

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity

Chair of Local Academy Committee: Mrs H Baker



10th May 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Summer Update

Welcome to summer (almost)! I hope that you all had a restful and refreshing Easter break. Whilst the main purpose of this letter is to acknowledge successes, I would also like to ask that we reflect on the recent incidents in Sri Lanka. Remembering our responsibility to challenge extremism in whatever form and to not live in fear, a challenge I know. Fortunately, we believe that none of our school community were affected by these horrendous acts.

The seven week half-term before Easter felt a little longer than normal, particularly when other parts of the country were commencing their Easter break before us. Once again, in such a short time frame, we had many things taking place at school and lots of success and achievements.

Achievements:

- Thank you to the **Shrovetide** Players and the Committee for supporting us in promoting the history and value of the local game. Players attended our assemblies for all year groups. Mr Bembridge and I also had the privilege of attending the Shrovetide Luncheon on Tuesday, a lovely occasion followed by a very competitive day of play! We also send congratulations to one of our ex-students and ex-teaching staff, Richard Smith scored on day two, well done to him and the QEGS students involved.
- Our **FPTA** recently organised and funded a series of **Parent and Carer Information sessions** targeted at supporting teenagers and parents with some of the challenges of growing up. Involving a panel of specialists, each event in town and at school were well attended by parents and students. Special thanks to Miss Angris for leading and promoting the sessions. The FPTA are very keen to recruit new members, please email tessabyron@hotmail.com for more details.
- **The Primary Dance Festival** was a huge success with over 298 KS2 students and 233 KS1 students involved. The performances and talent on show were superb. Well done to all involved and thanks to Miss Jennings and Miss Hambly for organising.
- Our very own Mr Bembridge has been using his knowledge of the **history of QEGS** to lead tours around the school. Initially for staff and students, he has been helping us all appreciate and learn about some of the curious things in QEGS past. We have been celebrating and appreciating some of the school artefacts, which many of us pass every day without fully knowing what they are. Mr Bembridge will be opening these tours up to parents and the community in the coming months. One of these opportunities will be at our Community Day on Friday 12th July from 2.30pm-6.30pm, this will be our Summer Fair and Race for Life combined, a key date for your diaries.
- In the regional **Maths Challenge** QEGS came 5th out of 37 teams, well done to those in Years 8-9 taking part.
- For **World Book Day** we hosted a visiting author, Harriet Goodwin. She worked with a range of our students, helping to develop their understanding and engagement with creative writing and the skills of interpretation. Thank you to Mrs Rushton-Plant for organising.
- So much **sporting success** across all age groups, all summarised on our website www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk or via the PE Team Twitter account **@QEGS_PE** and the new Instagram account 'qegs_pe'. Well done to all students who take part, either just for fun or to win such as U16 Boys

QEGS Academy Sponsors: The Woodroffe Benton Foundation - The Old Trust (founders 1585)

County Rugby Champions, superb! Special thanks to the PE staff for their commitment to fixtures and practices for students either at lunch, after-school or at the weekend.

- Our school show this year '**Sister Act**' was once again another outstanding production for all involved and a joy to watch. We hosted over 400 primary school children, a local Parkinsons group, students from one of our partner schools at City of Derby Academy and over 900 parents, staff and students in our audiences over 4 days and 6 performances. Mrs Corboz, Mr Daughtry, Miss Hambly and Mr Keeling it was awesome, thank you!
- Year 11 have had their second set of **Mock exams** which have all gone really well and at the time of writing Year 10 are sitting their first set of GCSE mock exams.
- From Wednesday 15th May 2019, we will be launching **Quiet Study for Year 10**. Same arrangements and timings as Year 11 sessions just a different day: Every Wednesday, library, 4.00pm to 5.30pm, free tea/coffee/juice and biscuits.



- We have recently appointed **new House Leaders**, congratulations to all. Details will be sent separately shortly.

- During British Science Week students led assemblies, visited the Big Bang Fair in Birmingham and we had plenty of strange science practical's taking place including one which involved zip wires and tomatoes! Thank you Mrs Wright.

Developments and Key Dates:

- We have recently introduced to all students, a simple and focused set of 5 expectations for everything we do and expect at QEGS:

QEGS Expectations

Together at QEGS we:

1. Do as we are asked first time, every time, by any member of staff
2. Are respectful to ourselves, others and the environment
3. Arrive on time, are equipped and ready to learn
4. Try our best at all times, in all circumstances
5. Use technology responsibly

This relates to behaviour in and out of lessons, being respectful of each other, caring for our school and local environment, not dropping litter and picking any up. Basically being a good person and a good citizen. Please talk to your son/daughter about these expectations.

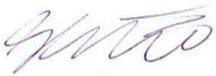
- **Uniform - Change of QEGS school skirt:** In response to student, staff and parental voice, we have decided to change the QEGS school skirt. Concerns around interpretation, inconsistency, durability and in a move to maintain a smart uniform for all, we will be replacing the current school skirt with a new 'checked', pleated version. **For new Year 7 students starting at QEGS in September 2019 and September 2020** choosing the skirt option, the only skirt available will be the new checked, pleated skirt - available to purchase from our uniform supplier Trutex Meir. **For existing QEGS students in Years 7-9, there will be period of transition up until September 2021**, at which point all students choosing the skirt option will be required to have the new checked, pleated skirt. Students and parents may wish to purchase the new version before the transition period concludes. **Further details will be available as soon as possible.** Please contact Mrs K. Starkie if you have any queries (starkiek@qegs.email).

Dates for Diaries:

- 21.06.19 Sports Day: Parent spectators welcome, more details will follow soon- usually 1.00pm onwards
- 27.06.19 Sixth Form Transition Day for current Year 11 Students
- 02.07.19 Year 6 Parents' Evening (for new Year 7 students and parents) 6.30-7.30pm
- 08.07.19 to 19.07.19 Year 10 World of Work: Combination of careers events and work experience
- 08.07.19 to 19.07.19 Year 12 Work Experience
- 09.07.19 Year 10 Countdown to Success: For all Year 10 students and parents 6-8pm
- 12.07.19 QEGS Community Day: A combination of the Summer Fair and Race for Life. Fantastic family and community day with activities and events taking place from 1.30pm – 6.30pm (normal school day timings, events taking place in school time and after-school)

An exciting and busy term ahead, we look forward to seeing you at the many events as we continue to strive to provide "A world class education for All".

Yours faithfully



Scott Garrity
Headteacher