

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



9th July 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #37

There is little doubt that we are experiencing a new wave of COVID-19 cases both in school and more widely across the country. At QEGS we have always striven to keep everyone as safe as we can. This has involved a lot of effort from everyone, whether they are students, staff or parents. For this we thank you.

Following recent Government announcements and the publication of detailed guidance we are aware some aspects of how we control the virus will soon be changing. We want to take this opportunity to reassure you that we are retaining all our current safety measures until the end of term.

The only thing that will change this term, will be the Government and the NHS will assume responsibility for tracing close contacts of those who test positive for coronavirus. Naturally, you will still need to inform us immediately should your child test positive for coronavirus. If you have any further concerns your child's tutor will continue to be the first point of call.

Co-curricular for Next Academic Year

Next year we would like to run activities after school that students can attend to give opportunities to try something new or do something they enjoy. These sessions will be supervised by staff and run either immediately after school or remotely (online) once students arrive at home. We would like your suggestions so we know what will be of interest to your child(ren). This form, link below, will only take a few minutes and will let us know what activities your son/daughter might like to be included and when.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=PYCwG3TptkKUJQEK3ByualmD7OwPmS5GifBgZ9o6PyNUM1c2UktLQzZKNTBZNEpKMVQ3SDkxMjAyOS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=PYCwG3TptkKUJQEK3ByualmD7OwPmS5GifBgZ9o6PyNU M1c2UktLQzZKNTBZNEpKMVQ3SDkxMjAyOS4u)

Sports Day

The PE Department are very much looking forward to running Sports Day on Tuesday 13th July, although are obviously disappointed that we are not able to run it as a whole school event and invite spectators. Each year group are performing in their year group bubbles. We will announce the result via social media on Tuesday evening.

Physical Activity Opportunities

The Derbyshire Dales Sports Development team are now running a multi-sports session on a Friday evening, 5.30pm-6.30pm on the Recreation ground in Ashbourne. This is open to all age groups. No pre booking needed just turn up and play. It will continue throughout the summer holidays.

Swimming is an ideal sport to maintain a healthy weight, heart and lungs. Being part of a swimming club is a fun way to teach life skills, create bonds with teammates, learn determination, concentration and stroke technique - plus learning how to save their own life! Swimming is also the ideal sport to supplement other sports as it builds endurance, muscle strength and cardiovascular fitness – it is a full body workout without the impact stress. There is now an exciting opportunity to join your local club: Ashbourne Swimming Club, who are offering free trial sessions.

Charity Abseil

Emma S in Year 9 is taking part in a charity abseil for Royal Derby Hospital. She will be abseiling 212ft down Derby cathedral!! What an amazing challenge for a wonderful cause; in Emma's words 'to thank all the workers for all their hard work and bravery they have given over the last 16 months'.

If you would like to help support Emma's brave efforts, please visit the Just Giving link below.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/emma-smith376>

Year 9 and 10 - Choosing PSHE Options

We have spoken to Year 9 and 10 students this week about the PSHE options they can choose for next year including opportunities to develop leadership skills, 'give something back, and get further support in some subjects. Letters have also been sent to parents and carers, and the deadline for submission is 9am on Thursday 15th July. Please contact Miss Ward ward@qegs.email or your child's progress leader or form tutor if you have any questions.

Students Using Math's Skills to Escape!

On Monday, some of our Year 8 and 9 students took part in an 'escape room' involving them breaking into a box rather than out of a room. They had a series of mathematical and logic puzzles to crack codes to remove padlocks to get to the next puzzle. The overall feedback from the event was hugely positive and we look forward to running this type of event again in the future.

Tunnocks Teacake Challenge

Over lockdown Mrs Flinders ran the Tunnocks Teacake Challenge for students to enter as a co-curricular activity. QEGS chose three winners which were then entered into the national competition run by the Food Teachers Centre and Tunnocks.

Daisy L in Y8's entry has won a prize in the Lockdown challenge category in the national competition for her Eden Project themed teacakes. Congratulations Daisy!



Attendance Raffle - Winner

A huge well done to Megan R in Year 8 who has won a Fitbit from our attendance raffle.



Community Day

Well what a wonderful day we have had today! We had to make adaptations to our usual Community Day due to Covid restrictions but it has definitely not taken the shine off it. Students and staff have been involved in team building activities, designing a bee garden, historic walk around Ashbourne, research into Cancer UK and of course, our Race For Life. We have all loved it. A huge thanks to Mrs Morgan and Miss Senior for all of their hard work.



Reminders:

- Students must sit with their bubble (year group) on school transport [sitting in the same seats, and with the same people] both on the way to and from school. Students must clean their hands before getting on the bus in the morning, and upon arrival at QEGS.
- They must also make sure to use hand sanitiser as they arrive at and leave their lessons, and before embarking on the bus at the end of the school day.
- This limits the risk of infection but also this could mean that whole groups do not need to self-isolate.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school, you must inform school of the absence and you must request a test via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

You must also notify us of a positive test outcome using this school designated telephone number 07890 319042 during the school day or out of hours (even if this is late at night or early in the morning, the sooner we are notified the sooner we can respond and inform other parents of our actions). This telephone number must only be used for positive Covid test results.

If a positive test is returned, the 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill with COVID-19 symptoms. Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

Further information about positive test outcomes is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

There are a range of possible symptoms, and so please be vigilant, continue to test regularly, and book a PCR test if at all worried. **These were highlighted in Mr Wallace's recent letter on behalf of Derbyshire Public Health.**

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>

If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do:

- Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- Put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- Take the lateral flow tests at least twice per week, before school on a Monday and Thursday

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Reporting you are feeling unwell with COVID-19 symptoms is sometimes a difficult thing for a young person to do, and something they always take very seriously. Therefore, please avoid commenting or speculating on cases as this often increases anxiety for those experiencing symptoms.

... And Finally

WHEN England WIN on Sunday, we would like to celebrate in style on Monday. Students and staff can come to school in red or white clothes and/or England sports kit. They can also wear uniform if they prefer. Please no extreme haircuts and/or face paints/body art. If (small if) they do not win, students to come to school in normal uniform.

We appreciate that it is a historic moment and students can learn a lot from the game about resilience, the National Anthem, the game itself and of course precious family time. We understand that many students will be staying up later than usual to watch the game. **Therefore, we have decided that students who are able to, can arrive in school at 09.30 to have a 'lie in'**. Unfortunately, we cannot change our bus drop offs at such short notice so students who get a bus can still attend from 08.40 and will take part in form time celebrations and a breakfast. Any student who wishes to attend from 08.40 can still do so. #FOOTBALL'SCOMINGHOME and Henderson is scoring the winner!

Yours faithfully



Mr S Garrity
Headteacher