

GB UK: Queen Ethelburga's – Thriving with AI, Esports, and Engineering

Segment Focus

The UK segment is led by **Queen Ethelburga's Collegiate (QE)**, an independent day and boarding school near York. Presenters showcase how their initiatives have evolved to help students “**Thrive at QE**” through holistic development, future skills, and real-world application.

1. Thrive at QE: Whole-Child Framework

- QE structures its work around four collegiate aims: **Academic, Enrichment, Welfare, and Well-being**, emphasizing developing **holistic, well-rounded young people**.
 - All activities and support systems are mapped back to explicit skills in these four domains (e.g., motivation, independence under “approach to learning”).
 - Their motto, “**To be the best that I can with the gifts that I have,**” underpins the idea that every student is supported to develop their own strengths and identity.
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2. Future Skills and Student Voice

- QE's redesign is explicitly informed by the **World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs reports** (2020 and 2025), focusing on transferable competencies (critical thinking, collaboration, technology use, emotional intelligence).
 - School programmes are aligned with the **fastest-growing skills and jobs** identified in those reports.
 - **Student voice** is used to refine provision and co-design new initiatives, reflecting that students are increasingly aware of labour-market trends.
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3. Academic Provision, Choice, and Niche Pathways

- **Personalized Learning:** Students have significant choice, picking options in Year 9 and expanding to **30+ subjects** at **Key Stage 5** (post-16), including both academic and vocational routes.

- **QE Futures & Careers: QE Futures** is the careers programme, using **Morrisby**, an online careers and aptitude platform, to help students explore pathways, understand their strengths, and support university applications.
 - **Niche Subjects:** QE has introduced **Robotics** as a subject and **Esports** as a flagship area:
 - Esports is offered as a **BTEC qualification** at both GCSE and Key Stage 5.
 - A **Minecraft team reached the world finals in Malta and took two silver (second-place) finishes**, demonstrating excellence in a rapidly growing global industry.
 - QE will host the **ISA Esports Finals** outside London for the first time.
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4. AI, Critical Thinking, and Ethical Use

- QE has been an **early adopter of AI** and has a formal **AI policy** for staff and students.
 - **Policy Focus:** Ethical use, checking for **bias**, understanding how outputs are generated, and considering **sustainability and climate impact** of AI systems.
 - **Student Use:** Students build **AI “agents”** to help with tasks such as personal-statement drafting—used as a scaffold, not a shortcut.
 - **Shift in Student Behavior:** Students now **critically evaluate AI outputs**, compare them to their own work, and use AI as one resource among many, thereby **strengthening critical thinking and metacognition**.
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5. QE Study Toolkit & Study Culture

- QE implemented a whole-school **QE Study Toolkit**, a structured package of strategies for **time management, organisation, and effective revision** (e.g., Pomodoro, spaced practice, active recall).
- A nightly **“Power Hour”** sees students supported by **subject ambassadors** (older peers) to work on homework and revision.
- The tools are framed as **lifelong skills** that apply to university, work, and everyday life.

6. Enrichment, Engineering, and Global Outlook

- **Trips & Experiences:** QE offers a dense programme of local, residential, and overseas trips (e.g., skiing in Italy, language/culture trip to Madrid, Science/cultural visit to Iceland). These are framed as **cultural exploration and self-exploration**.
- **Co-curricular Breadth:** QE offers around **140+** lunchtime and after-school activities.
- **QE Motorsport:** A standout STEM enrichment where students run a fully-fledged motorsport team, converting a small road car to **CityCar Cup** racing specifications. Students handle engineering checks, tyre changes, and fuel calculations, bridging classroom STEM and **real engineering practice**.

7. Leadership, Character, and Service

- **Awards:** QE emphasizes the **Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE)** at all three levels (Bronze, Silver, Gold) and the **Combined Cadet Force (CCF)** with RAF and Army sections.
- **Service:** Activities include local care home visits, beach cleans, and charity work (e.g., hosting part of rugby legend **Kevin Sinfield's** "7 in 7" marathon fundraising efforts).
- **Physical Activity:** A strong emphasis on **movement literacy** and **"Fitness for Life,"** shaped by research from **Leeds Beckett University**, is used to develop physical activity as **"skill development"** rather than only competitive sport.

8. Diversity and Student Agency

- QE has a highly international student body, which is a foundation for **cultural awareness and inclusion**.
 - A highlight is their **Cultural Awareness Week**, culminating in a **student-run fashion show**—planned and led entirely by students—as a symbol of **student agency, global identity, and pride**.
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Entities & URLs

Core School and Internal Programmes

- **Queen Ethelburga's Collegiate (QE) Website:** <https://www.qe.org>
- **Queen Ethelburga's College (senior school within the Collegiate) Academic info:** <https://www.qe.org/college>
- **QE Study Toolkit QE page:** <https://www.qe.org/study-toolkit>
- **QE Futures (careers programme) Career guidance info:** <https://www.qe.org/career-guidance>
- **QE Motorsport QE news:** <https://www.qe.org/student-motorsport-team-takes-top-award>
- **Student Motorsport team page:** <https://studentmotorsport.com/qe-motorsport-2-team-page-2024/>

External Reports, Platforms and Organisations

- **World Economic Forum – Future of Jobs Report 2020 Overview:** <https://www.weforum.org/publications/the-future-of-jobs-report-2020/>
- **World Economic Forum – Future of Jobs Report 2025 Overview:** <https://www.weforum.org/publications/the-future-of-jobs-report-2025/>
- **Morrisby – Careers Platform:** <https://www.morrisby.com/>
- **Independent Schools Association (ISA) – Esports events:** <https://www.isaschools.org.uk/sport/national-events/esports.html>
- **Student Motorsport / CityCar Cup CityCar Cup info (BRSCC):** <https://citycarcup.co.uk/>
- **Student Motorsport challenge:** <https://inclusionhub.motorsportuk.org/student-motorsport/>
- **Duke of Edinburgh's Award (UK):** <https://www.dofe.org/>
- **Combined Cadet Force (CCF) Official site:** <https://combinedcadetforce.org.uk/>
- **Leeds Beckett University Main site:** <https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/>
- **Kevin Sinfield Official site:** <https://kevinsinfield.com/>