



17th December 2020

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #14

Well done on such a fantastic, yet challenging term. You should all feel very proud of what you have achieved. It has been an extremely tough time for families and all sectors of the economy and we hope that you can all enjoy your festive break with care, keeping yourselves and others as safe as possible.

We have been amazed at what we have achieved and it is down to your support and feedback that we have been able to plan, deliver and continually improve our provision. A summary of the recent parent QA feedback survey is below:

Quality Assurance Parent and Student Survey Summary

191 Parents completed the survey with great representation from each year group.

261 Students completed the survey with great representation from each year group

Question 1: Do you feel safe sending your son/daughter to school?

Parent answer: 3.5/4 stars

Student answer: 3.2/4 stars

Our action: Maintain current systems and processes, review DfE COVID advice over festive break and in New Year, update as advised.

Question 2: Do you feel you are kept up to date with key information at QEGS?

Parent answer: 3.7/4 stars

Student answer: 2.9/4 stars

Our action: We will be continuing with the Friday Bulletin after Christmas. Please ensure you have completed the Student Information Details letter. It is very important that the information we keep at school about you and your child is accurate and up to date.

<https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2019/01/Student-Data-Amendment-Form.pdf>

Question 3: Do you feel confident supporting your son/daughter accessing remote learning?

Parent answer: 3.0/4 stars

Student answer: 3.0/4 stars

Our action: All relevant information on the QEGS Website regarding remote learning.

<https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/covid-19/remote-learning/>

There is a step by step video guide on how to support your child with remote learning.

Question 4: Do you feel your son/daughter is supported with their mental health and wellbeing in school?

Parent answer: 3.1/4 stars

Student answer: 2.8/4 stars

Our action: We have new systems in place - Zumos, Kooth and mental health first aiders - if you wish to book an appointment for your child, please speak to their Form Tutor or Progress Leader.

Question 5: How confident do you feel about supporting your child with their mathematics work/revision at home?

Parent answer: 2.7/4 stars

Student answer: 2.7/4 stars

Our action: There is lots going on in school and our Maths department will be updating you in the New Year of the support available for students and parents that can be accessed from home.

Thank you messages:

If you sent in a thank you message then staff will be receiving these on the last day on term (today!). Thank you for taking the time to do this, we know how much staff will appreciate this.

Behaviour round up for the term!

What an Autumn Term we have had. Despite many constraints and restrictions we have had to put in place to keep everyone safe, our students have still gone above and beyond to make themselves and our school proud. A huge well done goes to Year 8 for achieving the most positive points since September. Well done to the English department for issuing over 6000 positive points this term and bagging top spot amongst the departments. Finally, Hull have taken gold position with 8345 positive points very closely followed by Boothby.

Rewards for students this term include; 74 Year 11 hot chocolate and cookies, 22 Year 10 sweetie bundles, 46 KS3 rulers, 44 Halloween treats, 5 sweetie bouquets for charity fund raisers, 106 QEGS amazing advent gifts.

Well done to all students!

Uniform

Now the weather is colder and wetter, we want students to be warm and well equipped for all eventualities. Our uniform expectations are clear and detailed on what we permit and what we don't. A particular concern at this time of year are designer/logo jumpers, sweaters and hoodies that are not allowed. Items which are not part of the school uniform will be removed, confiscated and parents contacted to discuss the concern.

Just a reminder to ensure all students have the correct uniform for their return after Christmas:

- Students in Years 9-13 who wear back school skirts, these must be no more than 3cm above the knee and not in a stretchy material.
- In cold weather a black, V-necked jumper with embroidered logo may be worn under blazers.
- Students should only wear QEGS branded PE tops and not any other sports branded sweatshirts or jumpers.

It can sometimes be tempting to trial out new hairstyles or nail art over the holidays but please ensure that the school requirements are met before return:

- No extreme hairstyles. Hair must not be cut with tramlines or patterns. Heads must not be shaved either fully or in part. Dyed hair – only full head or highlights in natural hair colours. No blocks of colour.
- Nail varnish of any description is not allowed.

Our uniform expectations are found here:

<https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/key-information/school-uniform/>

Please help us to limit the occurrence of any uniform incidents and thus reduce the time it takes for staff to follow up and deal with these matters by reminding your child of what is/is not allowed.

We will be starting the New Year by checking uniform and ensuring all of our students are smart and meeting our expectations at all times.

You can order uniform items direct from our supplier:

<https://www.schoolsinuniform.co.uk/>

If you would like further support with any uniform matters, please contact your child's Progress Leader to discuss. Key Pastoral Contacts can be found here: <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/contact-us/>

End of school student departure times

The school day timings will remain the same for New Year. Please remind your child of the start and end times:

- 8.30am onsite and in classrooms for those students NOT using school transport.
- 8.40am onsite and in classrooms for those students who DO use school transport (appreciating some buses run late).
- 2.20pm departure from lessons ONLY for those students accessing school transport that day and from the school Bus Bay. No other students should be leaving lessons and the school site at this time.
- 2.30pm departure for students NOT using school transport that day.

Students deliberately seeking to leave the school site before their designated time will receive an after-school detention.

Exams

Some of our Year 12 and Year 13 vocational/BTEC students will have external exams in January, we wish them all the best as they prepare for these over the coming weeks.

Year 12 and Year 13 have mock exams starting w/c 11th January. A letter to parents has been sent with further information on this. Please see the letters section of the website for a copy.

Virtual Christmas Concert

The Music Department Christmas Concert 'A Christmas Journey' is now available to view on the QEGS website or follow this link: www.qegs.link/vmc This is accessible via students school email, they are to look for an email from Mr Roberts.

Virtual Carol Service

Normally the Senior Choir would join all of Year 7 in St Oswald's Church to celebrate the start of the festive season. Due to current restrictions, this could not happen in the usual way, but the students and staff were determined to keep up this festive tradition. We hope you enjoy our Virtual Carol Service available to watch here www.qegs.link/vcs

Sixth Form Christmas Celebrations

Sixth Form's efforts for the decorating the tutor room competition last week.



Speech Day 2020

Our pre-recorded Speech Day event for this year can be found below from 4pm today. This includes speeches from our guest, Mr Steve Alton, our chair of governors Mr Colin Smith and myself. All of this year's prize winners plus lots of musical performances. www.qegs.link/speechday2020

Main Site Christmas Celebrations

The students have spent the last few weeks decorating their form rooms competing for the best decorated class. The winners are: Year 7 - 7xH, Year 8 - 8xO, Year 9 – 9xE, Year 10 – 10S2, Year 11 – 11S2.



COVID-19 – What to do at Christmas

- If you or a member of your family develops COVID-19 symptoms you must book a test either via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by telephoning 119. You will need to provide details of all close contacts and follow guidance on self-isolation.
- If a student or member of staff tests positive for coronavirus [COVID-19], having developed symptoms **within 48 hours of being at QEGS** please telephone 0789 0319042 so QEGS can assist with identifying close contacts.
- **Notification of confirmed Positive Cases** - If a student or member of staff tests positive for coronavirus [COVID-19], having developed symptoms **more than 48 hours since being at QEGS, QEGS does not need to be contacted**, NHS staff on 119 will support you.
- Please note our coronavirus [COVID-19] Positive Test Outcome telephone will be checked daily between the end of term and Wednesday 23rd December 2020. It will then not be checked between Thursday 24th December 2020 and Friday 1st January 2021. If you have any concerns during this period please telephone 119.
- **If a student or member of staff tests positive for coronavirus [COVID-19] and has to self-isolate for the start of term, you should telephone 0789 0319042 on Saturday 2nd January 2021.** This will help us in planning for a successful return to school.

Staggered Start to the January Term

At the time of writing this bulletin the Government and BBC are reporting that schools will have a staggered start to the new term with only exam classes in school and all other classes working remotely. We have not yet received any official notification and we do not yet have any details on which year groups are being regarded as 'exam groups'. As soon as we know more we will update parents, students and staff.

COVID Testing in schools

Again, we have been made aware that secondary schools will be setting up testing facilities for staff and students from January. We have received some theoretical information and we believe that we will know more when we return in January. We will keep you informed as and when we have the details.

I am very proud and slightly exhausted too! I will be enjoying some family time and anything else that I am allowed to do in Tier 3! Please enjoy your break too. Stay safe and stay well.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Garrity
Headteacher