

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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



25th February 2022

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #22

Thank you for your support this half term. We returned in January to another period of student and staff absence following the festive break and it was a challenge to keep everything going for a short while. Absence and illness have significantly reduced and over the last two weeks and it has been really pleasing to see so many students and staff back onsite.

Now that government guidance has changed, we want to reassure you that we remain focused on the wellbeing and safety of all. Whilst the guidance on testing and self isolation has changed, we still request that parents inform us of any student illness or absence related to Covid and we will support and advise accordingly.

Plant a Tree for the Jubilee

On Monday 21st February, The Lord-Lieutenant of Derbyshire, Mrs. Elizabeth Fothergill CBE presented QEGS with an apple tree to plant at QEGS in support of the Queen's Green Canopy – Plant a Tree for the Jubilee initiative.

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee". With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations.

After Mrs Fothergill presented the tree to the school, Mr Garrity invited Mrs Fothergill and Mr Ewart (Deputy Lieutenant) to the dining hall for refreshments prepared by the Food Technology department, some of which had been decorated in celebration of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.



National Careers Week

The first week back after half term marks National Careers Week. Students will have a range of activities with a focus on Labour Market Intelligence (information about industry labour demand and salaries) to help our students make more informed decisions about their future. We are tying this in with World Book Day with a focus on careers related to English. In addition, there will be practical tasks to illustrate the importance of personal financial planning.

Sixth Form Update

An exciting eco-opportunity organised by our Heads of Environment, Millie and Josh: **Tree Planting**

All students and teachers are invited to get involved in our tree planting project, organised by the student council. We will be planting 105 trees on **Thursday 10th March 3:30 – 5:00pm**, meeting outside the Sixth Form Centre. We recommend outdoor clothing, wellies/boots, gloves (optional), a spade or trowel to dig with, and a passion for the environment!

World Book Day

There has been some great work going on to prepare for World Book Day at QEGS this year. Due to our delayed half term, we will be celebrating on the 10th of March.

So far, we have the following activities/events lined up:

- Staff featuring the book they are reading on their doors and a favourite books display. Students are invited to take part in this too - look out on Go4Schools and text for more information.
- Parents/carers/extended family are invited to join in with the sharing of their favourite books and the reasons they are their favourites. Could they please send their books and reasons to readingatqegs@gmail.com by Tuesday 8th March.
- All subjects will be supporting the day by using a novel/extract from a novel as part of their lessons, so the students get a range of genres/styles etc. through the day.
- Staff (English Department) fancy dress which will form part of a competition/quiz for students to complete through the day - this will be an electronic quiz students will be able to access with links and QR codes.
- The canteen are doing book themed food - Of Mice and Men ranch chilli; Jekyll and Hyde sweet and sour and a Madhatter's Tea Party of cakes/biscuits etc.
- There will be an assembly on the importance of WBD and books with form activities focused on books and their importance.

This is to name but a few... look out on our social media for updates prior to the day and on the day for pictures of the day itself.

Year 11 Macbeth Performance

Thank you and well done to Year 11 for being so respectful and engaged whilst watching the performance of 'Macbeth' yesterday. Quantum Theatre told me how impressed they were by the behaviour of our students. As well as being entertaining, I hope that watching the play be brought to life has aided the students' understanding of the plot and characters, ready for their exam.



Year 7 Ilam Hall Trip

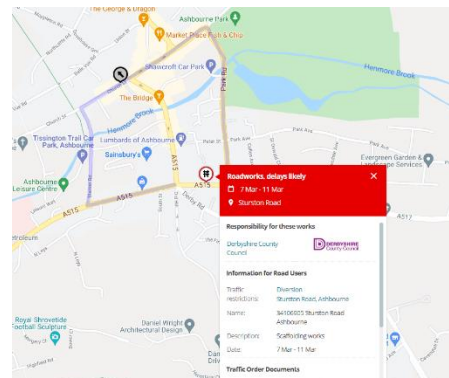
The new dates are 16th - 18th March. More information will be sent out after half term.

QEGS School Production – Oliver!

This is taking place in school 30th March to 2nd April. To purchase your tickets, please do so here: www.qegs.link/tickets

Temporary one-way system on Sturston Road, Ashbourne, 7th - 11th March 2022

A temporary one-way system on Sturston Road will be introduced from Monday 7th March to Friday 11th March 2022. This may cause delays during busy periods of the day in Ashbourne and travelling to and from school.



QEGS FPTA Annual General Meeting (AGM)

All Parents, Carers and Staff are welcome to attend the FPTA AGM on **Tuesday 22nd March at 6.15pm**, the meeting will be held in the **school Library**.

Please email fpta@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk if you plan to attend to ensure enough space and resources are available for the meeting.

Please join us if you are interested in deciding how we spend our existing FPTA funds and to help us with ideas for how to raise more.

School based immunisations

Reminder that the NHS will be offering the second dose of Covid-19 vaccination to young people age 12 – 15 and will be continuing to use the e-consent as with other vaccine programmes. **The NHS are also able to offer the first dose in school if your child has not yet received a vaccination.**

Please visit <https://www.derbyshireandcityimms.co.uk/Forms/CovidDose2> to complete the consent form, even if you do not consent to your child having the vaccination.

Your unique school code for **Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School** is **DD136972**

Finally

In light of the recent events in Ukraine, we have been supporting students via a recorded talk from Miss Robinson, form time discussions and also lessons in RS. These are worrying times for us all, particularly for young people who have experienced two turbulent years and now are trying to understand conflict and war. We will do all we can to help listen, support and explain.

Please have a safe and enjoyable half term. If your child is taking part or spectating at Shrovetide, please ensure they are respectful of the community, their safety and that of others and they represent the town and the school as we all hope they should do.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Garrity
Headteacher