

# QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity Chair of Governors: Mr C Smith



18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

## Weekly Bulletin #2

Well done everyone - a full week of school for all year groups, it is great to have you all back. Our numbers have grown again, our school roll is now 1378 students (22 more than last year).

The school is busy and full of enthusiasm. From talking to students on the gate at the start and end of each day, on the canteen door at lunch and as we walk around the school, they are so pleased to be back. Our student attendance figures are fantastic with Years 7-11 running at 96% and Years 12-13 at 98%, way above the current national trend data for school attendance this September - well done everyone, keep it up.

Our students are also enjoying some of the benefits that this new way of operating brings and they have also informed us of some of the challenges, which we want to continue to address.

### Toilet access during the day:

We detailed last week some changes to the logistics of the school day, which would enable students to have increased access to the toilet during the school day. This has improved the situation in some ways, but we have also listened to our students and staff, and we feel that we are able to make further changes starting from Monday, which will help maintain our students' wellbeing. Students will hear from their Form Tutors on Monday about the new arrangements, which will include staffed toilet zones rather than escorts and teachers being able to permit a student to visit a designated toilet at any stage between P2 and P5, with records kept of who has been where and at what time for effective Track and Trace.

### Face-coverings:

Students want us to remind other students to wear their face-coverings on public transport and school buses for the entire journey. They should be worn when moving around the school in any communal space (corridors, toilets and canteen in particular).

### CAT Tests for Year 7:

Parents of Year 7 students will receive a separate letter detailing the purpose and logistics for these tests, which will be taken next week. In the absence of KS2 results this year, the CAT tests will be invaluable to help support, encourage and challenge each of our new students in their lessons.

### Free School Meals eligibility:

In these times more than ever, families will be facing financial challenges. Please check to see if you are eligible for Free School Meals using the following link and application <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your-child-at-school/meals/school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

Not only does this provide discreet provision for food and drink during the school day, the school also receives additional funding to support your child with their education.

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**Years 12 and 13 Attendance and Study Periods:**

A separate letter will be sent to parents of Year 12 and 13 students about how we are managing these aspects at the moment.

**Flu vaccine for Year 7:**

All children aged 11 or under will be offered the nasal flu vaccine this autumn. Year 7 students at QEGS will receive theirs on November 10th in school. Details will be sent in a separate letter.

**Run, Hide Tell Drill:**

This in the past has been called a 'lockdown drill'. However, with lockdown terminology now being used for other things we felt it was appropriate that we change the name of our intruder/terrorism alert to the same as the Government drill of 'Run, Hide and Tell'. Form Tutors have talked this through with students in form time on Thursday.

**Water refills:**

We would normally have water fountains available to students to refill their water bottles. However, these are deemed to be unsafe at this time and so are unavailable until they are changed from 'mouth fill' to 'water bottle refill' designs which should be happening very soon - plumbers are booked in! In the meantime, please fill up your bottle (or two) at home and bring to school. If a student needs water during the school day, we do have a supply of water bottles in the medical room so no one should be thirsty and/or dehydrated.

We have had two very successful weeks in school. We are open, students are here, staff are here, students and staff are happy, students are learning and seeing their peers again. In the near future, we hope to get more sport and other extra-curricular activities started too.

These are tough times and yet very rewarding at the same time. Thank you for your continued support.

Stay safe and well. Hands, face, space!

Yours faithfully



Mr S Garrity  
**Headteacher**