



19<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

## Year 12 Parents' Update

As the end of the first half term approaches, we would like to take this opportunity to let you know how impressed we are at the Sixth Form team have been with the Year 12 students' start to the new year. In extraordinary circumstances they have returned to school and adapted very quickly to the new measures and teaching patterns, all of them demonstrating a positive attitude and willingness to learn.

This year, in line with guidance in relation to COVID-19, we have made some adjustments and I would like to update you on some aspects of Sixth Form and Year 12 in general. We hope this is useful and that it offers additional clarity regarding your son/daughter's experience at Sixth Form.

## COVID-19 Safety and Precautions

We are following all of the Government and Department of Education's guidance as outlined in Mr Garrity's weekly bulletins and the letter sent out at the start of term. This includes:

- ✓ **Face-coverings:** to be worn in all communal areas such as Sixth Form café, main site canteen, corridors, communal areas and on all public transport. Please ensure that your child has a face-covering before they set off for school.
- ✓ **Hand sanitiser:** is available throughout the Sixth Form and in every classroom, we are reminding students to use these throughout the school day.
- ✓ **Antibacterial wipes:** these are also available in every classroom for students and staff to use to wipe down desks. Enhanced cleaning is also taking place on a more regular and daily basis.
- ✓ **One way system:** a one-way system is in place throughout the Sixth Form centre.

We also ask Sixth Form students to ensure they only go to allocated rooms for their free study periods. Please ask your child to keep doing this as it will give us a better chance of staying open if there is a COVID case identified in the Sixth Form.

## Uniform

It has been great to see so many of our students following our dress codes and looking smart. However, we are still having to challenge some students on the length of their skirts. Our dress code clearly states that skirts must be knee length, please can you support us by checking that this is the case. Our teachers and tutors will continue to check this over the next few weeks and phone calls home will be made regarding those students who are not meeting our expectations.

## Attendance and Absence

Attendance to lessons at KS5 is important and we monitor our students and offer support when we notice patterns of absence. A-level and BTECs at Level 3 are a significant jump up from GCSE and accessing the teaching, learning, assessment and support from teachers is vital. If students are having to self-isolate, they will be expected to keep on top of their work by accessing the remote learning resources provided via Microsoft Teams. All students have been provided with a demo of how to use this facility both during their tutorials and lessons over the past few weeks. They can also access a video tutorial using the link below:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47sY9rR4tkc&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47sY9rR4tkc&feature=emb_logo)

# QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The Green Road, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1EP

Tel: 01335 343 685 Email: [enquiries@qegs.email](mailto:enquiries@qegs.email) Twitter: @qegs\_ashbourne

Web: [www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk](http://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk)

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



If your child is absent for any reason, please phone our Sixth Form reception on 01335 343685 ext 11424 before 9am. Medical appointments and driving lessons should be made after 2.30pm whenever possible to ensure students are getting as much as they can from their lessons and the school day.

## Tutor Time

Tutor time is compulsory for all students and starts at 8.40am. The only day Year 12 students are not required to attend is on Monday A week as outlined in the previously sent letter (September 2020). We have a new tutorial plan and structure in place to ensure that students are supported in building relationships with each other, completing careers and PSHE activities and accessing important weekly information.

## Signing In/Out

If your child arrives at or leaves school premises after tutor time they must sign/out on the sheets provided in Sixth Form. This is mainly for safeguarding reasons, so we know where our students are, but also currently, for track and trace reasons. Please tell your son/daughter that they must do this.

## Post-16 Bursary

Financial support is available for students who are in financial hardship at QEGS Sixth Form. Please contact our Sixth Form Administrator, Mrs Smith [smithv@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:smithv@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk) for further information.

## Virtual Volunteers' Fair and KS5 extra-curricular opportunities

Despite current restrictions, we still want to provide our students with opportunities to learn new and transferable skills, as well as to ensure that they are still able to access some of the social independence associated with KS5. As part of this, we launched a virtual Volunteers' Fair on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October for students to see how they can still support their local and wider school community via remote or virtual access. We hope they have taken the opportunity to look at the resources provided and started to think about where they would like to volunteer their time and skills. Please support us in this by asking your son/daughter what they are interested in doing and encouraging them to speak to their tutor about it.

We are also in the process of launching our Young Enterprise Team (where students have the opportunity to set up their own business), some sports clubs, debating society, our ECO/Climate Change Group and our Sixth Form Student Council. Further details regarding these will be provided very soon.

## Dates for your diary

Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Sixth Form Open Day for students wishing to join Sixth Form September 2021 – virtual event from 9am
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	INSET day, staff only in school
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> October-Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Half term
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Return to school

We hope you find this information useful. If you have any queries regarding the above arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor, Mr Walker (Deputy Head of Sixth Form), Louise Allen (Head of Sixth Form) or a member of the Sixth Form Administration Team on 01335 343685 ext 11913.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Allen  
Head of Sixth Form

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