QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL
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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity

13th November 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff,

Weekly Bulletin #9

Remembrance in Ashbourne 2026



Sunday 8th November 2026- This year's Remembrance commemorations in Ashbourne were truly incredible and demonstrated, once again, the strength of our community and the commitment of our young people to remembering those who have served and sacrificed.



On Sunday, students and staff proudly took part in Ashbourne's annual Remembrance events. The day began with the town parade before moving to the service at St Oswald's Church, followed by the wreath-laying ceremony at the Memorial Gates. Our students were exceptional throughout the day, conducting themselves with respect, dignity and maturity. So many members of the local community have since contacted the school to express how inspired they were by the young people of Ashbourne and the part they played in the commemorations.

The Royal British Legion has extended its thanks to the school and the wider community for their support and involvement. It was particularly inspiring to see the youth of Ashbourne represented in such large numbers through a range of organisations including the Cadets, Scouts, Guides, Boys' Brigade, football teams, sports clubs and many others.



Our Sixth Form students played a central role throughout the day and demonstrated exactly why we are so proud of them. We would like to give special thanks to:

- Our readers: Dylan, Sophie and Johnny (Year 13), who delivered a moving piece on Flanders Fields.
- Our standard bearers: Will, Dylan and Aiden (Year 13), who formed a central part of the parade.

- Our wreath layers: Lucy and Kate (Y13)
- Musicians: All those students who contributed such beautiful music during the church service, particularly Esme's moving solo performance of *Pie Jesu*.
- All those students who represented the school so proudly as part of the parade.











Monday 11th November 2026, our acts of remembrance continued on Monday with a short service at the Memorial Gates at 11am, followed by a second service at the war memorials within school.

We were honoured to be joined by the Deputy Lieutenant of Derbyshire- Mr Brell Ewart MBE and Branch President of Ashbourne RBL, The Mayor of Ashbourne, Cllr Phillip Chell, Rev Dwayne, Mr Mallender, Mr Garrity, Chair of Governors-Mrs English and Mr Daughtry. Their presence helped make the occasion particularly meaningful for our students and staff. Once again, our students conducted themselves impeccably, reflecting the values of both the school and the wider Ashbourne community. The services provided an important opportunity to pause, reflect and remember those who have given so much in service to others. We would also like to thank our standard bearers, Hannah and Dylan, and our reader, Ailsa (Year 12), who delivered a beautiful poem entitled *Over the Hills of Ashbourne*. Thank you also to all the students who attended and contributed to the services, including Johnny, Sophie, Izzy, Lucy, Carla and Kate.

Remembrance remains one of the most important moments in our school calendar. The young people of Ashbourne were out in force, and the comments from members of the community since have been overwhelming. So many people have spoken about their maturity, their respect and the pride they felt seeing the next generation uphold this important tradition. It makes us incredibly proud to be part of the QEGS community. We are extremely proud of every student who took part and grateful to everyone in the Ashbourne community who helped make these events so special.

Agriculture students on placement this week

More new skills being demonstrated this week by the students out on placement.



Sam was busy trimming hooves. This is conducted for many reasons related to comfort and health. He tackled the job confidently and with care and had some excellent coaching from Stewert his placement tutor.

Jess was clipping dairy cows. Before turning on the clippers, she gave the cow a little scratch to reassure her. The cow wasn't bothered in the slightest under Jess' care. This procedure is conducted to improve hygiene and care of the livestock.



George was helping with a calving cow. Sadly, it wasn't a great outcome as is the case; a rare occasion. A reminder of the unpredictable and difficult world of farming.

Year 13 – Mock Examinations
Our Year 13 mock exams are coming up during the week commencing **8th December**. The exam timetable has been issued this week to help students and families plan and prepare. These mocks are an important opportunity for students to demonstrate their progress, gain valuable feedback from their teachers and, importantly, practice sitting exams in the same or similar conditions to those they will experience summer 2027. Teachers will be working closely with Year 13 students to ensure they feel prepared and supported.
Please note that this mainly applies to A Level students. BTEC students should speak directly with their subject teachers to confirm arrangements, as many will have ongoing assessments and coursework to complete as part of their qualification.
Further information regarding study leave arrangements will be shared in a letter next week.

As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Sixth Form Team if you have any questions or concerns.

Derbyshire Dales Business Grant Scheme 2026-2028 is now open for applications.
The scheme provides financial support to eligible businesses looking to invest in projects that will help them grow, improve productivity, create jobs, reduce environmental impact, or enhance their business operations.
Grants are available to support a range of activities, which may include:

- Purchasing new equipment or machinery
- Introducing new products or services
- Improvements to business premises
- Energy efficiency and sustainability measures
- Digital technology and innovation projects
- Business growth and expansion initiatives

As funding is limited and applications will be assessed against specific eligibility criteria, businesses interested in applying are encouraged to review the guidance document and submit their application as early as possible.

You can view the full guidance and eligibility criteria here:
Derbyshire Dales Business Grant Guidance 2026-2028

School Canteen
Menu choice week beginning 16th November will be week 1.
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:
https://mynewterm.com/trust/Tapestry-Learning-Partnership/145491

Upcoming Key Dates This Term
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
15th December – House swimming gala
16th December – Design & Innovation trip to Chatsworth House
17th December – Speech Day – invite only
18th December – last day of Autumn 2 term

Finally

Outlook outage
Thank you for your support and patience today whilst we had no emails working and limited communication. We seem to be getting back some functionality but not yet 100%.

Summer Farewell
Earlier this week, I informed Mark Mallender (Tapestry Learning Partnership Executive CEO) and Karen English (Chair of QEGS Local Governing Body) that after 25yrs at QEGS, 10yrs of which as Headteacher, this will be my final academic year at QEGS. Call it semi-retirement for now I think!

It was not a surprise for them as I have always lived my life with a philosophy of 'do what you can, whilst you can'. So, whilst I am young enough and allegedly fit enough, from 31st August 2027, I will be travelling the world!

It has not been an easy decision, but it is the right decision for my family, for me and actually for the school too. QEGS has never been stronger and whilst there are many challenges in education, this is an amazing place to work and a new headteacher will get to work in an amazing community.

I will have lots more to say at some point but wanted to make you all aware so that when the advert goes live, it is not a surprise to the school community. I also want students be part of helping Mark and the school team choose the best, next headteacher for QEGS.

Yours faithfully,



Scott Garrity
Headteacher