

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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7th July 2022

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #37

Break and Lunch Trial

Thank you to students and staff for engaging and supporting the single break and lunch trial. The trial is to see what works best and also what is feasible to facilitate some clubs and activities to run at lunchtime. We can only run lunchtime clubs on a single lunch when most staff will then be available.

We will also have a second canteen space once the new build is complete (Jan/Feb 2023) so we want to see how best to take advantage of the extra capacity.

This week, we trialed break at 10.15am and lunch at 12.35pm. Next week we will be trialing a later single break at 11.15am and lunch at 1.35pm, so that we can fully evaluate the pros and cons of each option. Staff and students have been asked to complete a survey on the trial. The link for the student survey is in their school email, **please check your child has completed the survey no later than Friday 15th July**. We will then decide for September on the best way forward.

Year 9 Options for Current Year 8 Students

Emails are being sent today to parents/carers of Year 8 students confirming their two options for Year 9. Sometimes these emails do go into spam/junk folders, so please do check there if you have not received them by 2pm.

Personal, Social, and Health Education [PSHE] and Relationships and Sex Education [RSE]: Looking forward into our next school year

Last week we explained some of the fabulous things that have happened in PSHE RSE over the last term. In this week's bulletin we look forward to the coming year. In September all Year groups begin with three lessons on health and wellbeing, before moving on to exploring how we live in our wider world. Each Year Group has different lessons and activities to help them address things in a manner appropriate to their age and needs. For Year 7 this includes an exploration of friendship and how we develop our characters; for Year 8 there is a focus on drug education, for Year 9 we return to friendships and look at how to create healthy friendships and avoid the unhealthy and exploitative; Year 10 explore work around their mental wellbeing; and Year 11 have a session on self-efficacy and consider the impact of changing climate and economies on our lives.

In addition, we have a new levels system for PSHE RSE, one designed by both staff and students. In common with other subjects, we now have nine attainment levels, and these are broadly split into three. Firstly, students aim to identify life changes, once mastered they then explore the skills needed to manage changes in their own lives, and finally develop ways to demonstrate and overcome changes in their lives, and the lives of others. Over the next year we will be asking parents and our community for ways they can engage with us to help our students develop these skills and understanding of the sorts of topics we mention above, for example there will be a stand at the Year 10 Countdown to Success event next week, and at many future events from September.

Rewards

Thank you so much to "Paul's Ices" Ice-Cream Van for helping us treat our wonderful students who have received 100% positive events since Easter! We are now working towards getting all our Gold Badges out to winners of 60 or more Merits, we really do have so many QEGS Amazing students!



Science

Over the past couple of weeks, our 10T1 science group have been nurturing our new arrivals - 6 chicks which have been hatched in school. They used the opportunity to apply some of their knowledge about osmosis to explain the importance of maintaining conditions in the incubator. There have been lots of discussions about names, in the end the group settled on their favourite savoury snacks! The chicks are now too big to stay in the lab, but we are excited to receive updates about how they are getting on in their new home.



STEM Week in Science for Year 8

Many of our Year 8 Science classes have been completing a number of different STEM projects this week. One of the projects has seen the students learn about the difficulties faced by farming families in Sudan, following a day in the life of Kahdija.

The students have had to imagine that they are a group of engineers, designers and scientists who must research, design and make a prototype of a device that can help to 'Regreen the desert' by collecting and storing water, being able to turn the flow on and off and transport the water at least 30cm to water plants.

The groups have been very inventive, resourceful, and reflective in their learning. Well done Year 8s!



Sports Update

ESAA Track & Field Cup - competition between all schools that enter across the country.

Held in 3 rounds:

Preliminary - County rounds

Highest scorers from 1st round then go through to regional A Final.

Winner of each A Final (& next 5 highest scoring points) then go on to attend the Cup Final - National level.

QEGS Junior Girls & Intermediate boys, both won the regional A Final and went on to Tilsley Park, Abingdon, Oxfordshire to represent their school in Track and Field events. Both teams came 12th. An outstanding achievement, being one of the only state schools present amongst 30+ fee paying schools.

A special mention to Ewan B, Inter boys - winning his 800m event with a time of 2m04.5 - his strength is usually 1500m race but has another national event this week, so tactically raced in the 800m to avoid any injury etc. And also, Isabella M, Jnr Girls coming 5th in the 1500m running it in 5m14.1s.



Maths Problem of the Week

A huge well done to everybody who submitted a solution last week - there were lots of fantastic responses and explanations. Well done to Naor V in Year 8 who is this week's winner - please come to 530 to collect your prize. The solution is that it is only the last diagram that can be drawn without taking your pencil off the paper and retracing lines. It is based around the number of lines that enter/leave the vertex (point) - if you are interested in learning more then please follow this link; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0BQrk49tbk>

The final problem of this academic year is:

The letters J , M and C represent three different non-zero digits.

$$\begin{array}{r} J \quad J \\ M \quad M \\ + C \quad C \\ \hline J \quad M \quad C \end{array}$$

What are the values of J , M and C ?

Please send any solutions to statham@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk Good luck!

Sixth Form Update

The Sixth Form transition events started on Wednesday this week, with virtual introduction sessions being delivered on MS Teams for all subjects. We hope our prospective students found these helpful and informative. We look forward to seeing Year 11 in person for the face to face transition days on Thursday 14th and Friday 15th July. These sessions are for all our Sixth Form applicants and will be held from 8.50am at the Sixth Form centre. Students are required to wear their school uniform or smart business/office wear (a white shirt/blouse, black trousers or a skirt with tights and a black blazer/jacket. No trainers, black shoes only).

Year 12 students will be off timetable on Thursday 14th and Friday 15th July, whilst the Year 11 Sixth Form transition sessions are running. Some of these students have volunteered to help with the transition events and the rest of the year group will be set some careers and work experience preparation work to complete remotely.

Canteen School Meals

Next week's canteen menu is the following:

[gegs-week-b.pdf \(myschoollunch.co.uk\)](#)

Greek meatballs on Monday and Chicken Korma on Thursday look like my favourites!

Finally

It was lovely to see our new Year 7s onsite this week for their 3 days of Transition. So many smiley, happy faces ready to start in September. Year 11 Transition events have also been underway with online sessions and next week some face-to-face events.

Reminder of start dates for September:

- Staff INSET Monday 5th September – no students
- Years 7, 10 and 12 return on 6th Tuesday September 8.50am
- All Year Groups in school 7th Wednesday September 8.50am

Exam results dates:

- Post 16 (A levels and BTECs) - Thursday 18th August from 8.00am in Main Hall
- GCSEs and Level 2 Qualifications - Thursday 25th August from 8.00am in Main Hall

Yours faithfully

Mr S Garrity
Headteacher