

# QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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



11<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

## Weekly Bulletin #20

Thank you for supporting our temporary re-introduction of face coverings in communal areas. Covid cases in our student population have decreased. However, our staff cases remain high and absence is higher than expected. Therefore, we will maintain this approach for a while longer to minimise transmission and to keep student and staff absence as low as possible.

## National Apprenticeship Week

This week marked National Apprenticeship Week. Students have spent time in form learning about what an apprenticeship is, how to apply and the pros and cons of following this route. Students have also had the opportunity, in some lessons, to watch videos from apprentices in roles linked to the subject area. Follow this link for further information about this route and how you can support your child if they are interested in pursuing an apprenticeship. <https://successatschool.org/advisedetails/1204/a-parents-guide-to-apprenticeships>



### [A Parent's Guide To Apprenticeships - Success at School](https://successatschool.org/advisedetails/1204/a-parents-guide-to-apprenticeships)

Types of apprenticeship. There are four levels of apprenticeship: Intermediate – level 2 – equivalent to 5 GCSEs; Advanced – level 3 – equivalent to 2 A-levels; Higher – level 4-7 – equivalent to a certificate of higher education or foundation degree right the way up to a master's degree (mostly give a bachelor's degree); Degree – level 6-7 – guarantees a bachelor's or ...  
[successatschool.org](https://successatschool.org)

## Rewards Update

- A whopping 483 students across school have achieved their Bronze merit badges (for 20 merits or more so far). Well done!
- Year 11 students who have met the rewards criteria will be going on a shopping trip to Derbion on 23<sup>rd</sup> February. A huge well done to all of you - thoroughly deserved. Shop 'til you drop!
- And well done to Year 7 ... for every 1 negative event recorded on Go 4 Schools, 57 positives are recorded. What an achievement!
- Keep trying hard, working hard and being a good citizen! It is recognised!

## Reports

Reports will be issued next week for Year 12 (mock grades only) and Year 13 (full reports, including an 'indicative' mock grade). The next reports for other year groups will be issued in April.

## World Book Day

For World Book Day, which we will be celebrating this year on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March, we have a competition: 'My favourite book.' **Either:** write up to 100 words **or** record a video of up to 30 seconds, explaining what your favourite book is and why you love it. Prizes will be available for the best entries. Please send entries to Mrs Shaw ([shaw@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:shaw@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk)) by Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

## Student Leadership

The Sixth Form Student Leaders met with the KS3 and KS4 Student Leaders to collaborate on projects this week. There were some excellent ideas generated including how we can help new students that join us mid year settle in, how we can work towards being an ECO school and how we can improve the wellbeing of our students. It was lovely to see them all working together. We currently have leaders working in the following teams; Aesthetics, Charity, Events, Environment, Wellbeing, External Students and Inclusion. We are looking to recruit further student leaders and this will be launched in form time on Wednesday next week.

## QEGS Scouts

6 students from QEGS have been selected to take part in the World Scout Jamboree; William A, Sam B, Finn H, Olivia M, Daniel S and Izzy T, to represent Derbyshire County to be held in South Korea during the summer 2023. World Scout Jamborees only happen every four years. This will be the largest Scout camp to be held since the start of the Covid Pandemic. Congratulations to those who have been selected to go on this amazing adventure!

## Secondary School Vaccinations

Please see separate letter regarding your child's second covid vaccination sent out this week. If your child has now turned 12, they can also have their first vaccination, bookable by the same link detailed in our letter:

<https://www.qegs.link/covidvaccination>

## Canteen Usage

Could parents please ensure that their child has sufficient funds credited to their ParentPay account when using the canteen. If your child's account is in arrears could you please make a payment.

## Following on from last week's bulletin...



Elena, and Scarlett A receiving their Pentathlon certificates from Mr Garrity.

## Sixth Form Update

Apprenticeship Week was packed with information for our students about potential employers, the application process and life as an apprentice in national and international businesses. We will continue to support students who wish to follow this route and in Year 12 they have already started working on skills to prepare them for the most common recruitment methods used by employers.

Students have asked us to provide a programme of study to prepare them for life away from home, so Year 13 Study Skills this term considers all the skills needed. This week's sessions have focused on laundry and cooking. There were some interesting discussions around laundry instructions on clothing and stories from staff about their own laundry catastrophes at university. Many students said they regularly cook at home for their family.

If parents would like to conduct a quality assurance exercise at home covering doing the washing and cooking a meal, we would love to hear the results!

## E Safety - [An Important Read](#)

This week we marked **Safer Internet Day and Sexual Harassment and Violence Awareness week** with a presentation from PCSO Dufton and PCSO Hacking. Form tutors then delivered a series of activities which further explored online behaviour and safety. The morning ended with a presentation from Mr Illsley with a focus on **how we behave with**

**each other online.** Our students were fantastic and got involved in some thought provoking discussions offering some of their own experiences.



Pictured is 7S2 who were all engaged in debate about some 'True or False' statements surrounding online safety.

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February, we will be having a presentation from the **Breck Foundation**. The Breck Foundation was set up in 2014 in response to the tragic murder of Breck Bednar, a 14-year-old Surrey schoolboy who was groomed online. The presentations will be differentiated for KS3 and KS4 and will hopefully inspire our students to consider the Breck motto 'play virtual, live real'.

It is a good opportunity to take this time to ask for your support as parents in ensuring your child is safe online.

- SnapChat, Tik Tok and Instagram all have an **age rating of 13**. The advice is for good reason - Year 7 and most Year 8 students should not have access to this. If they do, do they need it?
- According to a study from Middlesex University, 53% of 11-16 year olds have seen **explicit material online**. 94% saw it before the age of 14. 33% first saw pornography using their phone.
- According to the Office of National Statistics 1/5 children have been **bullied online** between March 2019 and March 2020.

We see many of these issues at QEGS and, due to students not being able to use their phones in school, much of these issues take place **outside of school, at home**, so we need your help to safeguard your children and other children!

#### What you can do:

- Consider **not allowing** your child to have their **phone in their rooms before bed and overnight**. This enables good sleep but also ensures they are not subject to, or part of, late night communications in any way positive or negative.
- **Keep talking and stay interested in what they are doing**. Do not be afraid to bring up challenging issues like sexting, pornography and cyberbullying. It could be embarrassing, but you will both benefit from the subjects being out in the open.
- Help them with their **privacy settings**. Your child can set privacy settings on most social networking sites so that only close friends can search for them, tag them in a photograph or share what they have posted. While we do not recommend a particular type parental control software for several reasons, we know some parents are interested in using it. [This blog article](#) looks at some of the common myths surrounding parental control software and is worth a read.
- Talk to your teenager about being responsible when they are online. Children often feel they can say things online that they would not say face-to-face. Teach them to always have **respect** for themselves and others online. This is key for us! Lots of forms have online messaging groups and these have been known to get very nasty. Please talk to your child about behaving as they would when face to face (hopefully this is entirely with kindness). We think some of you would be surprised at how your child stands by in a group chat or even adds **negative emojis** (for example laughing at a horrible comment) where there is a lot of nasty messages sent. Doing this feeds online bullies!

Finally, we must remind all parents and students that for certain behaviour concerns **outside of school (including misuse of technology and social media)**, we are able to sanction students for misbehaviour in line with our QEGSMAT Behaviour Policy (P5): 'Teachers may also implement appropriate sanctions off the school premises in

respect of behaviour that... could negatively affect the reputation of the school/academy; could pose a threat to another student, a member of staff at the school/academy, or a member of the public....Where students display aggressive and/or threatening behaviour, or illegal activity discovered, the school will not hesitate to contact the police’.

We sincerely hope that all students engage well with our focus on E Safety over this week and next and think carefully about their actions online. If they have any concerns they wish to raise about E Safety please speak to any trusted adult or any of our safeguarding team - Mrs Betty, Brendan Drake, Mr Bembridge, Stef Munday and Mr Illsley.

### **Digital Inclusion**

QEGS, along with other local partners, is helping Ashbourne Sports & Community Partnership to set up an exciting digital inclusion project. We would be grateful if you, or any of your family or friends, would complete this survey regarding any barriers you may face in getting online: <https://forms.office.com/r/M08UaKppbz>

Yours faithfully



Mr S Garrity  
**Headteacher**