

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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22nd March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 12 Summer Term Update

As the Spring Term comes to an end, we are writing with some updates and clarification regarding our Year 12 Sixth Form students. We also need your response to the leaving site permission review please.

New Building Opening

As you may already be aware, we have a new building and facilities opening after Easter. This is a very exciting and welcome addition to our school site, which will benefit our Sixth Formers by providing them with more private study space. This will include access to a large open plan social study space and a smaller room for silent study. These will be in addition to the facilities already on offer in the Sixth Form Centre and will initially be open for Year 13 study. Once they have begun their exams it will be fully open for Year 12 to study in too.

The site will also house a new cafeteria, which is due to launch a revised and more varied menu, something our students are equally as excited about!

Exam Dates

Many of our students have enjoyed a tour of the new building in recent weeks and have been very positive about its opening. We hope that the increase in space will encourage them to maximise the time they have in school to conduct the independent learning requirements of their A-Level and BTEC courses, especially in light of them approaching another A-Level mock and BTEC assessment period during the summer term. To confirm, the Year 12 mock exams take place between **12th - 16th June 2023**. Students on BTEC courses will have received the details of their upcoming formal assessments via their subject teachers in recent weeks.

Attendance Expectations

It therefore feels timely to remind students and parents about our attendance process and expectations. For students to get the very best out of their Sixth Form experience and courses, they need to be in lessons and tutorials from 8.50am. This is supported via our attendance monitoring process and our expectation for all students to maintain at least 95% attendance. Students should not arrange driving lessons, work shifts or routine medical appointments (where possible) during lesson time. However, we do understand that there are unavoidable circumstances and illnesses that arise, and in these cases, we ask that parents notify our Sixth Form administrators via phone on the morning of an absence (preferably before 9am) on **01335 343685 Option 3**. If you would like to access further information about our attendance monitoring process, please see the following booklet on the Sixth Form page of the QEGS website: <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2023/03/Booklet-KS5-Attendance.pdf>

Leaving Site

You will also be aware that Year 12 students are permitted to leave the site during the school day, when they have a study period (where there is no timetabled lesson) and also lunchtime. With the opening of the new building, students will be reminded of the expectations and requirements regarding their movement on and offsite and this will continue to involve signing out (and back in if relevant) when they leave. At this time, we would like to invite parents/carers to review the permission for your young person to leave site or to request further discussion of these arrangements. Please do this via the link below. If we do not receive a reply to this link, we will assume that you are happy with the arrangements currently in place with regards to students being able to leave the school site.

- <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=PYCwG3TptkKUJQEK3ByuarCBZCHgGW9Egkgon7vEPGVURDQwMzk4U0Q4VkkUVzRQQkRNMkFQVlpBSC4u>

Alongside their preparation for assessments, students in Year 12 will benefit from a summer term filled with tutorials, assemblies and personal development sessions; all exploring the opportunities and next steps that students can take when leaving Sixth Form. This will involve a detailed introduction to the UCAS (university applications) process, alongside information and advice on Higher Level Apprenticeships and gap year opportunities. Students will also be supported with decision making and will be tasked to consider the best route for them in relation to their individual ambitions, skills, strengths and qualities. This will be complemented by the work experience placements that students have been securing for the final week of term; a fantastic opportunity for students to research their career ideas further.

We will ensure that they continue to receive access to the high-quality advice, support and guidance provided by our dedicated and experienced Sixth Form team.

Yours faithfully



Mrs L Allen
Assistant Headteacher - Head of Sixth Form