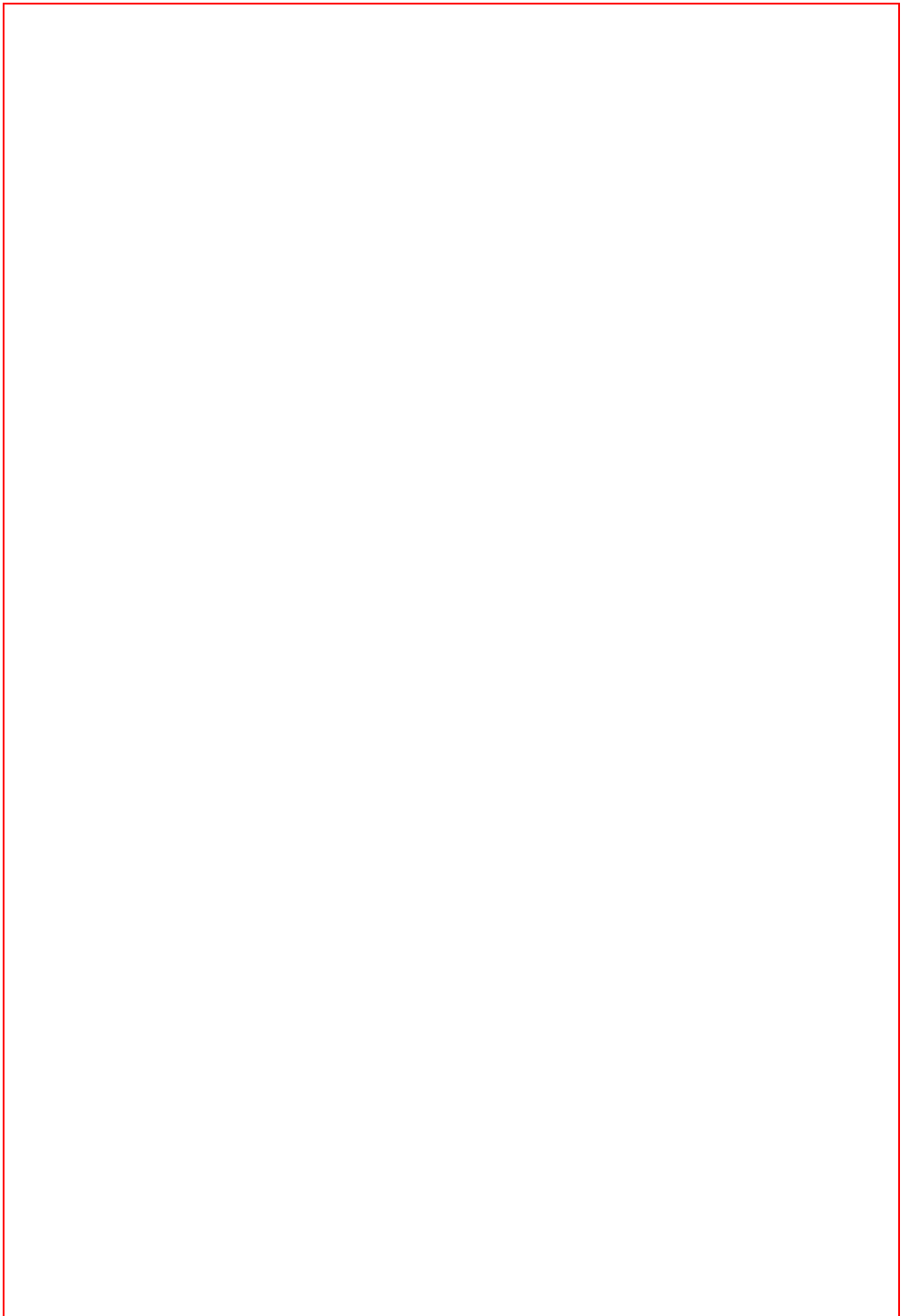




Curriculum, Assessment, Reporting and Homework at QEGS

Information for parents, carers and
guardians to support their child's
academic progress

2023/24



Introduction

The QEGS vision: we care; therefore we question, we explore, we give and as a result, we succeed.

To 'be the best you can possibly be' takes more than just academic success. We want our students to leave our school as interested and interesting people. Our curriculum prepares students for life beyond school; for QEGS students to be employable, to be life-long learners and to be happy and successful in life. Our pupils will be able to be truly independent, in their thinking and their learning.

At QEGS we want our pupils to be inspired by everything they do, to love their curriculum in the broadest sense; with sport, the arts, enterprise, performance, employability skills, competition, cultural school visits and many other amazing opportunities taking an equal standing with academic success.

For our students to achieve their best academically their education should be enriching and well balanced, ensuring they are mentally and physically ready for the academic challenges they will face. It is our privilege and duty to strive for our students, our staff, and all our stakeholders to be the best they can possibly be.

As a school with great historical tradition, we care and we succeed, 'en bon espoir'.

Curriculum

We follow a two-week timetable (A and B week) with 50 teaching hours per fortnight

We share curriculum plans for all subjects and all years on our website, showing the topics to be studied each half term, key vocabulary and how students will be assessed. Click in the link or scan the QR code to go the webpage

<https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/Learning/>



In Years 7, students study the following subjects:

Subject	Teaching hours per fortnight		Subject	Teaching hours per fortnight
English Language	4		Design & Innovation	3
English Literature	3		Art	2
QEGS Reads	1		Computer Science	1
Maths	7		Dance	1
Science	6		Drama	1
PE	4		Modern Foreign Languages*	6
PSHE	1		Music	2
Geography	3		Religious Studies	2
History	3			

Curriculum

In Years 8 and 9, students study the following subjects:

Subject	Teaching hours per fortnight		Subject	Teaching hours per fortnight
English Language	3		Design & Innovation	3
English Literature	4		Art	2
QEGS Reads	1		Computer Science	1
Maths	7		Dance	1
Science	6		Drama	1
PE	4		Modern Foreign Languages	6
PSHE	1		Music	2
Geography	3		Religious Studies	2
History	3			

See our Curriculum Hub for more detail on the topics studied each half term: <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/Learning/>

In year 8, all subjects are taught in mixed prior attainment groups.

In year 9, students are taught mostly in mixed prior attainment groups, with Year 9 maths and science 'banded' by prior attainment.

Year 9 students will complete an initial interest survey in December, then select their preferred KS4 options in February of Year 9. These will be confirmed in May 2024 ready to start in September 2024.

Curriculum

In years 10 and 11, students study a core of English, maths, science, RE, PSHE and PE, plus three option subjects, including history or geography (or both):

Subject	Teaching hours per fortnight		Subject	Teaching hours per fortnight
English Language	3		PSHE	1
English Literature	5		Core IT	1
Maths	7		P Option	6
Science ²	10		Q Option	6
RE ³	3		T Option	6
PE	2			

Maths and science are set by prior attainment in Year 11, and maths are set by prior attainment in year 10. All other subjects are taught in mixed prior attainment groups.

² Students who wish to take Triple Science (separate sciences) in Year 10 have an additional two hours of science with reduced time (2 hours) in RE, and Core IT studied via drop-down sessions. Students in Year 11 chose Triple Science as one of their three options.

³ Students study GCSE RE for 3 hours a fortnight or 2 if they study triple science.

Curriculum

The most recent option blocks can be found on our Year 9 options page. Year 9 students complete an initial interest survey in December and blocks are organised for the maximum number of students to be able to study their first-choice subjects.

<https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/year-9-options-2023/>

The blocks for students starting year 10 in 2023 are:

Key Stage 4 Option Blocks 2023/2024

Block 1	Block 2	Block 3
Agriculture/Animal Care	Art Textiles	Art Craft and Design
Dance	Business Studies	Business Studies
Geography	Digital Media	Construction
History	Spanish	Design & Technology
French	Geography	Food Preparation & Nutrition
Childcare	History	Geography
Drama	GCSE PE	History
Food Preparation & Nutrition	Sport	Music
Computer Science		Spanish
Design & Technology		Engineering

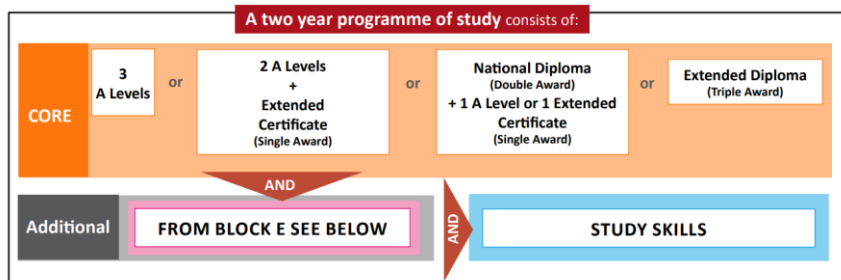
- All students study the core subjects (English Language, English Literature, Science, Maths, PE, RS, Core IT, RSE & PSHE).
- Students then choose THREE options and must choose either History or Geography (students can choose to study both).
- Student must choose one option and one reserve option from each block.
- Please note: these option blocks are subject to change.

Scan the QR code to access our year 9 options page for 2023:



Curriculum

In years 12 and 13, students can choose from a wide range of subjects: A levels, vocational or a mixture.



Option blocks for 22_23.

Note these can be subject to change. Each option in blocks A to D is allocated 9 or 10 teaching hours per fortnight.

Option E is allocated 5 hours per fortnight.

Click the link or scan the QR code to access the sixth form webpage on our website

<https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/sixth-form/>



Go 4 Schools

At QEGS we use Go 4 Schools to communicate with parents and carers
At any time, you can log in to access:

- **Homework** – Homework tasks due in the next 7 days
- **Attendance** – Shown from the start of the academic year
- **Timetable** – Your child’s daily and weekly timetable
- **Behaviour information** – including QEGS Points awarded
- **Real-time assessment information** –for all subjects as they are updated throughout the year.

<https://www.go4schools.com/parents/>

Students can also access GO 4 Schools with their school username and password, and we strongly encourage this.

<https://www.go4schools.com/students/>

Guidance on how to access Go 4 Schools and use the mobile app can be found on the Assessment and Reporting page of our website. Click on the link or scan the QR code to access the page.

<https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/parents/assessment-and-reporting/>



Assessment & Reporting

At QEGS, students are expected to be able to answer two questions:

- What can I do well?
- What do I need to do to improve?

Feedback happens every lesson, including:

- Do Now retrieval strategies at the start of every lesson, challenging students to review prior learning and consolidate knowledge
- Assessment for learning or a learning check happens every lesson
- Teachers use questioning to identify misconceptions and provide instantaneous feedback

Book/classwork checks are carried out at least once per term, looking at presentation and effort. You will see these as Blue, Green, Amber or Red behaviour events on GO 4 Schools.

Formal assessments are carried out a minimum of once per term, and these are used to update the predicted grades on Go 4 Schools. Feedback is given, identifying strengths and next steps, and students are given time to act on the improvements.

Assessments can take many forms, including:

- End of unit or end of topic tests
- Exam questions
- Online assessments
- Presentation
- Performance

Assessment & Reporting

We have **formal assessment windows** for each year group, and most subjects will carry out their assessments at that time, either in lesson or in the sports hall set up for exams. Each year group is given at least one opportunity to sit exams in the sports hall; this helps them to get used to the routines and reduce the stress of the examinations at the end of years 11 and 13.

Assessment and Reporting Overview 2023/24

Year group	Formal assessment windows	Reports *Issued week commencing	PCE dates (all Thursdays)	Exams in hall (or sixth form common room)
7	20/11/23 to 8/12/23 26/2/24 to 15/3/24 10/6/24 to 24/6/24	18/12/23 25/3/23 8/7/24	14/3/24	CATS September
8	20/11/23 to 8/12/23 26/2/24 to 15/3/24 10/6/24 to 24/6/24	18/12/23 25/3/23 8/7/24	8/2/24	History and Geography in June
9	20/11/23 to 8/12/23 26/2/24 to 15/3/24 10/6/24 to 24/6/24	18/12/23 25/3/23 8/7/24	30/11/23	English, maths and science in June

Assessment & Reporting

Year group	Formal assessment windows	Reports * Issued week commencing	PCE dates (all Thursdays)	Exams in hall (or sixth form common room)
10	20/11/23 to 8/12/23 26/2/24 to 15/3/24 10/6/24 to 17/6/24 (Summer Exams)	18/12/23 25/3/23 8/7/24	18/4/24	Some of the summer exams (others will be in class)
11	6/11 to 17/11 (including core mocks in hall) 22/1/24 to 22/2/24 (Mock Exams)	4/12/23 26/2/24	18/1/24	Core mock exams in November and full mocks in January
12	19/2/24 to 1/3/24 (including some exams in common room) 3/6/24 to 21/6/24	18/3/24 8/7/24	21/3/24	Summer mock exams
13	9/10/23 to 27/10/23 15/1/24 to 26/1/24 (Mock exams)	6/11/23 19/2/24	22/2/24	January mock exams

Reports

On each report for each subject, you will see target and prediction grades and scores for each of the 3Rs: Respectful, Responsible and Ready to Achieve.

Years 7 and 8

We use GCSE grades for grade estimates from years 7-11, but band these grades in Year 7 and 8, for example 3>5 or 6>8. We want our students to focus on making progress in every subject during key stage 3 rather a focus on single GCSE grades.

- The Target is the grade band we expect they could achieve at the end of Year 11 and is based upon both an external target (from Fischer Family Trust, based on Key Stage 2 and/or CATS data)
- The Prediction is the most likely grade band that we believe they would achieve based on current assessment data.

Years 9, 10 and 11

- The Target is the grade we expect they could achieve at the end of Year 11 and is based upon both an external target (from Fischer Family Trust based on Key Stage 2 and/or CATS data)
- The Prediction is the most likely grade that we believe they would achieve based on current assessment data.

Years 12 and 13

- The Target is the grade we expect they could achieve at the end of Year 13 and is based upon their average GCSE score.
- The Prediction is the most likely grade that we believe they would achieve based on current assessment data.
- For Year 13 only, reports also include the UCAS Prediction which students use for university applications

** Although reports are issued on a specific date, the latest grades can be checked at any time in GO 4 Schools*

Reports will be issued via GO 4 Schools, but students will also be given printed copies of their reports in tutor-time and given guidance on interpreting the information on grades and attendance. Where reports are issued in the final week of a term, this may happen at the start of the next term.

Homework

At QEGS we value the contribution homework has on student progress. Students are set compulsory homework by all subjects. Core subjects (English, Maths, Science and Languages) set the equivalent of 30 minutes of homework a week. All other subjects set a minimum of 30 minutes work a fortnight. Students who complete homework will be rewarded through the QEGS points system as we want to praise and recognise students who complete and submit their homework.

Homework that goes beyond the expectations of the class teacher will be rewarded with a greater number of QEGS points. Students who fail to complete homework will receive a no homework log on Go4Schools.

All homework is set on Go4Schools, and students are made aware by their class teacher.

What types of Homework can your child expect?

Teachers will set homework in a variety of ways, for example:

- English - spellings challenges, independent reading activities and consolidation tasks.
- Maths - a mixture of consolidation, revision and flipped learning tasks.
- Science - a mixture of consolidation, retrieval (recalling knowledge previously learnt) and revision tasks.
- Independent work will continue to be set for all other subjects, focusing on consolidation and retrieval practice to embed learning from lessons. This can include research to bring into practical lessons such as Design and Technology which will then support the work done in the lessons or learning of key vocabulary for subjects such as languages.

Homework

Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

Students are likely to be set a piece of homework per week for their subjects. This can be developing their independent research skills, creating revision materials, and completing exam style questions.

Key stage 3 homework club:

To further support Key Stage 3 students with their homework, we run a homework club on Tuesday lunchtimes in room 501, supervised by a member of staff, where Year 12 students can help with a variety of subjects. It will be supervised by staff as well and anyone in their will be expected to be completing homework and behaving appropriately. They will have access to technology to complete any online homework tasks. Students receive QEGS points for attending and their effort in the club.

How can parents and carers support their child with homework:

- Take an interest, but do not complete the work for them.
- Find your child an appropriate space to work.
- Contact your child's Form Tutor should you have any general concerns about homework, or for questions about a specific piece of homework contact the class teacher.

Homework

Key Stage 5 (Years 12 and 13)

QEGS Sixth Formers are expected to do 5 hours of independent learning per subject, per week. All subjects/teachers provide students with a structure, set of resources and advice around how to complete this work; independent learning tasks may include the following:

- Structured homework tasks (one per half term as a minimum)
- Flipped reading/learning
- Practice exam questions
- Revision tasks
- Seneca
- Wider reading
- Research

Students will be advised where to access the relevant resources to complete their homework or independent learning; this often involves accessing their class MS Teams, go4schools or OneDrive accounts. Please contact individual subject areas for specific information and advice regarding the above arrangements.

Useful Links

For Curriculum Plans for each subject in all year groups, visit our Curriculum Page and click on the Curriculum Hub Link:

<https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/Learning/>



For information on the process for Year 9 options, an explanation of the Ebacc qualification, and our Key Stage 4 prospectus, please visit the year 9 options 2023 page on our website:

<https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/year-9-options-2023/>



For further information on assessment and reporting, including a explanation of the number gradings for book checks and the 3Rs, please visit the Assessment and Reporting page of our website, by clicking the link or scanning the QR code:

<https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/parents/assessment-and-reporting/>



If you would like to ask further information about any of the content in this booklet, please contact Miss Ward

ward@qegs.email

For subject specific questions, you can find the Leaders for each subject on the full staff on our website:

<https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2023/09/Staff-List-01092023v2.pdf>

