

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity

Chair of Governors: Mr N Moore



16th May 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #31

QEGS Students Commemorate 80 Years of VE Day

On Saturday, 10th May, a dedicated group of QEGS students joined the Ashbourne community at the memorial gates to mark the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. Year 12 students Lottie C, Rob W, and Scarlett C respectfully read the names of the brave men from Ashbourne who lost their lives during the Second World War. Standard bearers Ewan M and Izzy T (Year 12) carried out their duties with precision, thanks to excellent training from fellow student and cadet, Rob W.

It was wonderful to see a strong presence of QEGS students representing various community organisations, especially the cadets, with Rob W also driving the parade and commanding their movements admirably. The solemn service also included the laying of wreaths and a poignant two-minute silence, providing an opportunity for all present to reflect and remember. The service finished with new memorial benches being unveiled as part of the VE Day commemoration. We extend our sincere thanks to all those who participated so respectfully and attended this important commemoration on a warm morning. Our students conducted themselves impeccably and were a credit to QEGS.

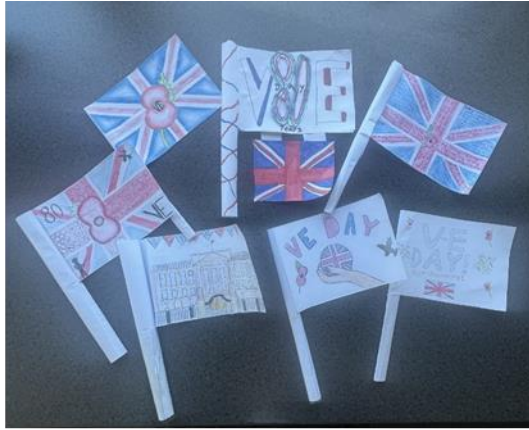


VE Day 80 Flag Competition Winners!

A huge well done to everyone who entered our Year 7 and Year 8 VE Day 80 flag competition. We received so many fantastic and creative entries, making the judging very difficult. Congratulations to our talented winners:

Year 7: Phoebe H, Ava S, Edgar W Year 8: Evelyn M, Deyalah E, Miley L, India T

Your winning designs truly captured the spirit of VE Day!



Junior Maths challenge

A massive well done to the 31 Year 7 and 8 students who took part in the Junior Maths challenge. This is a voluntary challenge which encourages mathematical reasoning and fluency to make students think outside the box to enhance their logic and problem-solving skills. Our students all did exceptionally well with 12 Bronze certificates, 7 Silver and 6 Gold. Four of our students have qualified onto the Junior Kangaroo round which is fantastic!

A huge well done to all our students who took part.

Music Department News

The Music department continues to be busier than ever before with many events completed and many more on the horizon.

After a very busy spring term with the school show, Saturday 10th May saw members of the QEGS Band and Choir opening the VE Day celebrations on the park with 1 hour of musical entertainment. As always, the students rose to the occasion and entertained the crowds with their performances, and although the weather was warm and sunny, the wind added an extra challenge with music having to be taped to music stands. I would like to thank the students for giving up their Saturday afternoon to represent QEGS at this event, many of whom were getting ready for their first exams this week. Well done and thank you to all involved.

Student Spotlight: George R (Year 7). George is keeping himself very busy both in and out of school with music. Not only does he perform in the QEGS music ensembles, but he is busy entering competitions and performing at local festivals. At the beginning of the year, he won the junior instrumentalist category at the Ashbourne Rotary Music competition. In March, George achieved first place his category in the EPTA National Piano competition held at Leeds University. More recently, he won several prizes as part of the Derby Arts Festival, including winning three 1st prizes in different performance categories. George will be performing at the winners' concert for the Derby Arts Festival, to be held at Derby Cathedral later this term.



Congratulations to George for these splendid achievements. He is a truly talented musician so watch this space!

Dates for your Diary:

- Tuesday 24th June - recital evening at St Oswald's church (further details TBC)
- Thursday 3rd July - Les Mis in concert (tickets available soon)

DofE updates

We are very proud of Henry V in Year 13 who collected his Gold DofE award last week from Buckingham Palace. Henry had a great day including listening to a speech from Prince Edward and tea and cake in the gardens. Huge well done!



DofE Bronze and Silver groups completed their training expedition last week. Everyone had training in navigation and map reading skills are much better. They also had input on the countryside code, first aid and how to use EpiPens. They experienced carrying all their own kit and camping overnight. We had lots of fun and students know what to improve for the qualifier after half term. Misty packing lighter and bringing food that is easy to carry and cook.



Charlie & the Chocolate Factory, Derby Youth Musical Theatre

James Bn, James By (both Year 8) and Louie D (Year 7) were in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory at Derby Theatre last week. Both James' played Charlie, as there were two teams due to the ages of the children, and Louie was Mike Teavee. It was through Good Companions Musical Theatre. The show was brilliant, and the lads did so well.



The next Derby Youth Musical Theatre show is in November 2025 and will be Joseph and his Technicolour Dream Coat at Derby Theatre, with Oscar D (Year 10) as Joseph and James Br, Jack B (Year 8) and Louie D. Tickets are on sale now on the Derby Theatre website.

Boxing inside and outside of school

Effie P started boxing in Spring 2024 after seeing her older cousin George P (ex-QEGS student) take part in a white-collar fight. Effie trains at One Bomb Amateur Boxing Club in Stoke 4-5 times a week and is now part of the amateur squad at One Bomb. Effie has had 6 skills bouts to date; this is where there is no decision by the judges but is about young boxers getting practice in the ring and helps boxers gain experience and confidence in a controlled environment. Next, she will be going onto decision bouts.

Friday night was One Bomb Amateur Boxing Clubs home show named 'May the Gloves Fly' in Newcastle under Lyme, whilst there was no decision, Effie was very much the winner. At shows she goes by her aka name 'The Pocket Rocket'.



First week of May launched the first session of our very first boxing club, brilliantly led by a parent volunteer alongside Mr Bateman. It was a great success and a fantastic example of the positive impact of community involvement within our school. Students interested in coming along – the club takes place on Thursdays from 5pm to 6pm, please speak to Mr Bateman for more information.

Primary Sports – Thank you

This week we had 17 Year 3 & 4 teams competing in the Kwik cricket primary festival. Well done to everybody and thank you to the Year 9 sports leaders and our Year 10 and Sixth Form helpers.



Introducing Mr Davis, Deputy Headteacher

I've been incredibly excited to be part of #TEAMQEGS, and proud to be appointed Deputy Headteacher.

I have had various role over the last 18 years including working as a Trust Senior Leader being deployed to schools in Nottingham and Derbyshire to support and rapid change. I have led on many areas of school leadership but have spent most of my time overseeing behaviour and inclusion. I have moved on from an inner-city school in Nottingham after taking it from inadequate to good and being a city focus school for inclusion and behaviour.

I have loved my first week here, and have already been made to feel welcome. QEGS Is a special place with a great reputation. I hope the experience and enthusiasm I can bring will help to continue to strengthen the educational offer and drive standards forward.

As you will get to know, I am very competitive. As an ex-PE teacher, I still love sport and exercise and use every opportunity to get out and do things with my family.

Looking forward to working with you all more closely over the coming weeks.

QEGSMAT Vacancies

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

Currently live for QEGS vacancies:

- Cover Supervisor
- Teacher of History
- Caretaker

<https://qegsmat.face-ed.co.uk/vacancies>

School Canteen

Menu next week is week 2 –

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

Upcoming Key Dates This Term

- 19th May – A Levels & GCSE examinations continue
- 19th May – 23rd May – GCSE Geography Rivers Trips
- 20th May – Primary Sports, Kwik cricket
- 23rd May – Last Day of half term
- 2nd June – start of Summer 2

Finally

Thank you to the kind person who nominated me to attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, to honour and thank professionals from the Education and Skills sector. I have been in teaching for 31 years, working at schools in Liverpool, Chester and Ashbourne and this was probably one of the biggest honours I have received in my professional career.



However, as I said in my weekly message to staff and students, this is not a 'one man show' and all the colleagues I have worked with and all the students who have been educated at QEGS and at my previous two schools should be honoured too. Teamwork is the key to any success and I have a great team of colleagues here at QEGS from the site staff, to office staff, to cleaners, canteen team, education team of teachers and TAs and governors too. Everyone plays their part in running a school and in educating a generation of young people.

Yours faithfully

Scott Garrity
Headteacher