

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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27th November 2020

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #11

We are sure like many families, you have been occupying your time with anything from decorating, walking and possibly lots of 'online Christmas shopping' over these last few weeks. We hope that you and your family are safe, well and coping with the ongoing challenges that the national lockdown and forthcoming Tier 3 restrictions bring. It has been, and will be tough for us all. It is vital for our young people that we keep their minds and bodies active through attending school regularly, participating in PE, attending any sport and other clubs and by leading safe and active lifestyles out of school too.

New DfE guidance has been issued in the last 24 hours. Whilst there are no major changes, which affect our current operating systems and processes, the advice continues to emphasise the importance of some of the basics:

- The importance of hands, face and space at all times.
- Face coverings in all communal areas around school are mandatory. Exemptions are permitted if we are notified and an identifiable lanyard/badge is to be worn at all times.
- For students to avoid the use of public transport wherever possible.
- The importance of risk assessments and the collective responsibility of all students and staff to keep the clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) as safe as possible whilst in school.

Latest update on School Transport/public buses:

Please reinforce the importance of face coverings on transport; a face covering is a covering of any type, which covers your nose and mouth. Students exempt for medical reasons from wearing a face covering please should speak to their Progress Leader to obtain a sunflower lanyard, to be worn visible to the driver to show exempted from wearing. The drivers can question and may refuse travel on the bus if face coverings/exemptions not visible.

The guidance for travelling on public service buses is; if possible, find alternative methods of transporting children to school, if it is not possible, follow the social distance guidance for public buses www.qegs.link/dfetransportupdate

Students out and about in the Community reminder:

Students please make sure on the walk to and/from school to be courteous to members of the community passing on pavements to allow for social distancing and not walking in large groups; students are amazing at following the guidelines in school but do not forget it does not stop beyond the school gates.

Student Leadership opportunities:

This week during Form Time, information on Student Leadership opportunities have been discussed, from Form Reps, House Leaders and positions for Sixth Form students. The students can also support the Student Council to represent their year group at School Council meetings. If students would like to be considered for a role, further information for students can be found via TEAMS, 'Student Leadership Roles' and information on how to apply. Good luck!

Senior Maths Challenge:

On Monday 2nd November, we had 50 students in years 11, 12 and 13 competing in the prestigious Senior Maths challenge. Everybody did really well - 29 students achieved a Bronze or Silver certificate, and two students, Sam G and Nicholas F, achieved Golds and have progressed to the next round. Well done everyone and good luck Sam and Nicholas!

Proud to be part of the **QEGSMAT**

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Well done!

Well done to the following students who have received the most positive events this week. Year 7: Harry M and Oscar D, Year 8: Mollie D and Samuel B, Year 9: Jamie B and Caris E, Year 10: Mya H and Natalie L, Year 11: Ben C and Aaron D. You should all be very proud of yourselves.

Reminder Wellbeing Workshops:

QEGS and the QEGS FPTA will be hosting a series of online Wellbeing Workshops run by Derwent Rural Counselling Service. We would encourage you to take part.

Each workshop has a different focus and is open to the parents and carers of all year groups.

The first session will run on Wednesday 2nd December at 7pm focussing on Supporting Students with Exam and Assessment Pressure. It will be possible to submit questions for the session in advance.

Tickets are available here <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/QEGS-FPTA>

There is a nominal charge of £2 for the session but please contact your child's Form Tutor if that is not possible, as we do not want someone to be unable to take part due to the charge

School Plans for January 2021:

Thank you to all parents, students and staff who have completed our Quality Assurance Surveys. The overwhelming majority feel very safe and our systems and procedures have ensured that staff and students feel secure and any risks are reduced to a minimum. We will be providing a summary of the surveys before Christmas. This feedback has also helped inform our refinements going forward which are summarised below:

- School day timings to continue (08.30 for local students, 08.40 for bus students, 14.20 departure for bus students, 14.30 for local students) for the duration of the spring term.
- We are looking to extend lunch from 25 minutes to 30 minutes, final details will be published before Christmas, only 5 minutes more but we think it is worth it!
- Years 7, 8, 9 will all have increased access to practical lessons in Design and Innovation from January. A combination of practical equipment brought to classrooms and classes making use of workshops/kitchen facilities will help develop students' interests and skills.
- Year 7 will make a start on a second foreign language by studying French in January.
- Year 8 groupings will be changed as some students continue with two foreign languages in tandem (Spanish and French or Spanish and German) and other students continue with just one (Spanish).
- PE lessons for Years 7-11 will continue as before with students permitted to wear PE kit on days with PE lessons and/or when attending the wide variety of after-school sport (Monday - Thursday).
- Co-curricular clubs will continue as per the schedule (see attached).
- We have recently purchased new Parents' Consultation Evening software, which will help aid our commitment to provide parents with feedback and communication as per our calendared events. First trial will be with Year 9 parents in January!

Hopefully, the forthcoming festive break will provide some welcome distraction from the current limitations and we know that you will be focusing on enjoying these festivities in a safe manner.

Yours faithfully



Scott Garrity
Headteacher