

# QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The Green Road, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1EP

Tel: 01335 343 685 Email: enquiries@qegs.email Twitter: @qegs\_ashbourne

Web: www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk

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



25<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

## Weekly Bulletin #35

### School Day September 2021

Many thanks to the parents/carers and staff who provided feedback to our second proposal for school day timings for September 2021. We can now confirm that these will be the timings for September:

QEGS School Day 2021-22	
Event	Timings
Staff Duty	08.40 – 08.50
Students in form rooms for GUEST checks	08.50 – 08.55
Form Time	08.55 – 09.15
Period 1	09.15 - 10.15
Period 2 inc staggered 20 min break	10.15 - 11.35
Period 3	11.35 - 12.35
Period 4 inc staggered 40 min lunch	12.35 - 14.15
Period 5	14.15 - 15.15
Staggered Departure/Staff Duty	15.15 - 15.20

Questions on this second version were mainly centered around bus route provision for Brailsford and we understand that DCC will soon confirm the arrangements for this route and others ready for September.

This final version of the school day maintains teaching and learning time at 5 hours; prioritises student wellbeing at the start of each day; provides quality social time for eating and drinking; ensures our rich and diverse co-curricular programme can be offered and staffed beyond 3.20pm; and ensures students have sufficient time for their own interests and pursuits out of school. We will keep all stakeholders fully briefed on the impact of these changes.

### Year 11 Transition Day to Buxton & Leek College

On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June, students visited both sites to explore and find out all they need to know about college life, their chosen courses starting in September as well as a tour around the town. A busy and informative day for all involved.



### Year 11 Transition Day at QEGS Sixth Form:

On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, students attended an induction day at our Sixth Form, students engaged in taster sessions in their chosen A-level or BTEC courses in preparation for September. Lots of amazing lessons delivered by our QEGS staff leaving our students motivated and excited for September.



### World Music Day

On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> of June QEGS celebrated World Music Day with a series of workshops for Years 7, 8 and 9. Students were able to experience playing Taiko drums, Djembes and other African drums, Samba instruments, Gamelan and our brand new Ukuleles as well as trying their hand at Conducting. A massive thank you to all staff involved in running workshops and providing a wonderful opportunity for our students!



### Still Time to Enter the FPTA Summer Draw

The FPTA is holding a Summer Draw to raise money for resources for the school. The FPTA most recently contributed £2000 towards outdoor seating for the students but there are many other projects in school that we would like to help with if we have the funds. Tickets are available exclusively on ParentPay and cost £2.50 each but you are welcome to buy several tickets if you would like.

The draw will be made on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021, the winner will receive 10% of the total amount raised in ticket sales. A runner up prize of 5% of ticket sales will also be drawn. Winners will be notified by the school in the week following the draw. Good luck and thank you for supporting the FPTA and the school.

### Online Safety

Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) have made a new tool available so that children and young people can report a nude image or video of themselves in order that the IWF can take steps to remove it from the Internet.

More information from the IWF can be found [here](#) and the Childline reporting tool is [here](#).

### Sports Day Booking

Bookings made for the original date of Sports Day will be carried over to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. We do request that if you can no longer make Sports Day, you notify Miss Robinson via email so your tickets can be reallocated. If you had been unable to book tickets and would like to be added to a reserve list should any tickets become available, please email Miss Robinson [robinson@qegs.email](mailto:robinson@qegs.email).



## QEGS Sports Success!

On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, we ran a football festival for some of our local feeder schools. There were 15 teams playing, which were made up from over 120 Year 4 and Year 5 students. All of the schools taking part thoroughly enjoyed the day and they were especially complimentary of our Sports Captains, Sixth Form volunteers and Year 9 Sports Leaders, who were instrumental in making it a successful event.



On Wednesday, 4 teams took part in to compete in the English schools' track and field cup at the Moorways centre in Derby; this was our first meet in 2 years. Not only did QEGS students put in some incredible performances both on the track and in the field event, but their conduct was outstanding and the PE team could not have been more proud. The inter boys and junior girls teams finished first, and the inter girls and junior boys teams second, a huge congratulations to all competitors.



## Art Exhibition

The Art Department are happy to announce that school are holding an art exhibition in collaboration with the Dove Valley Arts Society. Two of our Sixth Form students have been working hard to arrange this exhibition, consisting of work created by our wonderful students in lockdown. **The exhibition is suitably titled 'UNMASKED CREATIONS' and will be held from June 23<sup>rd</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> at No. 17 St John Street 10am-4pm.**

We are unable to host our usual annual art exhibition in school this year, so this is a great opportunity for us to showcase our talented students. We hope you will have the chance to pop down and have a look!



## Community Day – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July

We are running an amended version of our 'Community Day'. We will still host the Race for Life event but due to covid restrictions we sadly cannot open the invite to the wider community to attend and mingle this year. We will still have over 1000 students and staff on the school fields (kept in year group bubbles) so if you are interested in pitching a stall, donating towards the raffle, or simply to find out more please contact Natalie Jones via email [jones@qegs.email](mailto:jones@qegs.email). The aim of the event is to raise money for Cancer Research and local community projects. An amazing £441 has already been raised via <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/qegs-ashb>, our target figure is £3000 this year for Cancer Research.

## Thank a Teacher Day Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June was National Thank a Teacher day, here at QEGS we created our own 'Thank a QEGS member of Staff' day. The day started with a 5-minute video from some of our students sharing their thank you messages to our teachers, TA's and support. Students had further opportunity to thank staff through postcards, where students wrote lovely messages of gratitude to our staff, including thanking our cleaners and caretakers for keeping them safe by keeping our site clean, our teachers for support their learning and our PL's for always being a listening ear.



To thank our staff for all their hard work and dedication we organised a mobile 'barista' to be on site for part of the day, with tea, coffee, milkshakes and cake on offer for the staff.



We thank all our staff for their continued dedication to our students and their adaptability in light of the last 12 months and the impact the pandemic has had on education.

If you would like to 'Thank a Teacher' or any QEGS member of staff it is not too late. Below is the national website for 'Thank a Teacher' enabling you to send a thank you card. <https://thankateacher.co.uk/thank-a-teacher-day/>

## Year 12's This Week

Year 12's are back into normal lessons this week after their progress exams and are in the process of getting their feedback from their various subjects. As well as this they have also had a mock interview with a group of volunteers from a variety of different industries. Local employers who conducted the mock interviews were unanimous in their praise of the students' conduct, calmness, confidence and ability to express their aspirations with a great mix of optimism and realism. They were impressed with the students' ability to reflect on their achievements and to identify what they needed to do next. To quote one, "**Wow! Blown away by these students, all individual, but all a real privilege to talk to.**"

## **Fire Drills**

At some point next week we will be holding a fire drill. Please could you take the time to discuss the importance of such events, and the need for swift, calm and quiet action. Students will be lining up in tutor groups.

## **Face Coverings on School Buses and Public Transport**

Over the last week, school has received messages from bus providers to inform some students are forgetting their face coverings on the journey to school in the morning. If a child is not wearing a lanyard to indicate exemption from wearing a face covering, travel may be refused by the driver; it is for the safety of all passengers and the driver that face coverings are worn.

## **Student Lanyards and ID Cards**

These are an essential part of our school uniform, our safeguarding protocols and also our COVID risk assessment:

- Coloured lanyards to see easily identify a year group bubble
- ID cards for door access controls to keep site and buildings safe and secure
- ID cards to identify students
- ID cards for contactless payment in the canteen

Therefore, these items of uniform are one of the first priorities checked each day during form time, at the start/end of every lesson and whilst moving around the school.

Replacement items can be ordered by Form Teachers. Students must not leave Form Time without a replacement lanyard and/or ID.

Lanyards and IDs must be worn, not carried in pockets. They must be complete and fully functional.

We must all help keep students safe, keep staff safe and keep our operational procedures fit for purpose.

Staff will be checking and challenging, please support your child and get any missing/broken items replaced asap!

## **Finally**

There are so many fantastic things taking place in school at the moment and we want to keep as many students as possible in school to enjoy their summer term. We have proven that we can keep Covid transmission and cases low and we want to ensure that this remains the case in the coming weeks and months. This week we have reported two positive cases of COVID-19. We are also aware infection rates are rising locally, and more rapidly still in nearby towns. It therefore remains essential for everyone to observe government guidelines on social gathering and key messages such as 'hands-face-space'.

- It is more important than ever for our students to test twice per week, preferably before school on a Monday and Thursday.
- All results should be reported to the NHS via the link in the test kits and to us at school via our website. If the result is positive, you must inform both us and the NHS immediately.
- If you are informing us during school hours, please phone Student Services. If it is out of school hours, please telephone 07890319042. This number is staffed both before school and in the evenings.
- Remember, if someone tests positive with a lateral flow test the person MUST self-isolate and must not leave the home without permission from the NHS or attend school.

Have a safe and enjoyable weekend.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Garrity  
**Headteacher**