

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity



23rd October 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff,

Weekly Bulletin #7

HELLO YELLOW AT QEGS – SPREADING KINDNESS AND HAPPINESS!

At QEGS, we marked Hello Yellow with a burst of sunshine, smiles and a little sparkle!

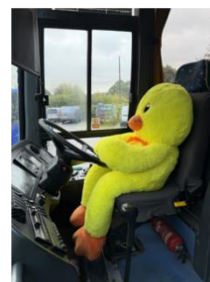
Our Proud Table turned yellow for the day, providing a space for us to connect with students, check in on their wellbeing and remind them how important it is to talk about how they feel.

Ducky was our star of the show! Ducky Hugs went down an absolute treat, bringing smiles to faces across the school and spreading a little happiness wherever he went.

Days like this are a wonderful reminder of the importance of kindness, looking out for one another and creating a school community where every student feels seen, supported and valued.

As parents and carers, you can help us continue these conversations at home. Encourage your child to check in with friends, speak up if something is worrying them and remember that **a small act of kindness can make a big difference.**

Together, we can make QEGS a place where everyone feels they belong.



QEGS Rewards Shop Now Open!



We are delighted to announce that our QEGS Rewards Shop is officially open! We were pleased to welcome the Mayor of Ashbourne, Councillor Phil Chell, to school to perform the grand opening.

Our shop is stocked with a fantastic range of rewards, from confectionery, early lunch passes and novelty items to £5 gift vouchers for local Ashbourne businesses.

Students can choose to spend their hard-earned points on rewards now or save them up for something bigger. With more exciting rewards on the way, **points really do mean prizes!**

We are always looking for new ideas to add to our rewards menu, so students are encouraged to share their suggestions with their tutors. We would also love to hear from parents, local businesses and community members who would like to support our Rewards Shop.

International Queen's Commonwealth Writing Competition winner!

Congratulations to Year 10 creative writing artist Lottie S. Lottie has been awarded a prestigious Silver Certificate Award in the International Queen's Commonwealth Writing Competition 2026.

Lottie has developed her voice and flair through outstanding participation in the weekly KS3 Creative Writing Club. Lottie has now claimed her role in writing history by being feted in the world's oldest international writing competition for schools (since 1883). She interpreted her chosen theme independently and worked with a challenging thousand-word count. Lottie also overcame any fears of instant disqualification for any detection of AI use by being original, unique and listening to her inner writer voice. The odds are always in your favour when you write, read and think originally. Well done Lottie. This is very well deserved.

Library Competition winners!

Well done to Year 8 winners Iona T, Ava C and Aria K who entered the dystopian writing competition, each win a pair of tickets to the upcoming author event organised by Brown Onion Books over the half term break. We hope you enjoy the event with author Moira Buffani!



Year 7 Parent Teacher Meetings – Wednesday 11th November

Information letter has been sent to Year 7 parents and carers today on the upcoming Parent Teacher Meetings in school on **Wednesday 11th October from 3:45pm to 6pm.** Please take time to read to read the instructions on how to book via Arbor before the booking opens on **Monday 2nd November at 6pm.**

Sixth Form news:

Year 13 Peru Trip



We have loved receiving and sharing updates from our Year 13 students on their incredible trip to Peru! Their visit to the iconic Machu Picchu has been a real highlight and an unforgettable experience. They've also spent time visiting two different schools, learning about the differences in education and experiencing life in Peruvian classrooms. Alongside this, they've been immersing themselves in Peruvian culture, sampling local food and exploring all that this amazing country has to offer. What a fantastic opportunity to learn, explore and make memories that will last a lifetime!



Year 12 Work Experience Launch

This week we launched our Work Experience Week with our Year 12 students, which takes place between 21st –25th June 2027.

Students have been given advice on how to begin researching opportunities and are now tasked with finding their own placements. All placements must be uploaded to Unifrog **by 5th February 2027**.

Work experience is a fantastic opportunity to develop employability skills, gain valuable insight into the workplace and support future career research. Students can request a careers appointment or speak to their tutors and teachers for advice, ideas and support with finding a suitable placement.

Year 13 University Applications & Next Steps

A reminder to all Year 13 students applying to university that our **internal Sixth Form deadline for UCAS applications and personal statements is Friday 6th November**.

Meeting this deadline ensures that applications can be thoroughly checked by the Sixth Form Leadership Team, with personal statement feedback provided where needed. Our aim is to have the vast majority of applications submitted before the Christmas break.

All students have been encouraged to complete a personal statement, as similar statements are often required for employment and apprenticeship applications. We will continue to provide plenty of support for students exploring apprenticeships and alternative routes.

Last week, students took part in assessment centre activities, giving them a valuable insight into recruitment and selection processes. Looking ahead, students can also request an appointment with Miss Fletcher, who can offer support with apprenticeship opportunities, applications and interview preparation.

As always, students are encouraged to speak to the Sixth Form Team if they need advice or support with planning their next steps.

Senior Maths Challenge

Well done to all our Year 12 and Year 13 maths students who took part in this year's UKMT Senior Maths Challenge, achieving an impressive 2 Gold, 12 Silver and 11 Bronze awards!

This national competition challenges students to tackle unfamiliar mathematical problems, developing logical reasoning, creative thinking and problem-solving skills that support their A Level studies and beyond.

A special shout-out to Naor V and Sam S in Year 13, who have qualified for the Senior Kangaroo follow-on competition. A fantastic achievement—we wish them both the best of luck! Congratulations to everyone who took part!

Food Bank donations

We are delighted to share that our school's Harvest Offering has now been delivered to Ashbourne Food Bank. Thank you to everyone who generously donated and supported this year's collection. Your kindness and generosity will make a real difference to individuals and families in our local community. We are very grateful for the wonderful support shown by our school community, demonstrating the true spirit of Harvest and the importance of caring for others.



Performing Arts Clubs – Get Involved!

There's still plenty of time to get involved with Performing Arts this term!

Whether you love performing, creating, playing music, or simply want to try something new, our clubs are a fantastic way to develop skills, make new friends, and be part of our thriving Performing Arts community.

You do not need lots of experience to join. Our clubs are open to all students, and everyone is welcome to come along and try something new.

Join the Show Team

Missed the initial sign-up? Don't worry! There is still time to become part of our show team. Whether you want to perform on stage or support behind the scenes, we'd love to have you involved.

Learn a New Instrument

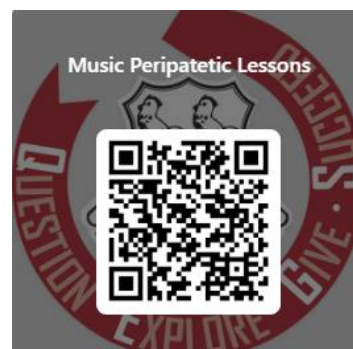
Ever wanted to learn guitar, drums, piano, singing, or another instrument? Instrumental lessons are available, and it's never too late to start. Complete the lessons form to register your interest and find out more.

[Music Peripatetic Lessons – Fill in form](#)

Take the opportunity, get involved, and discover your talent!

For club information, show team enquiries, or to sign up for instrumental lessons, please complete the relevant forms or speak to a member of the Performing Arts team.

We look forward to welcoming you!



From Halloween Frights to Christmas Delights!

As the Year 7 Halloween Disco unfurls downstairs in the Main Hall, our talented musicians are already busy preparing for this year's Christmas Production!

Festive music, Christmas cheer and a sprinkle of QEGS magic are on their way!

Save the Date – Tuesday 15th December!

We warmly invite students, families, friends and the wider QEGS community to join us for a very QEGS Christmas!

Come along, support our talented performers and enjoy an evening filled with festive favourites, wonderful music and plenty of Christmas spirit.

There's no better way to begin the festive season than coming together to celebrate the talent and creativity of our students!

Gather your family and friends, pop the date in your diary and join us for a truly magical QEGS Christmas!

More details to follow – let the festive countdown begin!



PE Updates:

House matches

This half term, we have had badminton house matches for Year 8 girls and boys, Year 10 girls and Year 11 girls and boys. So far, the overall standings are;

Cokayne 1st 60 points

Boothby 2nd 55 points

Hull 3rd 40 points

Spalden 4th 25 points

Well done to the Year 8 boys who played on Wednesday this week, Hull were the winners, followed by Spalden, Cokayne then Boothby.



Netball matches



Year 8/9 lost their game but played so very well. For most of the girls it was their first or second game ever, so they did a fabulous job.

Year 9 played Highfields Year 10/11 combined team against 3 county players. The game was lost by just 2 goals. They were amazing and played at full throttle for the duration. Very proud of them, they are progressing so much as we get ready for the County tournament on the 11th Nov.

Big thank you to Lucy H who made the fixture possible by volunteering more of her time to help umpire. She coaches

Year 7,8 and 9 team each week for school as well as being a committed player. She is an amazing umpire and we appreciate all she does for us.

Football matches

Congratulations to the Year 7 footballers who represented QEGS this week in games against Lady Manners. All of the players showed great attitude and effort throughout the games. One of the teams won 6-1 and the other displayed fantastic resilience and determination to come back from 3-5 down at half time to win 8-6!



Year 3 & 4 Primary Football



250 primary pupils taking part in our Year 3 & 4 primary event. It was great to see so many children playing football (and the rain held off all afternoon) Thank you to the Year 9 sports leaders for leading the event.

U13 Girls DCFC 7 aside football tournament

Our u13 girls (which included two Year 7 pupils) took part in the DCFC 7 aside football tournament on Thursday.

They competed against some tough opposition, but they all battled until the end. Player of the tournament Lily in Year 7. Well done girls!



High Peak Neurohub & SEND Parents Count

We are very pleased to announce that the High Peak Neurohub have agreed to start to have a presence in Ashbourne, full details are sent with the bulletin.

Interested parents and carers, please contact Louise Gunnarson directly to make the appointments for 1:1 meetings as the dates in November and December are seen as a trial that will be assessed at the end of the year, the results of which will determine the support the group will receive in 2027.

Also attached to be bulletin is the flyer for the SEND Parents Count meeting at St Oswald's Church Hall on 12th November. 1:30pm to 3pm.

School Canteen

Menu choice week beginning 2nd November will be week 2.

Prices for items purchased in the canteen can also be found on the below page:

<https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/parents/canteen/>

Tapestry Learning Partnership Trust Vacancies

Please keep an eye on our vacancies at QEGS and within the trust. Current QEGS vacancy:

- Midday Supervisor

<https://mynewterm.com/trust/Tapestry-Learning-Partnership/145491>

Recruitment opportunity for Ashbourne Business Improvement District

Mr Garrity is a member of the Ashbourne Business Improvement District (BID) Steering Group and they are looking for a BID Manager.

Ashbourne Business Improvement District (BID) is looking to recruit a **BID Manager**. The role is central to delivering the Ashbourne BID Business Plan and working with local businesses, partners and stakeholders to support the continued growth and success of the town.

Key details:

- **Position:** Ashbourne BID Manager
- **Hours:** 29 hours per week (part-time)
- **Salary:** £28,214 - £31,060 per annum (based on 29 hours per week)
- **Contract:** Permanent
- **Application deadline:** Wednesday 18 November 2026
- **Further information and application:** [Groundwork Careers Website](https://www.ashbournebid.co.uk/)

Upcoming Key Dates This Term

23rd October – last day of Autumn 1 Term

26th October to 30th October – half term break

2nd November – Autumn 2 Term starts

2nd November to 6th November – Year 11 Core Mock exams

10th November – Primary Sports, tag rugby

11th November – Year 7 Parent Teacher Meetings, in person in school, 3:45pm to 6pm

17th November – Primary Sports, tag rugby

17th November – QEGS Oscars evening, 5:30-7:30pm, <https://www.ticketsource.com/booking/select/xmobpmpbzygo>

24th November – A Level Physics, Live trip

24th November – Primary Sports, hockey

26th November – Year 9 Parent Teacher Meetings, in person in school, 3:45pm to 6pm

1st December – Year 13 Criminology Conference, Psychology & Sociology students

1st December – Primary Sports, basketball

3rd December – Year 11 Parent Teacher Meetings, in person in school, 3:45pm to 6pm

7th to 11th December – Year 13 mock exams

Finally

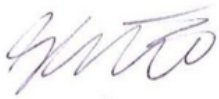
Thank you to parents, carers, students and staff. We have had a fantastic half term of calm, productive and engaging learning both inside and out of the classrooms. From rehearsals for the show, to sports fixtures, a Year 7 disco, a huge uptake in the weekly running club, growth in numbers for Dungeons and Dragons club, a trip to Peru and visits to universities. Our staff have provided a wide variety of experiences, and our students have got involved and met new friends, loving every minute of what is on offer. Thank you!

Good luck to Year 11 students who return after half term to their first wave of mock exams. Some tips and advice to help you manage your time and the challenges ahead:

- Try to balance revision with some rest and time with family and friends over the autumn break.
- Put the mobile phone away and stay focused for 45min-60min chunks of active, focused revision.
- Revise the difficult topics first.
- Use practice questions, don't just read notes, challenge yourself!
- Revise with a friend but make sure the time is well used, don't just chat!
- Get plenty of sleep, eat well, drink lots of water and give everything your best shot!

Have a safe and enjoyable half term.

Yours faithfully,



Scott Garrity
Headteacher

Encs: Performing Arts co-curricular poster, SEND Parents Count & Neurohub information