

# QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity Chair of Governors: Mr C Smith



15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

## Weekly Bulletin #16

Thank you to parents, carers, students and staff for engaging in our revised approach to 'Remote Learning' with 'teacher presence' for all lessons. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with parents, students and staff all feeling the benefits of the new structure and format. We appreciate it is not without challenges and we are trying to support students and staff with any difficulties they may face. Please inform your child's Progress Leader if there are any problems and we will try to help as best we can.

We will also be adding some enrichment events into the term ahead, where students and staff will be able to take a break from 'screen time' and take part in a number of wellbeing and fun activities. We appreciate it is not the same as being in school, but we will try to keep things varied and interesting!

### Attendance of 'Teacher Presence' Lessons

Our approach and commitment is to keep as many students engaged in their learning. To this end, we want to keep parents informed and we will be using a new way of recording student 'attendance' in their remote learning starting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January. Attendance at 'teacher presence' lessons will be recorded in Go4Schools. This isn't school attendance recording or monitoring, it is purely for internal use to help us track students so we can support more effectively. Staff will be asked to record the attendance of each remote learning lesson/form time at the end of each session to allow students time to navigate any technology or connection issues. If a student cannot access the remote lesson for any reason, please email the teacher direct and they will be able to amend the absence code accordingly if there is a justified reason (medical appointments, technology problems etc). The new remote learning attendance information will be available for students and parents via Go4 Schools (App or Browser version).

<https://www.go4schools.com/> Please get in touch if you need any help accessing this.

We have also updated our Remote Learning expectations to reflect the current approach. Please go through these expectations with your child.

### Remote Learning Expectations for Students

- Sign in with your school account to join. 'Guests' will not be admitted.
- Join the meeting with your mic and video turned off. Your teacher will tell you if/when it is ok to turn it on.
- You can communicate with your teacher via the 'chat' during the lesson but not outside of lessons. There is a 'hands up button' which you may use. If your teacher invites you to, turn on your mic to speak.
- Sit yourself in a suitable 'public' living area in your home, NOT your bedroom, unless you select a 'background'.
- Make sure you are appropriately dressed. This doesn't have to be school uniform but no obvious nightwear or skimpy clothing!
- **The same behaviour expectations and 'IT Acceptable Use Policy' apply as if you are in school.**
- You are not allowed to record any part of the lesson.
- Teams Chat should only be used during the meeting and is monitored. It must only be used for school purposes with appropriate, 'professional' language.
- Let your teacher know if you can't attend via email.

We have also reviewed our settings across the trust and 'chat' will now only be accessible to students within Teams meetings. They can still contact their teachers by email, or by typing a message in the Team including @ and their teacher's name, so they get a notification.

### **Free School Meals**

From 25<sup>th</sup> January we are able to offer free school meal students the choice between receiving a voucher or a food parcel for lunches for the week. We have notified all free school meal parents of this change and would ask that if you haven't already done so, please follow the link below to make your choice.

Link for free school meal choice -

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=PYCwG3TptkKUJQEK3ByuahgYJxAquwtJu65karJIMYhUMINKNzdWMFdMNUtXNE5FR1ExUk5VRkrZMC4u>

### **QEGS Pastoral on Instagram**

If parents and students (over 13) use Instagram then please do follow 'QEGS Pastoral'. There are some amazing inspirational posts on there and some fun resource links that parents/carers can relay to our younger students.

Each Thursday a link/suggestion or resource will be sent out to enhance your knowledge, give you access to a potential new hobby or interest or just to give you something fun to do during lockdown. These will also be emailed to students if they do not use Instagram.

This week is ADVENTURE...

Virtually travel to space and have a look at some space photography via this link <https://images.nasa.gov/>

### **Lockdown Legends**

There is so much amazing work going on so well done to everyone despite daily battles with signal, laptops and motivation, you are all doing a wonderful job. We would like to share a few names each week with a special well done for their remote learning!

Freya H Y8, Millie H Y11, Lucas C Y11, William A Y9, Kacie E Y7 and Megan J Y10.

Also, a big thank you and well done to QEGS Staff who have been spending a lot of time training, practising and learning how to deliver some amazing lessons over TEAMS. We have had some wonderful feedback from parents and students!

### **GCSE Maths Intervention**

Just a reminder that the Maths department are continuing with GCSE Maths intervention as normal through TEAMS whilst we are remote learning. The GCSE sessions will run weekly on a Tuesday, at 2.40pm. All GCSE students in Years 10-11 are welcome - look out for the TEAMS meeting invite!

### **Year 9 Options Event**

Parents/carers of students in Year 9 will receive a letter with details about the Options Event on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>. The virtual event will open at 3pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> with a live Question and Answer event at 7pm the same day.

### **Year 11 Parents Consultation Evening - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January**

Just a reminder that Year 11 PCE will take place on our School Cloud resource. Information has been sent to all Year 11 parents recently. Booking opens at 4.30pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January so please do ensure you sign in and book an appointment with your child's teachers.

### **Careers News**

Hot off the press the Spring copy of 'Decisionz' Magazine for Derbyshire. This copy includes articles on:

- Subject Focus: History
- Social Media Top Tips
- Create your CV
- Industry Spotlight: Accountancy
- Sector Focus on Food and Drink Manufacturing
- How to Write a Winning Apprenticeship Application

Click here to see more <http://magazine.decisionz.co.uk/books/fsww>

We are continuing with remote careers interviews during lockdown using Teams meetings. These have been very well received. Students will discuss their options with an impartial advisor from Ideas4Careers. From this all students will receive a 'Career Action Plan' with follow up actions which may include attending a virtual open day, conducting research or completing an application form. These action plans are emailed to parents, so you are fully informed. Click here to see local college virtual open days <https://ideas4careers.co.uk/resources/opendays/> Buxton and Leek College virtual open day - <https://www.blc.ac.uk/our-events/>

### **Exams Update**

Whilst the DfE have written to Ofqual to request and advise on what they feel should/could happen, there is still no detail and/or decision on plans for student grades this summer. This will not be the same as last year and it is essential that all QEGS students in all year groups continue to attend lessons. Completing work to the highest standard, to ensure that we have the best insight and evidence to support grade decisions when they are required.

### **Whole School Assembly**

A first for QEGS! A whole school assembly will take place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 9.00am with Mrs Betty; invites to all students have been sent out today, please accept ready for Monday morning.

### **Covid Testing**

Our onsite testing has been up and running this week with 50 staff tested. Next week we will begin to include those students onsite whose parents have consented to testing. We will not be testing identified close contacts which now appears to be in line with the health regulator's view.

### **Covid Reminders:**

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19 If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not attend onsite provision, you must inform school of the absence and you must request a test via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test-or-by-calling-119>.

You must also notify us of a positive test outcome using this school designated telephone number 07890 319042 during the school day or out of hours (even if this is late at night, the sooner we are notified the sooner we can respond and inform other parents of our actions). This telephone number must only be used for positive Covid test outcomes. This will ensure that parents can avoid other busy school telephone lines, notifying us quickly and at any time of day or night, enabling us to react and respond appropriately. This remains true even if your child is learning remotely.

If a positive test is returned, the person who tested positive must self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test as must other family members from within the same household. Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

Further information about positive test outcomes is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-forhouseholds-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Symptoms:

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>

If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

## How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19 Do:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further information is available at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

## Finally

Each home and each family are facing and dealing with their own challenges. You are all doing an amazing job. However, we want to help if we can. Please get in touch, we can discuss things in confidence, and we will try to support our students and families in getting through these next few months.

There are also lots of sources of good advice such as this one on the BBC website from a team of mental health experts:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-55264224>

Stay positive, stay safe and take care of yourself as well as others.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Garrity  
Headteacher