

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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



18th February 2022

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #21

We have decided to keep face coverings in communal areas until half-term, it seems the most sensible thing to do to ensure there is no increase in cases before the students and staff take a break. After half term, we are very much planning for a return to many of the things we would normally do: face to face assemblies when needed, residential trips, face coverings will be a personal choice, more visitors to school and more whole school events such as school shows and music performances with audiences. There will be ongoing reviews of Covid cases and risk assessments and we will update you if any concerns arise which require a change in action and approach.

Year 7 Ilam Hall Trip

A reminder that this trip will not be running next week. New dates to be announced soon.

Macbeth Performance at QEGS

This will now be a Year 11 event only on Thursday 24th February. If you have not made your voluntary contribution for your child's 'ticket', you can still do so on ParentPay. We will repeat the experience for Year 10 next year.

GCSE and A Level Recital

On Monday 14th February, our extremely talented Year 11, 12 and 13 students entertained parents, staff and students with an after-school chamber recital in the canteen. We had some wonderful performances from singers and instrumentalists, with repertoire covering a wide range of Classical, Jazz and Pop works. After some fantastic feedback we have decided that we would like to make these a regular event. Our next recital will be after the Easter holidays and we look forward to seeing you there!

House Music Competition

This week we have been gathering entries for the House Music Competition. We have been sent some brilliant performances so far and there is still time to submit before tonight's deadline! Next week we will publish a shortlist of performances to forms to be voted on, and the winners will be announced next Friday. Good luck everyone!



Ashbourne Elim Church

On Tuesday 15th Ashbourne Elim Church very kindly gave staff here at QEGS some lovely cakes made by Bettys Tea Shop as part of Love Ashbourne Gift. These were very gratefully received - thank you!

Co-curricular Update - Duke of Edinburgh @ QEGS

Firstly, we wanted to say a huge thank you Ms Wilband for all her hard work with the DofE program at QEGS over the last 9 years. We know that many students have benefited from their DofE experiences, which could not have gone ahead without Ms Wilband's efforts. We wish her all the best in her new role as Year 7 Progress Leader. The new DofE Leader is Mrs Watson Jones.

At QEGS we offer the three levels of the Duke of Edinburgh program; Bronze, Silver and Gold. The Duke of Edinburgh program is open to students from Year 9 upwards, with most starting their journey with Bronze level in Year 9.

If you would like to know what the Duke of Edinburgh program is about, please watch the excellent summary video below from DofE.org

<https://youtu.be/yN7wTcxK408>

The Duke of Edinburgh program is about so much more than just the expedition and activity sections; it builds self-esteem and confidence, develops essential life skills and attributes required to succeed in life after school – resilience, commitment, communication, team-work. Our students overcome challenges along their Duke of Edinburgh journey and create memories, stories, experiences, and friendships that last a lifetime.

For any additional information about DofE @QEGS please email Ms Watson Jones; watson-jones@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk. Students can also come to drop in sessions on Thursday's after school, or speak to Ms Watson Jones, Mrs H Watson or Mrs Keeling around school.

411 Bus arrangements 21st to 25th February 2022

Due to a planned road closure outside Brassington Primary School, alternative arrangements for 411 bus from Brassington, Bradbourne and Kniveton will be in place from Monday 21st to Friday 25th February 2022 - a minibus will pick up students from these locations at the normal time. The 411 will only serve Parwich between these dates.

Sixth Form Update

This week we launched Year 12's Work Experience preparation. The work experience will take place from 18th - 22nd July 2022 and students need to begin their research to arrange a placement. Their work experience should be in an industry related to a career they may wish to enter after education, or that would support future applications for university, apprenticeships or employment. More information and tips will be sent in a letter next week so that students can make their plan over half term. Week commencing 7th March is National Careers week and Form Tutors will be asking the students about their progress. Anyone struggling to find a placement will be offered additional support and advice.

Applications for Sixth Form are being reviewed and Year 11 students will receive a letter by email, early next half term, which will give them details of the next stage of the timeline for joining Sixth Form.

Online Safety

This week, students in Year 7-11 have taken part in virtual assemblies delivered by The Breck Foundation. The sessions focused on the dangers of online gaming and the warning signs to look out for that may indicate a child is being groomed. These may include:

- Behaviour change - Anxious, depressed, withdrawn, angry or defiant.
- Gifts or freebies - The child may not be able to explain why they have them.
- Isolation - Groomers isolate a child, but a child may also pull away from friends, family, hobbies etc.
- Control and manipulation - Child not acting with free will.
- Sexualised behaviour - Sudden inappropriate language/actions.
- Risk taking - Unable to see or acknowledge risks, such as meeting up/giving personal info.

- Secrecy - Child may be told to keep relationship secret, but may also hide devices or content, or lock him/herself away in a room to avoid questions.

Where to go for help and advice



If you suspect that a child is being sexually exploited online

NSPCC

For information about online safety and reporting concerns

childline

ONLINE,
ON THE PHONE,
ANYTIME
childline.org.uk
0800 1111

Wide-ranging advice for all ages, broken down by age group



Game and film reviews from parents AND children



Wide-ranging advice for all ages, broken down by age group



Online safety tips and advice



Information on everything from setting up parental controls to online issues



Nude selfie online? Get it taken down here

For more information about The Breck Foundation and their work, please visit <https://www.breckfoundation.org/>

Finally

I hope the stormy weather does not pose too many problems and everyone has a restful and safe weekend.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Garrity
Headteacher