

# QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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



29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

## Weekly Bulletin #18

It is a 'bumper edition' of the bulletin this week with lots of things to celebrate and acknowledge. Thank you to all the staff and students who have taken part in remote lessons and the co-curricular events on offer. Thank you to the parents who continue to juggle home and work lives whilst we educate remotely. We appreciate it is difficult and hopefully this bulletin can lighten your mood and includes some helpful information.

### Remote Learning and Technology Struggles

We are all aware how frustrating technology can be failing us on the last minute. If you do not have the technology at home to support your child, please contact school so we can see how to support.

If you have largely reliable technology with some intermittent issues but would like some suggestions of how to support your child with their learning at home during those moments of no signal, please see the list below:

- Students can read a book
- You can buy puzzle/logic books relatively cheaply from supermarkets/Poundland which students can work through
- Students can do some writing - a diary entry, creative writing, descriptive piece, persuasive letter
- You can purchase workbooks from Amazon for students to work through - CGP are good ones for most subjects
- For secondary school students, the BBC are showing lessons on TV BBC 2 between 1pm and 3pm every day (it's BBC 1 9am-12pm if you have younger ones)
- If you cannot always access TEAMS for live lessons then Oak Academy do online learning <https://www.thenational.academy/>

We would always encourage students to access QEGS Remote Learning but we understand how technology does not always allow us to do so.

Thank you for everything you are doing to support your children; we hope this list is helpful.

### Children's Mental Health Week 1<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> February

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week. The theme is Express Yourself. Students will notice that some lessons will have links to mark this event with a focus on self-expression. Self-expression is a great way to relieve yourself of stress and free your mind. Self-expression can help you to reflect on your life, actions, decisions, relationships, beliefs, and thoughts – rather than keep them buried deep down.

### Festival of Literature 2<sup>nd</sup> February - 12<sup>th</sup> February

We have subscribed to the online Festival of Literature and students across KS3 and 4 will be invited to join a real author 'live' to find out about their books, how they got into writing and to encourage students to try out a different type of book. More information has been sent in a separate letter, explaining how to access the festival and which year groups should be accessing it when.

### Intermediate Maths Challenge

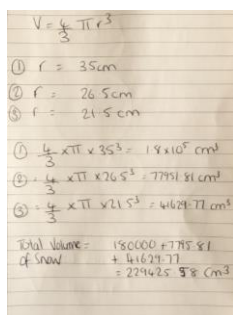
We have been able to transfer our paper version to an online challenge and have 11 Year 9 students, 22 Year 10 students and 14 Year 11 Students entered this year. The Intermediate Maths Challenge will take place on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Good luck to all involved.

Proud to be part of the **QEGSMAT**

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### Snow Day Activity linked to Maths

Sammy in Year 11 took his Maths skills to a whole new level by using a snowman to illustrate how to work out the volume of 3 spheres. Well done and excellent building skills as well!



### Do Something Different Day – QEGS First Screen Free Activities!

After three and a half weeks of remote learning, we were all ready for some screen free time. Staff and students fully embraced our Do Something Different Day on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021. We have been touched by just how creative, thoughtful, hardworking, philanthropic and active everyone has been - we sincerely hope everyone feels the benefit from taking some time away from the screen and enjoyed the theme 'Trying Something New'. Our next one will be on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February; the theme will be 'Showcasing Your Employability Skills'. Please ensure students send any photos to their form tutor so they can be entered for the prize draw with winners announced early next week.

But for now, please enjoy having a look at what some of our students and staff did when away from the screen.



Carla Yr 7 made her dog a bandana! Wow Carla, so impressive!



Mollie and Matilda Yr 8 did a murder mystery hunt around Ashbourne-wow brave!

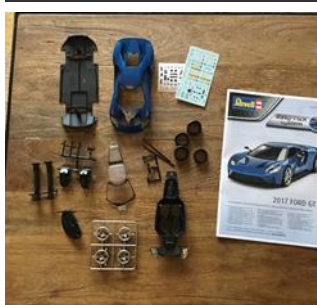


Imogen in Yr8 walked her dog and read and danced! Busy busy, well done!

Isabella baked some scones! I can smell them from here!



Sam in Yr 7 made a fish pie! I am hungry just looking at this. Well done Sam!



Charlie built this amazing car! Well done!



Homemade bracelets were made by Emma! They are stunning, well done!



Mackenzie did tarmacking! This is unbelievable!



Our students currently accessing on site provision made these amazing aeroplanes led by Mr Phipps. What a great keepsake of the afternoon!



Will made this treat! I hope it was as delicious as it looks!

Do SOMETHING DIFFERENT



Ms Keeling saw some snowdrops on her bike ride!



Miss Senior made Joey some dog biscuits

To finish off our summary of a selection of the amazing activities students and staff took part in is this poem written by one of our teaching staff who wishes to remain anonymous. We think this poem sums the afternoon up perfectly:

**Lockdown is hard, it's hard on us all,  
Especially not seeing our friends at school.**

**I miss the chats, the fun and games,  
Learning online is fine, but it's not quite the same.**

**But we're all working hard, we're doing our best,  
But an afternoon is needed for our screen-eyes to rest.**

**Let's remember to work hard, but also be kind,  
When we look for the positives there's always something to find.**

**Thank you to students, to parents and staff,  
Enjoy screen free time, let's have a laugh!**

### **Congratulations**

A huge congratulations is in order for Jack T in Year 9 who has been awarded a scholarship at Derby County FC. Well done Jack - we are very proud of you at QEGS.



### **Year 11 Sixth Form Applications**

The application process for QEGS Sixth Form remains open to Year 11 and the deadline to complete applications via the form on the intranet, is Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February. Please encourage your son/daughter to get in touch with either Mrs Allen (Head of Sixth Form) or Mr Walker (Deputy Head of Sixth Form) if they have any queries regarding their options or Sixth Form in general. All students will receive a response to their application after half term.

### **Sixth Form Updates**

The first Sixth Form Virtual Quiz was held on Monday evening and it was a great success with over 90 students in attendance across both Years 12 and 13! The event was organised by members of the Sixth Form Council and will be the first of many more fun virtual events to take place in the next few weeks. These opportunities have been organised to provide students with an opportunity to maintain contact with each other as a Sixth Form community and to take a break from their studies.

The Year 12 BTEC Business students also hosted a fantastic online event for their fellow students on Tuesday this week. They organised a Rocket League Competition and students participated throughout the afternoon resulting in Matt Booth (Y12) and Logan Maltby (Y12) winning. Another League will be taking place for Year 13 students next Tuesday afternoon.

Congratulations to the following students for taking part in the Chemistry Olympiad last week:

Abi S  
Lucie C  
Lucy C  
Angela L  
Katy C  
Sam G  
Kiera R  
Millie D  
Ben J  
Jack B  
Emily P

The Sixth Form continues to hold a weekly virtual assembly for all Year 12 and 13 on a Thursday morning at 8.55am, please encourage your son/daughter to attend, as this is an essential forum for providing regular updates, information and support. This week's assembly was on Higher Level Apprenticeships and was delivered by our Head of Careers, Ms Morgan. Students should also be attending a weekly tutorial session with their tutors on Tuesday mornings at 8.55am.

### **QEGS and the QEGS FPTA**

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

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

The second session will run on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 6-7pm focussing on supporting teenagers to build resilience and wellbeing. 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 a member of the Pastoral Team if that is not feasible as we do not want someone to be excluded due to the charge.

## Staying Safe Online

### **Online Gaming**

Online games are social activities, and most have features that allow young people to chat with others whilst they play.

For information about the positives of gaming, the risks of 'in-game chat' and measures you can take to help protect your child, watch [this short video](#).

The PEGI (Pan European Game Information) rating system can be a useful tool to help you decide what online games are appropriate for your child. For more information on the PEGI system and other factors to consider before deciding what's suitable, read [this article](#).

### **Steps you can take to help keep your child safer online:**

- **Have an ongoing conversation:** Continue to talk about the apps, games and sites they like to use, and what they like and do not like and any concerns about being online. Discuss with them when to unfollow, block or report. For help starting this conversation, read [this article](#).
- **Make sure they know where to go for support:** Remind your child they can always speak to you or an adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried or upset. Remind them that they will not be in trouble and that you are there to help. For a breakdown of reporting services, see [this article](#).
- **Check they are familiar with the reporting tools on the social media sites they use:** But also that a concern about grooming or sexual abuse can be reported to [NCA CEOP](#) where support from a specialist Child Protection Advisor can be accessed.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Garrity  
**Headteacher**