

# QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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



13<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

## Weekly Bulletin #30

### Lates and Truancy

Unfortunately, we have a small, but increasing, number of students arriving late to lessons and sometimes truanting. This is causing disruption to the learning of others and requires lots of staff time to locate students, ensure they are safe and then follow up with sanctions. Please read the attached revised guidance for Lates and Truancy with a particular focus on the role parents can play in improving their own child's punctuality and attendance. We are committed to ensuring all students are safe and the learning of the hard working many, is not affected by the few.

### Changes to Break/Lunch Times for Year Groups

With external exams starting next week, break and lunch time slots are required to swap so that we meet JCQ regulations for the start time of afternoon exams.

First break and lunch: 9, 11, 12, 13

Second break and lunch: 7, 8 and 10

From Monday we will also be swapping the toilets for Years 7 and 11 so that Year 11 use the toilets nearest the sports hall throughout the exam period.

### Banned items from school

We have recently seen an increase in students bringing sweets, canned energy drinks, large bars/packs of chocolate and specifically lollipops into school – these are all banned items and will be confiscated if seen or found in a students' possession.

### Coats are not be worn indoors

Students do not need to wear their coat indoors. Their lanyard and ID should be visible at all times and coats should be removed before they enter any classroom.

### New Extra-Curricular Club

Come and improve your problem solving skills, team work and logical thinking by joining the Maths Problem solving club! This will run on a Tuesday week A in 520 from 3.25-4.25 for Year 7-10. See you there!

### PE Update

The Year 11 boys won their County Cup semi-final game this week, against a competitive Tupton Hall team. They came from 1-0 down at half-time to win 4-2, with goals from James M, Frankie D, Kieran C and Jake W. Good effort displayed in the second half performance to progress through to the final where we will meet the winners of the Netherthorpe v Derby Moor game.

As the sportshall is used for the summer exams, PE lessons are likely to take place outside, even if it is raining. Therefore, we advise that students bring a waterproof coat and/or a change of PE kit/school uniform that they can put on in the event of them getting wet in PE lessons.

Also, the badminton and basketball clubs will not be on until after the GCSE exams have finished, due to the sportshall being used for the exams. However, all other PE clubs will be continuing throughout the summer, so please encourage your child to come along and try something if they do not already participate.

### Celebration of Colour Art Exhibition



Maisy, Holly, and the art department would like to invite students, parents, and staff to see our new exhibition at the Courtney Gallery. Please come and see the work of our talented students and vote for your favourite.

The students that have won prizes will be invited to the Awards night on Thursday. They will be notified by email by Wednesday morning.

### Mount Cook 2022

On Monday, 40 intrepid Year 7 students went on a 3 day outdoor activity experience at Mount Cook Centre. The activities started as soon as they left QEGS, as to get there they cycled up the Tissington Trail and onto the High Peak Trail to arrive 22 miles later and straight into activities. There was a great range of activities offered by the centre, some of the most popular being the 12m high Jacobs ladder, bushcraft, team building activities and abseiling.



It was impressive even after a long cycle how well students got involved in the activities and maintained this enthusiasm for the entire visit. Regrettably, all good things come to an end and after a morning's activity bikes were mounted and pointed in the direction of Ashbourne. Unfortunately, as well as activities ending the weather had also changed significantly. There was torrential rain and a significant climb over Middleton Top but again our students took it in their stride, the sun made an appearance for the final miles.





All students showed a huge amount of resilience, determination and character. They were a credit to themselves, their families and the school. Well done! I am sure after they have fully recovered from such an exhausting few days will have superb memories and a real sense of achievement. Finally, a huge thanks you to all of the staff involved to make this trip possible.

### **Year 11 Exams and Study Leave**

We wish all of our Year 11 students all the best with their exams starting on Monday at 9am!

Students have been issued with a revision schedule for the next two weeks (via email and their form tutor). We have altered the timetable where possible, so they get a session with specialist teachers on the day or day before an exam.

Some students have now been issued with 'study day cards' where they have demonstrated their independent learning ahead of exams and can have a session studying at home. They must have been issued with one of these cards before taking that time.

### **Newbuild Progress**

Great to see our expansion progressing at pace. Thanks to Ben W in Yr12 for the awesome drone footage.



Ben W also got his 360 Excavator License last week! His training provider was extremely impressed and said he was the most skilled young person they have had to date. Well done Ben!

### **Sixth Form Update**

We were extremely impressed with the quality of all the candidates for the Student Council. Congratulations to those appointed to the roles; we look forward to working together over the next year:

Heads of Well-being: Elin J, Daisy E

Heads of Events: Lily S, Kamil C, Hannah P

Treasurer: Will A

Head of Inclusion: Ella S

Secretary: Jake H

Heads of Environment: Jess B, Abi N

Heads of Aesthetics: Olivia C, Megan H

Head of Communication: Ben W

Heads of Charities: Holly D, Sam G

Heads of Transition: Ben C, Isabel H, Scarlett F

Thank you to the outgoing Student Council for all their hard work, initiatives and ideas over the last year.

Year 13 Leavers' Day is Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May. Students will be in school from 8.50 - 12.30 when there will be a final assembly, photograph and BBQ. We wish them all well and of course students can still access support from their teachers and 6<sup>th</sup> form team if they need it.

### The Ashbourne Festival

The National Space Centre are doing an interactive talk in St John's Church at 6.30pm then again at 7.30pm on Monday 27<sup>th</sup>, which includes very exciting demonstrations. Then on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June they are bringing their Inflatable planetarium, the StarDome, to the Town Hall, for 25 minute bookings throughout the day. Do have a look at these links and let your families know about them.

<https://education.spacecentre.co.uk/visiting-you/stardome#header-scroll>

<https://ashbournefestival.org/events/it-is-rocket-science/>



### Finally

Knowing where your children are, who they are with and what they are doing is a worry for any parent. Please ensure that you talk to your child about making the right choices when out of school. Check their phone, ask questions about what they have been doing, who they have been with and reassure them that walking away from behaviour they know is wrong is the right thing to do. We fully support our community in expecting our students to be responsible and respectful at all times, in and out of school. If you see or hear any concerns relating to our students' behaviour out of school, we do want to know, and we will engage with parents and the police if necessary to ensure students continue to be safe and respectful.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Garrity  
Headteacher