

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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27th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Coronavirus Bulletin 27.4.20

I hope you are all safe and well.

Since I last sent a bulletin, even though school remains closed to the majority of students, there has still been lots happening and lots to celebrate during these challenging times:

- **QEGS PPE Effort:** 60 brand new pairs of eye protection destined for our Science laboratories were donated to Derby Hospital and were very gratefully received. 50 full face shields have also been manufactured by Mr Phipps and are heading to the NHS today with more to be made as soon as possible.
- **School and Town Hall turn blue:** We lit up the school and the Town Hall in 'blue' to acknowledge our frontline and key-workers. Thank you to Mr Daughtry and Mr Keeling for making this happen, it looked amazing!
- **Another SSAT Award:** Our Extended Learning Department (SEND) have been recognised and commended by a national educational body. SSAT (the Schools, Students and Teachers network) have awarded QEGS an 'Exceptional Outcomes Award' for their 2019 SEND outcomes and for the work that they do, day in and day out. Well done Miss Meadows and the whole of the department!
- **Big Bang Competition:** Well done to Henry V, Will T, Evie H, Aleksander P and Barney T, who all took part in a STEM Big Bang Competition led by Mrs Wright. What should have been a face to face presentation based on 'Improving Marine Environments' soon became a video submission with a short deadline to turn it around due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Their feedback was outstanding despite the change in circumstance. Here is an excerpt from it: "The team came across really confidently. What was particularly impressive about this project was the use of a pilot study to determine your top 4 materials – it's not something many students in this category have done!" Well done all!
- **QEGS Students of the Day:** Each day QEGS Staff identify a Student of the Day across a variety of subjects. Well done to the students below who have been nominated as Student of the Day: Lewis S (Year 7), Charlie P (Year 7), Max B (Year 7) Meri B (Year 8) George P (Year 9) Loman H (Year 10) Ben S (Year 10) Henry W (Year 10) Emily S (Year 11) Evie P (Year 12).
- **QEGS Challenge winners so far:** Holly P - for writing a letter of gratitude to waste collectors and their hard work, Lily G - for learning to juggle, Rory C - for creating an Easter movie with a zip wiring bunny, Arran S (Year 9) for designing a very fitting mug to celebrate the NHS.

Updates

Staying in touch: I have asked all of our Form Tutors to keep in regular contact with students and parents and to contact with a phone call every few weeks to just 'check in'. If you see a withheld number it may just be one of our QEGS staff trying to get in touch. Equally, our reception is staffed each day and if you want to make contact with a member of staff, just give reception a call and they will assist.

Yr13 and Yr11 work is online: Remember that there is study-work appropriate for all Yr11 and Yr13 students who are moving onto 6th Form, college, university and employment on our website. It has been designed to be purposeful and relevant, please encourage your child to access.

New timetable for Yrs7-10: Mrs Betty wrote to you and explained how the new student timetable would work with fewer subjects each day, enabling students to stay on top of their work and to ensure more consistency. This has also been sent to all students on Go 4 Schools.

Staff have now been asked to set work for the timetabled subjects before the school day starts as Go 4 Schools can have a delay in uploading this work. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused, equally the technology is under a lot of pressure so we do understand. Some staff may upload work the day before with the next day's date on so students and parents can plan ahead accordingly, we will do our best to resolve!

Yr12 students' school work: For Yr12 students there should not have been any change in how/what work has been set.

Coping with Lockdown: As we enter the fifth week of our national lockdown, it has been a real challenge to adapt our day-to-day lives and many of the simple things we have taken for granted are simply not possible. However, there remains high risk of infection and indeed deaths and I know you will help echo these risks to your children. Equally, there is a lot of fear and worry and we must support our young people. Please reassure your children that this will come to an end, school will re-open and we will learn a lot about how we coped during this challenge.

Take care and stay safe. Keep checking the school website for updates and helpful links.

Yours faithfully

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Scott Garrity
Headteacher