

# QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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13<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parent, Carer, Students and Staff

## Weekly Bulletin #9

This week, saw an immediate increase in all schools use of supply agency staff. Up and down the country, adults and children received their 'Clinically Extremely Vulnerable' letters from the government, instructing them to work/study from home for the duration of the national lockdown. Coupled with a small number of staff, a class in year 8, a class in year 9, a school bus group and ¼ of the year 11 cohort all self-isolating, we are now seeing more of our provision working in a 'blended' fashion. Operating in a variety of ways such as 'school to home, home to school and home to home', our staff are doing their best to ensure that school remains open for the majority and students in school or at home are receiving the appropriate education they deserve. It is an ongoing and dynamic challenge for us all. If we can help in any way, please do get in touch via [enquires@qegs.email](mailto:enquires@qegs.email).

Please ensure that your child understands our high expectations for good behaviour remain in place for any type of learning session whether that be with cover/supply staff, teachers working from home, live lessons and other online learning forums.

## Anti-Bullying Week - Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November

Next week is Anti Bullying week. This year's theme is 'United Against Bullying'. Students across all year groups will be taking part in a variety of activities in form time to get them all thinking about how we can unite against bullying. Please have a conversation with your child about the importance of being kind to others, the focus of the week and what they have learnt from it.

## Safe use of social media - An app called 'YOLO'

You may already be aware of an app called YOLO, which is an extension of Snapchat. This app allows Snapchat users to request anonymous messages from specific friends or the wider public. Even if your child has not requested an anonymous message, others who have can then share answers they have received. Most students who use social media do so sensibly and with kindness towards others. However, some children have not! Apps such as Yolo that allow anonymous comments could be easily misused to send abusive or upsetting messages. We urge you to have a conversation with your child about their social media usage, check their phone on a regular basis and help us ensure their use is safe, sensible and kind.

## Year 7 Parents Consultation Evening (PCE) Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November - Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Year 7 Parents Evening will take place over four afternoons during this week. This will be via phone calls from staff rather than face to face meetings. A more detailed letter will follow to all parents of Year 7 students.

## Remote Learning Update

All students self-isolating should have work set for them or a live lesson. For guidance on where to find work and how to navigate Teams, please the information and video on the remote learning section of our website <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/covid-19/remote-learning/>.

In many cases, this will be set during the lesson, so will appear during the day. Please do contact your child's form tutor, Progress Leader or [ward@qegs.email](mailto:ward@qegs.email) with any issues.

You may also have noticed this week that some of our staff have been trialling 'hybrid' lessons, where they teach students in school and at home at the same time. We are very proud of them for taking on this challenge and dealing with any technical difficulties before sharing their tips and tricks with other staff.

As we continue to develop our use of technology, we do need to remind students that Microsoft Teams is a school system; posts and chat are monitored and the usual expectations and standards apply for appropriate use of technology.

### **Congratulations! SSAT Leadership Legacy Project 2020-21**

Bethan Clamp, Teacher in Mathematics, will become an SSAT Leadership Fellow as part of an impressive group of future leaders from across the country. Bethan was nominated by school for the award and completed written tasks to fulfil the criteria set by the SSAT.

### **Remembrance Day in Ashbourne and QEGS**

Talented Art & Design Technician, Poppy Hellaby has brought Remembrance Day to local buildings. The first painting was a commission from 'The Bank' for a Poppy design on their doors in Ashbourne, and the second is on the side of a garage on the Carsington Road out of Ashbourne where there is a large metal collection box at the top of the owner's drive for donations.

The Bank itself is running a unique way of raising money for the appeal, which can be found on their Facebook page. Alternatively, donations can be made online directly to the British Legion.



The Sixth Form Eco-Council have also been busy creating a poppy display in the courtyard area within the Sixth Form block.

Finally, a very special thank you to Ed W in Year 8 who emptied his piggy bank savings and has donated well over £30 to the poppy appeal.

### **D&I Co-Curricular**

A separate letter has been sent from Mr Phipps. Clubs are to start week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

### **Children in Need- Friday 13th November**

What a wonderful day we have had today raising money for Children In Need. We have had Guess the Teacher from their baby photos, raffle to win a luxury hamper and non-uniform to raise money as a whole school.

Our students have made us extremely proud with their fundraising efforts and there has been some outstanding contributions to this. 9YD have raised £1386 with a sponsored football match and sponsored walks – wow! Special thanks to Jack T and Meriel B for leading this. 7XR had a paper aeroplane race with Daniel A designing the fastest aeroplane. Well done! 8XS raised £274.20 with their sponsored silence- an amazing achievement and a lovely day for their teachers!

Thank you to Mrs Barrie who organised the day, to all staff and students who donated money and to all Form Tutors and Progress Leaders for encouraging students to help make a difference to those in need.

## Communication with QEGS

We appreciate parents wish to communicate with school and that reception's phone lines are often very busy so you may have difficulty doing this on occasion. If your communication does not need immediate action, you can contact your child's Form Tutor or Progress Leader. **Details of Progress Leaders can be found on the website under the 'Contact Us' tab at the top.** More general enquiries can also be sent to [enquiries@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk)

We have reminded staff of our communication commitment which is to acknowledge all enquiries within 48hrs and seek to respond within 72hrs. We have also advised staff to take a break when they are at home, so please do not expect a reply to an email or phone-call outside of our school hours which are currently 8.30am to 4.00pm.

A reminder of our Covid telephone number for notifying us of any Positive Covid-19 Test results within the household: 07890 319042 – you can call this number at any time.

## Thinking of Primary Teaching?

There is a local training provider:



The poster is for the Ashbourne Dove Valley Teaching School Alliance. It features a logo of a dove in a circle at the top left. The text reads: 'Ashbourne Dove Valley Teaching School Alliance', 'Want to Teach?', 'Come and train to be a Primary School Teacher with us!', 'A hands on way to train to teach..', 'We offer School Direct Teacher Training: Early Years, KS1 & KS2', 'www.teachashbourne.com', 'For an informal chat, call our team on 01335 343140 or email Sue Farr at Farris@osmaston.derbyshire.sch.uk'. There are also small photos of people in a classroom and a teacher at a whiteboard. Logos for Derbyshire and the University of Derby are at the bottom.

Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation. A number of our families have been affected by positive test results this week and it has taken a lot of time and effort to provision for everyone, keeping safety and wellbeing at the heart of all of our actions and maintaining some of the simple things such as after-school sport and Children in Need day. Whilst it has been a tough week, it has also been a really rewarding week too. Such is the life of working in a school – we are very fortunate to have the students and staff that we do!

Please stay positive, continue to follow the new laws, meet the new expectations and ensure that your children understand how to keep themselves and others safe.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Garrity  
Headteacher