

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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12th March 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #23

It has been a real boost to see our students and staff back onsite this week. Learning, interacting, being active, meeting our expectations and keeping themselves and others safe. There really is no substitute for face-to-face learning. There are lots of routines and procedures to remember and lots of new information to take on board too. Thank you to all stakeholders for continuing to support our return to school, for being patient and understanding of the complexity this has entailed and for re-iterating to your children the importance of doing things safely.

Testing Centre update

Thank you to our excellent team of staff and volunteers who have made our testing process so successful over the last week. We have now completed the first round of testing and move on to the second and third in-school. These tests will follow the same sort of routine as the first, except now Year 7,8 and 9 students will come to the Testing Centre with their class teachers, and Years 10 and 11 will arrive according to their surnames. The days of testing will be as follows:

Day to be tested	Year Group
Monday	10
Tuesday	9
Wednesday	7
Thursday	8
Friday	11

Sixth Form students have now completed their testing in school; home testing kits will be issued to Year 12/13 students next week.

Please allow up to 24 hours for the NHS text message to come through to the mobile number given at the time of registration. If the mobile number is incorrectly given, it cannot be amended after registration has taken place. Please be assured, if a positive result is recorded, school will be in contact directly with parents/carers prior to NHS message being sent to notify before the end of the day tested in school.

Yr11 and Yr13 summer grades

We are committed to ensuring our Yr11/13 students enjoy their last few months with us and that they receive the grades they deserve. Information regarding summer grades, assessments, leaving dates and other matters related to the summer term are being shared with Yr11 and 13 via assemblies (Yr13 assembly was on Thursday 11th March, Yr11 assembly will be on Monday 15th March). A follow up letter with further details will also be issued next week which should address queries.

School Transport

Whilst most students complied with the rules of travelling by bus in the autumn term, we had reports that some students did not. Where a student who uses school transport tested positive for Covid, it was difficult to pinpoint the close contacts as some students had not maintained their seating arrangement. Whilst we can have some control over where students sit when they leave school, it is difficult to oversee where they sit on the morning journey to school. Please speak to your child about their routine and seating on the school bus. Maintaining regular seating routines is essential to limiting unnecessary self-isolations if positive cases are confirmed.

- The majority of the larger vehicles have seating plans; seating plans can also be viewed in school corridors and students can ask Form Tutors to check number if unsure. Students must sit in these seats for the journey both to and from school.
- On arrival at school, spot checks will be carried out to assure ourselves that we know who our students have been in contact with. Please can you stress the importance of this with your child.
- All students must wear a face covering and sanitise their hands when they board and disembark from the school bus. If exempt from wearing a face covering; please make sure sunflower lanyard/exemption badge is visible or student may be challenged by the driver.
- Face coverings must be worn for the duration of the journey and not be removed at any time.
- Students must sit in their designated seat as per the seating plan and remain in these seats for the duration of the journey. Students will be organised into year groups before they board any bus when departing school at the end of the day.
- Transport providers and the authority governing these buses have the right to remove any students' right to travel on school transport should their behaviour be unsafe and/or a breach of the guidelines above.
- If we do not feel able to confidently identify who has or has not been a close contact, we will be forced to isolate entire buses to protect other members of the school community.

Sixth Form Update

It has been great to welcome back our Year 12 and 13 students this week and we would like to thank all KS5 students for their positivity and corporation with regards to their transition back into the classroom.

We have had extended tutorial sessions every day this week, which have provided our KS5 tutor team with some additional opportunities to support our Sixth Formers with their return to face-to-face learning; and also to launch some exciting new opportunities and activities available across the Sixth Form. As part of this we have launched the UCAS process with Year 12, providing them with information and advice around how to start their research into the range of post-18 options available to them including university courses and higher-level apprenticeships. All students have now signed up to UCAS Hub which we will be encouraging and supporting them to use over the next few weeks as we progress further into the UCAS process. If you would like further information on UCAS, the links below may be of use to you:

<https://www.ucas.com/>

<https://accounts.ucas.com/account/login?returnUrl=https%3A//www.ucas.com/dashboard%23/>

The co-curricular aspects of Sixth Form life have also restarted this week, with activities including football training, table tennis, the boardgame club and Young Enterprise all being well attended and enjoyed by our students. We are looking forward to providing more opportunities of this nature over the next few weeks.

Year 13 begin their Assessment Week from Monday 15th March until Tuesday 23rd March. They have been provided with support from their teachers in class over the past few days to help them plan for this and have also been offered study leave during this time period to allow them additional time to prepare. This means that all Year 13 A-Level students will return to lessons on Wednesday 24th March. There are different arrangements in place for students on the BTEC and vocational courses, as these courses have different requirements at this stage. Students in these subject areas have been provided with information on the plan for the next few weeks and have also been asked to attend lessons as normal next week.

Green Skills Campaign

Ms Morgan, Leader of Employability and Careers Education, will be sending information to students linked to learning Green Skills through live broadcasts, virtual talks and an exciting Sky competition 'The Edit' and how students can create a news report on climate change.

Reminder of Y8 PCE on Tuesday 16th March

A letter was sent out this week to inform how to book appointments on our system School Cloud. Appointment slots can be booked from 4pm today.

Year 7 Dance

All year 7 dance lessons from the 15th March will now be practical. Please wear your PE kit on the day that you have dance. This includes the QEGS PE hoodie, blazer and lanyard.

National Pi Day

Students - keep your eyes peeled for the weekly Maths video each Friday.

For those of you who don't know, Sunday 14th March marks Pi Day, and the Maths Department will be sharing have some cool experiments and activities for you to try!

House Music Competition

On Monday 15th March we will be launching our first QEGS House Music Competition. We're challenging all our students, whatever their musical ability, to record themselves performing alone or with their friends to earn points for their house. Details will be announced during form time on Monday.

Final Stem Challenge Winner

A huge well done to Sophia M in Year 7 who won our final STEM challenge! Sophie built a bridge from a given set of objects and managed to stack up nearly 5kg of books on top of it before it broke.



Sophia's bridge, with some fantastic problem-solving skills.

Well done Sophie!

World Book Day, student winners

Many students dressed up to take part in this year's World Book Day competition. There were so many wonderful entries, thank you to all students who took part. The three winners are as follows:



Top prize of a Kindle Fire goes to Sophie-Anna G in Y9, who dressed as Ibuki Mioda from Danganronpa a manga (Japanese comic series)



Second prize goes to Ashton H in Y8 who dressed as the book, The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe by CS Lewis. He wins a £30 book token to spend on books of his choice.



Third prize goes to Maizie G Y7, who wins a £20 book token to spend on books of her choice. She dressed as Mrs Twit from the Roald Dahl book The Twits.

Comic Relief/Red Nose Day – Friday 19th March

Thank you for the contributions received so far to the Comic Relief/Red Nose Day ParentPay donation page, a fantastic £256 has already been collected! Please use the direct link to <https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=2492> - the link allows for 'Gift Aid' donations to be included to boost funds further.

Friday 19th March will be a **wear something red** non-uniform day (see letter from Mrs Barrie) and the students and staff will pay £1. As we cannot have our additional fundraising in the main hall, Form Tutors have asked their forms to come up with a way to raise money as a form (similar to what we did for Children In Need).

We look forward to next week, when we will have all of the students who are able to return, back onsite. Sports clubs, music rehearsals, charity days and many other aspects of school life are all back in full flow. I already have staff requesting dates (pencilled in of course for now) for school trips and visits and a meeting with Mrs Corboz about plans for a school show! I am so proud of my colleagues and their commitment to helping our students to 'catch up' with the things that they have really missed.

A very proud and slightly tired headteacher, ready for the weekend and then another full and busy week in school!

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Garrity', written in a cursive style.

Mr S Garrity
Headteacher