

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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10th September 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #1

Welcome back to a fresh start, a new term and what we hope will be a 'new, better normal'.

Our COVID testing at the start of the week went smoothly, assisted by our wonderful local volunteers again. Thank you to those who helped, we could not have done it so well and so quickly without you!

We return to new systems and procedures in school, different school day timings, lots of new students and 17 new staff! I am sure the next week or so will be a lot of remembering and forgetting timetables and procedures. However, we know from experience that after a few weeks, everyone settles into a routine (including parents!).

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Bowbanks who now have a lovely baby boy!

Clubs and co-curricular activities should be up and running very soon, possibly some in week 2, most will be from week 3. We want to see all students engage in something at lunch time and/or after school, there should be something for everyone. If there is not something of interest, please let us know and we will see what we can do.

QEGS Open Day 2021

We are so pleased to be able to welcome parents and prospective students back onsite to showcase our amazing school. Please put the date in your diary and spread the word to those not currently at QEGS – **Wednesday 29th September 4.30pm to 6.30pm.**

There will be a talk in the main Hall every half hour. This will entail a brief overview of the school, our vision and ethos but then more importantly you will get a chance to hear from the students about what they think of the school.

When not attending the talk you are free to roam the school (student tour guides are available) and there will be a 'Secret Agent' style puzzle to solve on your travels for entry to a prize draw along with many practical activities and challenges.

Whilst there have been some positives of virtual events nothing really gives you a sense of a school as well as being on the ground, meeting the teachers and students and seeing what we have to offer in the flesh so to speak. We will be exhibiting both our subject areas as well as celebrating our wider offer and opportunities delivered through an array of clubs, trips and visits.

Happy International Literacy Day from the MFL Department!

Did you know that studying a language improves and enhances literacy skills and knowledge of grammar in your own language? In all MFL lessons at QEGS we work on literacy skills by recognising vocabulary and cognates, looking at word families, looking for patterns in grammar rules, reading sentences, paragraphs, articles and stories as well as encouraging you to write in the target language and develop your responses.

To celebrate International Literacy Day, you could have a go at one of the following activities. Email your entry to Mrs Palmer or Mrs Atkinson to achieve a merit, a distinction or prize! palmer@qegs.email atkinson@qegs.email

- Have a listen and look at a story in another language online via Youtube and write a short review in either English or another language if you are able to! Mrs Palmer recommends 'Pollito Tito'.
- Choose 10 words in a foreign language which best describe YOU!
- Write a short story in a foreign language.
- Research a joke or meme in a foreign language and explain why it is funny!

PE Co-Curricular

Clubs will start on Monday 13th September and all are welcome. No permission slips are needed, but registers will be taken. This year, students should **only** come to school in PE kit if they have a PE or Dance and Drama lesson during lessons P1-5. For clubs and co-curricular activities, students will need to attend lessons in full school uniform and get changed for clubs. A copy of the timetable is attached.

PE Kit

On days where students have PE lessons they should come to school in their PE kit, wearing their lanyard and blazer over the top. This does not apply for co-curricular clubs and students will get changed after school for these.

PE kit consists of:

- QEGS PE rugby shirt or polo shirt
- QEGS PE midlayer
- QEGS PE mid-thigh length skort or QEGS PE shorts or plain black tracksuit bottoms or plain black leggings
- Red sports socks or white ankle socks
- Trainers & football boots
- Shinpads
- Gum shield

QEGS PE Kit



Please note that hoodies are not part of school uniform and should not be worn. However, if students want to bring an additional layer, to wear during their PE lesson, this **can** consist of the QEGS midlayer, a plain black sweatshirt or a plain black shower proof jacket, for outdoor activities. **From September 2021, QEGS branded hoodies will not be permitted PE kit.** This is based on Health and Safety guidance.

For outdoor lessons, particularly for options that take place on the playing fields in the first two terms, students are encouraged to bring spare QEGS PE kit or their school uniform so that they can get changed at the end of the lesson, if they are wet or covered in mud.

Young Farmers



Free Access to Office365

As we use a school license for Office 365 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint etc), staff and students have free access to all these products on up to 5 devices:

To install Microsoft Office:

1. Go to <https://portal.office.com>
2. Log in
3. Click "Install Office" top right of the screen and follow the on screen instructions

This will work for up to 5 computers that the member of staff/student uses.

Activating Office:

If you get prompted to activate an already installed version of office, use your normal @queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk email address and current password.

Rewards

We will be presenting a new and improved rewards system to staff and students next week followed up with a letter to parents to explain how rewards will work at QEGs. We aim to ensure all students feel valued, can access the rewards system and that hard work, effort, good deeds across school and in the community are noticed and rewarded. We hope you love our new plans and if you have any thoughts to help inform them further, please email cookman@qegs.email. Mrs Cookman, our new Deputy Progress Leader, is leading our rewards initiative.

Derbyshire School Transport Application Delays

Recent applications made to Derbyshire School Transport are taking between 3-4 weeks to be processed. If you are waiting to hear the outcome of an application, students may use School Buses if the route has a 'Yes' indicated under 'Fare Paying' and can pay £1 per journey (exact money please). www.qegs.link/buses. Any of last year's passes presented from now on will be taken away and the student concerned will have to pay for travel.

Covid Reminders:

All areas of the school continue to receive enhanced cleaning through the day and every evening, and all areas of the school accessed by the students who test positive have additional cleaning. We are regularly reviewing all actions we are taking, and we believe appropriate measures are in place to continue to ensure the safety of students and staff.

Students must sit with their 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 bus groups do not need to self-isolate. **However, when students move seats or do not follow the guidance the risk of spreading infection is higher.**

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 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/>

Finally

Please remind your children that they are responsible for their own safety and that of others. Being respectful, being patient and showing you care, cost nothing and take very little effort but mean so much to other people. Our school community relies on mutual respect and I know that we have another fantastic year ahead of us if we all do our bit.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Garrity
Headteacher