

# QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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



5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

## Weekly Bulletin #19

So sad to hear of the passing of Sir Tom. As a sign of respect, we flew the flag at school at half mast this week. We felt he signified so much about our recent challenges and how we have pulled together to overcome them. We also send our sympathies to other families who have lost loved ones during this pandemic, Covid related or not. Bereavement through this period has been a challenge and none of us, including my family, have been able to grieve and pay our respects as we normally would.

## Staffing Update

Welcome back to Miss Angris (Leader of KS5 English) who returns on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February from maternity leave. Farewell (for now) to Mrs Fairbrother and Mrs Humphrey-Lewis who have been covering this leave. Thankfully, these two colleagues have been retained as 'Relief Teachers' to ensure we can cover future absences with 'our own' staff.

## Children/Young People's Mental Health Week 2021

This year more than ever, our mental health matters. Living with restrictions and isolation has brought about new challenges for maintaining positive mental health and wellbeing. This week we marked '**Children/Young People's Mental Health Week 2021**'. Miss Ward started the week off with an inspiring assembly based on being kind to ourselves and others and then staff continued to mark the theme of 'Express Yourself' into some lessons and form time.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that students have access to **Zumos** - an online mental health support. Zumos builds self-confidence and wellbeing. It helps children to practise being a mindful person and builds their inner strength to be a resilient person. If they need log in support, please contact form tutors.

We also have access to **Kooth**. They are a free, safe and secure way of accessing online support for mental health. In recognition of Mental Health Week, they have launched their #dontdoitalone campaign, to encourage young people to have open conversations about their mental health. The following video has been released today in collaboration with some famous faces to share their messages of support and inspiration. We would definitely recommend you giving this a watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEShtD0vTzc&feature=youtu.be>

Please do remember though, that despite these brilliant resources, students have form tutors and progress leaders who they can talk to if they need to. There are lots of ways you can get support if you need it.

## Remote Learning

A reminder for students that you **must not** share your username and password with anyone else, as outlined in the acceptable use policy signed by all students when they join QEGS. You must always sign in to your school account to join lesson meetings; 'guests' will not be admitted from the lobby.

## Student Absences

As of Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February, please could all parents/carers phone the student absence line if their child will not be attending their remote lessons that day.

### **Rest Breaks Between Live Lessons**

We recently amended the school timetable to ensure we had 10 minutes rest breaks between each lesson. Please could you remind your child(ren) that they should get away from their device at this point, have a drink, stretch their legs. It will really help engagement and learning and their wellbeing.

### **QEGS Co-Curricular Virtual Clubs**

Attached is the flyer that students received last week. Please do encourage your child(ren) to get involved.

### **STEM Challenge**

The first winner of the weekly STEM challenge is Tom D in 7XO and Henry V in 9YD was second! Well done Tom. The competition was very tough and Mrs Statham and Mrs Wright were blown away by the amazing efforts of all of the entries – merits have been awarded to all.

The second challenge was a photo of a pet 'studying or doing remote learning'; the winner was Amelia C and her dog who likes to help Amelia study science during a live lesson!!

The next challenge is out and is due in on Monday – students are to check their emails for details!

### **Shrovetide Completion**

Reminder that the Shrovetide competition closing date for entries is Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February please make sure all entries are emailed to [barrie@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:barrie@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk). Students have received emails with the full details of this competition. Good luck.

### **National Apprenticeships Week**

Next week is National Apprenticeship Week, we will be running a range of activities in Form time to explain this increasingly popular route to employment.

If you missed our session on Tuesday evening please take a look at this parent pack from Amazing Apprenticeships <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/app/uploads/2021/01/Parent-Pack-Jan-2021.pdf> it is full of practical ways you can support your child and details of virtual events. Alternatively head to the careers section of the website for links to other useful websites or for more regular updates follow us on Twitter @\_QEGS\_Careers.

Next week Years 11 – 13 will also be receiving workshops from UCAS on how to write the perfect CV and how to interview well. These are happening on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February. If you have a child in these years please ask them how it went and what they learnt. The link to sign up to the event is <https://www.ucas.com/understanding-apprenticeships/discover-apprenticeships>. There are lots of opportunities to hear from apprentices in different sectors and from the businesses that offer these apprenticeships throughout the week. Many of these are available 'on demand' so you can select what may be of interest.

Speakers for School is an organisation that publishes talks from inspiring people from many different industries. As an example, next week, there are talks from Jean-Patrick Cheylan from Twitter about his career journey and how to develop resilience and from Milo Beckman on the subject of 'Is there anything bigger than infinity?'. They are live each day or you can revisit at any time. Follow this link to sign up

<https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration/vtalks/upcoming-vtalks/>

Full list of talks from Speakers for Schools – week commencing Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021:

DATE	SPEAKER	INFO
<p>Mon 8<sup>th</sup> February 10-11am</p> <p><a href="#">LINK TO JOIN</a></p>	<p><b>Tom Toumazis MBE, Former Media, Entertainment and Tech Executive, now investor in start ups</b></p> <p>For KS4-5/S4 – 6</p>	<p>We are delighted to be hosting a Broadcast with Tom Toumazis, Former Media, Entertainment and Tech Executive, now investor in start-ups. Tom is a public speaker, sharing his work/life experiences and encouraging young people to explore a career in the world of media and entertainment. He was awarded an MBE in 2015 for services to children. Tom will be sharing insights into the ‘art of nudging’ and how to get noticed in a world of noise!</p>
<p>Mon 8<sup>th</sup> February 2-3pm</p> <p><a href="#">LINK TO JOIN</a></p>	<p><b>Milo Beckman, Author, Maths without Numbers</b></p> <p>For KS4 –5/S4 – 6</p>	<p>Join us here to hear Milo Beckman, a maths prodigy from New York. Milo’s projects and independent research have been featured in The New York Times, the Huffington Post, the Economist and others. He has worked for a US Senator, three tech companies, two banks and taught mathematics in New York, China and Brazil. His debut book, Math Without Numbers, is an illustrated guide to shapes, dimensions, infinity, symmetries, proofs, and more. Milo will be talking about a famous question in abstract maths: Is there anything bigger than infinity? He is looking forward to answering your questions.</p>
<p>Wed 10<sup>th</sup> February 2-3pm</p> <p><a href="#">LINK TO JOIN</a></p>	<p><b>Jean-Patrick Cheylan, Head of Entertainment Partnerships, Europe, Twitter</b></p> <p>For KS4-5/S4 – 6</p>	<p>Speakers for Schools is delighted to be hosting a Broadcast with Jean-Patrick Cheylan. Jean-Patrick is in charge of supporting the leading European entertainment content creators to grow and monetize their audience on Twitter. He leads a 5 people team based in London, Madrid and Paris, which covers partnerships across TV, cinema, music, fashion, lifestyle, food. Jean-Patrick will be sharing insights into his career journey and where to gain relevant work experience. He will be providing advice on how we can develop our resilience.</p>
<p>Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> February 10-11am</p> <p><a href="#">LINK TO JOIN</a></p>	<p><b>Panel Broadcast with Flipbook Studio</b> <b>David Cordon, Head of TV and film, Jo Wilkinson, Head of Production &amp; Yuval Turgeman, 3D Artist</b></p> <p>For KS3-5/S1 – 6</p>	<p>Join us for a panel discussion with Flipbook Studio, an innovation production studio who provide Visual Effects, Animation, Digital, Immersive and Film for their international client base. David Cordon, Head of TV &amp; Film, Jo Wilkinson, Head of Production and Yuval Turgeman, a 3D artist will be sharing an insight into their careers and will be providing tips for students who are interested in a career in Film and TV. Students will have the opportunity to ask the panel questions.</p>
<p>Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> February 2-3pm</p> <p><a href="#">LINK TO JOIN</a></p>	<p><b>Penguin Talks in Partnership with Speakers for Schools</b> <b>Lit in Colour: Why Empire is Relevant Today, with Sathnam Sanghera and Zawe Ashton</b></p> <p>For KS4-5/S4 – 6</p>	<p>Award-winning author and journalist, Sathnam Sanghera, joins actress, playwright and director Zawe Ashton, to discuss the impact of Empire on modern Britain, its absence from the school curriculum and why it’s relevant to young people today.</p>

How to join the live broadcasts:

- Join 10 minutes before the broadcast to be ready
- You can join without needing an account – [Watch how here](#)
- For full speaker descriptions visit the [Broadcast Schedule here](#)

#### **Live broadcasts library and more:**

- Watch pre-recorded broadcasts from our library [here](#)
- Please see our [Schools Guide here](#).

#### **'The Parental Guide To'**

The following website is aimed at both KS4 and KS5 parents and has some useful information and advice to parents supporting their children with studying towards their GCSE's, A-Level and BTEC courses. The resources also cover a variety of parent guides for studying at home, revision and researching careers, apprenticeships and universities.

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

#### **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 Thursday 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.

#### **Safer Internet Day 2021**

This is celebrated across the globe on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February. The theme in the UK this year is 'An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world'.

The UK Safer Internet Centre has a range of free resources for parents and carers, to support those difficult to begin conversations with young people. You can access those resources [here](#).

At all times, but particularly in the current climate, we all need to be wary of online scams. Scams can be difficult to recognise but being aware of them can help us protect ourselves and our families. Citizen's Advice have produced an excellent resource page to help you deal with scams and you can access that page [here](#).

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February, we will also have a talk aimed at parents and carers available on our Online Safety page at <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/key-information/online-safety/> This talk, delivered by Mr Illsley, Head of Computing and Online Safety at QEGS, will cover a range of online safety topics relevant to keeping our children safe in the online world.

#### **Achievements**

Rocco H Year 8 has successfully completed the freeCodeCamp.org JavaScript Algorithm and Data Structures Developer Certification. Well Done.

Emily H and Phoebe K Year 12 will be running 56 miles in February! They will average 2/3 miles everyday to raise money for Cancer Research UK and have collected over £455 in donations so far. Well done girls, this is amazing!

#### **Do Something Different Day**

Today we did our raffle for those who sent photos evidence to their tutors of what they did on Do Something Different Day. The winners of £10 Amazon voucher each are:

Jack L Yr7, Charlotte C Yr8, Reuben Z Yr9, Emma L Yr10, Mollie H Yr11, Ollie M Yr12

Just a reminder that our next 'Do Something Different Day' is on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 12.15-2.30pm and the theme will be 'Showcasing Your Employability Skills'. More information to follow.

### **Creative Lockdown**

To tie in with Children's Mental Health Week and the theme 'Express Yourself' we are delighted to share this wonderful image of our very own Mr Storr (Teacher of Art) standing in front of a portrait he created which was then displayed in Picadilly Circus! During last lockdown he offered free digital portraits for #portraitsforheroes through Instagram. Two of the subjects worked in Derby/Notts, the other in London. It led him to having work displayed in Piccadilly Circus as part of <https://thepeoplespicture.com/rainbows-for-the-nhs/>. We are sure you will all agree that he is very talented and shares a very important message, 'I know it's a difficult time for everyone, but creativity can bring people together. Be creative in any way you can, for your own wellbeing'.



### **Sixth Form Updates**

There is a 'Scattagories' games night for all Sixth Former from 7pm on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February. This is following the success of our Quiz night two weeks ago. We hope to see as many students there as possible to have some virtual fun!

We will be starting some live exercise sessions for our Sixth Formers from Wednesday next week (after lessons have finished), these will be led by our Sports Captains and the PE staff. More information will be provided in Mr Walker and Mrs Allen's regular email updates to students and our assembly. These sessions will also continue after half term. Thank you to Megan E Year 13 and Leo C Year for organising these sessions. We have our PE kits ready!

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February there is an Apprenticeship Week event for all of Year 12 and 13 from 12.15pm. This will include a CV writing and interview skills workshop.

We are also holding a virtual 'Meet the Russell Group Event' on Wednesday, this is optional and takes place from 12pm. The event includes live presentations from Russell Group universities and a chance to see them all in one space. To attend this event, students need to register and also to contact Mrs Thrupp (Sixth Form Administrator). All teachers have been advised of these events and have been told not to expect students in online lessons during the afternoon.

Stay safe and take care.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Garrity'.

Mr S Garrity  
Headteacher