

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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14th January 2022

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #16

Welcome back to 2022 and what we hope will be a fantastic year for everyone. I hope that your festive break was restful and if you were affected by Covid, I hope you and your family are recovered and fit and well.

COVID-19 Cases, Testing and Protective Measures

Thank you to all of those who went out of their way to enable our students to be tested before their return to school. At a time where we have seen many schools struggle, we are very proud to have had well over 70% of most of our Year Groups attend in person, and many more complete tests at home, logging their evidence and sending it in to the school and the NHS. As we started the term, we had over thirty members of our school community who had tested positive and were isolating and working from home. While this sounds a lot we had significantly more before the break, and we are aware such numbers can affect our ability to keep all Year Groups being taught in person. Therefore, we continue to stress the importance of good hygiene to everyone, alongside the importance of ventilation, face-coverings and maintaining personal space.

From Monday, isolation rules will change once again, and so we recommend making full use of the 119-telephone service, as they offer current up-to-date information. Naturally we can also advise, so if you remain unsure, please do contact Matthew Bawden via bawden@qegs.email

Finally, thank you to all those volunteers, staff and students who help to keep us safe. It was great to see members of our community stepping up to help with the testing, which was quite a Herculean feat, and also to the staff who worked alongside them. You truly are #qegsamazing.

Uniform Concerns

Thank you to the students and their parents who continue to meet our uniform expectations and have returned to school smart and ready to learn. However, I am disappointed to have to be addressing uniform concerns at the start of a new term for an increasing minority. Some students have returned to school with incorrect uniform and we were surprised that this has escaped the attention of parents in not checking their child's uniform and appearance for the new term. This has resulted in their child receiving a sanction which could easily have been avoided.

Our expectations are clear as to what uniform should be worn at QEGS. Some students have decided to come to school wearing incorrect trousers, excessive make-up including false eyelashes, fake nails, trainers instead of shoes and facial piercings. None of these are permitted at QEGS.

Please find the link to our website which clearly outlines what uniform should be worn <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/key-information/school-uniform/>

Any student in breach of any of these should rectify them by Monday 17th January 2021. As you know, students carry uniform cards and if they receive three signatures for three breaches, they receive an after-school detention. Students can avoid this quite easily by adhering to our uniform expectations. If a student is in serious breach of the uniform expectations (facial piercing, acrylic/ gel nails, incorrect trousers/ skirt for example) from Monday 17th January 2022 they may be at risk of being sent home to rectify their uniform or placed into 'reset' whilst awaiting parental assistance with delivering correct uniform.

If a student is missing an item and you require financial assistance with this, please contact Mr Bawden bawden@qegs.email who will discuss this with you further.

A summary of some of our main concerns:

- No fake eyelashes.
- Nails should be natural in length and colour. Any acrylic or gel nails need to be removed ready for Monday 17th January 2022.
- Only one piercing in each lobe of the ear - no other facial piercings including 'sleepers'.
- If students prefer to wear trousers, then these need to be smart, not cropped/ankle grazing and not skinny or stretch fit. Strictly no jeans or leggings.
- Black socks should be worn...there is a trend of bright white socks worn with ankle grazing trousers!
- Shoes should be plain black leather style shoes. No trainers, pumps or sandals to be worn.

QEGS PE Kit



We look forward to seeing all students meeting our well established expectations.

Independent Study

We are renaming and relaunching 'homework' as a new 'independent study' strategy. This is being trialled this term (January to April) and will be reviewed in the summer term, ready for implementation in September. Your feedback on this will be invaluable and will help inform and refine the approach we take. We will be in touch later this term for your feedback.

The details for this trial are:

- All students can expect 3-6 pieces of independent study per subject, each half term.
- All students will be given a minimum of 3 nights to complete any independent study set by staff.
- Students will be given a selection of tasks by each subject to complete.
- Independent study will still be recorded on Go4Schools.
- Feedback from staff will vary from whole class feedback, peer assessment or individual written feedback.
- Tasks will challenge students and extend their learning from the classroom.
- Focus areas for these tasks will include revision activities and past exam questions, key word tasks and reading.
- Students will be rewarded for completing tasks, they will not be sanctioned for non-completion.

A short video explanation can be found here:

https://www.loom.com/share/2adc02d9833742d988b9a2312f45799d?sharedAppSource=personal_library

Co-curricular

As we welcome back our students to school for a new term our clubs and activities also start back up. Last term we were proud to provide a wide variety of clubs available to all students throughout the term. The feedback gathered from students was incredibly positive with a higher percentage of students than ever taking part in activities to widen their horizons or simply do something they enjoy. Along with the enjoyment students gain from attending these clubs, there is also strong evidence to support increased academic achievement and employability skills for the future. We look forward to seeing students participate in clubs in the coming half term, more information about what is on offer and when can be found at: <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/key-information/clubs-and-co-curricular/>

The new PE co-curricular timetable is attached. The focus of all of the PE co-curricular clubs is increasing physical activity and enjoyment. All students are welcome to take part in the clubs for their year groups, so please encourage participation.

Any temporary changes to the timetable will be communicated through student notices.

House Matches

The postponed rugby and hockey house matches, from before Christmas, will take place next week:

Year 7 - Thursday 20th P1&2

Year 8 - Monday 17th P1&2

Year 9 - Friday 21st P2&3

If students are taking part in House matches, they should come to school in their QEGS PE kit. If students wish to bring additional kit or school uniform, they will have the opportunity to get changed at the end of event.

The House swimming gala has been rescheduled for Friday 25th February.

Careers

On Friday 28th January all students will receive a morning of career based activities. Year 7 will have an enterprise event launched by a local entrepreneur. Year 8 will be doing an escape room activity. Year 9 will be doing options events as per Miss Ward's letter. Year 10 will be working remotely on virtual work experience, a letter will be sent from Ms Moran with further details. Year 11 will be finalising their post 16 options and working on revision techniques.

RS Christmas Competition

The criteria for the contest was that students had to try and capture an image that best represented Christmas and include an explanation for why this image summed up Christmas for them. Congratulations to Niamh K for her entry of the Christmas Angel 'Remember what is important: Family, Faith and Friends and winning the QEGS Christmas Photography contest receiving a £20 Amazon voucher. Special commendations also go to the entries from Alfred A, Amy F, Charlotte H, Ewan R & Joseph C.



Niamh K – Winning entry



Alfred A - when a Red Robin is near loved ones hear!" and this reminds him of his Grandma.



Charlotte H - The first time some of her hens had ever been out in snow, and experiencing something new. They were also eating their Christmas treats, which shows giving and receiving.

Science

7YE have been working hard on their cells model task. We have had a wonderful display of model cells that highlight the key sub-cellular structures. From 3D printed cells, resin set cells, cells made of gingerbread and papier Mache to fantastically creative craft cells. This half term we have been learning about cell organelles as well as the roles of specialised cells. Well done 7YE!



Physics Olympiad

4 Year 13 students sat the Physics Olympiad examinations in December, aimed at the top A level physics students in the country. Congratulations to Charles T who got Gold, Laura B who was awarded silver, and James B and Josh P who both achieved Bronze. A fantastic achievement on two very challenging papers.

Sixth Form Update

Our students are busy preparing for upcoming exams; we are very impressed with their focus and determination. Year 13 study leave is Monday 17th to Monday 24th January. Year 12 Study leave is Monday 24th to Friday 28th January. During their period of study leave students only need to attend for their exams.

Online Safety

As part of our PSHE scheme of work, students will be taking part in online safety-related lessons over the coming weeks. Topics to be covered:

- Social media and keeping safe online (Year 7)
- Digital Resilience (Year 8)
- Cyberbullying (Year 9)
- Computers as persuasive technologies (Year 10)
- Sexting (Year 11)

We also covered personal information and digital awareness with Years 12 and 13 in tutorials before the Christmas holidays. These sessions are part our cross-curricular online safety provision and represent an excellent opportunity for parents and carers to strike up conversations with their children. So, please ask your children about these sessions and discuss the content at home with them.

Reports

Reports have been issued today for all year groups and are available via the GO 4 Schools website. A separate letter has been sent to Years 7 and 12 with further information. For guidance on accessing GO 4 Schools, and the Aspects of Learning we use in reports, please see the 'Assessment and Reporting' page on our website:

<https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/parents/assessment-and-reporting/>

Finally

After 23 years of working at QEGS, we say goodbye today to Teaching Assistant, Judith Starkey. She has been a real asset to our staff and the community, we wish her well in retirement and in being able to spend more time with her family.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Garrity
Headteacher