

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity

Chair of Governors: Mr N Moore



28th February 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #23

Road closures in Ashbourne from Monday 10th March 2025

Please take time to read the attached information to the bulletin as the planned road closures may mean parents/carers need to allow extra time for alternative routes to school.

Shrovetide 'Spot & Seek Trail'

The Shrovetide Spot & Seek Trail is running from Saturday 1st March to Sunday 16th March. Created in partnership with St Oswald's Primary School, the trail is designed to engage families, encourage exploration of the town centre, and celebrate Ashbourne's most cherished tradition—Shrovetide!

As you wander through the streets of Ashbourne, you'll discover beautifully hand-crafted Shrovetide balls, created by the talented students from St Oswald's Primary School. These colourful works of art will be hidden in shop windows throughout the town centre, each one representing the spirit and excitement of this historic event.

Gather your friends and family, explore the town's streets, and see if you can spot them all!

Keep an eye out—some are tucked away in places you might not expect. As you find them, make a note of how many are Up'ard and how many are Down'ard, then submit your answers using the QR code displayed along the trail for the chance to win a prize, kindly donated by the Shrovetide Players Committee.

The organisers of the trail would love to see the local community in Ashbourne and the surrounding areas getting involved - exploring the town centre, engaging with the trail, and celebrating a historic tradition!



Catch up CAT testing for Years 7-10

In school, we assess our students to see what their needs are and how we can best help them to learn and achieve. As part of this process, we will be administering the Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs) to children who have missed or joined us mid-year in Years 7-10.

If this is your child, they will sit it during their lessons. This will happen during the first 2 weeks back after half term break. These tests are computer based and will last 2-3 lessons.

Year 11 students treated today at lunch

We are so proud of our Year 11 students for their hard work, dedication and behaviour during their mocks over the last two weeks. We provided a little treat to say thank you over lunch today. Good luck to all of them in the summer exams #TeamQEGS



MFL in the Community

It's great to report that the U3A group held their first Spanish Group meeting with Mrs Pontet helping to run the group to provide her language skills at an 'improvers' level for those who already speak some Spanish but want to improve their fluency and confidence.

Members of the group took part in several speaking, listening, reading and writing tasks to identify what levels they could be working at, including a game of Bingo.

Currently interest has been high to join the group, and a waiting list is now in place.



Meet the SENCO and Deputy Headteacher – Boothby Campus

School will be holding 'Meet & Greet' afternoons in March with Miss Robinson, SENCO on Monday 17th March, 12:50pm to 1:50pm, and Mr Walker, Deputy Headteacher on Monday 24th March, 2:15pm to 3:15pm. Tea/Coffee refreshments will be provided at the Boothby Campus Canteen. Please use the links below to book a place if parents/carers would like to attend. Visitors on the day are asked to sign in at the Boothby Campus Reception prior to the events.

Meet the SENCO

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/gegsashbourne/meet-the-senco-coffee-morning/e-gyqykg>

Meet the Deputy Headteacher

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/gegsashbourne/meet-the-deputy-headteacher-coffee-morning/e-rgegxy>

Break and Lunch Zones/Boothby lunches after half term

With a new half term comes a change to the break and lunch zones:

- Rear of school (courts, back of sports hall and observatory area) Years 7 and 11, with Year 7 football tournament on Tuesday and Year 11 on Thursday with Mr Garrity
- Years 8 and 10 front of school
- Year 9 quad

Boothby Lunches:

- Year 9 Monday to Thursday
- Year 11 Friday – this is to support with sixth form queries and Sixth Form for Sixth Form Transition

Sporting success outside of school

Congratulations to Xan G-B, Year 11, who was awarded his 1st Dan Black Belt last weekend in Stringer Ryu JUKADO, a multi discipline, modern martial art and self-defence.

This is a culmination of 10 years weekly training and dedication to his hobby. Well done Xan.

Dylan S, Year 11, boxed for The East Midlands Challenge belt beating a national and 3 nations champion in a highly competitive match, Dylan boxed exceptionally well winning the belt in comprehensive fashion. The bout was held in Newark Nottinghamshire on the Lion's Den ABC boxing show. Dylan walked into the Lion's Den and snatched a belt from the jaws of their best talent



QEGSMAT Vacancies

Please keep an eye on our vacancies at QEGS and within the trust.

Currently live for QEGS:

- Relief Exam Invigilator

Further details can be found at: <https://qegsmat.face-ed.co.uk/vacancies>

School Canteen

Menu following half term break is week 3 –

<https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/parents/canteen/>

Upcoming Key Dates This Term

- 10th March – Start of Spring 2 Term
- 13th March – Year 7, Parent Teacher Meetings, face-to-face and onsite
- 14th March – CDM Blue Media Day
- 17th March – Meet Miss Robinson, SENCO, Boothby Campus, 12:50pm to 1:50pm
- 19th March – Year 13 trip to Sheffield Hallam, Molecular Biology workshop
- 20th March – Year 12, Parent Teacher Meetings, face-to-face and onsite
- 24th March – Meet Mr Walker, Deputy Headteacher, Boothby Campus, 2:15pm to 3:15pm
- 24th to 29th March – School Show week 'Westside Story'
- 25th March – Bronze DofE training – meal prep
- 31st March to 4th April – Year 10 Spanish, Madrid trip
- 1st April – Primary Sports, netball
- 4th April – last day of Spring 2 term

Finally

Welcome to Phoebe Brereton who has joined our Student Services team recently.

Lockdown Monday 24th February 2025

Thank you to students, staff, parents and carers for your support, care, trust and faith in our actions on Monday. We have had so many messages of thanks from students, parents and carers which really support our culture and value of 'care' for the QEGS community.

Due to our commitment in being ready for such events, our drills for staff and student training aided the calmness and safety for all. The conduct of the vast majority of students during this event was impeccable and I have thanked them for their mature response.

My key messages to students and staff this week have been focused on thanks, ongoing safety for all, the importance of following instructions and routines and maintaining a vigilant and cautious approach to safety. Students have also had the chance to reflect on the risks and harm of social media, rumours and speculation which caused real harm and worry for some members of the school and wider community.

As any organisation would do, we have been fully reviewing the incident, what worked well and what can be improved going forward. Whilst we hope these events remain rare, the best drill is a real event and there are lots of positives and learning that we take forward from this. After half term, I will be updating students, staff, parents and carers on the outcome of the review so that collectively we can help keep each other safe and support each other should such incidents occur again in the future.

Huge thank you again for your support. Have a safe and restful (or active, if attending Shrovetide) half term.

Yours faithfully



Scott Garrity
Headteacher

Encl: Information provided by Derbyshire Dales re: Road closures to start after half term

PLAN YOUR JOURNEY – ROAD CLOSURES TO START AFTER HALF TERM

The next stage of the UK Government funded [Ashbourne Reborn](#) town centre transformation is due to start after half term with the closure of St John Street to traffic, and the introduction of a 7.5 tonne weight limit restricting HGV access to the town centre from Monday 10 March. Please be aware of how this could affect you as you travel to school and allow extra time if necessary.

Roadworks are due to start on the north section of Dig Street, and will extend from the junction with St John Street to the bottom of Buxton Road. This builds on work which began on the south section of Dig Street earlier in the year, where the first sections of the new paving are being installed.

This means that additional traffic management measures will start from Monday 10 March, including local diversions northbound to avoid the closed section of the A515:

- Southbound light traffic will be unaffected and will be able to travel down Buxton Road as usual.
- Cars and light vehicles wishing to travel north (A515 St John Street) should follow diversions for 'Town Centre Parking' along Park Road, Cockayne Avenue and The Green Road, as an alternative to Compton, Dig Street and St John Street.
- Hall Lane will be one way from South to North (uphill), open for access and buses only. Entry will be from Park Rd/Cockayne Avenue.
- HGVs over 7.5 tonnes will be diverted away from the town centre altogether during the transformation works.
- A short diversion for cars and light vehicles remains in place along King Edward Street, Station Road and Church Street.

The road closures and HGV restrictions are expected to stay in place until September this year.

The highways and public space changes, led by the County Council are part of an overall £15.9m scheme that aims to bring back vibrancy, vitality and economic prosperity to Ashbourne town centre, with £13.4m UK government funding and the rest raised locally by project partners. The programme is led by Derbyshire Dales District Council working with Derbyshire County Council and Ashbourne Methodist Church as key delivery partners, in collaboration with Ashbourne Town Team, Ashbourne Town Council and AshCom who brought forward project ideas, identified opportunities and raised match funding for the bid.

To receive email updates, sign up for the newsletter at the District Council website www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/enewsreg (tick the box for Ashbourne Reborn), or visit the Ashbourne Reborn website www.ashbournereborn.co.uk for the latest news, FAQs and detailed information about the project. To follow on social media, find @AshbourneReborn on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#).

Traffic Management – Town Centre Diversion:

Local diversion via Park Road and
Cokayne Avenue

Hall Lane to become one way
(northbound) for access and buses
only

Road closure



Town Centre Parking

- Cars and light vehicles travelling south from the A515 can use Buxton Rd, St John Street and Park Road as usual.
- Cars and light vehicles wishing to travel north (A515 St John Street) should follow diversions for 'Town Centre Parking' along Park Road, Cokayne Avenue and Green Road, as an alternative to Compton, Dig Street and St John Street.
- Hall lane will be one way from South to North (uphill), accessed by cars and buses only. Access will be from Park Rd/Cockayne Avenue, with no entry from Green Road.
- Traffic may still access Compton to use local shops and services.

This information was accurate on 7 January 2025. It will be updated as the programme progresses.