

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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3rd December 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #10

I hope you are all keeping well. This week marks the start of Christmas festivities in school from Christmas themed Golden Ticket Award events to the emergence of some staff donning their festive workwear. In keeping with the festivities, it is **Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 10th December**. We are asking for donations of £1 for Save the Children. Our marvellous Student Leaders will visit forms on Friday to collect the donations. It will be a normal school uniform day but Christmas jumpers can be worn in place of school jumpers. Please do not feel you have to go out and buy a Christmas jumper, you could decorate an existing jumper. A more environmentally, economically and creative option!

The school is looking beautifully decorated with a special mention to the Craft Club who are in the process of making decorations for our tree in reception. I am sure you will agree that it already looks exceptional!



Upcoming Flu Vaccinations for Years 7 to 11

These will be occurring next week. If you wish to have your child vaccinated, please complete the form via the link: <https://www.derbyshireandcityimms.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

Changes to Government advice around COVID-19 and how it affects QEGS

We are pleased to see that Government advice reflects our current practice of requiring students and staff to wear face-coverings in communal areas unless otherwise exempt. The Government has also reinforced our view that all students and staff should continue to test twice per week at home, on a Monday and Thursday morning.

Close contacts will still be contacted as per before. However, those who are close contacts of the new variant Omicron will be required to isolate regardless of vaccination status or age. If this occurs close contacts will still be asked to access learning via the usual hybrid lessons. If you encounter any problems with this, please email your child's tutor and Progress Leader.

It is exceptionally important that if your child catches a bus to or from school they should wear their face-covering. Checks are made at school before buses depart at the end of the day, and your help making sure your child wears theirs on the way in will be much appreciated. Since bringing in our new guidance on face-coverings, reinforcing students must sanitise regularly and keep their distance from others, we have seen a big reduction in cases within our school. This goes against the national trend, and for this we thank our students, staff, parents, and community.

ABRSM Instrumental Exams

On Wednesday 24th November the Music Department hosted a visiting examiner from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music who heard 14 students play a wide variety of instruments. We are pleased to report that all our students passed with flying colours. Special mention goes to Millie N in Year 13 who got a merit in her Grade 8 oboe exam, Grace S in Year 7 who got a distinction in her Grade 1 piano exam and Emily P Year 7 and Rory C Year 9 who both passed exams in two different instruments! Congratulations to all our students and their teachers for their hard work and preparation.

You are cordially invited...

... to the Music Department Christmas Concert on Friday 17th December at 5pm in the Main Hall. This will be a live event and an in-person audience - our first in the music department since December 2019 - and we are all very much looking forward to it. Do join us for a selection of Christmas music and readings and test your knowledge against our fiendish Christmas Cracker Quiz! Tickets will be available to pre-book online from **Monday 6th December** by following the link www.gegs.link/tickets. Please be aware that numbers are limited for this event and unfortunately, we will not be able to sell tickets on the door. We will update you if there are any changes to this event in line with national guidance.

Our World Power Lifting Champion...

A huge well done to Hannah D in Year 9 who competed in the **IPL Worlds Power Lifting Competition 2021**. The previous deadlift IPL world record was 97.5kg, Hannah opened with 100kg, then 105kg, and finished with a whopping 110kg smashing the IPL worlds record for her weight category and age group of 15-19. So impressive! Well done Hannah!



Shoe Box Appeal

A big thank you to the students, parents and staff who have donated to the Ashbourne Rotary Club Shoe Box Appeal. These beautiful boxes are on their way to deserving children.

Sixth Form News

Christmas decorations have been going up in Sixth Form as everyone gets in the seasonal spirit.

Chess club got off to a great start this week, novices and experienced players gathered in room 916 to learn or develop their game. All are welcome to participate in the club which meets Wednesdays B week at 3.30pm.

And finally, Sophie P in Year 13 has been selected to fence internationally in the Junior Epee World Cup “Memorial Jean Link & Ally Doerfel” in Luxembourg this weekend and on the weekend of the 18th & 19th of December, she will compete with the GB Women’s Junior Epee squad in FIE World Cup in the Junior U21 in Spain. Many congratulations to Sophie and good luck in the competitions!

Online Safety

12% of all children have video-chatted with someone they don’t know.

The Internet Watch Foundation is a charity that works to stop child sexual abuse images and videos online across the Internet. They have produced an excellent resource available at <https://gurlsoutloud.com/> that contains some facts and advice which could be useful to help you start discussions about online manipulation, grooming and exploitation, as well as requests for naked, or semi-naked images. Although sometimes difficult, it is important that we have these conversations with our children in order to help them protect themselves in the online world.

Yours faithfully

Mrs L Betty
Deputy Headteacher