

# QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

## Weekly Bulletin #22

Thank you to parents, students, staff, and the wider community for supporting our commitment to bringing students and staff back onsite over the course of next week. It has not been easy. However, with the wonderful support of our volunteers, we have been able to plan testing and then teaching for all by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March. Thank you!

### Our approach:

We have chosen to proceed as we have done since March 2020, with caution, implementing the recommended measures and systems of controls to ensure students, staff and their families are kept safe and well, maintaining high attendance in school and maximising learning.

Our measures and systems of controls in the autumn term were possibly above what were implemented in many other schools. However, from the student, parent and staff feedback surveys, all of our stakeholders felt safe. We now want our students and staff to return to school and to feel even safer as we face new challenges, such as new Covid variants and the nation's desperation for transmission rates to fall, death rates to fall, with key roadmap dates being met, allowing us all to see family and friends, living more freely and even taking a holiday. We are committed to doing 'our bit'.

Unfortunately, some of our students and staff will not be able to return to school from March 8<sup>th</sup> as they are classed as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) and the school setting is still regarded as unsafe for them. We also have students and staff with significant medical needs who despite advice to shield, are choosing to return to school because of their safe experience in the autumn term and the new changes we will be implementing from Monday.

For those students not being tested, normal onsite lessons will resume for you on the relevant days. There is no stigma attached to personal views on testing, if you consent then we are happy to provide and oversee the 3 onsite tests and then supply you with home testing kits.

A reminder that students will be expected to wear a face covering in any indoor space including classrooms from March 8<sup>th</sup>. 7000 government supplied face coverings have now been delivered to our school. They are medical grade, good quality, comfortable and effective. They are the same standard as worn by medical staff up and down the country. They will be available to students who are unable to provide their own, may forget or misplace and/or wish to replace their own with a more comfortable version. These will be freely available each morning at the school gates and bus bay, or from Progress Leaders.

We believe it is right and proper for some students and staff to be exempt from wearing face coverings. Using details about their medical history and present circumstances, we will be sensitive and supportive of these needs:

*'Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings. This applies to individuals who:*

- *Cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical impairment or disability, illness or mental health difficulties.*
- *Speak to or provide help to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate'*

If your child is exempt because of one or more of the reasons above, please contact your child's Progress Leader to discuss how we can support and allocate an exemption badge/lanyard. In the absence of any medical history and/or current clinical confirmation of an exemption, Mrs Betty and/or Mr Garrity will decide how best to proceed.

### **Rapid Lateral Flow Testing for Households and Bubbles of School Students and Staff**

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that households with primary school, secondary school, and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, can test themselves twice every week at home as schools return from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. This also applies to the households, childcare and support bubbles of staff. These home tests will also be offered to adults working in the wider school community including bus drivers and after-school club leaders. These twice-weekly test kits can be accessed through collection from a local test site or by ordering online from: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

### **Critical Worker Provision On Site From 8th March**

Critical worker students who are in school next week should meet in the gym each morning to register until their year group starts back at school. When their year group starts back, critical worker students should register in their form rooms with their peers. For example, year 9 critical workers will register in the gym on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March but will go to their form room to register on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March when all of year 9 return.

Critical Worker students will access their lessons in their timetabled room(s) from before lockdown. They will have a normal PE lesson so should wear PE kit on the day of their timetabled lesson.

### **Extended Form Time next week**

For students on site and at home, form time will be extended by 30 mins from 8<sup>th</sup> March – 15<sup>th</sup> March. This is to ensure we can share key messages, get acquainted with our form once again and focus on our Recovery Curriculum. For on-site students it will start at 08.40 and finish at 09.30 as each year group returns. For students at home awaiting return it will be 08.50 until 9.00am as formal registration and form tutors will stay on live but will issue tutees with short tasks to do such as private reading/ quizzes etc. Lesson 1 will not start until 09.30 for all students.

### **National Careers Week**

This year's theme for our activities has been 'Careers in the Curriculum and Enterprise'. At the beginning of the week Years 7 to 10 were working on new product ideas to solve life's little problems. They were asked to record an 'Elevator Pitch' (A two-minute persuasive talk on why someone should invest in this idea) to sell their idea. Mrs Bowbanks has been busy watching these and has been bowled over by our budding entrepreneurs!

We have also had external speakers in to talk about how the learning in the curriculum is used in the world of work. On Wednesday Jules Barrett from Adventure Unlimited spoke to our Year 8 Geographers about how he has used knowledge of maps, weather and geology in his work as a mountaineering instructor and in his work in outdoor education. On Thursday Ian Smith of TGIS aviation spoke to year 9 language students about many roles in aviation and how you can access these careers. He also talked of the importance of language skills and gave some comical accounts of when he would have benefited from better language skills in his travels! Students have been set a Languages Challenge and the best entries stand to win Amazon vouchers kindly funded by TGIS.

Today we are welcoming Brell Ewart of Whitehouse Construction to speak to our maths students in year 10 about jobs in the construction and civil engineering industry and how maths is of great importance. They have a tricky task to complete based on an activity a quantity surveyor may need to complete. Whitehouse are keen to encourage students into to the world of construction. They are currently sponsoring one of our students on a degree course and are looking to sponsor another next year in the field of Civil Engineering, a fantastically generous offer, thank you! All supporting presentations will be available in the careers section of the website if you are interested in a career change yourself.

### **Derwent Rural Counselling Service**

Derwent Rural Counselling Service are hosting the final two brilliant and informative online workshops for parents/carers in the upcoming months:

- 'Positive Parenting: Managing the Transition to Young Adulthood' on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 6-7pm
- 'Living with Hormones: Anger, Mood Swings, Lack of Communication, Introversion' on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 6-7pm

All tickets (£2) and further details are on TicketSource: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on?q=QEGS> Should you have any issues whatsoever with payment, or would like more information, email [Angris@qegs.email](mailto:Angris@qegs.email) or [fta@qegs.email](mailto:fta@qegs.email) .

### **Online Safety**

Our tenth annual Online Safety Evening for Parents and Carers has this year been conducted virtually. The session provided lots of advice and information about a variety of topics we are often asked about, including children's use of social media, video streaming apps such as TikTok, online gaming, parental control software, internet scams and various sources you can use to find out more or help if you have an issue. You can access this presentation via the QEGS Online Safety page at <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/key-information/online-safety/> or by going to At QEGS > Online Safety from the main page of the school website.

The Online Safety page has also been updated with a selection of films and other media that you may wish to watch with your children and could be used to start a discussion with them about what they would do and actions that could be taken if they found themselves in similar situations.

We'd also like to take the opportunity to thank the parents that take the time to contact the school to alert us to specific areas of concern in relation to Online Safety. In general, we do not issue guidance on specific apps, as this can pique interest from those who otherwise may not have discovered them. Having an open dialogue with your children and being prepared to discuss sensitive issues with them is the best way to help them to keep themselves safe.

### **Maths Challenge achievements**

The Maths Challenge is a competition held annually by Leeds University that encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The problems on the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge are designed to make students think. Most are accessible, yet still challenge those with more experience.

Well done this year to: Year 9; Yagnish D and Will T, Year 10; Charles F, Nicholas L, Alasdair C and Heidi M, Year 11; Thomas C, Artemis S, William S, Ryan R, Daniel S, Jenna D and Matthew L.

### **Co-curricular Sport Activities.**

We are delighted to announce that our extensive co-curricular sports programme will start again next week. Clubs are open to all students, from the relevant year groups, and are very much focused on enjoyment and increasing participation in physical activity. A link to the co-curricular timetable that will run from March 15th to Easter is attached. <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2021/03/Co-curricular-Sport-timetable-March-2021.pdf> and the permission slip to attend <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2021/03/Cocurricular-permission-slip-1-1.docx> .

Next week, after-school co-curricular sport will follow a slightly different timetable due to different year groups starting on different days:

- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>
  - 6th Form Sport
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Y9 & Y10 football
  - 1st Team football
  - 6th Form Workout Wednesday
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>
  - All Years - running club
  - Y7 football
  - Y9 & Y10 hockey
  - 1st Team rugby
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Y7 rugby
  - Y8 football

Students attending a co-curricular activity should wear their PE kit to school, with their blazer and lanyard over the top. All after-school sessions will run from 2.35pm until 3.55pm and students wanting to attend must bring (or have previously brought in) a signed parental permission slip. link

### QEGS to Tokyo House Challenge

With the Olympics due to take place in Japan this summer, we launched our first PE House competition of the year, to cover the distance from Ashbourne to the Olympic Stadium in Tokyo, by cycling, running and walking. A distance of 13,200km! The challenge, which started on 22nd February and runs until 1st April, is open to all students and staff at QEGS. We have been blown away by the amazing engagement and fantastic effort displayed by all that have taken part so far. Over 600 activities have been logged in the first 12 days and we have completed 4653km as a collective! However, this is also a challenge to see which House can travel the most distance and the current leaderboard is below:

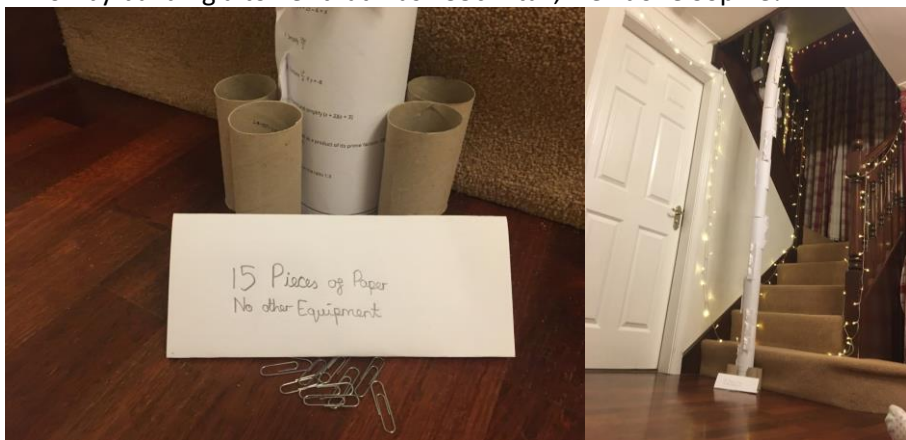
Position	House	KM
1 <sup>st</sup>	Spalden	1443
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Hull	1304
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Boothby	1032
4 <sup>th</sup>	Cokayne	874

Total Completed = 4653km  
8547km to go!

TOKYO 2021

### Last week's STEM Challenge winner!

Last week's challenge was to build a free-standing tower as tall as possible with the given materials. Sophie M in year 7 won by building a tower that was 235cm tall, well done Sophie!



### Red Nose Day, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021

The ParentPay donation page for QEGS for Red Nose Day has successfully been opened. The link below links you directly to it. Please include this link on any information to parents that you send out so that we can make sure all donations are able to go directly to Comic Relief.

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=2492>

### World Book Day – new teaching staff at QEGS?!

To celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, QEGS Staff welcomed students to remote lessons in character! Still time for students to send their book costume pictures to Mrs Rushton-Plant via email ([Rushton-plant@qegs.email](mailto:Rushton-plant@qegs.email)), the winning entries will be shared in next week's bulletin plus still time to enter the Library competition, details linked <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2021/02/Competition-Poster.pdf>.





Long John Silver/Miss Angris  
 Cruella De Ville/Mrs Rushton-Plant  
 Demon Headmaster/Mr Garrity  
 Snow White/Mrs Palmer  
 Mr Tod/Mrs Bentley  
 Miss Trunchbull/Mrs Betty

### Lockdown Legends!

We have been completely flabbergasted by how dedicated, hardworking and creative QEGS students have been during this recent lockdown. Thank you for applying yourselves with such maturity to everything that has been asked of you. Please give yourselves a huge pat on the back!

We would like to take this opportunity to reward some students who have been nominated by their form tutors to receive a special prize which will be posted out to them. These are our Lockdown Legends who tutors believe have made exceptional progress, shown outstanding effort, perhaps attended all live lessons or worked against all personal odds.

The following were nominated by their form tutor and then chosen from the list of nominees by their Progress Leader:

- Mr Hamer for Year 7 selected Ben R and Jasmine S
- Mrs Caton for year 8 selected George M and Hannah B
- Mr Flynn for year 9 selected Jacob A and Lucy C
- Mrs Wood for year 10 selected Tyler L and Fergus W
- Mrs Bowbanks for year 11 selected Sam M and Emilia N
- Mr Walker for year 12 selected Robyn T and Lauren M
- Mrs Allen for year 13 selected Eleanor P

The following have been nominated by their form tutor and selected by their link in the Senior Leadership Team:

- Mr Bawden for Y7 selected Julia M
- Mrs Starkie for Yr 8 selected Finley F
- Mr Bembridge yr 9 selected Tom D
- Miss Ward for Yr 10 selected Annie W
- Mrs Betty for Yr 11 selected Sammy Lee F

**Overall Headteacher winner is George T in Year 8.**

Well done to all of you and we can't wait to see you next week in school.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Garrity  
Headteacher