

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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1st April 2022

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #26

Today the Government have changed the rules around COVID-19. As a brief summary the guidance has changed to:

From 1st April, updated guidance will advise people with symptoms of a respiratory infection, including COVID-19, and a high temperature or who feel unwell, to try stay at home and avoid contact with other people, until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-next-steps-for-living-with-covid>

If your son/daughter has any pre-existing medical conditions and you would like to discuss anything regarding the Government changes, please contact his/her form tutor. As always, we want to ensure all staff and students feel safe at school and will support where possible.

Co-curricular

No co-curricular clubs/sports on Monday 4th April 2022 due to staff training taking place.

Year 8 - Choosing Options for Next Year

A reminder that the Year 8 options form is now open and the deadline is midnight on Monday 4th April. Submission is via the Year 8 Options form, which is available for students on the intranet within the 'Useful Links' section. Students will need to be logged in to the school intranet to access this.

Year 8 Camping Trip

Great news - we have a Year 8 camping trip booked. The trip departs from QEGS on Monday 18th July and returns on Friday 22nd July 2022. We will be heading to Yorkshire, setting up two camps for a week to allow us to enjoy a selection of activities; water sports, team building, walking, navigation, climbing, caving, team games and bushcraft. Everything is included from transport to food for a cost of £310. You can book a place from 4pm on Tuesday 4th April with a £70 non-refundable deposit via Parentpay.

Oliver!

This week the cast, crew and band have pulled together to produce and perform their musical production of Oliver! During the week they have performed to families and friends, and the local primary schools. It has been fabulous to have an audience to perform to again, where upon entering the main hall there is a buzz and sense of energy as life returns to the Performing Arts team. For the first time they also performed to the QEGSMAT primary schools who thoroughly enjoyed the performance, in particular Bill Sykes! This is a great come back without live performances for two years and everyone involved has enjoyed putting the production together. It has been a hard six months, but they all did it, and wow, they came back with a bang. The young performers and musicians have worked intensely to showcase their talents. They still have performances running tonight and Saturday, tickets are only available for Saturday www.qegs.link/tickets as Friday has sold out. Come and see Fagin and Oliver on their journey through London town; will Oliver find a new family? What will happen to Fagin? You will only find out if you come and see.



National Cross Country

Three QEGS athletes that took part in the 61st Boys and the 53rd Girls English Schools' National Cross Country Championships. It took place at Hop Farm in Kent on Saturday 19th March. All athletes represented Derbyshire at 'bottom age group', meaning they qualified a year early and ran against older athletes. They all did their County proud and have bright running futures ahead.

Students from left to right;
Paddy Welsh (Yr12) Ewan Busfield (Yr10) Maizie Goddard (Yr8)



Girls first Pitch up and Play Rugby



A number of our students were at Matlock on Sunday for their first opportunity to play Rugby with other girls in the area. There were 40 girls in the Under 13 group from five different clubs with eight of ours taking part. Girls rugby is run by Ashbourne Rugby Club on a Friday afternoon. The girls playing were Lucy, Isobel, Frankie, Scarlett, Emma, Bronwen, Irene and Poppy with May one of our 11's playing in the Under 18s game with Belper where she plays.

Comment from one of the girls "it was great to get the experience of playing a match."

The girls train after school on a Friday on the pitch before the Astroturf, any girl in any year is welcome. The sessions are fun, active and designed for all abilities.

Biathlon

Elena and Scarlett A represented QEGS in the British Schools Modern Biathlon competition, at the University of Bath. Elena came 17th overall with a swim time of 2:34.76 for 200m and a run time of 6:16.56 for 1600m, which were both personal-best performances. Scarlett also achieved personal-best times, achieving a swim time of 1:29.47 for 100m and 6:51.19 for her 1600m run, finishing 50th overall. Congratulations on fantastic performances from both girls!



Royal Geographical Society Geography Ambassador Lesson

Earlier on this week, Shannon from the Royal Geographical Society delivered several engaging lessons to KS3 and KS4 geography classes. The lesson focussed on what is geography, geography at A level, what it is like to study geography at degree level and careers you can go into with a geography degree. Students had the opportunity to gain an insight into university studies and even got to see some of Shannon's own work from when she studied GCSE and A level geography as well as her more recent degree assignments. The feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive including "I can understand now what things can lead to a geography career and something positive is that anyone can do geography no matter who" and "Geography can be useful anywhere". Don't worry if you did not get the chance to have a lesson from Shannon this week, she has kindly recorded the lesson which will be shared with all Year 9 and Year 10 classes over the final week, and we have asked her to come back to teach our A level geographers later this academic year. Finally, the fantastic opportunity would not have happened without Mr Machin who organised it - thank you!



Fundraising for the Ark



The Student Leadership team are holding a bake sale on Friday 8th April during break outside the canteen to raise funds for Ashbourne Animal Welfare. We are also asking people to bring in donations of dry, unopened dog and cat food to send to Ukraine. All donations will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Online Safety

Anonymous, or 'honesty', apps are popular among young people. They allow users to interact with others without revealing who they are. These are used for a variety of reasons, such as asking questions they may find embarrassing, but they can equally be used to bully or harass others.

Internet Matters have put together a useful page which answers many questions around these apps. You can find the page [HERE](#).

Finally

We say farewell to Mr Towndrow (Maths) who was covering Mrs Statham's maternity leave. We welcome back Mrs Statham to her Head of Maths role alongside Mr Barnhurst who has done a superb job in her absence.

I watched Oliver on Wednesday, wow! The students and staff have done an amazing job to create and perform a show of such a high standard against the backdrop of so many school and society challenges. These types of school events are what our students and staff have missed during Covid, the chance to work with students of all ages, laugh and build friendships together and see each other in different contexts. I hope that Sports Day, Camping Trips, Alton Towers visits, hopefully a school ski trip and many other QEGS events help restore what we had, enabling students and staff to enjoy their time in school and develop skills for life!

Yours faithfully

Mr S Garrity
Headteacher