

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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24th September 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #3

A bumper 4 page edition of the Bulletin this week! So many fantastic things going on. Thank you to the staff and students for being active, taking part and adding to the rich experience of learning and working at QEGS. Please encourage your child to get involved in something.

Check, Assess, Feedback

Feedback at QEGS is structured around 'Check, Assess, Feedback'.

At QEGS we value both verbal and written feedback. During lessons, staff will circulate giving 'live' individual **feedback** and whole class development points. Each half term, staff will also carry out book **checks** for standards, these may result in writing in the student's books, and/or whole class **feedback**, or follow up tasks in lesson for staff to address what they have seen.

Each half term, all students in all year groups and in all subjects, will have at least one piece of work **assessed** and detailed **feedback given**, to ensure students understand their strengths and areas for development.

The two key questions for all QEGS students to be able to answer/discuss are:

- What am I doing well in this subject?
- What do I need to do to improve my learning in this subject?

English Updates

Years 7/8/9 - all classes will be given a reading assessment over the next two weeks to assess their reading age for QEGS to best support them across all of their subjects.

Year 11 - in preparation for the upcoming Core subject assessments, there will be a Teams revision session run by Mrs Brown next Thursday (30th Sep) from 5 until 6:20. 50 mins will be for Macbeth (focusing on character and how to structure an essay with an extract as part of the question) and 30 mins for the Paper 2 Q5 for Language looking at being persuasive.

Year 11 English Literature Revision Club

English Literature revision club will run every week **A Monday, 3:20-4:20 in room 211**.

It is an opportunity to revise plot, key characters, themes, quote analysis and essay skills.

There will also be a **week B session, on Monday 27th September**, to support upcoming assessments.

Please email Miss Hinojosa with any questions: hinojosa@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk

Year 11 Mock Exams

More information will be provided regarding revision sessions for all Year 11 core mock exams in separate correspondence.

School Show 2022

The Performing Arts faculty are proud to announce the school show for 2022 will be 'Oliver!' We have successfully cast our production for March 2022 with a large number of talented, young performers. Please come and see *Toby*

W (Year 13) as Fagin, *Oscar D (Year 8)* as Oliver, and *Amelia B (Year 12)* as Nancy. We are so excited to get going on our production and cannot wait to see everyone again.

Year 7 Autumn Geography Competition: The Seven Geographical Wonders of the Modern World

People have always recognised that some places are particularly special. The seven wonders of the ancient world are particularly famous (of which, sadly, only the pyramids at Giza now survive). The Autumn Geography competition is for you personally to decide what places would you select for the seven geographical wonders of the modern world! You will need to present your 7 wonders in the form of a model/collage/painting /poster etc. Anything can be used to create your entry as long as it IS NOT photographs from the internet. They can be a mix of both physical & human wonders. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place! **Deadline for entry is Monday 18th October**, winners will be announced later in the week both in school and via the Geography Twitter page. All entries should be submitted in person or on-line to Mr Machin.

Happy European Day of Languages!

Sunday 26th September is the European Day of Languages. It is a chance to celebrate the huge variety of languages spoken around the world and to recognise the benefits of speaking a foreign language. All this week in language lessons students have been finding out more about this event, enjoying quizzes and activities and sharing their knowledge of other languages.

The Languages Department are running a poster competition for KS3 students on endangered languages in Europe which include languages such as Basque, Romani, Yiddish, Breton, Welsh or Corsican. Where is the language spoken? How many speakers there are? Can you find out some words in your chosen language?

The best posters will win prizes! The **deadline is Friday 1st October**, you can hand your poster to one of your language teachers or bring to the MFL office on Level 3. We can't wait to see your fantastic efforts!

Rotary Club Competitions

Ashbourne Rotary Club are running some exciting competitions for students aged between 11 to 17 to enter. Prizes to be won and an opportunity to showcase student's amazing talents!

For more information and entry forms please see the below members of staff linked to competitions.

- Young Musician Competition (Miss Pettingale)
- Young Writer Competition (Miss Angris)
- Young Photographer Competition (Mrs Davis)
- Young Chef Competition (Mrs Flinders)

Music Extra-Curricular Activities

This week rehearsals began in the Music Department and we welcomed students back into clubs for the first time in 18 months. We are really excited to be up and running again and would love to welcome new members to our groups as we prepare for the Christmas Concert at the end of term.

If you would like to try out a music club, all you need to do is turn up with your instrument. Unless stated otherwise, all clubs run from 3:30-4:30pm. No experience is necessary and everybody is welcome to try. If you would like any more information, please contact the music department staff.

Monday

Jazz Band - for anyone who would like to learn the secrets of putting together the perfect band performance. All instruments and abilities welcome

Chamber Choir - tackling more complicated singing in multiple parts (*please note, in order to keep a balance between parts, Chamber Choir has limited numbers. Please see Miss Pettingale if you are interested in joining*).

Tuesday

Show Band - a group of student and staff musicians who provide the music for the school show. This year we are performing *Oliver!* Spaces for intermediate and advanced woodwind, strings and brass players. Please see Miss Pettingale if you are interested in joining.

Ukulele Group - Perfect for beginners and experienced musicians alike, ukulele club is a relaxed and fun group of players. Bring your own ukulele or borrow one of our school instruments.

Wednesday

Choir - calling all singers! The choir represents QEGS at many occasions and is a key part of the school Christmas festivities. Everyone is welcome to come along and give it a go.

Guitar Group - a chance for all our school guitarists to get together, swap ideas and play as a group. *Please note, guitar group will run from 4:30-5:30pm.*

Thursday

Orchestra - whatever your ability, if you play an instrument then orchestra is the place for you! Learn from older players, make new friends and play some brilliant music.

Friday

GCSE and A Level Composition Group - time for our exam students to make progress with their coursework or revision with staff on hand to provide help and support.

DI – Back in the Workshops

Year 7 students enjoying getting their hands on machines and tools in DT to make their Hanoi Towers game. A great start to the year and many more inspiring projects to follow.



COVID-19 Update

Reporting positive Covid cases during the school day, please ring Student Service to notify. The covid mobile phone (07890 319042) is only to be used out of school hours.

Current government advice to ventilate classrooms, sanitise and respect personal space remain priorities for us at QEGS.

We are still reminding students about good personal hygiene; washing hands or sanitising as they move around school, entering and leaving classrooms, visiting the canteen and other areas. It has also been pleasing to see that some students and staff feel comfortable to still wear face-coverings in and around the site.

As a part of our site management plan and risk assessment, we have set areas/zones for each year group at break and lunch. It has been great to see them enjoying their social time together, having the chance to chat with those from their Year they may not see in their lessons.

We do have a few cases of COVID-19 within school, as well as several incidents of colds and other common autumn illnesses. If your child has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 you must organise a PCR test even if you feel it may be a cold or flu. The common symptoms are a new and continuous cough, a loss of the sense of taste or smell, and/or a high temperature.

QEGS has also received information about the upcoming COVID-19 vaccinations which are being scheduled for after October half-term. These are being organised and delivered by the NHS rather than ourselves. We will share more information on their plans before half-term.

RunHideTell and Fire Drills

At the start of a new term we always organise drills to make sure our student and staff community are safe. This week we held a 'RunHideTell' Drill which would be used when we need to 'lock down' the school site in the case of an intruder on site. We were very impressed with all of our students and staff. The drill was carried out swiftly and in the right spirit. Next week, we will hold a fire drill and we expect the same level of calm, orderly behaviour.

Year 11 Reward

We understand that **Year 11** can be a stressful year and we are sure students can already start to feel the pressure of GCSE assessments/exams approaching. We want our Year 11's to feel encouraged and confident as exams start to be a regular topic of conversation. Therefore, as a **wellbeing treat on Friday 1st October** the '**DeLICious**' Coffee van will be coming to QEGS and Year 11 students will have a voucher for one drink and one cake to give their wellbeing a boost! Revision, exams and working hard is important but remember that your health is important too. Look after yourselves Year 11 and make yourselves proud. Enjoy!

Updated PE Sports Club Schedule

An updated schedule of PE Sports clubs is attached.

Finally

If you are a fan of Bollywood films, you may recognise something when a high-profile Bollywood film is released in 2022. The QEGS main site became a film set over the weekend of Sep 18-19th and we hosted almost 1000 actors and film crew. Look out for the fictional Lakeview School, it is QEGS!

Take care, have a great weekend, stay safe and well.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Garrity
Headteacher