

# QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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



12<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

## Weekly Bulletin #9

### Anti Bullying Week and Tik Tok Concerns - Very Important to Read

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November marks the start of Anti Bullying week with the theme of 'One Kind Word'. As mentioned in last week's bulletin, students will have an anti-bullying focus in all form time sessions during the week. Students and staff will wear odd socks on Monday to celebrate the start of such an important week. We are also very lucky to have Alex Holmes speak to all students remotely during Period 3 on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November. Alex was named in the Independent on Sunday's Happy List as one of the 100 people who make Britain a happier place to live - he will talk to students about the impact of bullying and how things can change.

It is, however, with regret that I must bring to your attention a very worrying Tik Tok trend where school students have set up Tik Tok accounts of school staff being impersonated and targeted - these comments are offensive and defamatory. I am sorry to say that some of our students have been involved in setting these up, commenting on them, following and therefore engaging. It is very sad to think that a small number of students have not recognised that school staff have worked tirelessly in extremely difficult circumstances and to show the level of disrespect is beyond belief. We do not tolerate the bullying of students online and will not tolerate the bullying of staff online either.

We have reported such accounts to Tik Tok and continue to communicate with the parents of those students involved. We will not hesitate to take further action if required. We strive to provide a safe environment our school, and this type of disrespectful behaviour does not belong at QEGS. We urge you to discuss with your child the importance of not participating in these negative social media accounts and instead consider engaging in acts of kindness that help us build a stronger school community. We do hope that Anti Bullying week goes a long way in teaching those students how to act kindly and the importance of doing so. Please also specifically talk with your child about the importance of treating educators with respect and encouraging their peers to do the same. Can I take a moment to thank the majority of our students who are kind every day and would not consider engaging in any trend like this - thank you!

I attach the link to our website where you will find help and guidance in supporting your child with their online safety <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/key-information/online-safety/>

### [Online Safety - Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Ashbourne Derbyshire](#)

Be Positive and try something new. The Internet is a fabulous place with a wealth of resources for you to use, even more so at this current time as many 'paid for' resources are giving their content away for free for a limited time. [www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk](http://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk)

### Children in Need – Non Uniform Day

We all need a little sparkle in our life! Children in Need is on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November. This year's theme for non uniform is 'Get Your Strictly On'. Think sparkle, feathers, glitter, sequins. Spots/yellow and full on Pudsey costumes will be accepted!

The donation page for Children in Need is now live on ParentPay.

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=5304>

## Devices for Remote Learning

If your child is self-isolating and not able to access remote learning as they do not have a device available to them (tablet or laptop) please contact their form tutor or progress leader, or email [enquiries@qegs.email](mailto:enquiries@qegs.email). We do have some loan devices available for collection, and will do what we can to help.

## Litter

Please could all students be reminded to dispose used face masks and any food wrappers in bins around school and also when walking to and from school. There is a build up of litter in the vicinity of school where our students walk. Please do ensure you do your bit for the community and environment.

## School Trousers

Many thanks to the students who arrive daily to school wearing correct school uniform and looking very smart. We, unfortunately, have some students who are not wearing correct uniform and this needs rectifying immediately please. This particularly relates to school trousers. A reminder to students and parents that school trousers must be smart, **not cropped/ankle grazing and not skinny or stretch fit. Strictly no jeans.** These details and expectations have been in place for a long time now so is not new for this year. Please ensure that trousers fit this brief otherwise it will result in uniform cards signed and detentions issued. Many thanks in anticipation of your full support.



### Successes

Dylan S Year 8 is now the Midland Area Boxing Champion and a national school boys semi finalist. Well done and good luck!

Jack T, England Camp Tournament beating Italy 1-0, Belgium 3-2, and France 3-2 – fantastic results!



## Congratulations to Year 11 Football Team Success

Congratulations to the Year 11 football team who played a competitive game on Wednesday against Shelley College, Huddersfield to achieve a 2-1 win in the 3rd round of the ESFA National Cup. The team showed an excellent performance and attitude throughout the game. Goals scored by Frankie D and Jake W; man of the match awarded to Charlie T-D and special mention to James W playing his first game in goal. The team are now in the last 64 in the country to go forward to the next round. Well done!

All year groups have county cup fixtures to play over the next few weeks; Go QEGS!

## Congratulations to Miss Clamp!

Miss Clamp has successfully completed the SSAT Leadership Legacy Project. The project is a year-long initiative and has been set up by SSAT to develop teachers who have been identified by their headteacher as having the potential to become outstanding leaders. (Miss Clamp is presented a certificate by Mr Garrity)



## Sixth Form News

Our Young Enterprise teams are up and running, with company officers appointed, plans being made, and products designed. Congratulations to Josh C and Millie A, appointed CEOs of the BTEC Business team and the Sixth Form team respectively. The BTEC Business team is Grow Green, looking to create a greener planet with their "seed bombs" product, aiming to encourage wildflower planting. The Sixth Form team is focussing on mindfulness and well-being, with their product of mental health boxes. Both teams are looking ahead, and will be at Ashbourne Christmas Market on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021.

## Remembrance Service

Yesterday, during form time students watched our Virtual Remembrance Service arranged by Mrs Barto and Miss Robinson, you can watch the service using this link. <https://youtu.be/p86t0C1xnHQ>

Representatives from QEGS attended the Ashbourne Remembrance Service held at the memorial gates where Head Students Amelia, Alex, Laura, and Rebecca laid a wreath on behalf of the school. Students and staff in school observed the silence marked by the sounding of the school bell at 11am.



## A Little Bit of History

I am sure you have seen this image of the school before but thought I would share ..... a postcard sent to the great grandmother (from Hartington) of Miss Matkin in October 1909, by her friend attending the NEW QEGS!

## Year 8 – DI Carousel

Year 8 students putting finishing touches to their Bug Hotels as part of their DI carousel. Looking forward to seeing many more creative and environmental project during the year.



## Midday Supervisor Vacancy

We are looking for a highly motivated and enthusiastic person to undertake midday supervisor duties at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School to work Monday to Friday on a permanent basis.

As an integral part of the midday supervisor team, you will be responsible for supervising students, the dining hall, promoting good behaviour, dealing with any unacceptable behaviour in line with the school policy and supporting the school by enforcing the school rules.

Working with a team committed to embedding excellence in everything we do.

If you would like to be part of this exciting school community, please contact Miss Natalie Jones, PA to the Headteacher by email [jones@qegs.email](mailto:jones@qegs.email), or telephone 01335 343685 for more information about the role and how to apply. Alternatively, please send a letter to the above email to tell us a bit about yourself/experience and we will be in touch.

Closing date for applications, Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 9am.

Please see the Current Vacancies page on the website for further information regarding this role and details of other opportunities to work at QEGS. <https://www.qegsmat.com/current-vacancies/>

## **Online Safety**

App focus: Discord. Discord is an instant messaging and digital distribution platform and is very popular with online gamers. Users can communicate with each other with voice calls, video calls and text messages, as well as exchanging media and files. See [this link](#) for more information on Discord.

Several incidents this week have reminded us that open communication with young people is by far the best way to help keep them safe. Take an interest in what your child is doing online. If you do not understand something they are doing, ask them to explain it to you. By working together, we can help keep our children safe.

## **Finally**

We are seeing an increase in the number of students using their phones to communicate with friends and family members during the school day. We do not permit this for many reasons. If you need to contact your child during the school day (plans do change, reminders etc.), our reception staff can relay messages quite easily. We can also arrange for a student to call parents from our phone extensions if they need to. Messaging your child during the school day encourages them to use their phone and this will result in the device being confiscated, as per our rules and sanctions.

Have a safe and restful weekend.

Take care.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Garrity  
**Headteacher**