

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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13th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Eedi Webinar

I would like to bring your attention a free webinar that is to run by the excellent Mr Barton (Founder of Eedi, Diagnostic Questions and TES Secondary Maths Advisor). The webinar will focus on how to build mathematical resilience and reduce maths anxiety in children aged 10 - 13 on **Tuesday 24th November at 8pm.**

To reserve a place you need to follow the link <https://bit.ly/31wGpye>.

They are also giving away family membership to the excellent Eedi maths website for a year to 10 randomly selected parents that attend.

I am sure that this will be a great session and you will pick up some superb tips and advice. I will be attending it myself so that I can pass any ideas onto the maths department, which can then be used to help our students. Having a level of maths resilience and confidence ensures that students feel assured when presented with such data. This use of maths and data is especially prominent at the minute with the masses of data surrounding Covid-19 and the US election, so it is vital that students are comfortable interpreting the data and establishing if it is feasible.

As you are aware, in Years 7 and 8 at QEGS we study a mastery curriculum in maths. The focus on this is depth before breadth. This means that we may study fewer topics, but we go into a lot more depth and really challenge students' understanding, ensuring that they have more fluency in the topics before moving onto the next. This method has been proven to improve GCSE results and we are noticing some large improvements in our Year 9's mathematical understanding.

Mastery is characterised by a belief that, by working hard, all children are capable of succeeding at mathematics. On this basis, our students are taught all together as a class and are not split into 'prior attainment' groupings.

Structured teaching is carefully planned in small steps. This provides both the necessary scaffold for all to achieve, and the necessary detail and rigour of all aspects of the maths to facilitate deep thinking. Within tasks during the lessons there are questions split into sections on skills, application, and mastery. This ensures that students can practice the level of questioning that will help them to achieve and develop. For those students who need it there are also extension questions. The small steps are connected, and concepts are built. This leads to generalisation of the maths, and the ability to apply it to multiple contexts and solve problems.

If you wish to find out more about the Research, Evidence and Argument for teaching mastery please use the following link <https://www.ncetm.org.uk/teaching-for-mastery/mastery-explained/supporting-research-evidence-and-argument/>

To provide additional support to students, they also have a weekly numeracy session in tutor time and a series of problems of the week that the students are encouraged to have a go at. The problem of the week can be found on the Teams page for maths.

If you wish to help your child with their maths there are numerous websites that can help you to do this.

www.mathsconfidence.co.uk has links to other useful websites as well as a section on study skills and tips on how to improve your confidence.

www.corbettmaths.com provides online videos and worksheets for every maths topic up to GCSE level.

www.mymaths.co.uk has online lessons and questions up to A level. (Your child will have login for this)

www.mathswatch.co.uk has videos and past paper questions on topics up to AS level. (Your child has a login for this website as well)

If you or your child are struggling with any aspect of the maths curriculum, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the maths department. Your child's maths teacher would be the best first point of contact.

Yours faithfully

Mr C Warden
Deputy Curriculum Leader