

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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



19th November 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #10

Evacuation on Wednesday 24th November 2021

I am sure you are aware that on Wednesday 24th November we had a whole school, unplanned evacuation during the middle of the school day. Our well-rehearsed safety and evacuation plans were put to the test and I am pleased to say that all of our students and staff remain safe and well. I am also very proud of the students' behaviour and the staff calmness during the process. We would not be open today if the site was in any way unsafe. So please be reassured all is fine, we continue to be ready and alert to any danger and we will always act with caution if required.

I appreciate that there will be lots of questions for detail. However, at this stage I am not able to share any information due to an ongoing police investigation. What disappoints and concerns me is that in the absence of facts and school communication, some students have created rumours which relate to fellow students and our staff. Some of the rumours we have been made aware of are particularly hurtful. Sharing the rumour in some ways is just as hurtful and as damaging as making it up. Please talk to your child about the risks and impact of gossip and rumours in such a close-knit community.

To help remove specific areas of speculation and doubt, I can confirm that the danger and subsequent investigation did not and does not, involve any of our students or our staff. The police have also commended the school and our staff for their swift action.

Please reassure your child that we have drills and safety procedures for the rare occasion when they are needed. They should always do as they did on Wednesday: stay calm and quiet, listen to staff instructions, follow their well-rehearsed routines and always alert staff to any concerns they may see or hear.

Careers

An exciting opportunity has been sent to us from Success at School to help you support your child, please see text below:

We are thrilled to announce the last in our *Success Beyond School* series for 2021; **free-of-charge, live online evening seminars designed to help parents supercharge their children's career potential**. Parents can register now for:

Wednesday 1st December: Building a Future in Finance

How your child can break into the finance industry

Wednesday 8th December: Level up with Law

Support your child on their journey to becoming a top lawyer

This link will take you to recordings of previous talks <https://invesin.org/pages/parent-events>

[Events for Parents | InvestIN](#)

InvestIN's parent event series is designed to give parents the essential tools they will need to support their child on their career journey. Events are run by leading experts and are free to attend. investin.org

Year 7 Breaks and Lunch from Monday 29th November 2021 onwards and changes of locations for other Years

Following a review of our split break and lunchtimes we have decided to move the times when Year 7 have theirs. They will now have their breaks at 10.15 until 10.35, and their lunches from 12.35 to 13.15. These will be taken in the quad area of the school. Year 7 will continue to queue as before.

This will enable Year 7 to eat at an earlier time, and our large Year 9 cohort to spread out between the front of the school and the quad.

All other year groups will keep the same break and lunch timings as before. The only other change is that Year 8 will now be at the front of school for both break and lunch, and Year 10 will be at the courts for their break and lunch.

Sporting Successes

Year 7 played their first school football match on Tuesday, in the Derbyshire Schools Football County Cup. They lost a good game 4-3 against Kirk Hallam, but put on a tremendous performance and all showed an excellent attitude.



The U14 Girls played in the 4th round of the National Cup & came away with a 4-1 win. Goals from Maizie, Bella, Phoebe & OG. This now puts QEGS U14 girls into the last 32 teams out of 400. Amazing effort from the whole squad.



All other year groups are still in the county football competition and will hopefully play their next round fixtures before Christmas. We also have fixtures coming up for netball, hockey, basketball and rugby, as well as our usual co-curricular offer, so it is going to be a very busy end to the term!

The House cross-country event will take place on Friday 3rd December. All students in Year 7 - 9 will compete for their House, in the first competition of the year! Therefore, PE kit will need to be worn by everyone in Year 7 - 9 on that day. There will be the opportunity for students to change, after their race, if they bring in spare QEGS PE kit or their school uniform. Good luck to all and enjoy the race!

Shoebox Appeal

Ms Morgan's office is filling up with beautifully wrapped shoeboxes for the Shoebox Appeal. Students have had leaflets delivered to their form rooms today and a letter went out last week with further details. Reminder deadline is Monday 29th if you are able to put one together this weekend a child somewhere will be very grateful.

Sixth Form Save-the-Date

Just a reminder that the Sixth Form and Business Young Enterprise businesses will have stalls at the Ashbourne Christmas Market on Friday 3rd December. Please come along and see their designs and purchase an early gift!

Year 7 Ilam Hall Trip

Well over half of the year group have already confirmed attendance for this trip! It promises to be filled with fun, and I cannot wait to compete with the students to work out the murderer at our dinner party...

Payment is due by Monday 29th November but if you have any issues with this, or have any questions, please email Angris@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk

Also, please complete the form (link at the end of the letter) about the requirements for your child: <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2021/11/Year-7-Ilam-Hall.pdf>

Online Safety

South-West Grid for Learning have produced a Parental Control Checklist for Netflix, giving you all the latest guidance on how to:

- Set up children's accounts
- Add maturity ratings
- Block shows
- Lock Profiles
- Turn autoplay on and off
- Access viewing history

You can download the guide [here](#).

Finally

We are getting into the festive spirit. We are ready for the staff and student advent (staff and student names drawn at random rewarded with gifts), decorations around the site, Year 7 will be attending the Carol Concert at church, Music Department Festive Concert and lots more to end the year on a high.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Garrity
Headteacher