

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity

Temporary Chair of Governors: Mr N Moore



19th July 2024

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

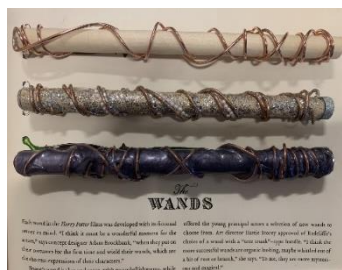
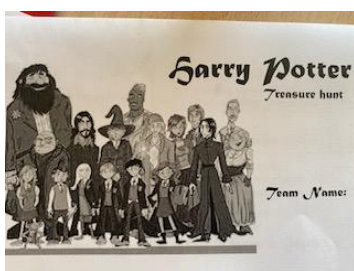
Weekly Bulletin #39

Enrichment Week

Year 7 have enjoyed a visit to Ilam and a return walk back to school.



Year 7 students have been very actively immersing themselves in a Harry Potter event where they creatively designed their own wands, storage containers with personalised name plate. In addition to this there was a Potter inspired treasure hunt and challenges. Students had a great time and were a credit to themselves and school when visiting Cold Eaton Ice creams as they behaved impeccably. Well done Year 7 we are very proud of you.



On Wednesday and Thursday some of our Year 9 students took part in activities run by 'The Problem Solving Company'. Our students worked extremely hard on a range of problem solving and teambuilding activities alongside the escape room scenario which was to break into a bank vault. It was a fantastic day, where our students got to work in teams and test out their problem solving and logic skills – all which stem from and are improved with maths. Students were well engaged throughout, and the company brought in were excellent.





Year 10 WOW Week

Well WOW what a week. I have had just the best time with the Year 10s this week and I know Mr Hamer and the Tutor Team feel the same. There were plenty of highs but my favourite part of the week was watching them all go nervously into their mock interview with our volunteers from industry and come out about 2 inches taller beaming with pride and often thrusting their feedback sheet at me proclaiming how well they had done. This opinion was shared by our interviewers who used words such as 'amazing' 'talented' and 'impressive' to describe how they had done. It was noted by the interviewers how well students tackled the questions. This year the tutor team has spent more time preparing the students for interviews using techniques such as the STAR method (situation, task, action results) and allowing them to draft responses to common questions. Thanks goes to Mrs Bramwell for organising the employer day and thanks to our volunteers for coming in to showcase their industry and give up their time to develop our students.



Another success was The Army, the student's feedback mentions both the career talk and teambuilding activities as highlights of the week. Students also really enjoyed their reward BBQ (shame about the weather earlier in the week!) and their primary style sports day. Thanks Mr Hamer for being the Director of Fun for these activities.

The key comment to come out of the feedback has been that the week has opened the students' eyes to opportunities and options. There is still work to do on this and all students will receive a careers interview next year and will have further support making their applications to their post 16 destination.

Please ask your child to show you the Unifrog software package as there is lots of information on there to help them make their choices. Also, ask to see their WOW booklet as there is useful information in there about using social media to find a job and information about apprenticeships.

Have a great summer Year 10 and I look forward to supporting you into Year 11.

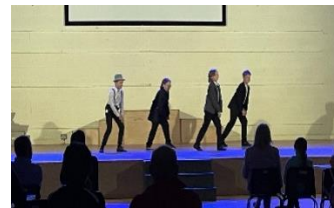
Lichfield Festival

Last week, 8 music and drama students travelled to Lichfield Festival to volunteer as the concert management team based in venues across the city. They got a real taste of what it is like to work in the industry. Their tasks ranged from transporting water and stacking chairs fulfilling riders and working on the front of house and backstage before and during the concerts. The students were lucky to experience live performances from The Lord Chamberlain's Men, The Longest Johns, BBC National Orchestra of Wales and The Ronnie Scott's Jazz club, among many more fantastic artists. The festival would not have happened without all of their hard work! A huge thank you to Alasdair C, Ava L and Imogen W-J (Year 13), Meri B, Arlo McP, Lucas S and Jay W-J (Year 12) and Oscar D (Year 10). Many thanks also to Miss Pettingale for facilitating this amazing work experience opportunity!



Key Stage 3 Magical Musical Review

A range of students across Years 7-9 have worked hard towards their first performance over the last term. Last week they performed pieces from Bugsy Malone, Annie, Six, Billy Elliot and many more. This was their first performance where they held leading roles without students in older years. We are immensely proud of them and look forward to working with them next year on our junior production of Bugsy Malone.



Sixth Form

This week our Year 12 students have been out on work experience placements, on residential trips and in school making a difference to our Sixth Form site.

Our students have been on various work experience placements, working in local primary schools, vet practices, JCB and Ashbourne Golf Club to name a few. We have received so many phone calls and messages from the work experience contacts including; "how well they are getting on", "they are an asset to the school" and "what a good work ethic they have". Some of our students have been tasked project work throughout this week and set deadlines to complete presentations by Friday. We are very proud of all our students who have completed their work experience this week and in previous weeks.



Equally in school, students who were unable to source a placement have had a great week making improvements to the Sixth Form site. It has made a real difference, so thank you from the Sixth Form team.

Mr Fursman, along with other Sixth Form staff have had a fantastic few days this week and last, on a residential trip with some of our Year 12 students. The focus was personal development, participation and reflection, including problem solving and creating a radio programme.

Finally, the Year 10 students had a taster day in Sixth Form on Monday this week. Our students had mock interviews and got to experience the culture and ethos and what it feels like to be a Sixth Student at QEGS ready to start making their applications to Sixth Form in the Autumn Term.

We are pleased to inform you that the **Sixth Form Open Evening** takes place on **Tuesday 8th October 2024**, so please add this date to your diary.

This will be the last update from Mrs Allen who is to start her maternity leave over the summer holidays. We would like to wish Mrs Allen all the very best ahead of this special time with her family.

As a reminder Mr Walker will be maternity cover Head of Sixth Form during Mrs Allens maternity leave and Mr Chow joins the Sixth Form leadership team as Deputy Head of Sixth Form maternity cover. Congratulations to both.

Derbyshire Dales Athletic Competition

On Friday we took over 100 Year 7-10 students to compete in the Derbyshire Dales Athletics competition at Moorways.

For some it was the first time competing, for others it was the last time competing for QEGS. We came away with lots of new PBs, lots of happy students and lots of happy staff.

Thank you to the Sixth Form students that came to help. Well done everyone!

Results as follows:

Year 7 Girls- 2nd

Year 7 Boys- 1st

Year 8 Girls- Joint 2nd

Year 8 Boys- 3rd

Year 9 Girls- 1st

Year 9 Boys- 2nd

Year 10 Girls- 1st

Year 10 Boys- 2nd



QEGSMAT Vacancies

Please keep an eye on our vacancies at QEGS and within the trust. Further details can be found at:

<https://www.qegsmat.com/current-vacancies/>

School Meals

We have a new catering contractor for September, ABM catering. See letter sent out earlier this week for further details. Please do not top up your ParentPay account until 1st September.

Staff Leaving

We say farewell to Mrs Challinor (Science), Mr Houghton (SEND), Mr Bawden (RS and PSHE), Mrs Fisher (Geography), Miss Jordan (SEND) and wish Mrs Edwards and Mrs Allen well on their maternity leave. Thank you to these departing colleagues who have helped make a difference to our students' lives.

Upcoming Key Dates This Term:

- **19th July – Last day of term**
- 19th July – Year 6 uniform pop-up shop – 3pm - 5pm
- 22nd and 23rd July – INSET school closed to students and staff
- 22nd July – Year 6 pop-up shop – 10am - 3:30pm
- 5th August – Year 6 pop-up shop – 10am - 3:30pm
- **15th August – A level results – 8am - 10am**
- **19th – 23rd August – Year 6 summer school**
- **22nd August – GCSE results – 8am - 10am**
- 27th – 29th August – Axiom Maths summer school
- **4th and 5th September – INSET – school open for staff only**
- **6th September – School reopens for Year 7, 10 and 12 students ONLY**
- **9th September – ALL students to return to school**

Finally

We wish all our students, staff, parents and carers a restful and safe summer.

The school site will look very different when we return in September as lots of improvements and refurbishment takes place. We want to thank in advance, the site team and support staff who continue to work over the summer period to get us ready for a new academic year.

We look forward to seeing Year 11 and Year 13 students when they return to collect their results on 15th and 22nd August. Support and guidance from staff will be available on both days – plus some complimentary breakfast and hot drinks to calm the nerves and emotions (mostly of parents!).

Safeguarding provision and contact details with guidance, for over the summer can be found here:

<https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/key-information/safeguarding-sign-post/#1585661923826-1a27f70b-e5e2>

Thank you for your support this year, we could not do it without you. Take care.

Yours faithfully



Scott Garrity
Headteacher