

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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2nd October 2020

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #4

The fourth week of the school term comes to an end. Today, we have welcomed back classes 7yI and 8xH, who have returned from their self-isolation period and on Monday we welcome back Year 10.

Updates:

Reading Books: Please ensure that your child brings an appropriate reading book to school every day. Reading is a whole school focus and our librarians are always able to support with recommending books, loans and returns from the school library. This facility is accessible via the school intranet where students can reserve books to be delivered/collected to their form room.

Face-coverings: A reminder that face-coverings should be worn in all communal areas such as canteen, corridors and on all public transport. Please ensure that your child has a face-covering before they set off for school.

Parent Consultation Evenings: Year 13 Parents Evening - takes place on 13th October. The event will be virtual (via phone) and will be spread across the 5 school days commencing from this date. Bookings will be taken from Thursday 8th October; further details will be sent to parents next week.

School Transport: Whilst most students have complied with the rules of travelling by bus, we have had reports that some students have not. Where a student who uses school transport has tested positive for Covid, it has been difficult to pin point the close contacts as some students have not maintained their seating arrangement. Whilst we can have some control over where students sit when they leave school, it is difficult to oversee where they sit on the morning journey to school. To improve this and to limit future impact for bus travelling students we need your help!

We have been busy compiling seating plans for our buses this week.

- Students must seat themselves in year group order, Year 7 to the front, Year 13 at the rear (exceptions are Staffordshire routes 313, 356, 357 and mini-bus routes whereby students' seat from back in order of stop) and they must wear a face covering (unless exempt).
- Starting next week, all buses will have a seating plan displayed on the bus door. Students must sit in these seats for the journey both to and from school.
- On arrival at school, spot checks will be carried out to assure ourselves that we know who our students have been in contact with. Please can you stress the importance of this with your child.
- If we do not feel able to confidently identify who has or has not been a close contact, we will be forced to isolate entire buses to protect other members of the school community. We thank you in advance for your support in this.

Student Wellbeing: Very much as we would expect students to follow the QEGS expectations in school, we also expect them to act as positive ambassadors for our school and to be considerate members of the local community.

We are always delighted to hear praise about our students and welcome your feedback where you see notable good behaviour. As parents and carers, please can you support this when students are not in school. Consider how we can all promote good behaviour by having clear boundaries for our children and appropriate curfew times for being out in the community. We are here to support any parent or carer if they feel they ever need it.

Proud to be part of the **QEGSMAT**

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FPTA: Our FPTA are looking for new members and also just more involvement from parents and members of the community. There will be a virtual meeting on 13th October at 7.00pm, details for joining will available via our website.

Open Evening: A reminder of our virtual open evening on **Tuesday 6th October 2020**. Virtual school tour, subject introductions, live Q and A at 5pm and 6pm and much more. More information is available via www.qegs.link/open Please spread the word to friends and families if interested in their child attending QEGS.

Sixth Form Open Evening: We will be holding a virtual Sixth Form open evening on Tuesday 20th October. More details will follow in next week's bulletin.

New responsibilities and staffing changes: We are pleased to announce Brendan Drake has been appointed as our new Child Protection Officer with immediate effect and he will now line manage our Family Support Worker, Stef Munday. Congratulations Brendan.

Thank you: A big thank you to Vicky Smith in the Sixth Form Admin Team for being creative and organising a virtual volunteers fair for our Sixth Formers next week (Tuesday 6th October). This would normally be a live event, but Vicky has been working hard to source alternative placements for our students, including virtual volunteering within the local community. This has ensured that our students do not miss out on supporting the school and local town community as well as developing some essential transferable skills, all things which are very important to our Sixth Formers at QEGS.

Congratulations: Happy Birthday to Meghan Hambly who turned 40 this week.

Well Done: Well done to Claire Platt one of our super TA's who has scored the highest amount of points on our FLICK learning system (virtual staff training with tests!). During Lockdown Claire was not only supporting our SEN students remotely but she was also working on her professional development.

Tutor Calls: Tutor calls will commence next week. Year 7 tutor calls are scheduled for Monday 5th October, Year 8 Tutor calls for Monday 12th October. Please refer to the letters sent out earlier this week to book a slot with your child's form tutor.

Remote Learning: All remote learning work is now set on Teams: including work for a whole class, or lessons within a scheme for an individual student self-isolating. Thank you for your patience and understanding as staff and students adapt to greater use of Teams to support remote learning. We had almost 900 users accessing Teams this week, with hundreds of posts and replies and some amazing attendance at live lessons.

If you have any questions about a particular subject, please contact your child's class teacher. If your child is posting a message to their teacher on teams, please type @... and the teacher's name for them to be alerted to the message. For more general questions on remote learning, your child's form tutor or Miss Ward ward@qegs.email will be able to help.

For more information about remote learning, including a student guide, see <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/covid-19/remote-learning/>

We have sent a survey to all parents regarding access to digital devices and broadband internet and it would really help us if you could fill this in by the end of Monday 5th October to help inform our provision planning. <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=PYCwG3TptkKUJQEK3Byuakrjxlt85pHlrU--64IQz9URDM10EpCUktOVDc1UIRTSTFBSjZGNEgxQy4u>

Sixth Form Leadership Team/Council: Well done to our Sixth Form Leadership Team/Council who volunteered to do some gardening and maintenance of our Sixth Form outside spaces on Tuesday this week. It looks great and they did a fab job. We are all slightly jealous of their gardening skills!



Please stay safe and remember, hands, face and space.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Garrity
Headteacher