

# ISA Awards 2022 Case Study: Award for Outstanding Sport



## QUEEN ETHELBURGA'S COLLEGIATE

FEBRUARY 2024



### History of the School

Queen Ethelburga's Collegiate founded in 1912 in Harrogate, North Yorkshire is named after the historic Anglo-Saxon queen, and was opened by the Duchess of Albany. For several decades, Queen Ethelburga's School remained in Harrogate as part of the Woodard Corporation until 1991 when it became independent. The same year marked a significant milestone in the school's history when it moved to its present location, the Thorpe Underwood Estate, and was renamed Queen Ethelburga's College. The Thorpe Underwood Hall, the heart of the campus, was built by the famous York architect Walter Henry Brierley, known for his Elizabethan design.

Queen Ethelburga's nurtures a vibrant and supportive community, fostering traditions that engage and unite students across generations. These include the annual School Ghost Production, celebrating the school's birthday, engaging in the annual School Quiz, and participating in Christmas carol singing around the giant Christmas tree outside Thorpe Underwood Hall.

With four distinct schools under its umbrella - Chapter House (3 months to Year 5), King's Magna (Year 6 to 9), The College, and The Faculty (both Year 10 to 13), Queen Ethelburga's offers a comprehensive educational journey, supporting its pupils from infancy to young adulthood. The College and The Faculty became co-educational in 1999 and today, the senior school draws pupils from over 30 countries, reflecting its global outlook. It has developed a reputation for high standards in education locally, nationally, and internationally. This reputation has been reinforced by recognition from the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) who visited the school in October 2023 and found all regulatory standards to be met in full.



Dan Machin  
Headteacher



Students at Queen Ethelburga's benefit from fantastic study, boarding, and leisure facilities, including a full-scale theatre and 42 acres of outdoor sports pitches. The Faculty of Queen Ethelburga's also offers a Performance Sports Programme (PSP) for those interested in furthering their sporting skills.

Queen Ethelburga's Collegiate focusses its ethos on blending tradition with modern facilities, providing a nurturing and supportive environment that prepares its students to become successful and independent adults.

<https://www.qe.org>



## Key aims of Queen Ethelburga's Collegiate's sports programme:

### *Values and Personal Development:*

- Uphold the values of fair play, honesty, and determination within all sports activities.
- Encourage students to strive for personal excellence.
- Promote values of responsibility, resilience, and leadership, challenging students to achieve at the highest level at all times.
- Prioritise individual development over results, allowing each student to flourish and develop their personal pathways.
- Aim to develop not just talented sports performers, but also well-rounded individuals prepared for the next step in their learning journey.

### *Sports Programme and Curriculum:*

- Foster a culture of health and fitness on campus.
- Offer a diverse curriculum to help students realise their full potential while learning about the benefits of a balanced health lifestyle and functional movement.
- Offer a wide variety of sports, including both traditional team sports and more unique offerings.
- Continue our performance sports pathway providing students further education in their chosen sport, with five different sporting pathways led by specialist coaches.
- Enhance students' technical, practical, physical, and psychological capabilities through a sports-specific learning syllabus.
- Combine the sporting programme with a flexible curriculum in GCSE, A level, and BTEC courses, maintaining good education while allowing students to pursue their passion.

### *Community and Teamwork:*

- Encourage teamwork, peer respect, and the ability to motivate others, skills that are key to sports and can be utilised later in life.
- Cater to all abilities and motivate each student to engage in as much activity as possible and take full advantage of the opportunities available during their time at QE.
- Organise whole school sporting events to foster community, peer support, and celebrate sporting achievements.

### *Advanced Training and Opportunities:*

- Offer specialist high-level coaching as part of a Performance Sports Programme, enabling students to represent their sport at county level or above.
- Individualise each student's programme, focusing on the latest tactical, technical, physical, and mental training, with individual talent development as the key component.
- Provide access to the Performance Sport Pathway Programme (PSP) for gifted students, accelerating development and increasing the likelihood of securing professional contracts in their chosen sport.
- Host Premier League football teams at the Village during the school holidays, giving students exposure to professional sports environments.



## OUTCOMES

- Students gained a comprehensive understanding of health and fitness as a vital part of life.
- Students have improved their technical, practical, physical, and psychological capabilities, whether it's for performance, competition, or participation.
- Students have learnt to uphold the values of fair play, honesty, determination, and resilience.
- Students strive more for personal excellence.
- Students have developed leadership skills, teamwork skills and peer respect promoting responsibility, and the ability to motivate others.
- Students have had fun, improving their overall school experience and wellbeing.
- Whole school sporting events have fostered community spirit and peer support.
- Active engagement with local community through outreach programmes has promoted inclusion and a widening participation in sports.
- Students have pursued their sporting passion without compromising their education.
- Many students have continued with sports and exercise as a route of study or career pathway.
- A number of students have secured sports scholarships, enabling them to continue their sporting journey at university, often in different parts of the world.
- Some students have had opportunities to represent their sport at county level or above.
- Students accessing the Performance Sport Pathway (PSP), significantly accelerate their development which has resulted in some signing professional contracts.
- Local primary schools have attended QE's outreach days, promoting sports engagement among younger students.
- Collaborations with local schools provide broader opportunities, such as offering swimming lessons to local primary school children.
- The school's international community engagement includes providing aid to distressed regions, furthering the social impact of QE's sports programme.



## NEXT STEPS

- Further expand the sports programme to include more sports activities and increase participation.
- Further refinement of the Performance Sport Pathway Programme to provide even more targeted support for students.
- Continue to expand and strengthen the outreach initiatives, offering more workshops, sporting events, and partnerships with local schools.
- Build further partnerships with professional sports organisations, allowing students to gain valuable insights and experience in professional environments.
- Continue to emphasise the development of values, and ensure these values are integrated into all aspects of the sports programme.
- Creating an alumni network of past students who have gone on to pursue sports professionally. This can provide current students with role models and networking opportunities.
- Making further links with universities here and abroad.

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