



24th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Coronavirus Bulletin – 24/3/20

A lot can happen in a week! Y11 and 13 exams cancelled, schools closed, people with underlying health concerns told to stay at home, many people self-isolating, pubs/cafes/restaurants and parks closed, public gatherings banned and many more I am sure I have missed. I really hope that you and your families are safe and well, following the Government advice and managing as best you can.

Here at QEGS, things are very different. To serve and support our frontline workers, we opened two small parts of the site on Monday and had a basic, skeleton staff provision to supervise children who were with us as a last resort. We only had a very small number of students with us yesterday and our numbers have decreased further today as parents and families have found alternative solutions, minimising mixing with others and keeping their children as safe as possible. My staff have faced similar pressures and decisions and whilst we are currently able to provide this 'last resort' supervision, I cannot guarantee for how much longer as my staffing resources reduce day by day. We will of course keep parents fully informed and also follow all Government advice accordingly.

On a lighter note, staff are receiving some amazing work from students and they have been sharing this amongst the staff team to help raise spirits and celebrate their wonderful talents. Please remind your children to email work to their teachers. We are looking at a more collaborative way to share and publicise great work and once ready, we will let you and your children know how to access.

Accessing work at home

We appreciate that in the last week or so, staff and students will have been getting used to working from home. This brings many challenges, not least sometimes the amount of work to do for students and staff can seem overwhelming. Emails coming thick and fast, Go4Schools has weeks of work set and family life can be difficult if everyone is trying use the broadband, computer and other online equipment. Please encourage your children to take each day at a time and try to follow their timetable as best they can, completing work as they are able to, emailing teachers if unsure and not to get worried about too much or too little at this stage. Whilst continuing with learning is important, there is always a balance and staying safe, getting used to this current isolation and looking after your family far outweighs any school work pressure. We are only in the first week of school closures and routines will become established in the coming days and weeks.

We also understand that there have been some issues accessing GO 4 Schools and other websites. We would not want this to be a source of additional stress, so the following might help:

- Use the GO 4 Schools website, not the app (there have been delays updating the app).
- Try accessing the work on the GO 4 Schools website on a mobile device, writing down or screenshotting what is needed, then working offline.
- If you can't complete the work exactly as has been set due to technical issues/lack of equipment, be creative. Can you complete it on paper instead?
- Make time for reading: books from school, books online, online articles about your subject.
- Use the time you have now to learn a new skill: learn to cook, learn a new song, learn sign language, make time for art, music, dancing, doing a course online (see our Year 11 and 13 page for ideas).
- Try and join in with the QEGS weekly challenge www.qegs.link/challenge and let us know what you've done challenge@qegs.email - Please do take part, each week Mrs Betty will go through the entries and decide a winner(s).

Work for Year 11 and 13

Yes even though exams have been cancelled, our staff have put together worthwhile and meaningful work for them to complete. Follow the link below or look on our website:

<http://www.qegs.link/y11and13resources>

This includes A level transition work for Year 11, work for Maths and English even if you are not planning to do A levels in those subjects, preparation for university courses, and work to develop other skills and knowledge. It is important to keep busy and keep your mind occupied, so please let us know any other suggestions, or if there is anything else you would like to see.

Careers

Careers advisors are able to offer remote advice, they are working on Tuesday's and Wednesday's please contact morgan@qegs.email to make an appointment.

Free School Meals

Mr Bembridge has been working hard trying to ensure all families entitled to free school meals will have some provision in these uncertain times. In the last few days he has been able to get a delivery service up and running in Ashbourne and we hope to have something in place for all of our families regardless of where they live, before the end of the week. If you have questions around this provision, please contact bembridge@qegs.email and look out for updates via email.

Thank a Teacher

In times like these it is even more important to appreciate people and thank them for their efforts and commitment. This is a great way to do it for your teachers. Completely free and they receive a lovely card and message.

<https://thankateacher.co.uk/>



[Say "Thank You" card to an amazing teacher today](#)

Send a 'Thank You' card today. We've all had a great teacher. They show a real interest in who we are, listen to our thoughts, inspire us to learn and encourage us to achieve our best, no matter what our goals are.
thankateacher.co.uk

We are already missing seeing your children. Stay safe, keep in touch and we will keep you posted on any changes and/or support we can offer.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Garrity'.

Scott Garrity
Headteacher