

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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12th February 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #20

We now have a 'virtual guest book' on the school website. Here you will find a sample of messages from our parents/carers, students, staff and members of our wider school community. If you would like to write in our [Virtual Guest Book](#) please email your message to enquiries@qegs.email with the subject "Virtual Guest Book".

<https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/virtual-guest-book/>

Year 9 Options

A reminder to Year 9 students and their parents and carers that the options form is now open, and closes on Wednesday 24th February. You need to choose a first-choice option and a reserve for each option block. It is not on a first-come, first-served basis, so you can take your time to think about your choices over half term if needed. Any questions, please contact Miss Ward, Mr Flynn or your form tutor.

Covid Mass Testing

Thank you to all those who have volunteered and supported with the Covid testing in school, your support is much appreciated and we could not do it without you. In order to continue with the successful running of the testing, we still require support after the half term. If you are able to offer your time to volunteer, please email Mrs White enquiries@qegs.email

This Week's Achievements:

QEGS Amazing: This week 120 golden ticket Shrovetide hot chocolate cones have been delivered to students by our staff. Well done keep up the good work everyone.

Shrovetide Competition: The winners of the Shrovetide Competition selected by Sophie Burton are; 3rd place Hannah S Year 8, 2nd place Katie S Year 8 and 1st place we have Ashton H Year 8. The winners will be put into the Shrovetide book that is being made to commemorate Shrovetide being cancelled. Well done to everyone that entered and a huge congratulations to the three winners.



STEM competition: This week saw students making bird feeders with recyclable materials in line with the RSPB Great British Garden Birdwatch weekend. It was a really tough decision but our winner was Kerryn C Year 9. Some other excellent birdwatch feeders were made by Imogen O Year 8, Sophie Red Year 8 and Maizie G Year 7. Well done to all, and we look forward to seeing what fantastic ideas our students come up with for this week's challenge - building an unsupported structure as tall as possible! Details of this have been emailed to students.



Congratulations to Mrs Brewell Science Technician on the birth of her baby boy.

Do Something Different: It was lovely to see such creative ideas for this week's 'Do Something Different' afternoon with the theme of employability skills. It seems baking is a clear favourite, Grace A in 7C2 who designed a Valentine's menu for her parents to be cooked on Saturday evening, how thoughtful. Enjoy Mr and Mrs A! We also had photos sent in of some rather gory make up designs from Dow R (8H2), some beautiful artwork from Archie S in 8C1 and a very detailed costing sheet for Alistair D's (8C2) cakes, an entrepreneur of the future we are sure.

Sam looked at the potential bypass routes. He planned a walk so he could look at the different routes and he used communication/listening skills to discuss the pros and cons of the bypass. He decided to do this as he is interested in being a Civil Engineer. Well done Sam!

Deputy Head of Science, Miss Hindes, showcased her DIY skills and has started to upcycle a dresser!

For the students in school, we had problem solving activities and physical challenges being attempted in Technology and PE, thank you very much to both the Miss Browns, Mr Bembridge and Mr Phipps for designing these tasks. Mrs Bowbanks put the Year 10s and 11s through their paces with some mock interviews followed by a bit of BINGO just for fun. We all need a bit of fun, even in the workplace.

Thanks to Ms Morgan who organised a great 'Do Something Different Day' linked to 'Showcasing Your Employability Skills'. Once again students wowed us with how they used their no screen time. Well done to each and every one of you! We will do the raffle after half term and reveal the lucky winners!



Grace A in 7C2 who designed a valentines menu for her parents to be cooked on Saturday evening

Mr Bembridge was on site working with students to create a 'Leaning Tower of Footsa' - the students really enjoyed the challenge!



Mrs Smith grows her own lupins so she set herself the challenge to find out how much this cost! Well done

National Apprenticeship Week

The focus in form this week has been on Apprenticeships. There are more and more opportunities coming through of late for Higher and Degree Level Apprenticeships, please see this link for a list of current opportunities.

<https://successatschool.org/jobscourses>

We are always looking for volunteers to speak to our students about their careers whatever you may do. If you feel able to get involved please let us know.

Pancake Day Competition

Next Tuesday is PANCAKE DAY and due to Shrovetide being cancelled, students have been set the challenge of the best flipping a pancake video. Students have received an email to their school email with more details. Please send any videos to barrie@qegs.email

Literacy Challenge

Here's a list of must-read books for 2021. What is the one book you think other people must read? Write a description of why other students should read this book. Please email work completed work to Mrs Rushton-Plant rushton-plant@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk by Friday 26th February.



World Book Day 4th March 2021

World Book Day is fast approaching, on Thursday 4th March. This year, students in KS3 will have the chance to experience a range of different lessons across the curriculum, that are linked to various novels. RS for example will be looking at The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe by CS Lewis and how it was inspired by links to Christianity. To get students in the spirit of day, we are asking students to dress up as their favourite character from a book of their choice. There will be prizes in each year group for the best dressed on the day. More details to follow after half term.

Co-curricular Sport update: Let's get physical!

Monday: Live Soccer Skills session

Tuesday: Elite Running Club Challenges

Wednesday: Workout Wednesday

Thursday: Live Rugby Skills session and Couch to 5k Running Club.

All sessions start at 2.45pm.

House challenges will also be starting after half term - lots to look forward to! First challenge is: Which House can get from Ashbourne to Tokyo the quickest ready for the Olympics?

Parent Feedback Survey

Thank you to all parents who completed the Parent Feedback Survey we sent out in November. It really helped us to reflect, discuss and adapt practice where appropriate. Thank you also for the 'thank yous'! Since September we have sent out 741 'thank you' cards to our staff. This really has been very well received by all, so thank you for taking the time to send them in.

We have now created a [second Parent Feedback Survey](#) for you to complete. It takes approximately 3-4 minutes to complete. Your feedback is invaluable to us and will help inform our plans, to either retain and/or make changes to existing systems and also great for us to see the progress made from the first one. We are extremely proud of how our students and staff have adapted to the new way of learning and working. However, we are always striving to develop, improve and find solutions. Once completed, we will update you with our findings before the end of this term. The link to the feedback survey is below:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=PYCwG3TptkKUJQEK3Byuar5oHY7KACdKjL1oaEh8AqdUNFIQVlhKUjg0NUw1REJINzJKRTdNMFo1NC4u>

Staffing Updates

Farewell 'for now' to Mrs Fairbrother and Mrs Humphry-Lewis. Thank you for your amazing support and contribution so far this year! We hope to see them both again. Both remain with us as Relief Teachers. We welcomed back Miss Angris on Monday after a period of maternity leave.

There will be further staffing changes in the next few weeks due to three staff taking maternity leave and so some students will see changes to their timetables as new staffing arrangements take effect. If your child's timetable is affected, the changes will appear on their Go4Schools timetable.

Online Safety

On Tuesday 9th February we joined thousands of other organisations in the UK and around the world in celebrating Safer Internet Day 2021. At QEGS, we have produced an Online Safety talk, aimed at parents and carers, that highlights some of the risks and challenges young people, and those who care for them, face in the online world. You can find that talk [here](#).

Half term gives many of us the chance to reconnect, without the pressure of spending significant time on our electronic devices. It might also be a good time to initiate a conversation with young people about what they like to do online. Research tells us that having an open discussion about the apps, games and sites they like to use, along with their likes and dislikes and what to do if they see content that concerns them is the best way to keep your child safe. For help starting this conversation, please read [this article](#).

We/you have made it! Well done. Working from home or indeed working elsewhere, during this pandemic has been a real challenge for everyone. If your house has been chaotic, children and adults slightly short-tempered, the fridge constantly opened and emptied, a family feeling of boredom and 'how much longer can this go on?' – you are absolutely normal and not alone.

We believe there is 'light at the end of the tunnel'. The vaccination programme is moving fast and the numbers we see reported make me feel optimistic that children will be back in school quite soon. We miss them and hopefully they miss us too (or at least their friends!).

Boothby Building Expansion

Our expansion and redevelopment plans for the Boothby building next to the Astro-turf are now moving ahead at pace. A contractor should be appointed by Easter, building work started in May and the project completed June/July 2022. This is in partnership with Ashbourne Rugby Union Football Club and we are so pleased with the design and progress we have made. A full press release will be issued in the next few days.

Front and side towards field elevations:



Take care and stay safe. Have a great half-term.

Yours faithfully

Handwritten signature of Mr S Garrity in black ink.

Mr S Garrity
Headteacher