

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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6th November 2020

Dear Parent, Carer, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin#8

We hope that you are all safe and well. Particularly as we now enter a second lockdown which will be affecting each family in different ways. We are so pleased that schools can remain open and we can continue to educate our students, keeping students as mentally and physically fit as we possibly can.

For a small number of students, it will not be possible to attend school during the lockdown period as they will have received a letter from Matt Hancock classifying their health and risk as 'Clinically Extremely Vulnerable' (CEV). All other students should continue to attend school as normal. However, we appreciate that there may be concerns and we are more than happy to discuss health concerns with parents to see if we can further reduce risk and help improve student and parent confidence. Please contact relevant Progress Leaders to discuss any concerns.

We also have a small number of staff who will be working from home as they are classed as CEV. Some classes will see minor changes as we ensure that staff can work from home and exam groups are suitably supported by subject experts both in and out of school. Again, any queries or concerns please contact the relevant Head of Department.

We faced the additional challenge this week, of only receiving the new DfE guidance at 3.30pm on Wednesday, to be ready for implementation on Thursday at 8.30am! However, fortunately, our systems, measures and procedures were already meeting and/or exceeding the new guidance (face-coverings in all communal areas etc). It is important that parents emphasise with their children that whilst they will not see any significant changes in school, the laws have changed and the impact on the community and nation is very different. Student conduct on the way to and from school needs to be much more considerate of the risk to each other and the community.

- Students should make their way directly to and from school without delay, avoiding waiting for groups of friends and causing pedestrian 'bunching'.
- Face-coverings are now mandatory on the school site in all communal areas inside and outside. We are also more than happy for students to wear their face-coverings in lessons too.
- Use of public/school transport should be avoided where possible.
- Hands should be washed/sanitised regularly and social distancing practised wherever possible. Hands, face and space remains the fundamental approach to reducing risk for all.

Remembrance Sunday

The Royal British Legion are encouraging people across the nations to ensure Remembrance Sunday is still marked appropriately by taking part in remote and socially distanced Remembrance activity, whether that be watching the service on television or pausing for the Two Minute Silence in their home or on their doorsteps.

This year, as well as wearing a poppy, support can be shown by using a digital poppy on social media sites, or by colouring in a downloadable poppy picture and displaying it.

There will also be a Two Minute Silence held in school on Thursday 11th November at 11.00am.

School closure due to bad weather (Snow days)

As we progress into winter, we want to give parents advance notification of pre-planned approach to any weather forecasts, which could jeopardise keeping the school open and keeping students and staff safe in what are already very challenging times without snow! We plan to play safe, make cautious decisions and act in advance to prevent

last minute panic. Closing the school early, maintaining safe 'bubbles', ensuring social distancing and being ready for remote learning at home will be the approach we take.

School fields and dog owners

A member of the public has raised a concern about dogs being let loose on the school fields and behaving in an aggressive manner. Our signs on our school fields clearly show the public footpath routes and state that all dogs must be kept on leads at all times. Staff and the member of the public have been advised to contact the police should they have further concerns.

Flu Vaccinations

Year 7 will receive a flu vaccination on Tuesday 10th November. If you have not already done so, please complete the e-consent, even if you do not wish for your child to receive the vaccine, there is an option to decline.

Mock Exams

Mock GCSE's still start for Year 11 on Monday 9th November and will take place over the next 2 weeks.

Face Coverings

The new national lockdown and associated guidance from the DfE state that face-coverings are now mandatory whilst on site in all communal spaces, inside and outside. Please remember to ensure that your child has a face covering for school and that it is worn on the way to and from school and in all locations around school (both indoors and outside), other than when in lessons (when it is optional to wearing a mask) and whilst eating/drinking.

Drama Co-Curricular

A separate letter has been sent from Mrs Corboz.

PE Co-Curricular

It has been fantastic to see so many people participating and enjoying taking part in physical activity. The after-school clubs are continuing next week, but the morning (8.00am) multi-sport sessions are being postponed for a fortnight due to the Year 11 mock exams taking place in the sportshall. All students are welcome to take part in the after-school clubs (2.30pm to 3.55pm) and they just need the permission slip, signed by their parent/carer and presented to the teacher leading the session (if they have not already taken part this week).

Children in Need

Will be on Friday 13th November 2020. It will also be non-uniform day which has a set theme of 'Come as yourself' for the students and £1 will be collected from each child during form time. Year 11 who will have mock exams can also wear non-uniform. Fund raising events will also be taking place during form time. A separate letter has already been sent by Mrs Barrie.

Parent Governor Update

Thank you to the parents/carers who took the time to apply for the position of Parent Governor vacancy. School received a higher than normal level of interest, 5 candidates have been shortlisted. Details of the ballot process will be sent out via emails and post next week.

School Uniform

'Schools In' are not classed as an essential retail store and therefore all school uniform is now to be ordered on their website www.schoolsinuniform.co.uk. Throughout the lockdown period they will be offering a 10% discount on all orders placed online when using code LOCKDOWN10. Orders will then be delivered to school for distribution.

Road Safety and Wellbeing of Students

Please could all parents and carers ensure that they are not parking on the solid white line outside of school in the 'No Waiting at Any Time' zone. This is to keep traffic flowing and most importantly, to keep your children safe from vehicles which would have to 'pull out' to manoeuvre around a stationary obstacle.

After School Provision

Just a polite reminder that if you require your child to stay between 2.30pm and 3.55pm then this should now be booked the week before you require it. The booking form to book for w/c 9th November is now open. Any student

wishing to stay in after school provision **must** have a booking on the system. This is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of your children and to ensure we have accurate Track and Trace records. There will be a new link each week on the website under Covid 19 tab then After School Provision through which to make your booking.

Student Reports

Reports will be issued shortly via GO 4 Schools for all year groups. Staff have reported on 'Aspects of Learning' for all students. Reports for Years 11 and 13 will also include predicted grades.

Remote Learning

If you have any questions or need further support with remote learning and/or accessing Microsoft Teams, please contact enquiries@qegs.email and a member of staff will contact you to help.

Well done!

Well done to the following students who have made an amazing return to school after half term and have the most positive points: Hannah B in Year 7, Eli A in Year 8, Jamie B in Year 9, Tyler L in Year 10 and Samuel S in Year 11. A thank you to Hannah D and Molly M in our Sixth Form who organised a Sixth Form football game and ran a sweet sale too. Congratulations to Tessa P in Year 12 too who was voted as tutee of the week by Mr Smith!

QEGS' Social Media Accounts

We have so many things to celebrate at QEGS! If you wish to follow the school and all of our student and staff's successes and news, you will find a long list of accounts on social media on the following link:

<https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/key-information/social-media/>

Students in Years 7-11 have all received a virtual assembly led by Mr Illsley today about how to be safe online and to ensure we are kind to each other. Please discuss this with your child and what they have learnt from the assembly and how they may have reflected on their actions online.

Please stay positive, 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