

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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



23rd July 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #39 – we made it!!

September Testing for our Current Students

Having reviewed our testing plans and to meet the current Government and Public Health expectations, we will be adjusting the start of term arrangements. This will mean we can still offer our new Year 7 cohort a high quality induction programme, something that matters so much to all of us.

We are very aware returning to school after the long summer break can be both a nervous and exciting time. Therefore, we will be staging our return and testing in the following way:

Step 1: All students should carry out a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) at home no later than 3 days before their onsite test date. LFTs can be collected from surgeries, test centres and ordered online from the NHS. Please inform us of any positive LFT results so that we can plan for any remote provision once confirmed by PCR. Please use the following telephone number to inform school 07890319042. All LFT positives will need to be followed up with a PCR test.

Step 2: All students will be offered a second test, this one will be onsite, at school before students return to school and normal lessons. Your child will only need to stay for their test and can then go home.

All students will attend school for their test at least one day before their formal return date, this will limit potential close contact transmission before students return. These timings are set out in the table below. Please aim for your child to arrive as near to the beginning of their session as possible.

Onsite Lateral Flow Testing Sessions. Venue: Sports Hall		
Year Group	Date	Session Time
Year 7	Monday 6 th September 2021	14.30 – 15.30
Year 8	Tuesday 7 th September 2021	08.30 – 09.30
Year 9	Tuesday 7 th September 2021	09.50 – 10.50
Year 10	Tuesday 7 th September 2021	11.10 – 12.10
Year 11	Tuesday 7 th September 2021	12.30 – 13.30
Year 12 & 13	Tuesday 7 th September 2021	13.50 – 15.00

On arrival for their test

Students will not be required to wear uniform when they come in for their test. Parents/Carers should drop students off at the bus bay, staff will be on hand to direct parking. Students will then walk up to the Sports Hall. Here they will take a lateral flow test and then return to the bus bay. The process should take approx. 30 mins. Tutors will be on hand to guide and support. We will then process the test and inform parents in the event of a positive result. If you have not heard from school within two hours, please assume the test result was negative.

In the next few weeks, we will be sending out a letter from the DfE/NHS inviting new students to take these tests. There will be an opportunity as a part of this invitation to decline the test in school. We will provide more information once we have received it from the DfE.

Returning to school – In full uniform, ready for induction and/or start of lessons

Revised Return Dates	
Year 7	Tuesday 7 th September 2021 8.50am
Year 8	Friday 10 th September 2021 8.50am
Year 9	Friday 10 th September 2021 8.50am
Year 10	Thursday 9 th September 2021 8.50am
Year 11	Friday 10 th September 2021 8.50am
Year 12	Wed 8 th September 2021 8.50am
Year 13	Friday 10 th September 2021 8.50am

School transport will be running from Tuesday 7th September.

Timetables in September

Timetables for the next academic year will appear in students' outlook calendars a few days before the start of term. They will also receive a paper copy of their timetable on their first day back.

Bus route timings for September 2021

Derbyshire School transport have finalised the timings of school buses for the next academic year. Please check the website using the link www.qegs.link/buses for timings before the September start.

Update to students using the 002 Bus - DCC will continue to operate the 002 Bus from Kirk Langley/Brailsford to QEGS during the Autumn Term. The route will be subject to review before January 2022 and school will keep you informed of any changes.

The Staffordshire provided routes (313, 356, 357) will receive timing information with their bus passes during August.

More information will be sent out towards the end of the summer break to update on Covid travel precautions which may still be in place as students return to school in September.

September 2021 Uniform

A letter detailing uniform expectations has been sent to all parents, but I would like to outline a few key points from the letter:

- Hoodies are not to be worn for PE Kit under any circumstances
- All students who wish to wear a skirt should wear the grey pleated school skirt as of September 2021. No black skirts to be worn
- PE Kit can be worn only when students have PE on their timetables for that day. Full details of correct PE kit are on the letter
- Students should not get new piercings/nails/extreme hair styles before the start of next term. They will be expected to correct them if they do so before being allowed on site.

Rewards

We have had a phenomenal year given the circumstances. Students have demonstrated grit, determination and a desire to achieve all throughout the pandemic. Overall, we have awarded about 500 students with Golden Ticket rewards, we were able to run our awards ceremonies and award students for a variety of exceptional talents, achievements and efforts and staff gave out a whopping 91,310 positive points this academic year!!

We will be renewing our rewards processes for next year and will be asking student voice to help us shape these so look out for more info. Well done to each and every student.

Water Safety: IMPORTANT

You may have seen the tragic news of a local young boy who died after getting into difficulty in the river after jumping off Swarkestone Bridge. He was in Year 10 at a school not too far from here. With QEGS students likely to be playing around water this summer, can we please stress the importance of having the conversation with your child about water safety during the holidays. In 2020 there were 254 accidental drowning fatalities in 2020 (of which 133 were inland and 121 were coastal). Drowning continues to be a male-dominated issue, with a ratio of 4 males to

1 female losing their lives by drowning. You can find more information on <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/safety/water-safety/open-water> to help inform your discussions.

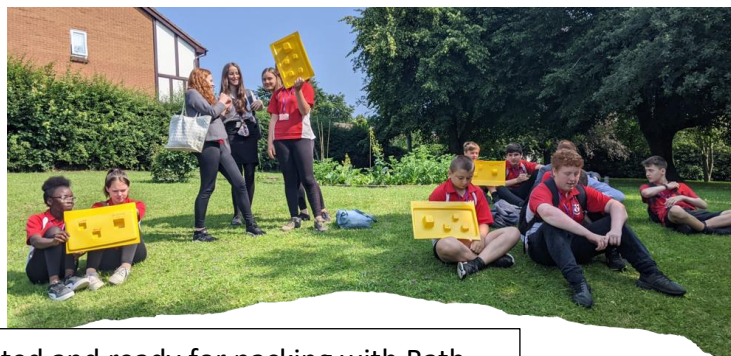
Online Safety

The relaxed atmosphere of a summer break can sometimes lead to children lowering their guard when online. Please continue to talk to the young people in your care about online and social media safety and encourage them to share any concerns that they have about any contacts they receive.

We would like to take this opportunity to announce that our 10th annual Online Safety Evening for parents/carers and students will take place on **Tuesday 12th October 2021**, starting at 7pm in the QEGS main hall. Further details will be issued at the start of the autumn term.

WOW Week!

To finish the term Year 9 have been working hard all week on a cross curricular project to design, package, make, cost, advertise and pitch their Bath Bomb idea to a team of 'dragons'. The project was launched by Liberty Angris, an ex student who is now a New Product Development Manager for Revolution Beauty. Students have learnt how departments in business have to work together to bring a product idea to fruition and hopefully had a bit of fun along the way.



Mould perfected and ready for packing with Bath Bomb ingredients



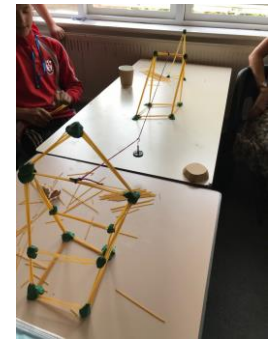
Next - choosing colour, scent and texture – now ready to make!



Finally – how to present the final product - designing and making packaging

Year 8 learn teamwork and communication skills

Year 8 worked in groups to make pylons from spaghetti and plasticine. A string was placed between to support and weights placed gingerly between to see who had the best construction skills. The winning group to achieve 80g supported - Y8 James G, Charlie S, Finley H, Caelan M - well done.



Beacon of Hope Award

Tony Walker, Deputy-Lieutenant of Derbyshire presented Scott Garrity with the Beacon of Hope Award at QEGS on Wednesday 14th July 2021 and said "Many congratulations on being a recipient of a Derbyshire Beacon of Hope Award for your service to the people of Derbyshire during the Covid-19 pandemic, you have earned it!"

The Derbyshire Beacon of Hope Awards look to identify and thank individuals and organisations who have worked tirelessly to keep our communities safe, and our businesses moving, during the Covid-19 pandemic. As we begin to recover from the pandemic, the Lord-Lieutenant, the High Sheriff, Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council, and their Leaders, feel it is important now to recognise that many across the county have committed themselves to response and relief efforts since the beginning of the outbreak.

The kind and generous words from my sponsor genuinely brought a tear to my eye. It has been an unbelievably tough year and I am immensely proud of my students and my staff. I accept the award on their behalf and I will share the sentiment and accolade with our community as we should **all** be proud of what we have achieved. I wish to thank my sponsor for their nomination and I want to congratulate all other recipients of this fantastic award. The school moves forward in good health and with a clear commitment to ensuring our young people have the best opportunities we can provide.



Finally

Thank you to all of the staff who have helped make the last few weeks of term happen. I thought at one point we would run out of staff and be forced to close. However, the available staff pulled together and adapted quickly, covering for each other and one or two even packing for a camping trip only hours before departure! The teamwork has been amazing, thank you!

Well done to students and families who have been unwell and/or self-isolating. Having experienced this as a family ourselves, I know how tough it is to keep spirits up and tension to a minimum!

I am pretty exhausted, ready for a break and also very proud of what we have achieved this year (and last year)!

Have a fantastic summer everyone. Stay safe and well.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Garrity
Headteacher