

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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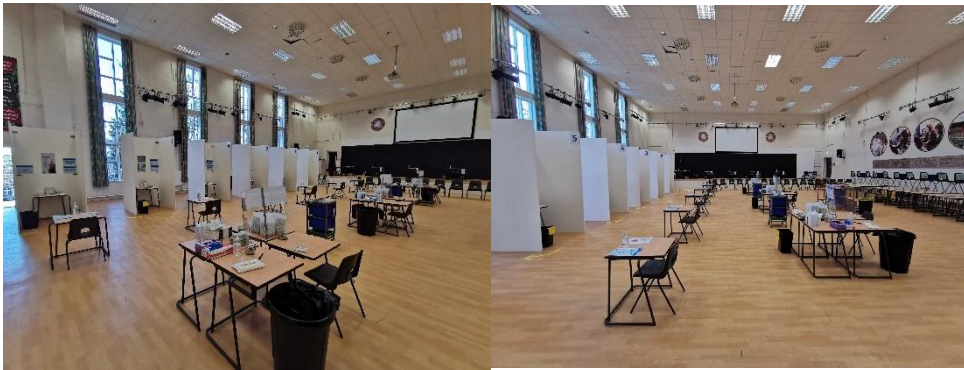
25th March 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #25

Onsite School Testing

We are now coming to the end of week 3 of our whole school testing programme. Thank you to our excellent team of staff and volunteers who have processed **4,383 tests since January** and have made our testing process so successful over the last 3 weeks where we have reached our aim of having all students safely back in school. We could not have done this without this support so thank you!



Thank you, Staff & Volunteers!
We could not have done this without your support

Student COVID-19 Home Testing: Self-test Kits

Today any student who has participated in our in-school mass asymptomatic testing process has been issued with their home testing kits. Students have watched a short explanatory video, and asked questions if they are unsure what they should be doing. It is important that students test themselves every Monday and Thursday before coming in to school, and continue to do this through the Easter holidays. There are instructions in the boxes if they forget what to do. By testing regularly at home we can continue to make sure our students, staff, families and wider community remain as safe as we can during this pandemic.

Once students have tested themselves they will need to log their results with the NHS, following the instructions in the box, and with the school using this

link: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=PYCwG3TptkKUJQEK3Byuar5oHY7KACdKjL1oaEh8AqdUNVpRMUxDUk5VNVZXMUxaNTA2MVFMtVNHVC4u>

Students have received today via email, instructions on where to find the links on the school website and intranet to log their result with school as well.

Finally, we know you will join with us in thanking all those students, staff and volunteers who have made our in-school testing so successful. If you have any questions around testing do please contact your child's Tutor, who will be happy to help.

IT Update

We have prepared and issued devices to students including 65 laptops and 46 iPads provided by the DfE, and 12 laptops provided with generous donations. In addition to this we have supported an initiative led by Ann Smith on Facebook which provided over 50 laptops and 15 tablets which have been distributed to local primaries and QEGS students. In addition to setting up 130 laptops for Teachers, Teaching Assistants and Trainee Teachers. Together with moving almost 200 PCs around to best utilise our resources.

Careers News

The annual World of Work (WOW) Week for Year 10 students has been pushed back to the final week of the summer term. We have also taken the decision to postpone work experience until Year 11 for this cohort due to the uncertainty of it being able to run. During WOW week we are planning to take students to a local college and a university as well as spending a day in our Sixth Form to help them decide which route is right for them. We are also planning to take students to an outdoor education site to be put through their paces learning and showcasing key employability skills such as communication, leadership and teamwork. In addition to this, we will be putting on occupational talks and conducting mock interviews. It is always an enjoyable and important week of learning and reflection.

If parents/carers would like to come and talk to our students about your job or career, we would love to hear from you. We are also trying to ensure our mock interviews are conducted by people from industry rather than school if you would like to volunteer please contact bains@qegs.email or details. Year 10's talks and mock interviews will take place from 21st-23rd July.

We will also be putting on mock interviews for our Year 12 students in June so again if you feel you can assist with this, school would love to hear from you. Having unfamiliar faces adds to the authenticity of the experience.

The business team are excited to be 'virtually' welcoming Max Poynton from 'Project D'. A doughnut shop flourishing in our area and beyond. Thanks to Mrs Briggs (@thebizteach) for organising this. Hopefully there will be an opportunity for a taste test as a follow up lesson!

009 Bus Update

Following the Easter break from Monday 19th April 2021, the 009 Bus with stops to Doveridge, will be able to leave school at the earlier time of 2.35pm. Student's travelling on this bus will leave their lessons at 2.20pm to make sure they arrive at the bus bay area in good time for departure.

Parking Near to QEGS

Please do not stop/park to drop off students in the areas marked with the double yellow lines as this can cause congestion along the Green Road and restrict view to students crossing the road. School has also been made aware of cars parking in the Town Head car park, this is private to the residents of the retirement accommodation; number plates will be noted by the firm who monitors the car park and action taken.

Online Safety

Live streaming is now a very popular feature of many apps and platforms, and all you need to livestream is an internet enabled device like a laptop or a smart phone.

If your child enjoys livestreaming, you may want to read [what is livestreaming](#) to find out more about it and help your child have a positive online experience.

Over the past few months, many of you may have watched a livestream, or taken part in a video chat. Livestreaming can be a fun and enjoyable online activity for a lot of people, particularly during the pandemic period. If you want to know more about livestreaming, the risks and safe use, watch this short video: [video](#) or download this [handy guide](#).

Census at QEGS

Students have been learning about the Census 2021 in Maths, Geography and during form time this week. In Maths Years 7-9 have been looking at how we can analyse the results of the census to make decisions to improve our communities. In Geography Years 7-10 have been questioning how the census information impacts aspects of their lives and explored how it can be used to make Ashbourne a better place to live. In form time Years 7-11 have had the opportunity to learn what the census is and complete their own 'QEGS Census' - and will be analysing the results next week!

Red Nose Day!

A big thank you, for making this year's total an impressive **£2057.72!** QEGS students once again rose to the challenge to fund raise by wearing something red plus, baking cookies, football matches and holding a chocolate Easter Hamper raffle which raised £172 of the total.



The raffle winners: Jess, Lacey, Jack, Rathika and Esme



Shakira H in Y8 made amazing red nose cookies to sell.

Tunnocks Teacake competition

Thank you to all students who entered the 'Teacake travels around the world' Tunnocks Teacake challenge over lockdown.

Mrs Flinders had some amazing entries with the below winners put forward into a larger competition run by Tunnocks and the Food Teacher's Centre. The winners of the QEGS competition are:



Winner!
Katie S, Y8
Most Novel



Winner!
Daisy L, Y8
Teacake travels around
the world
The Eden Project



Winner!
Imogen P, Y8
Teacake travels around
the world - Canada

Maths Challenge Week

This week our students in Year 7-10 have been battling in their houses to win the Maths Challenge. For 3 lessons they are completing a variety of different mathematical activities in their house teams to gain points. Results will be revealed in next week's bulletin!

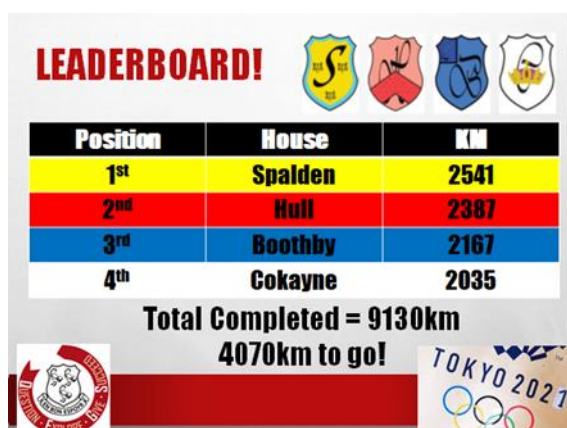
Co-curricular Design & Innovation

QEGS Design & Innovation department are delighted to now be able to offer co-curricular COVID catch-up opportunities for KS3 students, starting week commencing Monday 19th April except for food which will start on Tuesday 27th April. All students are welcome to take part in these practical project-based activities. We welcome your support in encouraging and enabling your child to attend.

All activities will start at 2.35pm and finish at 3.55pm, further information can be found using this link <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2021/03/Co-Curricular-for-Years-7-8-9-letter-Design-and-Innovation-March-2021.pdf>, please complete the permission slip and return to Mr S Phipps via phipps@qegs.email or if unable to email/paper permission slip via student's Form Tutor.

QEGS to Tokyo Update

We have had well over 900 activities logged so far, for the QEGS to Tokyo House challenge, which is fantastic, but we need a last push to get to the Olympic Stadium! There is only 500km between first and fourth so each House is still in with a chance of completing the most distance. Please get out for a walk, run or bike ride, and send the evidence of the distance to your PE teacher, to help your House win the race to Tokyo!



The image shows a leaderboard titled 'LEADERBOARD!' with four house crests at the top. Below is a table with three columns: Position, House, and KM. The rows are: 1st Spalden 2541, 2nd Hull 2387, 3rd Boothby 2167, and 4th Cokayne 2035. Below the table, it states 'Total Completed = 9130km' and '4070km to go!'. There are also logos for the school and the Tokyo 2021 Olympics.

Position	House	KM
1 st	Spalden	2541
2 nd	Hull	2387
3 rd	Boothby	2167
4 th	Cokayne	2035

Total Completed = 9130km
4070km to go!

Staffing Update:

Students will see some staffing changes to their timetables in the run up to Easter and after the school holiday.

- Mrs Starkie (Assistant Head) has already commenced her maternity leave and now has another lovely, baby daughter. Mum and baby are both doing well!
- After Easter Miss Matkin (Art) will return from her maternity leave and we will say goodbye to Mr Storr who has been a fantastic addition to our staff team in Miss Matkin's absence. We also say goodbye to Mr Chambers (TA) who is moving on, we wish them both well in their next schools.
- Mrs Allen (Head of Sixth Form) will commence her maternity leave on 10th May and Mr Walker (Business) has been appointed to cover this role in her absence. Mr Chow has been appointed as maternity cover for Head of Business Studies and Economics and Mrs Thrupp appointed as Deputy Head of Sixth Form until Mrs Allen returns from her leave. Therefore, we will have no gaps in staffing or provision, ensuring Sixth Form and subject leadership is at full strength at this crucial time for our students.
- We will also see some changes to areas of responsibility across the middle and senior leadership teams. An updated copy of the structure and areas of responsibility to be implemented from April 1st 2021 is **attached** for your information.
- Thank you to Miss Brown (D and I) and Mrs Barrie (PE) for their work in pastoral and transition. Thank you also to Miss Meadows (English and SENCO) who will be retiring from her full-time role to return after Easter on a part-time basis.

- Our new SENCO from April 1st will be Mr Bembridge who has also been promoted to an Assistant Headteacher position. Mrs Morgan also takes on a new Assistant Headteacher role with responsibilities including vocational learning, transition with primary schools and student leadership.

Remember the clocks go forward this weekend. Spring is here, more daylight, more sunshine (hopefully) and more time for us all outdoors in a safe and respectful manner. Please ensure that your children observe and follow the Covid rules to ensure that we can all get back to what we once had.

Stay safe and well. Take care.

Yours faithfully

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

Mr S Garrity
Headteacher