kaleidoscope of artistic expression found within our school community.

Mr Mataya - Director of Art



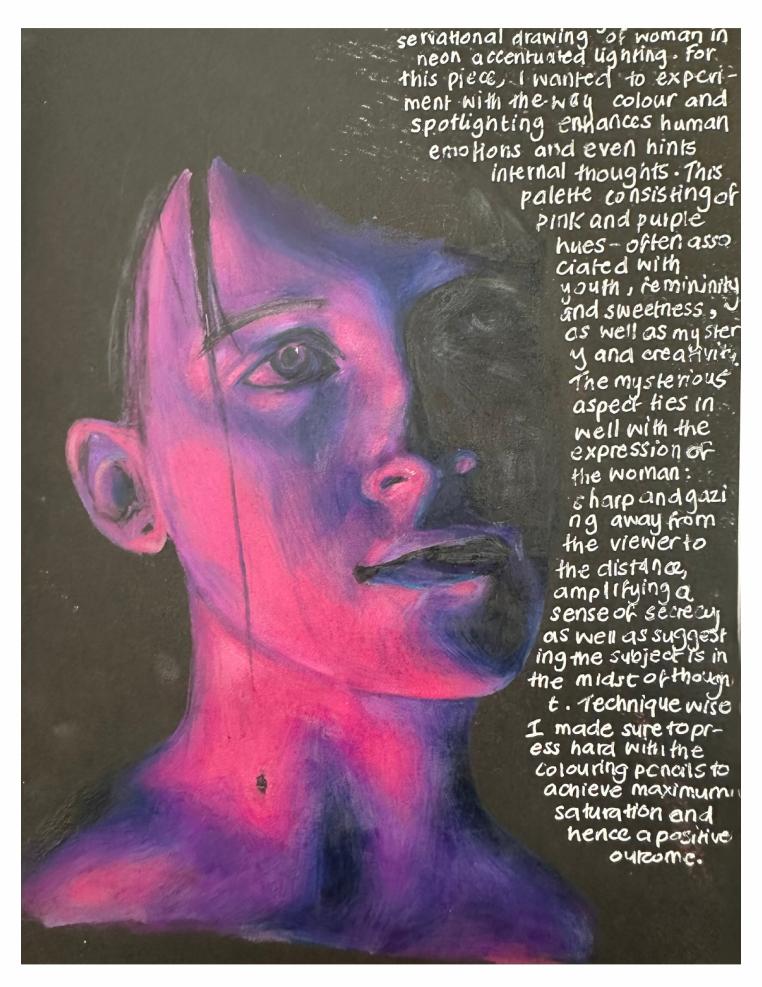
















We always look forward to Spring Term as we run our swimming galas across both the Junior and Senior Schools; pupils began practising for these events long in advance at the start of the school year in September in their PE lessons. Across three galas held at Kensington Leisure Centre, we saw a wealth of energy, determination and hard work from pupils from IA right through to the Sixth Form, who demonstrated the skills they've been working hard on. From breaststroke to front crawl, butterfly to backstroke, there was hardly a moment of still water in the pools.

The Junior School pupils from IB to III Form put on a great show on the morning of Tuesday 12 March, when we saw some high energy and close finishes in the lanes. We were so happy to see a selection of IB and IA pupils whose swimming ability was at the level to participate in the KS2 races.

Points were tight coming into the last relay races of the morning, but Elizabeth House just took the victory with 189 points to Victoria's 178.

Our mini gala saw some brilliant performances from our smallest swimmers, with everyone coming away with a medal; Elizabeth House racked up the biggest score, which was added to the overall House tally. The same afternoon, the Senior School, with swimmers from Remove and LIV as well as a selection of older invitational pupils, descended on the pool where even more races were swum and yet more points were tallied up.

We saw a huge effort from Thomasina Grove in Lower Sixth, who smashed not one, not two, but THREE invitational race records, etching her name on the records table for some time to come and Hiro Blu Haynes Austin who also broke the LIV butterfly record! Fantastic work from a few of our brilliant swimmers.

Miss Lamb-Wilson
Head of PE Operation





ALICE IN WONDERLAND



When hunting for a play to perform with the girls, I was astonished at how few suitable productions there were around. It was like the Three Bears and their porridge . . . they were either too short, or too long. Some had too many songs and some not enough, so I decided to write my own version of Alice in Wonderland instead. This meant I could tailor everything to our girls and give everyone the chance to shine. And they did . . . like stars.

I was really impressed with the way in which the girls learnt their lines so quickly and threw themselves into rehearsals with such gusto! I was also delighted to be able to give six girls the chance to be Alice and thus spread the line-learning load better. The girls loved learning the Mock Turtle's song and dance and it was wonderful to see so many of them engaging with their characterisation and embellishing their role with quirky touches of their own! We all learnt a great deal from the experience but above all, had fun.

Mrs Makhlouf Form Tutor IIB, Drama Coordinator









MUSIC



After the excitement of Christmas, Queen's Gate music has given numerous concerts showcasing different parts of the department. We have enjoyed listening to concerts put on by our pianists, singers percussionists, brass and woodwind players, and cellists. These informal concerts have given our girls the opportunity to perform, gaining invaluable experience and the enjoyment of entertaining others.

Our GCSE and A level music pupils gave a recital where they recorded their performances for submission to the examination boards. This showcased some of the amazing talent we have at Queen's Gate. It has also been very pleasing to hear numerous pupil-led ensembles rehearsing around the school at lunchtimes, ranging from Sixth Form bands to the GCSE musicians jazz band. We also welcomed the start of the brass ensemble which has some of our up and coming trumpeters in it.

We have also been out and about this term, with Lower Sixth girls going to a concert at the Royal College of Music and all of Remove being taken to see Guys and Dolls at the Bridge Theatre. The Senior Chamber Choir along with Junior School girls also visited Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, entertaining patients, staff and visitors. The spring concert in the last week of term will give all our choirs and ensembles a chance to perform to friends and family before we recharge the batteries, ready for the next exciting musical term.

Mr Webb-Taylor
Director of Music



CLASSICS EVENING

On Tuesday 5 March we hosted a Classics evening. Girls from every year group, from Remove to Upper Sixth, presented or performed on a classical myth, character, or topic of their choice. Their titles related to material studied as part of their courses but were largely researched and composed on their own initiative. We had performances of the myth of Arachne and the judgement of Paris, a contest between women of the Roman world, and an extract from Euripides' Iphigeneia at Aulis. Girls presented on topics such as fashion in ancient Greece, PTSD in Homer's Iliad and Euripides' Ajax, the letter of Claudia Severa from Vindolanda, and the links between fairy tales and myths.

There was a flute interlude, and the evening concluded with a talk by Dr George Maher on the uses of Classics. This encouraged the audience to think about the role of Classics in the London landscape and the trade and economic impact of the Roman world. The evening was funny, powerful, engaging, and, above all, thought-provoking.

Mrs Mitropoulos Head of Classics

QUEEN'S GATE IN THE SPOTLIGHT AT MODEL UNITED

NATIONS CONFERENCE

Over three days our Queen's Gate delegation had the immense honour of participating in the Model United Nations (MUN) conference at the London School of Economics. And what a way to end the year! This was our best conference yet as a group and our girls distinguished themselves well in their committees representing diverse countries from Syria to the Central African Republic.

Some noteworthy achievements include:

- Sophie Goreli won the diplomacy award representing the UK which is an amazing achievement.
- Zara Chikaifi won an honourable mention as the Central African Republic which was very impressive as this was only her second conference.
- Vicky Rogers won the most improved award and impressively rapped her final speech.
- Furthermore, both Molly Burgess and Cecilia Simmons received excellent feedback on their position papers making them contenders for the best research awards.
- Finally, our dear leader Sara Kapoor, impressively chaired the special commission, educating delegates on rules and procedures while at the same time supporting all our Queen's Gate delegates to push themselves outside their comfort zone and go for glory.

At the conference, our girls presented speeches on highly intellectual topics ranging from ensuring access to humanitarian aid in conflict zones, securing self-determination in the Western Sahara and, discussing the digital divide and its impact on women and girls in less economically developed countries, among other highly relevant challenging issues facing our world today. Taking an active interest in these debates is essential in making sense of the world we live in today. It is vital to develop informed and critical citizens who can detect bias and be sensitive to diversity. This can be achieved by studying countries' different perspectives on various issues plaguing our planet.

Our girls did themselves proud, and as Sara sails off into the sunset, I am pleased to announce that Vicky and Jasmin will be leading our MUN society next year. We are now looking to recruit some incoming Lower Sixth and Fifth Form girls to push our MUN society to the next level and create a whole new set of leaders for future conferences.

Overall, the girls really enjoyed themselves, made lots of new friends and can't quite believe they have to wait until autumn for another conference. In the autumn term we will likely have another weekend trip this time to Cambridge MUN.

We expect that many more girls will stand on the MUN stage to explore the world together in the months and years to come!

Background – what is Model United Nations?

Queen's Gate seeks to develop responsible citizens in a small school for a larger world which is exactly what MUN seeks to promote. MUN conferences gives pupils the opportunity to research issues of global importance, learn how international organisations operate in practice, learn how to identify a solution to a pressing problem and then negotiate with others to get their resolution to pass. Furthermore, it gives each girl a new perspective and increases their knowledge of the world they may not have discovered otherwise. For these reasons it is highly regarded by colleges and universities around the world.

Mr Baden-Powell
Teacher of History and Economics

JUNIOR SCHOOL - THE FIVER CHALLENGE

The Fiver Challenge was a great experience for me. The Challenge is about starting a business with only $\pounds 5$ and growing the money. I immediately started thinking up ideas. I had many but I decided to settle on lip balms. My sister and I had a favourite lip balm that had many flavours but it was $\pounds 21.00$ each and my mum was fed up with it. When I looked at the ingredients list there were many words I couldn't pronounce which can't be good! So I decided to make my own lip balm that was organic and affordable.

I had to start with looking up recipes for the lip balms. After experimenting with three different formulations I finally found the right one. The first one was too wet, the second one was too glossy, and the last one was just right. Now I could make the perfect lip balm with a good texture, a big tin container, a nice label, and with fun flavours!

Next I had to make the lip balms. I used 95% organic ingredients: cocoa and shea butter, coconut oil, beeswax, vitamin E, natural flavourings, and mica powder. I measured out all the ingredients in a bowl, then I melted it on the stove, then I added mica powder, vitamin E, and natural flavouring until I got the right amount of flavour and finally I waited for them to cool down.

I knew that marketing would be important. A nice label would make the product look better. I started off with designing labels and ingredient lists on Canva. This took a little while but it was fun. I printed them out on sticker paper and had to cut out many circular labels for all the tins. Next I made posters for the marketplace. I think my fiver grew and my business went very well mostly because of my marketing.

If I did my business again I'd probably change a few things such as: don't make all the balms in one day! I also wouldn't have spent my money on the small containers that I first bought and I would have sold more outside of school. I don't think everything went as planned and while there are a few things I would change, overall I think it went well.

I enjoyed doing the Fiver Challenge so much. The marketplace and physically selling to people was very fun, it was really a challenge and making all the products at home was enjoyable.

I think the Fiver Challenge was a great experience and everyone learned something from it.

Georgia Paxson, III Form









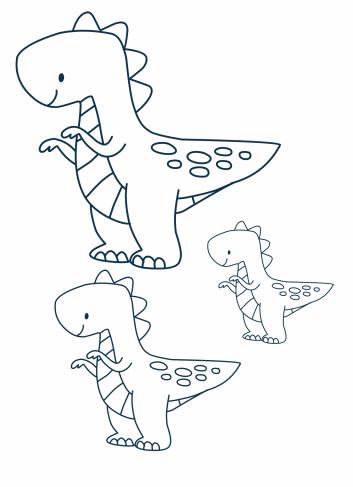
Science Week was jam-packed with exciting trips, experiments, and talks. We investigated density in sugar solutions, explored the chemistry of perfume, distilled lemons and essential oils to make our own perfume, and extracted DNA from strawberries. We kicked off Science Week with a trip to the Natural History Museum just around the corner from us for the 'Behind the Scenes Tour of the Spirit Collection'.

Our Sixth-Form girls had the opportunity to go behind the scenes to view the museum's fascinating zoology collection preserved in spirit. We explored some of the Darwin Centre's incredible 27 kilometres of shelves that house 22 million animal specimens. We even saw the impressive 8.62-metre-long giant squid, viewing specimens collected by Charles Darwin and learning more about the centre's cutting-edge research.

We are very proud of our creative and innovative team of science teachers and technicians for organising and setting up such exciting experiments to add to our rich and varied school life.











IIA had a fantastic Science Week. They loved their virtual reality (VR) show on the Monday where they got to feel like they were in outer space, as well as the Boffins show on the Wednesday where they saw some exciting experiments. They ended the week by becoming palaeontologists and investigating dinosaur fossils.

Miss Shingles
Form Tutor IIA











QG NEWS







A group of Junior and Senior pupils took to the Austrian mountains over the February half term for a jam-packed week of skiing, bowling, quizzing, thermal baths, and discoing. Waking up to an extremely early alarm on Saturday 10 Feb, we all made our way to Gatwick, where we jetted off to Salzburg, followed by a short transfer to Lofer, a small town where we spent the week.

We were a little concerned at the town's low snow levels when we arrived, but once we made our first ascent by gondola to the ski area, we were relieved to find plenty waiting for us there. Splitting into different ability levels, the pupils began their six days skiing with their instructors, where our beginners initially learnt the basics on the nursery slope, whilst the more experienced pupils set off to explore the ski area on the blues and reds. Seeing the amazing development everyone made throughout the stay was fantastic, a credit to the pupil's determination. On our last morning, we saw all the pupils participate in the slalom race, which was fantastic fun, and we saw every pupil show bravery and skill. Plus, the sun shone down on us to make our final day even more amazing!

Aside from the full-day skiing, there were plenty of après activities for the group to enjoy: thinking caps were on for our quiz, and we saw some strong singing skills during the music round; there was some nine-pin bowling in a local Austrian hotel; we went to watch our ski instructors performing in the ski school's ski show by fire light; Thursday evening we visited the fantastic thermal baths, where all indoor and outdoor pools were tried and tested and of course so was the flume!

We ended the week with a lively disco, and all pupils received a personalised award for their antics. Since returning to School, the III Form pupils have created a fantastic scrapbook featuring memories and their highlights from the week. One lovely message written by Kelly Okuyama reads: 'To me, the ski trip was the time to learn things and make new friends. Thanks to this trip, I went from the magic carpet to the blue slope and this to me was a big improvement as a beginner. Thank you, PE Staff, Mr T, Mrs Van Loon and all the friends I made over the trip.'

A big thank you to all the pupils who represented Queen's Gate School immaculately and took care of each other out on the slopes and in the resort in the quieter times.

We look forward to another adventure next year and hope to see you all there again.

Miss Lamb-Wilson - Head of PE Operations

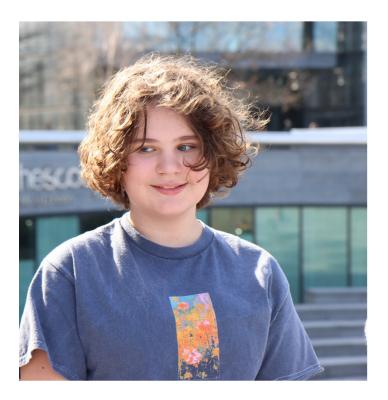
21 QG NEWS







On a Thursday in March, Remove enjoyed a pre-theatre picnic under City Hall with views of the Tower of London and Tower Bridge! The sun came out and our caterer Thomas Franks provided them with delicious baguettes, snacks and drinks which everyone enjoyed immensely. They then meandered over to the Bridge Theatre to be transported to the streets of Manhattan and the bars of Havana in the immersive, critically acclaimed theatre production of Guys and Dolls. They were ushered around the continuously moving platform stage by NYC cops and were brought within a few inches of performers! It was clear why this production has been one of London's most acclaimed classic stage musicals in years, the innovative staging and choreography were more impressive than expected by even those who had read up on the concept before they arrived! Even those who were not as familiar with the musical were surprised by the recognisable tunes and one couldn't help but notice the abundance of awe-struck faces, scattered around the standing stalls, gazing up at the performers, transfixed. The show ended in a big dance party with the cast merging with the audience for a last dance. It was a wonderful opportunity for the whole year group to see this, across the board, five star reviewed show; treat themselves to 'New York Hot Dogs' and enjoyed London's plentiful offerings!

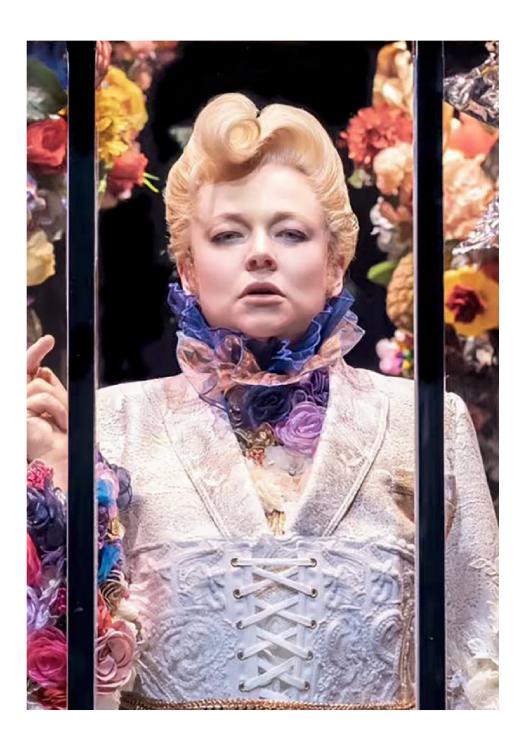








24



Some of Ms Taylor's Upper Sixth English Literature pupils attended a performance of 'A Picture of Dorian Gray' at the Theatre Royal Haymarket. The ground-breaking production delivered an explosive interplay of live performance and video, with Sarah Snook playing all 26 roles! The pupils were blown away; it will surely be one to remember for years!



On Wednesday 13 March, the V Form geographers had a successful field trip to the Olympic Park, Stratford, to undertake their GCSE Geography Human Fieldwork. Pupils collected data over a transect investigating changes in quality of life with regeneration. The pupils worked hard throughout the day, with some acknowledging that the fieldwork methods stretched them to 'go outside my comfort zone', such as the public questionnaire they completed. Overall, the pupils enjoyed the opportunity to apply their learning outside the classroom and will follow this up in lessons to complete their route to enquiry. Well done!

Miss Moor Head of Geography

GUEST SPEAKERS



On Monday 25 March, acclaimed children's author, Ross Montgomery, paid a visit to Queen's Gate, bringing with him a whirlwind of creativity, laughter, and inspiration.

The day began with an enchanting talk to III Form and Remove. Ross held the audience captive, detailing his journey from primary school teacher to full-time writer and regaling them with tales of secret magical societies, hidden abilities, and ancient battles to keep the human world safe. His novel *Spellstone* came alive as he shared the inspiration behind the story and revealed how he embedded a bit of magic into every page.

Following the talk, Ross guided IIA through the art of storytelling during their writing workshop, based around his historical fantasy, *The Midnight Guardians*, set during the Second World War. The room buzzed with creativity as the girls crafted their own fantastical tales.

After lunch, Preliminary, Transition and IB enjoyed listening to Ross read some of his delightful picture books, including Penguin Huddle, a story that celebrates friendship, community spirit and the willingness to help others in times of trouble.



Afterwards, Ross introduced IA and IIB to his uproarious chapter book, *Rock Bottom*, a Shakespearean twist set in a primary school. During the writing workshop, Ross encouraged the girls to think about how to twist some of their favourite stories.

We thank Ross for a fantastic day that celebrated reading for pleasure and the importance of imagination!

Mrs Scott
Head Librarian, VLE Coordinator



We have welcomed some inspirational speakers this term as part of our Wider World programme. First, we met Elikem Logan. Elikem started at Sotheby's in 2022. He is an art historian primarily concerned with West African Modernism and art praxis in the early postcolonial period. Born and raised in Ghana, his research interests span the breadth of African Modern and Contemporary epochs. Most recently, his written work has centred on the historicisation of contemporary art in Africa. He holds an MA in art history and management and an MLitt in legal and constitutional studies from the University of St Andrews, as well as an MSc in African studies from the University of Oxford.

China Williams, senior policy advisor at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, joined us in week two. China is a lawyer by training, and at Kew, her role focuses on ensuring that scientists at Kew comply with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources, as well as the national laws of Kew partner countries. China supports Kew staff in preparing for overseas collecting trips, developing legal agreements with partners, and ensuring policies in all research areas ensure that Kew uses material legally. In addition, China represents Kew at national and international meetings and works with the UK government so that Kew's breadth of science knowledge is used to guide policy decisions.

We welcomed an old Queen's Gate girl, Gaby Hart, in week three. Gaby is a casting director, film producer and director. With a career spanning more than 15 years, Gaby started in film at 17. She attended the New York Film Academy at King's College, London and received her masters in producing for the screen.

Gaby subsequently produced and directed several short films, which performed successfully at various film festivals globally, gathering four nominations and one win. She produced and cast her first feature film, Dead End, in 2011, which was nominated at the Washington DC Film Festival and won Best UK Feature Film at the International TV and Screen Awards in London. Gaby then moved to Los Angeles, where, in 2019, she produced and cast the feature film Becoming, which starred Toby Kebbell, Jason Patric, and Penelope Mitchell. Becoming was listed in the top 20 horror films in 2020 by Thrillist and is currently available on Amazon.

Gaby also runs Filmtrax Casting and works with talents such as Harvey Keitel, Harry Melling, Maggie Q, Lenny Kravitz, Toby Kebbel, and Nicholas Cage, to name a few. Gaby's latest film that she has just cast is DIRTY ANGELS, directed by Martin Campbell (Casino Royale, Goldeneye) and filmed in Greece. Gaby has cast stars like Ruby Rose, Eva Green, Maria Bakalova, and several actors from Netlfix's hit show Fauda, such as Rona Lee Shim'on and George Iskandar. Gaby is working with director Phillip Noyce (The Bone Collector, Salt and Rabbit) on Wall of White — a feature about the 1982 avalanche disaster in California. She has also just cast James & Lucia which stars Rupert Friend, Evanna Lynch, and Anna Friel.

In week four, we welcomed Dr Lola Velazquez. Lola is a Consultant Psychiatrist with dual specialisms in Adult and Old-Age Psychiatry. She studied medicine in Spain and then moved to the UK to train in psychiatry at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital and St George's University Hospital. For the last five years, Lola has worked in the SW London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust, where, in addition to her clinical work as a consultant, she is the Clinical Director for Specialist Services.

Finally, Sarah Clarence-Smith joined us. Sarah is Head of Skills andPpost-16 Education Spending in His Majesty's Treasury. She has worked in other civil service teams, including three years in the Department for Education with the Covid-19 Taskforce, and Prime Minister's Implementation Unit in the Cabinet Office. Prior to this, she worked at the Boston Consulting Group, mainly for public sector clients.

Mrs Cornwall-Jones - History of Art



***** THE PTA QUIZ NIGHT

The PTA Quiz Night is always a highlight in the Spring Term calendar, and this year's event did not disappoint. Mr Denchfield took up his usual post as quiz master, looking the part in his new "Quiz Night" attire.

All teams demonstrated their "inner sculptor" in the mascot round, but there was a clear winner, with a 10 out of 10 awarded to Miss Wallace's table (team name: Chateau Margot) for their excellent Play-Doh sculpture of Ms De La Pena's dog, Margot. Margot, having spent most of the evening on Miss Wallace's lap, sleeping off the cheese and meat nibbles she had successfully scrounged from each table earlier, looked slightly disheartened that her very life-like sculpture was not, in fact, edible!

Teams were just as competitive with the performance round and again, the judges had a clear winner from the table: Shelley & The Jacks with Mr White's X-Factor-worthy rendition of 'I Want It That Way.' The overall winners were The Kathleen Turner Overdrive, who were overjoyed to finally beat the Junior School Team. The ironically named table, 'Last Year's Winners' gracefully took last place.





















She Reads, She Leads: Investing in Tomorrow's Women

Queen's Gate recently hosted its first-ever Giving Day, "She Reads, She Leads: Investing in Tomorrow's Women," and it was a resounding success! Held over 7 and 8 March to coincide with World Book Day and International Women's Day, the event brought our community together for a wonderful celebration of generosity and empowerment.

Throughout the two days, a variety of activities and competitions took place, offering something for everyone. From the PTA quiz to the delightful World Book Day bake sale, there was no shortage of ways to get involved. Additionally, the bake-off competition showcased the culinary talents of our community, while the "Dogs of Queen's Gate" raffle added a fun and furry element to the festivities.

One of the highlights of the event was the International Women's Day breakfast, where students, staff, and parents gathered to kick off the day with a lovely breakfast and inspiring talk from one of our very own alumnae. It was a beautiful moment of reflection as we honoured the achievements and contributions of women around the world.



But perhaps the most impressive aspect of She Reads, She Leads was the incredible amount of funds raised – over £30,000! This would not have been possible without the generosity of our donors and the unwavering support of our community. Every pound raised will go towards important initiatives, such as the development of a new Library and the creation of a stimulating outdoor learning space for our Junior School pupils, and of course the much-needed refresh of our girls' bathrooms.

As we celebrate this milestone, we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in She Reads, She Leads. This was more than just a fundraising event – it was a testament to the strength and spirit of the Queen's Gate community. Thank you to everyone who made She Reads, She Leads a success. And a special thank you to our donors for their generosity and commitment to our School's mission.

Celebrating International Women's Day at Queen's Gate School

On the morning of Friday 8 March 2024, parents, pupils and staff gathered to mark International Women's Day. Organised as part of Giving Day, the event aimed to honour the achievements of women and inspire future generations.

The highlight of the morning was a talk by Selina Rawal, a former pupil who now works at GSK. Selina shared her journey from studying at Queen's Gate to her current role as an Investigator. Her story emphasized the importance of pursuing passions and breaking barriers in traditionally male-dominated fields like science.

In addition to Selina's talk, attendees had the opportunity to contribute to the refurbishment of the School facilities as part of Giving Day.

International Women's Day at Queen's Gate School served as a reminder of the achievements of women past and present, and the potential for greatness in the future.

Miss P Shareefy

Development and Partnerships Manager







Junior School Celebration of the Year

Monday July, Holy Trinity Church, 2.00pm

Senior School Prize Giving

Tuesday 2 July, Holy Trinity Church, 2.30pm

Garden Party

Tuesday 2 July, Queen's Gate Gardens, 4.30pm





