

# QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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



21<sup>st</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

## Weekly Bulletin #7

Thank you to students, staff, parents and carers for your support and cooperation over the last 7 weeks. There have been so many positives and a number of challenges. We have experienced a high level of staff absence due to Covid, more than we had ever expected. It has been a real challenge to keep everything going and I want to thank staff for covering and sharing the workload whilst some colleagues have been absent and unwell. We have also missed a significant number of students through Covid and thankfully none have been too unwell. They have continued learning remotely and returned to school when they were fit and able to do so.

We have kept as many things going as possible; Co-curricular clubs, guest speakers in school, student rewards, some trips have gone ahead and our Open Evenings for Year 6 and Year 11 were well attended and a great success. Equally, we have managed risks and established new routines to keep students safe and well.

Currently, Covid cases are on the rise nationally and locally. Our existing school routines help minimise risks, such as our staggered breaks and lunches and staggered end to the school day. However, we want to help keep everyone as safe as possible and so following the half term break, we will be making some temporary adjustments to our procedures and provision. These will be reviewed on a continual basis and changed as and when we feel they can be or should be. **From Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022:**

- Students and staff will be required to wear face coverings in any communal, indoor area (corridors, canteen, reception, student services etc). Exemption lanyards for students and staff with medical reasons will be available from Progress Leaders and the Leadership Team.
- Assemblies and other group gatherings beyond normal lessons will be virtual, via TEAMS.
- Visitors to the school will be kept to a minimum. We ask that parents call/email school before visiting, unless in an emergency. PCEs and Tutor meetings are already planned to be via SchoolCloud.

All other school operations and procedures will continue as normal. However, if there is something which concerns you, please contact your child's Form Tutor who will raise the matter with one of my team. It is too early to say how we will run events such as Christmas Music Concert and Speech Day. We will update and decide in due course.

As we have done before, we can help everyone to feel safe and indeed keep each other safe. It is this respect for each other which I admire in our students and staff.

## Girls Rugby (Years 7 - 13)

In conjunction with Ashbourne Rugby Club, we are able to run a girls rugby club which meets on a Friday after school. Any girls who are interested please go down to the field by the Astro pitch, with boots and PE kit. No prior experience is needed. The sessions are focused on both skills development and games. As the group grows there will be opportunities to attend sessions at other clubs including training and games which are generally held on a Sunday afternoon. Should you require any further information then please see Mr Bembridge or Mr Hallam.

## Student Progress Reports

Reports are being issued this week for Years 11 and 13. Reports for all other year groups will be issued at the end of the term in December. For any queries, contact Miss Ward [ward@qegs.email](mailto:ward@qegs.email)

## STEM Ambassadors

Run by the STEM Ambassador and Student Facing programme teams and in partnership with the charity [Brightside](#), we're launching the first of four cohorts of a national online mentoring scheme on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

Designed to help young people explore their future career options in STEM, a six-week mentoring programme is open to 14-16 year olds, with a 10-week programme coming next year for 16–18 year olds.

For those in Years 10 & 11, young people will have the opportunity to focus on career insights and chat to trained STEM Ambassadors via a secure and moderated online messaging system. Those in Years 12 & 13, will be mentored on 'life after school' - whether that is Higher Education, Apprenticeships or preparing for employment.

Those taking part will receive:

- One to one support and inspiration from a DBS or PVG checked STEM Ambassador
- Training on how to use Brightside's secure and moderated messaging system
- Support and resources to help them make informed decisions about their future

All young people from across the UK are invited to apply, and there is no limit on the number of mentees being able to access the programme from any one school or college.

**Please sign up individually by 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021** follow this link.

[https://www.stem.org.uk/news-and-views/news/brightside-mentoring-2022?utm\\_source=Adestra&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=&utm\\_content=Find%20out%20more&utm\\_campaign=Ambassadors%3A%20mentoring%20and%20careers%20support](https://www.stem.org.uk/news-and-views/news/brightside-mentoring-2022?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_term=&utm_content=Find%20out%20more&utm_campaign=Ambassadors%3A%20mentoring%20and%20careers%20support)

### [Supporting students to explore their future with free online mentoring | STEM](#)

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[www.stem.org.uk](http://www.stem.org.uk)

## Sixth Form News

The Sixth Form Open Evening was very well attended, with parents and students visiting all the subjects of interest to find out about Level 3 BTECs and A levels. Staff and students were on hand to guide visitors and answer questions about life in Sixth Form. There were many of our current students representing us brilliantly as always. Thank you to them and to the staff who stayed late into the evening to make sure everyone had all the information they needed.

If you missed the event there is an online version via this link: [www.qegs.link/sfvoe21](http://www.qegs.link/sfvoe21). Here you will find descriptions of subjects, virtual tours, and introductions to staff.



Sixth form students helped Ashbourne Royal British Legion committee members to put some Poppies on lamp posts in preparation for Remembrance. Thank you to Josh T, Chloe T and Jake H for their help.

### **Wear It Pink Day**

Today staff and students were wearing it pink and eating pink cupcakes while raising money for Breast Cancer Now, the research and care charity. So far £200.96 has been raised, with some collections still to be counted. Thank you to all who contributed.



### **After Half Term**

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, Year 12 will be going to the UCAS University and Apprenticeship fair at the King Power Stadium in Leicester.

Also on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, Year 13 will participate in Young Drivers' Education workshops. There will be 4 workshops covering safety and security aspects of driving. P5 will be lessons as usual.

### **Year 3-6 Cross Country**

This week saw 300 Year 3-6 Cross Country runners enjoying themselves at QEGS. Thanks to the support given by our amazing Year 9 Sports Leaders and our fantastic 2 'hares' Paddy W and Ewan B. These events could not happen without the willingness of these students, and we are so very proud of them. Next half term sees tag rugby and hockey events for the Primaries.



### **Year 9 – GCSE Options**

Year 9s have started receiving their weekly subject assemblies to help them with their choice of GCSEs, Btecs and Ctecs. Please quiz them about the various science qualifications they can choose. These assemblies will continue through until Options Evening in January.

### **Change of Bus Operator of 013 Bus from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021**

Students who use the 013 Bus to school, please note Glover Masons will be operating this route from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November in replacement to Hulley's.

### **Parent Governor Vacancy Ballot**

Parents/carers will be receiving a letter from Mrs C Bramwell, Clerk to the QEGS Local Governing Body after half term break to inform you of the ballot process to elect a new Parent Governor.

### **Key Dates for Next Half Term**

Forthcoming Tutor Afternoons and Parent Consultation Evenings Using SchoolCloud

**Year 7, 8 & 9 - Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 4pm - 6pm**

**Year 10, 11 & 12 - Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 4pm - 6pm**

### **PE Co-curricular**

There have been a few changes to the PE co-curricular timetable. The new timetable will start on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November. A copy of the timetable is attached. All students are welcome to attend any of the clubs for their year group.

### **Finally**

We say goodbye to Karen Steele (Teaching Assistant) and Gale Harrison (Senior Science Technician) this week. Both long-standing members of staff who have made a real difference to students' lives and the growth and success of the school. We wish them well in their next ventures. We also say a temporary farewell to Sophie Palmer who starts her maternity leave this week, take care Mrs Palmer.

Have a safe and restful half term break.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Garrity  
**Headteacher**