

# QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

## Weekly Bulletin #7

Well here we are...the last day of our first half term back to school! Can we just take the opportunity to thank all of our staff for their unwavering efforts to ensure students receive a high quality provision despite the many changes to our school post lockdown, our students for their maturity and respect for our new health and safety expectations and to our parents and carers for your continued support.

This half term has had its challenges as expected returning to new processes and expectations. Despite these, however, we have had a very successful start back and students have clearly enjoyed being back in school. Some of our highlights of the first half term include: Hosting our hugely successful virtual open evenings, the hard work of all of our canteen and caretaking staff to ensure safe and well managed lunch times, our new staff and trainee staff have settled in extremely well and the overwhelming majority of our year 11 students last year have moved on to further education or training. A huge well done to the following students who received the most positive events in their year group this half term: Poppy W and Aidan B Year 7, Freya H and Paul S Year 8, Caris E and Jamie B Year 9, Annie W and Danny M Year 10 and Tammy W and Caidan L Year 11.

After months of not being able to play football due to lockdown restrictions, the Year 12 and 13 students organised a match against each other, which was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Pictured is Sam Glossop, Mr Wilker's Man of the Match.



Golden Tickets are back! Each member of staff will receive 2 golden tickets a **week to hand** out to students to acknowledge they have been QEGS Amazing. It is our way of showing our students that we do notice their efforts and we appreciate that. Over 150 students have been hand delivered some Halloween goodies as a result of being QEGS Amazing.



## Updates and Reminders

Behaviour and conduct outside of school/use of social media and mobile phones: Unfortunately we have been informed of some anti-social behaviour by former students and members of the community in the park by school and particularly by LGH (Long Green Hut). This does include suspected drug use. We have informed the police and have increased our staff presence around this area. We will continue to work very closely with the police and will cooperate with them fully regarding any future events. We have grave concerns about behaviour in the park and advise that students from QEGS do not frequent there. Please do speak to your child about where they go after school, who they socialise with and are they a good influence and if their conduct is appropriate and most importantly safe!

In the same vein, it has been brought to our attention that some of our students who have a phone and the use of WhatsApp and other apps are not using them responsibly. Some of these students are as young as 11 and are using these apps to message inappropriate and offensive content to each other. Any such incidents we take very seriously as a school but it is also very important as parents and carers that you have a conversation with your children about how to stay safe online and perhaps even check their phone usage - most phones are paid for and owned by parents. We have personal and professional concerns over the use of Snapchat as the primary aim of it is to let users exchange pictures and videos (called snaps) which disappear after they are viewed. This can lead to many issues of bullying, secrecy and age appropriateness. Again, please speak to your children about how to use these apps safely if you agree they need to use them. More information can be found here to support parents with this:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

We will be delivering online safety assemblies after half term to help educate our students and keep them safe.

**Mental Health First Aiders:** We have a range of staff fully trained as Mental Health First Aiders so students and staff can email [speak2us@qegs.email](mailto:speak2us@qegs.email) if they need support. We also have been advertising Kooth.com as a texting counselling service and our new addition Zumos to help support any students with their mental health.

**Face-coverings:** Having reviewed our COVID-19 risk assessment we have taken the decision to ask all students and staff to wear face-coverings in all communal areas of the school. Previously this has been indoor communal areas, but we are now extending this to outside areas. This will help to lower transmission opportunities. Students will continue to remove their face-coverings in lessons. If there is a medical reason why your child cannot wear a face-covering you must inform your child's Progress Leader in writing.

Can we take this opportunity to remind students that face coverings are compulsory on the bus unless they have an exemption. This must be adhered to otherwise, we may have to insist those not complying find alternative transport to and from school.

**Firework Safety:** In the run up to bonfire night, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue would like students and parents/carers to watch the video link on the consequences of playing with fireworks. We have included a link to the Children's Burns Trust, which has additional information on the consequences of fireworks. Stay safe all!

Children's Burns Trust: <https://www.cbtrust.org.uk/fireworks/>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HY3i8EUH5p>

**Mock exams for year 11 and changes to examined content for 2021:** Our year 11 students will be taking their mock exams as of 9<sup>th</sup> November for 2 weeks. More details have been sent to parents and students in Year 11. The exam boards have also made modifications to the examined content for 2021 and this information will be sent to parents and students in Year 11 and 13 too.

**Virtual Open Evenings:** We hope you enjoyed our Virtual Open Evenings, if you missed either event all the resources are still available to view on our website using the links below:

- Virtual Open Evening for Year 5 & 6: <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/virtual-open-evening/>
- Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening for Year 11: <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/sixth-form-virtual-open-evening/>

If you have any questions or require any further information, please get in touch via email [enquiries@qegs.email](mailto:enquiries@qegs.email)

**Do you have a child in Year 6, and would like them to Join QEGS in September 2021?**

The deadline to apply for their secondary school place for September 2021 is midnight on Saturday 31st October. You can apply for QEGS using the link below. <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school-places/apply-for-a-school-place.aspx>

**Virtual Events:** After receiving so much positive feedback about our recent virtual events, we plan to hold more next half term including a Music Concert, Speech Day, and Carol Service. More details to follow in a later bulletin.

On behalf of the QEGS Leadership Team can we wish you all a restful half term break - it is very much deserved. We look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 9th November, but for now...rest up, do what you enjoy (following Government guidelines of course) and look after yourselves.

Yours faithfully

Mrs L Betty  
**Deputy Headteacher**