

# QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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



6<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

## Weekly Bulletin #29

### School Day Timings

Our current staggered end to the school day for bus students was a measure we held over from Covid measures. It was also a trial to see if we needed a staggered end to the day for other reasons such as bus departures. It has become clear that we **do not** need a staggered end to the day.

Therefore, from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May, all P5 lessons will end at 3.20pm and all students will be dismissed at the same time. Parents are reminded to keep The Green Road and the School Bus Bay free of parked cars for the safety of their own children and that of others.

### Free School Meals - Breaktime Snack

We are aware that the free school meal allowance can afford a canteen meal deal at lunchtime with no other snack in between. We know that this means some students can get quite hungry for the remaining parts of the day. If your child is in receipt of free school meals, please encourage them to go to 540 at break/before school (each day if they wish) where we have purchased a selection of break time snacks for them to have with no charge.

### Canteen Payments

Can you please ensure your child has sufficient funds on their ParentPay account when purchasing items from the canteen, if they are not in receipt of free meals.

### Parent Pay Shop

We are pleased to announce the launch of the Parent Pay Shop this week [www.qegs.link/shop](http://www.qegs.link/shop) – initially this is for the purchase of revision guides for Year 9 and 10 students, and in the future more items will be added. Please refer to this [letter](#) for more details.

### Year 7 School Disco

This is taking place after school on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 3:30-5pm, £3 entry payable via ParentPay – please see letter sent earlier this week for further details.

### Year 8 Camping Trip Parents Meeting

There will be a short meeting in the hall on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 4pm for Year 8 parents/carers with children booked onto the camping trip in July. This will be to go through required kit, expectations and to answer questions about the trip. Students are welcome to attend with parents.

### 411 Bus - Monday 9/05/22 to Friday 13/05/22

Due to a road closure at Brassington next week, this will affect service 411; an additional smaller vehicle will transport students from Bradbourne, Brassington and Kniveton and the main bus will only serve Parwich. The timetable will be the same for pickups.

## Ashbourne Refugee Community Sponsorship Group (ARCS) – Sponsored Walk

We often receive new students 'in year' and work hard to make sure they quickly get to know us and settle in. In fact, we have a number of Student Leaders who are a huge help in this whether it be conducting school tours, being a buddy or just being a friendly face to go to. We have recently welcomed some students from Ukraine. It has been lovely to see students reach out to welcome and make all our new students feel at home. Ms Morgan has been overwhelmed with the offers of help and support from the community. Ashbourne has really rallied and is providing an amazing support network for these families. Ashbourne Refugee Community Sponsorship Group is running a Sponsored walk on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, it would be lovely if students and parents would like to participate.



## Well done Year 9!

This week, every student in Year 9 participated in a Rap and Poetry Workshop, focused on exploring race and racism. Curtis Watt, who led the sessions, encouraged students to challenge their ways of thinking, and guided students to question what they know, to open up a dialogue about what race is and how racism can occur. We were incredibly impressed by every Form and the rap or poem each group was able to create in a short space of time to summarise some of what they learned. This is just one part of an ongoing education and conversation about race and racism which we will continue with students.

<https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2022/05/One-Track-Race-Rap-and-Poetry-Collection-Y9-2022.pdf>

## Duke of Edinburgh - Expeditions are Back!!

We have 11 groups of Bronze and 2 groups of Silver participants heading out for their training expedition next week! They have been busy with the pre-expedition training this week, organising their food and practising setting up their tents. Fingers crossed for some dry weather next week – good luck everyone!!

Silver drop off location: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May, Oakamoor.

Bronze drop off location: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May, Waterhouses.



A number of students have also persevered through the difficult challenges of a pandemic to continue on with and complete their Awards over the past 2 years. They have shown great resilience and determination – well done all of you! Below are a few of the Year 13 students who received their Awards this week.

If your child has not yet received their Award Certificate, they will be receiving it over the coming weeks in assemblies and Award Ceremonies.

## Online Safety

This week we have delivered assemblies to Years 7 to 11, reminding them about their conduct when online. The assemblies asked them to think about their digital footprint – the trail left by their online activity – and what impression that may give someone considering offering them a job, apprenticeship or university place at some point in the future. As always, our best advice for parents is to try and keep the lines of communication open with your child and have honest, none-judgemental conversations with them about the sorts of things they like to do online. If you would like to know more about the content of the assemblies delivered this week, please contact our Online Safety Co-ordinator, Mr Illsley, at [illsleyj@qegs.email](mailto:illsleyj@qegs.email)

### **Co-curricular Cooking and Gardening Club:**

We have the following activities to come and join in with this half term -

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May - Gardening - 612 from 3.20pm - 5pm.

We are planting seeds and preparing the vegetable plots. Please bring some trainers to wear outside.

If anyone has any plants, seeds or equipment that they would be willing to donate, they would be gratefully received in 612.

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May - Tunnocks Teacake Challenge - Interhouse competition - 612 from 3.20pm - 5pm.

This year the theme is 'The Natural World'. Students wishing to participate need to put their name down in 612 and collect a planning sheet. Students will be provided with a teacake on the day but will need to bring in all other ingredients and decorations. Winners will earn house points and the very best entries will be entered into the national competition.

For inspiration please see last years entries: <https://foodteacherscentre.co.uk/tunnocks-teacake-challenge/>

### **Sports Update**



Running club success since Easter:

100km GOLD award for James B (Y8) and Elena A (Y10)

50km SILVER award for Dow R (Y9)

The Year 9 girls basketball team were awarded their trophy and medals this week for winning the U14 County Cup. They beat a good West Park team over two games in the final and are looking forward to defending their title next year! Well done on your fantastic achievement!

### **Staff Update**

The Languages Department are saying farewell today to Miss Barnes who has been teaching Spanish with us since January. We know she will be missed by many of our students who have thoroughly enjoyed her lessons. We would like to thank her for her hard work and wish her all the best for the future. We now welcome Mr Bowden the newest member of the Languages Department.

### **Digital Photographer Magazine**

We were delighted to receive a copy of this month's Digital Photographer magazine this week. This month it is a special eco-friendly issue and pages 12 and 13 are a double-page spread featuring work by our sixth form Digital Media and Art students, in conjunction with local photographer and filmmaker Clive Booth, the Canon Young People Programme, the Ideas Foundation charity and the United Nations. The project focused on The United Nations' Sustainable Development goals and young people's concerns about their future and was exhibited at Gallery 17 in Ashbourne in March. Well done to everyone involved!

### **New Governor**

Welcome to Nick Flux, new Community Governor joining the Local Governing Body. Nick is born and bred in Derbyshire and has lived in Ashbourne for 17 years with his family. Professionally Nick is a Chartered Accountant working in risk and quality within the accounting profession. Nick has over 20 years experience as a leader within Scouting and is a Cub leader locally. He is also a rugby coach and is currently coach for the year 7 - 13 girls' team which is linked between the school and Ashbourne Rugby Union Football Club. Welcome Nick!

# UK school children capture CLIMATE CONCERNS

The Canon Young People Programme and Ideas Foundation supports a series of creative photography workshops led by ambassador Clive Booth

Last month, an exhibition of photographic work highlighting young people's concerns about climate change was held under the guidance of the Canon Young People Programme (CYPP). The images were created by pupils of Queen Elizabeth's School for the Arts, in Ashbourne, Derbyshire, under the guidance of former CYPP ambassador and environmental photographer Clive Booth.

Based on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, pupils were tasked with using visual storytelling, language, and design to create a poster and video that would bring to the attention of the world the impact of climate change and their local environment.

As they created their posters, many young people were inspired by Booth, who recently appeared as guest editor of Digital Photography for the 20th issue, and other Canon experts. The children were provided with inspiration and education through training on how to use Adobe Spark, how to shoot photographs and videos and how to use lighting and props to bring their stories to life. The workshops were also supported by equipment charity First Light Foundation.



## National Competition Winner!

Year 13 Digital Media student Dom was announced this week as the winner of a national competition organised by the media regulator Ofcom and The Financial Times. Part of Ofcom's role is to regulate video-sharing platforms and they asked young people how they felt social video platforms could be made safer for the people who use them. Dom wins a shopping voucher and trip to London to find out more about the work Ofcom does. You can watch the winning video at the bottom of this page: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/news-centre/2022/winners-of-our-social-video-platform-competition>

## Yr11 Good Luck!

Good luck to the Yr11 Football team who are in the semi-final of the County Cup on Monday. Also, good luck to all of Yr11 who have started their exams this week. Their attitude and effort has been fantastic so far and we all want to see them do their best during the next few months. Remember to revise little and often, revise what you don't know first, attempt all questions on a paper (blanks won't get marks but a good guess might!) and eat, sleep and exercise to maximise the impact of your revision – you can do it!!

## Finally

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Hill family following the death of Richard, one of our ex-students. I know that the local rugby and cricket teams will be honouring his commitment and love of sport and he will be missed by all who knew him.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Garrity  
Headteacher