

# QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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1<sup>st</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

## Weekly Bulletin #4

Thank you for your support and cooperation with our actions this week due to staff shortages. Today, we have 19 teaching staff absent and the operation of the site, our face-to-face learning, break, lunch and bus duties have only been made safe and possible by having Year 12 work from home. It is far from ideal for our learners and families. However, we simply cannot function safely with such reduced staffing unless we reduce student numbers onsite too. This recent period of Covid absence has also been different to previous as our staff have been unwell this time as opposed to previous asymptomatic cases in the spring and summer.

We anticipate our staffing levels to be improved from Tuesday onwards as colleagues return from isolation periods and illness. Therefore, we must plan for Monday and we have made the decision that **Year 9 students should work from home on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October** whilst all other year groups attend school as normal. Schoolwork for Year 9 will be set via Go4S or TEAMS. Where possible, lessons will be 'live'. However, where staffing is limited, work will be set for students to complete independently. Year 9 students should not be out of the house during the hours of the QEGS school day.

## Reporting Positive COVID-19 Test Results

Parents must report ALL positive test results to school via the student absence line 01335 343685. Parents should no longer use the COVID-19 mobile telephone number, this is now used for staff to inform us of their own Covid cases.

## Changes to Breaks and Lunchtimes from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021

We agreed that the first few weeks of this term would be a trial to see how things were working. Following this we have decided to make a few changes. This is so that we continue to keep everyone safe and to help everyone have as good a break and lunch as possible.

## Changes to Break and Lunch Timings

Year	Break	Lunch
7	11.15-11.35	13.35-14.15
8	10.15-10.35	12.35-13.15
9	11.15-11.35	13.35-14.15
10	10.15-10.35	12.35-13.15
11	11.15-11.35	13.35-14.15
12 & 13	10.15-10.35	12.35-13.15

  

Year	Break	Break Canteen Door	Lunch	Lunch Canteen Door	Wet area
7	Quad	Internal	Quad	Internal	Main Hall
8	Courts	Internal	Front of School	External	Main Hall
9	Front of School	External	Front of School	External	Gym
10	Front of School	External	Courts	Internal	Canteen
11	Courts	Either door	Courts	Either door	Canteen

### **Free School Meals**

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals your child will receive up to £2.50 per day to spend on hot food or sandwiches at school. Other students cannot see which children receive free school meals, the paid credit is processed the same as students who have cash credit.

Many children, aged 5-18, qualify for Free School Meals, and 80% of families who can apply do in Derbyshire. It does not take long to apply and can be done at any time.

**To find out if your child is eligible for Free School Meals please contact: [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)**

By applying online you will be informed immediately if you are entitled or not. Once entitlement is confirmed, we will be notified and your child will start to receive their free school meals. If you have any problems accessing or filling in the online forms, please let us know and we will be able to help.

**If your child has been receiving Free School Meals from another Local Authority, such as Derby City, you will need to reapply when your child joins QEGS: [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)**

### **Progress Leader of Year 11**

Mrs Wood (PL of Year 11) is leaving QEGS to work for the NHS. She has made a real difference to so very many of QEGS students and will be missed by staff and students alike, but we wish her well in her new adventure. Mr Bowbanks will now take the role of Year 11 Progress Leader and has already introduced himself to his year group via assembly this week. He is really looking forward to guiding Year 11 through their next few months at QEGS. If you need to contact Mr Bowbanks, he can be contacted on [bowbanks@qegs.email](mailto:bowbanks@qegs.email)

### **Tutor Afternoon Reminder**

A brief reminder that tutor afternoons commence next week. Please refer to the letter sent out on Monday as a reminder of the details (copy of letter on website).

### **Co-Curricular Activities**

There are plenty of opportunities for students to do a wide variety of activities after school. Most of these clubs are up and running, others will be starting over the coming weeks. Please see additional information emailed to each individual year groups. For more information please ask your child to speak to the member of staff running the club.

### **World Mental Health Day - Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October**

We will be marking World Mental Health Day on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October. During Period 1 students and staff will listen to a talk from a registered nutritionist about the impact of food and drink on our mental health. We will then finish the day in form groups discussing mental health and beginning to create a whole school pledge. A reminder that Kooth.com is a great online resource for students struggling with their mental health as well as Zumos which we subscribe to as a school. Students are encouraged to speak to any staff member they are comfortable speaking to if they need support.

### **Science - World Space Week**

We have an ex-student coming in on Wednesday next week to deliver a series of sessions for the World space week. This year's theme is Women in Space and the sessions are designed to encourage our female students, who are aspiring engineers, to study STEM subjects as well as to educate and inspire the future generation of space talent.

### **Online Safety**

Our Online Safety evening, scheduled for October 12<sup>th</sup> will now not go ahead in the main hall. Instead, our Online Safety Co-ordinator and CEOP Ambassador, Mr Illsley will be issuing half-termly video updates of relevant, up-to-date Online Safety messages. These updates will be published in the bulletin when they are released but, if you would like to receive them direct to your inbox as soon as they are available, please email [illsleyj@qegs.email](mailto:illsleyj@qegs.email) to add your name to the mailing list. The first issue is due out before we break up for half term in October.

### **Year 11's Enjoying their Well-being Treat**

We wanted to encourage our Year 11's to take care of themselves during a stressful year. Therefore, they were given a voucher for a drink and a cake from the fabulous DELICIOUS van, before their core mock exams next week. Good Luck Y11, make yourselves proud.



### **Year 5&6 Primary Football Tournament**

On Tuesday we had 200 primary students take part in our primary football festival. Despite the deterioration in weather all students played in great spirits. Our final was Ashbourne Primary A 'v' Osmaston A with Ashbourne Primary becoming the winners with a 3-0 win.

Our amazing sports leaders led the event & we couldn't be more proud of every single one of them.



### **Parents and Carers Wanted on the FPTA!**

Please join our small, friendly group of QEGS Friends, Parents, and Teachers to help with fundraising and the spending of those funds! Our first meeting of this academic year will be in the QEGS library (meet us in Reception if you don't know where that is) on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October from 6pm-7pm. We will then alternate the meetings between

online and in person. For more information, please email our Chair, Tessa,  
on [fpta@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:fpta@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk) or [Angris@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:Angris@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk)

We look forward to meeting you!

**Finally**

Good luck to all Year 11 in their 'Core Mock' exams next week. You can do it, I have every faith in each of your ability. Eat a good breakfast before you set off for school, if you forget, we will have some breakfast items at school too. Get some sleep, don't revise too late – it won't stick! Little and often is the key.

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

Yours faithfully



Mr S Garrity  
**Headteacher**