

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The Green Road, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1EP

Tel: 01335 343 685 Email: enquiries@qegs.email Twitter: @qegs_ashbourne

Web: www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk

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



18th November 2022

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #10

Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday 2022

On Friday 11th November, Jay, Tom (Y12) Jake, Georgia and Nia (Y13) accompanied Mr Garrity, Mr Hudson and Mrs Hall to the remembrance gates in Ashbourne to take part in the memorial service for Armistice Day. Students returned to school where they laid their wreaths on the war memorials in school which name the soldiers from Ashbourne who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars.

On Sunday morning Mr Garrity, Mr Daughtry, Mrs Ward-Argument and students gathered in the marketplace in the town centre and were privileged to be a part of the Remembrance Day Parade through the town. Ella and Jake (Y13) were fantastic ambassadors for our school. Jake was honoured with the task of being one of the 3 standard bearers for the Royal British Legion as he led the parade carrying the standard representing ex-servicemen, whilst Ella carried our school flag with pride. Both students then read the names of each of the fallen soldiers of Ashbourne from WWII during the service at St Oswald's church.

Two of our Head Students, Millie, Paddy (Y13), represented our school community by laying a wreath at the memorial gates with Mr Garrity as a sign that our school community will always remember the fallen soldiers of conflicts throughout the world.

It was so wonderful to see QEGS students taking on important roles throughout the day by representing various groups and organisations within the local community such as being members of the band, standard bearers, wreath laying or marching with Cadets, Scouts, Girl Guides, Boys Brigade and many other local groups.

A massive thank you to everyone involved in the remembrance services this year. They were all shining ambassadors for our school community.



QEGS Community Feasts Together for Refugees

On Friday 11th November, over 90 friends, parents and teachers came together in support of QEGS' Friends, Parents, and Teachers' Association (FPTA) and Ashbourne's refugee families. In total, the night raised £535.72 for Ashbourne Refugee Community Sponsorship (ARCS) and QEGS's FPTA! The evening was filled with food from all over the world—some cooked by students, staff and the refugee families. Special thanks went to Nigel's, The Cheddar Gorge, Natural Choice, Fresh Choice and Bird's for donating food towards the event.

Miss Angris, Deputy Curriculum Leader of English, opened the evening with the poem 'Refugees' by Brian Bilston and with local Derbyshire poet Sophie Sparham's 'Welcome' which ends with the words 'step inside my home'. Cat Garret, Chair of QEGS's FPTA, thanked everyone for their efforts with the evening and welcomed anyone who is interested in joining with the FPTA for future fundraisers to contact her on fpta@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk.

Similarly, Bob Hodgson, from ARCS, celebrated the coming together of Ashbourne's community to support some of our most vulnerable residents.

The evening ended with stunning performances from QEGS's students, accompanied by Miss Pettingale, and some special guest surprise acts from the Ukrainian guests. It was a night to be treasured and one that showed this town's ability to show unity in the face of adversity.

Please do get in touch with QEGS's FPTA or Ashbourne Refugee Community Sponsorship if you would like to support either charity in the future.



Year 12 Chemistry Trip

Miss English and Mr Smith took our Year 12 Chemistry students to The University of Nottingham's School of Chemistry to learn and carry out Spectroscopic Techniques in the laboratories, as well as seeing some very expensive equipment, such as Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrometers (MRI machines).



Sports News

A mixed Year 7 and 8 rugby team played a really competitive game against Ecclesbourne this week, coming out 12-10 winners. Excellent determination was shown by all involved, but special mention for Will C who was player of the match.



Running Club

Running club takes place every Tuesday for an hour after school, meeting at the gym, all abilities welcome. All great practice for cross country although at the moment we mainly use footpaths so no studs/spikes!

Congratulations to Jack L in Year 9 who has recently earned his gold award, 100km with running club! We have also had 14 bronze (20km) and 3 silver (50km) awards received since the start of this academic year. Well done all!

House Cross Country - Friday 25th November

The House Cross Country will take place on Friday 25th November. All students from Years 7-9 will take part in this event and for Year 7, it will be their first opportunity to represent their House in competition. All students will complete a 2km course, which some will run, some will jog, some will walk and some will do a combination of all! Students are encouraged to try their best, to help their House achieve, but we also recognise that just participating in itself is important. Students have been preparing for this event in their PE lessons this week and will continue to do so next week. The order of the events is as follows:

- All Year 7 race P2.
- All Year 8 race P3.
- All Year 9 (and any that would like to from Y10 and Y11 for entry into the county cross country race) race P5.

All students in Years 7-9 will need to wear their PE kit on the 25th and it is strongly recommended that they either bring different sports shoes/boots to compete in or spare shoes and socks to put on after the event. Even if students are not able to compete in the event, they must wear their PE kit as they will still be expected to be take part in the event as a helper.

Maths Problem of the Week

The answer to last week's problem was 24. Well done to our winner Niamh K! Please come to 530 to collect your prize.

This week's problem is:

What letter of the alphabet is the one which comes eight letters before the letter which comes 5 letters after the fourth appearance of the first letter to occur four times in this sentence? Please send responses to statham@queenelizabeths.derbyhire.sch.uk to be in with a chance of winning a prize.

Times Table Rockstars Competition

Year 7-9 took part in this national competition from Monday to Wednesday this week. Some fantastic scores were achieved; the winning class were 8XH (who scored within the top 2% in the country!), closely followed by 7YI and 9X1, well done!

The top three scorers in each year group will receive a prize next week; in Year 7 - Daniel M (top scorer in the school!), Isabel H and Isaac T. In Year 8 - Tom W, Sophie S and Niamh K and in Year 9 - Daniel G, Finnlay K, Isabella M.

Between them the students answered 307,000 times table questions, amazing!

Next Parent Support Group

This will take place on Thursday the 1st of December 2022, 16:00 - 17:00 in room 501. Guest Speaker will be Hannah Horswell from Umbrella.

Uniform and PE Changing

Further details on this are available in a separate letter.

Sixth Form Update

This week Year 13 have had a follow up to the recent Apprenticeship talk as Molly and Luke returned to run a workshop on the process of applying for Apprenticeships. The students participated in a group activity typical of selection days and afterwards reflected on their role in the group, what was successful and what they might have done differently.

It is also our internal deadline for university forms to be submitted. Once the students have paid and sent their form, the Sixth Form team review their application before the students are invited to do a final check and send it off to UCAS.

Next week for National Epilepsy Awareness Month, Hannah W in Year 12 will be presenting a talk to all of KS5 and fundraising on behalf of the Epilepsy Society.

Online Safety

Over the next two weeks, students in all year groups 7-11 will be receiving assemblies from Mr Illsley, our Online Safety Co-ordinator, asking them to think about their interactions online and how these could impact their future, both positively and negatively.

Online Gaming - Online games are social activities, and most have features that allow children to chat with others whilst they play. For information about the positives of gaming, the risks of in-game chat and measures you can take to help protect them, watch this short video from CEOP (part of the National Crime Agency): [In-game chat: a guide for parents and carers](#).

Did you know online games are rated in the same way films are? The PEGI (Pan European Game Information) rating system can be a useful tool to help you decide what online games are appropriate for your child. For more information on the PEGI system and other factors to consider before deciding what's suitable, read [Gaming: what's appropriate for your child](#)

Gaming is popular with both children and adults. But, even if you are not a gamer, you may have some questions about how to keep your child safer. If so, check out - [Gaming: what parents need to know](#).

What3words

What3words is a really quick and simple way to find, share and save exact locations meaning if students are ever unsure as to where they are they can use it to inform emergency services. **The system converts GPS coordinates into 3 word addresses**. They usually use Google Maps, which means that during a street address search on what3words, Google will point you to where it lies on its map.

Christmas Music Concert 2022

The Music Department Christmas Concert will be taking place on Thursday 1st December at 7pm in the Main Hall. Tickets are available from our online box office www.qegs.link/tickets

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 A:

<https://www2.myschoollunch.co.uk/media/1964268/week-1-qegs.pdf>

Finally

As you can imagine, we have mixed feelings at QEGS on the forthcoming World Cup taking part in Qatar. However, we also appreciate that some of our students may well be distracted by the 1pm KO on Monday 21st November which we understand to be the only daytime match England could play in throughout the whole tournament. Therefore, we have carried out student surveys over the course of the week to gauge interest levels and we will be relaxing P5 on Monday for those that want to watch the game. Students have been offered the chance to 'book a place' in one of our large venues. Others who have no interest will be able to attend their lessons as normal. Regardless of students' interest in the game and tournament we have put together a short presentation for all students to understand the concerns about the equality and human rights matters which have been widely publicised. We hope this strikes the right balance for our students.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Garrity
Headteacher