



4th November 2022

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #8

Vaping and Banned Items in School

QEGS, like many other schools, has seen a recent spike in incidents involving student vaping. We take this issue very seriously due to the negative health effects vaping can have on our students and often find that our parents are often not aware of the risks around vaping.

Vaping is the act of inhaling a vapour produced by an electronic vaporiser or e-cigarette. The vapour can contain nicotine and other substances which is concerning. We have been informed that vapes containing illegal highs is also becoming an issue in some schools across the UK. The liquids that are vaporised come in many different flavours and might even smell fruity. Vaporisers/e-cigarettes come in all different shapes. Some common styles we see look like a thick pen, a stylus for an iPad, a flash drive, or a small flask with a round chimney coming off the top. The devices are very small and can easily be hidden on a person or blend in with normal backpack items. Attached are some images to help if you are unsure what they look like:



Like cigarettes, shops cannot sell vaping items to people under the age of 18. However, students report that they purchase the devices online or buy from older siblings, friends, or unfortunately even parents.

Electronic Cigarettes and Vapes are a banned item in school. The school acknowledges its duties and responsibilities under the Education Acts of 1996 and 2011, the Education and Inspections Act of 2006 and Health and Safety at Work 1974 in respect of searching and screening students as well as confiscation. **Headteachers, and staff authorised by them, have a statutory power to search students/pupils and their possessions (e.g. clothing, bags or lockers) without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student may have a prohibited item. A staff member carrying out a search can confiscate anything which they have reasonable grounds to suspect is a prohibited item. The school is not liable for any damage to, or loss of, any confiscated item.** The police will be contacted if any illegal substances are discovered by a member of staff. Parents/carers will be informed of any confiscated item and may be required to collect the item (unless the item relates to alcohol, illegal drugs or tobacco), from the academy office. A sanction will then follow in line with our Behaviour Policy if a banned item is brought onto site.

There are ways you can help protect your children. These include:

- Talking to your child about why smoking/vaping are harmful for them. It is never too late to have the conversation.

- Learning about the different types of e-cigarettes available and the risks associated with using these products. There are lots of websites online including <https://teen.smokefree.gov/quit-vaping> and <https://childmind.org/article/teen-vaping-what-you-need-to-know/>
- Reporting those who are selling cigarettes and e-cigarettes to minors by contacting the police

Christmas Family Support

Please find attached ways that Derbyshire County Council are supporting families over the Christmas period, from food parcels and financial support to holiday activities. If you require any support or have questions regarding this please do not hesitate to contact Katie Starkie: Starkiek@qegs.email.

Children in Need

We are going to have a SPOTacular **Children in Need Day on Friday 18th November**. It will be a non-uniform day for a suggested donation of £1. Come to school dressed in your spottiest outfits. Remember to keep it suitable for school so no cropped tops please or short skirts or shorts. Our student leaders are planning activities at lunchtime so please come to school with a small amount of cash if you can. You can donate before the event by using this link <https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=7973>

Careers News - What's been happening in World of Work Wednesday Form times?

All Year 11 students will receive an interview from an impartial advisor from Luminate Careers. They have been briefed on what to expect and how to prepare. Following the interview they will receive an 'Action Plan' which will summarise what was discussed and will signpost further help and actions to take. A copy of the action plan will also be sent to parents. Whether they plan to stay on into Sixth Form or leave us for pastures new they will be fully supported making this decision and making it happen.

- **Year 10** students have been preparing for their work experience during form time. This was launched with an assembly from Mrs Bowbanks to explain the process. Each student received a help booklet and following this they have been tasked with preparing a CV and now need to approach employers to find a placement. Their tutor, Mrs Caton or Miss Morgan will be on hand to offer guidance during form time up to Christmas. A spreadsheet of previously used employers will be displayed on Level 3 to give them ideas of who to approach.
- **Year 9** will be receiving information about their option choices in a series of videos from Department Heads. They will have received all of these talks prior to the Options Evening to be held on 12th January 2023. Further details to follow.
- **Year 8** will be learning how to 'Create Opportunities'. During this half term they will look at their skills, mindset and positive role models.
- **Year 7** will be looking at 'A Day in the Life of' resources. A variety of industries will be explored and they will begin to understand the differences between different types of job and workplace.

Rolls Royce Information Event for Year 12 and 13 students

Rolls Royce are holding a Degree Apprenticeship Open Evening in Derby on Monday 28th November 2022 4.30-8.00pm.

The Open Evening will provide students and parents with the opportunity to explore the schemes at Rolls-Royce, including a chance to talk with representatives from the Apprentice Development team and Derby College, current apprentices and Recruitment Team who will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Further details have been sent directly to all Year 12 and Year 13 students

Times Table Rockstars Competition!

From Monday 14th to Wednesday 16th November, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be taking part in the national times table rockstars competition, competing against hundreds of schools across the country. They can spend up to 1 hour per day at home over these three days answering as many questions as possible in any game mode. Students who do not have access to an electronic device or who would like to complete the challenge at school are invited to come to room 526 during lunchtime/afterschool to participate if they wish. There will be prizes for the winning class. You still have a week to get lots of practice in!

QEGS Welcome Feast

Join us for the first QEGS Welcome Feast from **6.30pm Friday 11th November** in QEGS' Main Hall.

This will be a relaxed evening of performances, food and a pay bar as we get together as a community to raise money for the FPTA and Ashbourne Refugee Community Sponsorship group. We will sit at long tables together (so come alone or bring a group) and the food will be served buffet style so that you can try a range of local and global cuisine. It is a casual event and there will be time to chat with the other guests and to perhaps get to know some of the refugees living in our community more personally. Children are welcome.

If you or your child would like to contribute to the event with food or a performance, then you will get your ticket free. Please email Angris@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk by Wednesday 9th November to inform her of your proposed contribution.

Please find information about the event here: <https://www.derbyshiretimes.co.uk/whats-on/things-to-do/schools-fundraiser-to-help-refugees-rebuild-their-lives-in-derbyshire-3889624>

Buy your tickets here: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/the-green-road/queen-elizabeth-grammar-school-ashbourne-main-hall/charity-welcome-feast-fundraiser-supporting-qegs-fpta-and-ashbourne-refugee-community-sponsorship/2022-11-11/18:30/t-mojrape>

Design & Innovation

Year 7 are nearing the end of their first DI rotation. It is great to see how much they have progressed since September. Developing a range of numeracy, literacy and academic practical skills. Throughout the year projects will include metal monsters, CAD/CAM laser tidy, food practical and Hanoi Towers. Each project developing a new set of skills, an introduction to materials and building on existing skills.



Primary Cross Country

Over 450 runners at our Years 3/4 and Years 5/6 cross country event this week - what an amazing sight seeing so many runners!

Thank you to our fantastic Year 9s Sports Leaders - we cannot run these events without you.

Finally, thank you to our 'hares' - Bella, Ewan, Sam....and a huge thank you to our long-standing hare - Paddy Year 13. He has committed to many primary cross-country events over the years - you will be missed!



Maths Problem of the Week

The answer to last week's problem is Monday! Well done to those who got it correct, and to our winner Isabelle Hitchcock with her excellent explanation - please come to 531 to collect your prize.

This week's problem is as follows:

- At midday the hour and minute hands of a clock sit on top of each other perfectly. In a little over 1 hour they will again be on top of each other.
- What is the exact time that happens?

Good luck! Please send entries to statham@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk to be in with a chance of winning a prize.

Ashbourne Christmas Lantern Spectacular



Christmas Lantern Spectacular
Friday 9th December 2022
Leaves St. Oswald's Church at 6:30pm.

- Hundreds of candlelit lanterns in a magical procession that stretches for nearly a third of a mile.
- Leading the procession will be Sparky, a spectacular street theatre show that combines high impact drumming, dynamic choreography and amazing lighting design. They will be supported by The Jacks of Frost stilt walkers and fire-breathing Circus Strong.
- If you would like to help out, take part in a free lantern making workshop or just carry one of our lanterns please email: info@ashbournefestival.org
- Enjoy an evening of top-quality entertainment and late-night shopping.

This event is brought to you by Ashbourne Festival in conjunction with Ashbourne Town Council, Ashbourne Churches Together & Ashbourne Traders.

Supported by the National Lottery Community Fund.

Online Safety

In our modern world, it is really important for everyone to have some basic knowledge about cyber security. Internet Matters have put together a good, simple article so that we can learn more about the topic. It is very much worth a read and you can access that [HERE](#).

Our New Head of Year 7

Congratulations to our new Head of Year 7 Mrs Cookman who will be taking on the responsibility as of Monday 14th November. Parents of Year 7 students can contact her from then on cookman@qegs.email or via phone extension 11126. Mrs Cookman has been working at QEGS for the last academic year as Deputy Progress Leader and is very excited to be the new Head of Year 7.



Our new Deputy Progress Leader

A very warm welcome to Mr Lowry who joins QEGS as a Deputy Progress Leader. Mr Lowry has just returned to England from travelling in Columbia so has lots of rich and wonderful experiences. He can be contacted on lowry@qegs.email and will be based in 540 with the pastoral team.

QEGS Local Governing Body update

The QEGS Local Governing Body welcomes two new governors starting this week, Staff Governor, Caren Keeling and Foundation Governor, Liam Daughtry.

QEGSMAT Vacancies

Please keep an eye on our vacancies at QEGS and within the trust: <https://www.qegsmat.com/current-vacancies/>

Canteen School Meals

Next week's canteen menu is the following:-

Week B:

<https://www2.myschoollunch.co.uk/media/1964322/week-2-qegs.pdf>

Finally

Well done to our students engaging in school sport. Either as a participant and/or a competitor, or as a sports leader and helping to run primary sports events. Some form of physical activity is always good and it has been great to see the efforts of the PE staff rewarded with so many students wanting to take part. Keep it up!

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Garrity', written in a cursive style.

Mr S Garrity
Headteacher