

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Head of Academy: Mr S Garrity Chair of Governors: Mrs H Baker



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6th April 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Spring News

As we come to the end of this spring term, there are a number of school news items to share with you. QEGS successfully completed the formation of a Multi Academy Trust on 1 April 2017 and can now proceed to form more collaborative partnerships with other schools, both primary and secondary. This is an exciting and important step in the history of QEGS and one that will secure the best possible opportunities for our students.

QEGS is the founding school in the new Multi Academy Trust (known as QEGSMAT), having been encouraged and financed to take the lead by the Department for Education, due to its previous role in working with and supporting other schools locally. This opportunity gives us control of our future and will assure QEGS' unique identity and traditions.

QEGS is in a strong position, being one of the few schools in Derbyshire not to be announcing staff redundancies or course closures, and has a strong number of student applications for September 2017, both for years 7 and 12, coming from a record 34 primary schools. We will continue to build on this position to ensure the future offering of a wide and varied curriculum.

Waterhouses Primary School is the first school to join QEGS in the Multi Academy Trust, and a number of other schools are on schedule to join in the next few months. We are especially keen to formally partner with the primary schools that feed QEGS as we recognise the benefits this would bring to students and the chance to assure their unique identities which are so important to our communities.

We have been approached by a variety of schools, both locally and in other nearby areas, and are working with them to determine the best outcome for each one. We hope the Multi Academy Trust will grow quickly, allowing access to resources and economies of scale for all schools, with the over-riding aim of improving educational outcomes for all in our communities.

These changes have meant some alterations in the make-up of the QEGS governing body, as our previous Chair of Governors, Max Jeffrey, moves on to lead the Board of Trustees for QEGSMAT. Our new Chair is Helen Baker, previously Vice Chair and originally elected as a parent governor in 2014. Helen is a local businesswoman and lives in Ashbourne, with two daughters who have attended QEGS. One is now studying Geography at university and the other is doing A levels in year 12.

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Anne Martin is now the Executive Headteacher of QEGSMAT and will continue to be based at QEGS. Scott Garrity is the Head of Academy at QEGS responsible for all aspects of the day to day running of QEGS. The changes made won't mean a visible difference to the way your children are taught at QEGS as the school's vision and values will be maintained - they continue to have the best opportunities, resources and education that it is possible to provide.

We wish you an enjoyable Easter break and look forward to a busy and successful summer term.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Garrity
Head of Academy



Mr M Jeffery
Chair of Trustees (QEGSMAT)



Mrs H Baker
Chair of QEGS Local Governing Body