

# QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The Green Road, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1EP

Tel: 01335 343 685 Email: enquiries@qegs.email Twitter: @qegs\_ashbourne

Web: www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr S Garrity

Chair of Governors: Mrs H Baker



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22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Punctuality, Litter & Canteen Information**

It has been a busy few weeks in school with Yr11 Mock exams, Children in Need fundraising, preparation for the year team reward trips, FPTA events and lots of sports fixtures to name a few.

In the midst of these fantastic events, some infrequent concerns have recently become more frequent and we have decided to be pro-active and respond to these challenges.

### Punctuality

Due to an increasing number of students arriving late to school and lessons, Mr Hallam has recently written to all parents this month outlining the importance of being on time to school in the morning and on time to each lesson throughout the day. High attendance and good punctuality are also the first two measures most colleges and employers will request in any reference, so it is important to develop a good habit sooner, rather than later.

To deal with persistent lateness, Mr Hallam and his team now review punctuality on a weekly basis and students will receive a series of detentions according to the level of concern.

### Litter and waste food on site

Linked to the first concern of punctuality, we have found that some of our students are choosing to visit take-away/fast-food places in town before arriving at school in the morning. This has resulted in some students arriving late to school, which is not acceptable. Added to this, the food and drink packaging is being disposed of on the school grounds and not in the bins provided. We are more than happy for students to bring their own food and drink to school for break and lunchtime. However, we will not accept litter around the site. Therefore, we have decided to reduce the source of the packaging, (which are generally packaged in un-environmentally friendly materials) and ban any 'fast-food' and 'take-away' food and drinks brought onto the school site.

- For students who may have missed breakfast at home, our canteen is open each day from 8.00am to 8.45am.
- Any food and drink from home should ideally be stored in a re-useable container, which has little if any impact on the environment.
- Students bringing a packed lunch to school now have two places to eat: either the School Hall, which is open each lunchtime and students do not have to queue, or the school canteen where students queue as normal. This has been a real success and has given students more choice with when and where to eat their packed lunch.

There have also been concerns about litter from food and drink being taken out of the canteen and left around the school site. Our local seagull population is increasing to almost the level of a landfill site. As a temporary measure and until litter is significantly reduced, we will not be allowing food and drink to be taken out of the canteen. We have explained the reasons behind this to students and we hope to see an immediate improvement. I hope that this will be a short-term measure, as we would prefer to see students acting responsibly and given more freedom of choice.

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Punctuality, Litter & Canteen Information

### Bins

Whilst we feel that there are enough bins located around the school site, it has come to our attention that students feel there could be more.

Therefore, I have asked the site team to order more bins for our outside areas, these will arrive as soon as possible.

Please remind your child to respect the school site, the environment and use the bins provided. It is your school, their school, our school and it is important we maintain the environment now and for future generations.

### Canteen

You will know we have trialled various queuing methods to help all students have fairer access to the canteen. We have trialled ordering the queue by gender, by house and by year group. Year group order is clearly the students' preferred choice and for the last 4 weeks, we have operated in this way. However, this did not improve the litter and mess left by students inside the canteen. Recently, the canteen staff drew our attention to occasions when some students had left their plates, cutlery and part eaten food on tables and on the floor without any effort to place in a bin and/or clearing table. Some students have been deliberate in causing as much mess and expectant of someone else to clean up after them. Sanctions have been issued to the students concerned. This is clearly not acceptable and I know that you will support me in sharing the message with your child of 'respect and responsibility'. Respect for the environment we work and learn in, respect for others, responsibility of your own actions and being responsible in looking after our school.

To help encourage students to eat and drink sensibly, we have trialled reduced standing areas. The impact on litter and mess was incredible, none left at all. All tables clear and all litter disposed of in the bins. I hope that this new measure can help us return to the high standards we expect with students having the choice of seating or standing. We do appreciate it is a long school day with students getting hungry at school. We also hope to keep the alternating order of queuing by year group so that all students benefit from this arrangement.

- Monday: Year 7 and 8 first 30 minutes, Year 9 and 10 second 30 minutes
- Tuesday: Year 9 and 10 first 30 minutes, Year 7 and 8 second 30 minutes
- Wednesday: Repeat of Monday
- Thursday: Repeat of Tuesday
- Friday: Decided weekly according to rewards and behaviour of year groups or houses
- In order to support exam preparation, Year 11 are able to access the canteen flexibly
- To help improve litter in the canteen I have also asked the site team to increase the number of bins.

We are a large school with many wonderful successes and experiences taking place on a daily basis. We simply ask students to be respectful, be responsible and be aware that their actions and behaviour will influence their enjoyment of school. We want to work with students not against them. Equally parental and carer support is an essential part of this and we very much appreciate your support in maintaining our high expectations.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Garrity  
**Headteacher**