

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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11th March 2022

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #23

Since the invasion began in Ukraine at the end of last half term lessons in History, Geography and Politics have taken the time in lessons to explain to students the historical, geographical, and political context of the situation. We are addressing this humanitarian crisis sensitively and educating our students about what is going on in the world.

Break and Lunch Next Week

Next week, Year 11 have mock examinations, and to help with timings we have to swap the break and lunches for one week:

- First break and lunch – Years 9 and 11
- Second break and lunch – Years 7, 8, 10, 12 and 13

Co-curricular

There will be no co-curricular activities on Monday 14th March due to a staff training event.

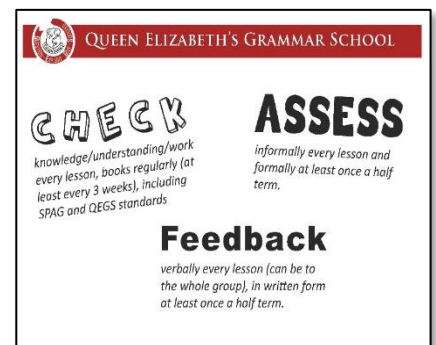
Use of Mobile Phones in School

Unfortunately, we are having an increase in incidences of students using mobile phones in school and sometimes this escalates into a confrontational situation with staff when students refuse to hand them over. This is unnecessary and takes staff time away from teaching and learning.

Mobile phones or any other electronic devices (MP3 player, iPods etc.) are not to be used or seen between the hours of 8:50am and 3:20pm, unless with permission from a member of staff. When seen, they will be confiscated and placed in the safe in student services. If students have had their phone confiscated two or more times within a term then a parent needs to collect them. Please could you support school and staff in reminding your children of this.

Feedback at QEGS is based on 'Check, Assess, Feedback'

During their lessons staff circulate giving live feedback and whole class development points. Through the half term staff carry out book checks, these may not result in green pen in the student's books, but will result in either whole class feedback, or follow up tasks in lesson for staff to address what they have seen. Once a half term students will be assessed and given in-depth feedback, so they understand their strengths and areas of developments. At QEGS we value verbal feedback, as the dialogue between teacher and student is vital to supporting students in their progression. If you would like further information about what to expect for the subjects your child studies, please contact the relevant Curriculum Leader.



Year 7 Ilam Hall Trip

Students have been sent a form via their email to state whether they have a preference for who they are in a room with, to be completed by midnight today (Friday 11th March). X-side students will leave from QEGS, after registration, on Wednesday 16th March and return P1 on Thursday 17th March. Y-side students will leave at the start of P1 on Thursday 17th March and return P1 on Friday 18th March. A letter has been sent with further reminders about the trip.

British Science week 2022 – 11th to 20th March

We would like to get both our students and their parents/carers involved in some fun home investigations.

We would like you to make a 'cannon' using elastic bands, a soft drink bottle and a crisps tin, to explore how things fired from it move through the air.

Experiment with changes you can make to your cannon to see what affects how something fired from it behaves, such as angle of trajectory or mass of projectile; you could then invent your own challenge for the family.

You will learn about conservation of energy and how the mass, initial angle of launch and initial speed of an object affect the motion of a projectile.

There is a video to explain how to make the cannon and an activity sheet as well (on G4S).

<https://www.rigb.org/learning/activities-and-resources/rubber-band-cannons>

If you have been inspired by this investigation, then visit the Royal Institution webpage (<https://www.rigb.org/>) for lots more, including the world-famous 'Christmas Lectures' series or for longer projects, the CREST awards resources (https://collectionslibrary.crestawards.org/#tab_xNUmljyZWhXcaE3O)

Rotary Young Musician Competition

On Saturday 26th February, two of our sixth formers travelled to Mansfield to take part in the Rotary Young Musician Competition 2022. Sophie H sang a beautiful trio of songs from classical, musical theatre and folk repertoire, while Josh P dazzled the audience with his performance of Beethoven's *Pathétique Sonata*. Both students were announced the winners in their categories and will progress to the next round. Congratulations to Sophie and Josh, and to their teachers Ms Perry Smith and Mr Duckworth. Good luck for your next performances!

House Music Competition

I am pleased to announce the following winners of the House Music Competition

Junior Section

Winner: Tara L, Year 9

Runner Up: Autumn F, Year 8

Senior Section

Winner: Meri B, Year 10

Runners Up: Ellie M, Year 10 and Ajay D, Year 11



Winning House: Spalden

Congratulations to everyone who entered. Your prizes will be on their way to you next week.

World-Book Day

Yesterday, at QEGS, we held our belated World-Book Day with great success. Students all had book themed assemblies and activities, and discussions were had across the school from Year 7 right through to Year 13 where students were learning about the benefits of reading post 16 and into adult life.

A range of subjects used books in their lessons, a particular favourite was the French lessons, where students were using extracts from 'The Little Prince'.

The canteen was incredible, they provided the students with book themed food, namely, ranchers chilli (Of Mice and Men), Sweet and Sour (Jekyll & Hyde) and a Mad Hatter's Tea Party of sweet treats!

The library, Mrs Roper and Mrs Bramwell, ran competitions and hosted activities through the day which the students loved. The Library had a BIG BOOK GIVEAWAY to celebrate World Book Day. The students spent their lunchtime running around the library to find the hidden book title clues and claim their free book. It was chaos but lots of fun!

We ran a quiz across the school which students had to complete, like a treasure hunt, where they found information on staff favourite books, found quotes in the library, and visited the canteen to spot the literary themed food. The winners of the quiz were: **Emmie S (8), Amy M-G (8), Niamh K (7), Amy A (7), Lily A (10), Meri C (10), Fallon B-S (10), and Niamh M (11): all will receive prizes on Monday.**

Finally, the English department dressed up as characters from our Reading Warriors monthly theme of Sci-Fi and Fantasy. There was a range of outfits as you can see - some linked to the texts we are currently teaching to our KS3 year groups.



Fundraising

Our wonderful student council organised a bake sale for the DEC appeal for Ukraine. Thank you so much for the donations of cakes and money for this cause. We raised £315.25. It was touching that although we had sold out of cakes students were seeking me out to hand over their money.

Linked to this, next week is Comic Relief. **We have decided to run a wear a red accessory for Comic Relief or wear a blue or yellow accessory for Ukraine.** We are asking for a minimum donation of £1. We will be donating 50% of the proceeds to the Ukraine appeal.



A donation page will be available on Parentpay for donations to be made directly to RND next week from Monday.

Primary Sport

This week we held the Year 5 & 6 High 5 Netball. We had 22 teams take part and all played in great spirit. Our winning teams from our A & B league were Osmaston A & Osmaston B who will now represent us at the next SSP round. Yet again a big thank you to our amazing Sports Leaders who ran the whole event.



UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge:

Students in Years 9, 10 and & 11 took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge on Thursday 4th of February. It was a 60-minute challenge consisting of tricky questions designed to encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The problems on the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge are designed to make students think. Most are accessible, yet still challenge those with more experience. All our students who entered did extremely well and we also have 14 students who have qualified for the next stage of Challenges. A massive well done to you all!

The following have qualified for the next round; Alasdair C, Louis D-S, Yajnish D, Elliot H, Nicholas L, Bethany R, Arran S, Will T and Douglas F.

Sixth Form Update

The weather was kind, the sun shone, and an enthusiastic team of tree planters gathered on the QEGS field by the river. We completed the planting of 100 trees, oak, silver birch, hazel, rowan, hawthorn, blackthorn; all native UK trees from the Woodland Trust. Over the next years and decades we look forward to seeing the Legacy Wood come to maturity. Huge thank you to Joshua and Millie who led this project from inception to completion.

Next week the Year 12 Parents Consultation Evening takes place on Thursday 17th March. Appointments can be booked via the booking system from today at 4.30pm until 2.30pm on the 17th March. Please see the letter that has been emailed out for more details.

Lunchtime for Year 12 and Year 13 next week is moving temporarily to accommodate Year 11 exams. Period 4 will start at 12.25 and lunch will be from 13.35 to 14.15.



Finally

Thank you to the students, staff, parents and carers who helped make Shrovetide such a success this year. Please have a safe and restful weekend.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Garrity
Headteacher