



24th July 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #40

Group 1 – Greece Conservation Trip

Group 1 have returned from an incredible 10-day conservation adventure in Kefalonia. Throughout the trip, students have been pushed outside their comfort zone, whether through the hands-on activities or simply adapting to the routines of camp life without their usual home comforts. It was truly inspiring to witness their growth in confidence, resilience, and independence.

Partnering with the team at Wildlife Sense, a local conservation organisation, students contributed to real-world data collection and research focused on the endangered loggerhead sea turtle. Their efforts included early-morning beach patrols to monitor nesting sites, snorkel surveys to assess seagrass health, and harbour observations to study turtle behaviour and human interaction. Sustainability workshops also challenged students to design creative solutions to environmental issues facing the island.

We're proud of everything Group 1 achieved, and we hope to offer this opportunity to other year groups in the future. Watch this space!



Huge Congratulations to the KS3 Summer Show Team!

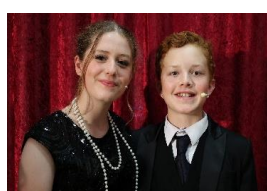
Our first ever KS3 only production, Buggy Malone, was a spectacular success! Featuring talented students from Years 7, 8, and 9, the cast delivered an energetic, hilarious, and heartwarming performance that wowed audiences throughout the week.

A special shoutout goes to our brilliant live band, made up entirely of KS3 musicians, who brought the show to life with their amazing talent, and to Mr Atkins as Musical Director.

Huge thanks to the amazing team of staff and older students who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, from choreography and directing to set design, costumes, sound, and lighting. Your creativity and dedication helped shape a truly unforgettable experience.

The final night's splurging was especially messy... and absolutely glorious!

Well done, everyone!



Year 10 WOW activities

Year 10 students have taken part in a variety of activities over the last two weeks visiting Buxton or Leek College, Sheffield Hallam University campus, and taken part in Army led workshops on teambuilding, alongside budget and finance skills plus updating CVs. Last Friday, students listened to talks from some wonderful volunteers on their paths to their chosen careers from Construction and Civil Engineers, Veterinary Surgeon, Law lecture, a former MP and MEP, Clinical Psychologist, Firefighter and Plumber, Healthcare professionals to name a few! The afternoon



was followed by one-to-one interviews with the professionals to experience speaking to an employer about themselves – many students ended the session with big smiles following the positive conversations.

This week has seen the majority of Year 10 on four days' work experience at a placement of their choice – again school passes on thanks to the employers for their time and organising the tasks for students. Some students have completed their placement in school supporting many projects taking place in school both practical and admin based. Quotes from employers include 'Chloe A has thoroughly engaged, is enthusiastic and a confident young person during her work experience here at Baytree', 'Megan B has been exemplary all week and a credit to the school' and 'Milo H has been a star all week'.

Well done to you all!

Lichfield Festival

From 10th – 20th July, students from the QEGS Music Department took part in work experience at the Lichfield Festival, where they formed the concerts management team. For a week and a half, they looked after artists, set up venues and dressing rooms, ran errands and generally made themselves



indispensable. Then in the evenings, they were backstage for concerts that included the Black Dyke Brass Band, jazz legend Jacqui Dankworth, celebrated singer Sir Willard White, Tony Hadley of Spandau Ballet fame and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. They even got to see the world premiere of a new show by Strictly's Neil Jones! Throughout it all the students were a credit to themselves and to QEGS and were complimented often on their happy and professional attitudes. A huge thank you and congratulations to Iris L, Fergus K, Oscar D and Dan S for all their hard work.

It was also lovely to see some of our QEGS alumni there as well: Ava L and Alasdair C came back to assist the concerts team, and Josh S was up on-stage playing trumpet with the Sam Every Little Big Band!

Year 12 History

Year 12 History students have hard at work making displays for their A-level topics for next year. Well done for creating such wonderful works of art! A

special thank you to Mr Hamer and Darcie M for creating a family tree to support students' learning for Paper 3- Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII. Well done all.



Sixth Form Students Leading the Way with End-of-Year Improvements

As we approach the end of the academic year, our Sixth Form students have been making a remarkable contribution to the Boothby site, taking the lead on a number of improvement projects. Their main focus has been the refurbishment of their new common room. Students have been busy cleaning, painting, and preparing the space for the arrival of new sofas and custom-built bookshelves, which are currently in progress.



Beyond the common room, they've also been refreshing several Sixth Form classrooms—installing newer tables and chairs, tidying displays, and creating a more inspiring environment for the year ahead.

On Thursday, attention will turn to outdoor areas, where students will begin laying the groundwork for enhancement plans, they've put forward for the next academic year.

Every student involved in this four-day project has been an outstanding representative of the Sixth Form. Through this experience, they've demonstrated valuable life skills—teamwork, communication, and problem-solving—and we couldn't be prouder.

From all of us on the Sixth Form team, thank you to our students for their hard work, and we wish everyone a restful and well-deserved summer break.

DCC School Bus routes from September

Students eligible for a school bus pass will receive the pass during the summer break directly from DCC. If your child normally pays for a seat on the bus routes, please check the new timetables on the website the week before returning to school for any updates on timings: <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/parents/bus-routes/> Reminder, the 002 bus route will no longer be taking paying passengers, the SWIFT bus can be used as an alternative route.

Mayfield Show – Saturday 9th August 12-4pm

(Rules for Vampires) will be opening the show and doing signings, photo opportunities throughout the day.

It's not a fundraiser, just a day of summer fun for Mayfield's friends and neighbours.

More information can be found on:

<https://mramayfield.org.uk/mayfield-village-show/>



Ashbourne Big Fashion Day Out – Sunday 7th September 2025 12-4pm

Ashbourne Big Fashion Day Out, taking place on Sunday 7th September 2025 in the heart of our town, St John Street from 12pm to 4pm.

This landmark event will transform St John Street into a vibrant red-carpet runway, celebrating Ashbourne's thriving independent retail and fashion scene. With support from Ashbourne Arts and the Town Team, and in discussion with Ashbourne Town Council, setting the stage to showcase Ashbourne not just locally, but on a national platform – as a stylish, creative and inspiring retail destination with six professional fashion shows during the afternoon!

QEGSMAT Vacancies

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

Currently live for QEGSMAT vacancies:

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

School Canteen

Menu choice week beginning 8th September will be week 1 – take a look at the new menus uploaded for new academic year:

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

Upcoming Key Dates This Term

- Thurs 24th July – Last day of term
- Thurs 4th & Fri 5th September – INSET Day (school open for staff only)
- Monday 8th September – Year 7 only
- Tues 9th September – Years 7, 10 and 12 only
- Wed 10th September – All students return to school

Finally

We say farewell and good luck to the following colleagues: Rebecca McGuire-Turner (Art), Megan Crofts (History), Tom Atkins (Music), Tom Hollins (English) and Lu Reynolds (EPQ/Science) who have all made fantastic contributions to the school ranging from 1-7 years at QEGS.

Now the big hitters; farewell to Des Leighton (site team) who has worked at QEGS for 23 years and Steve Bembridge who has spent 24 years and 10 months as an educator at QEGS (as well as 6 years at QEGS as a student!).

New colleagues join us in September, and we will introduce with photographs and brief pen portraits.

We have also recently finalised some structural changes within school. We now have two new Faculties:

- Creative Faculty: this encompasses Art subjects, Creative and Digital Media and the Design and Innovation teams. The Faculty Leader is Jenny Adams (previously Head of Art, and the Deputy Faculty Leader is Beth Tilley.
- Performing Arts Faculty: this encompasses Dance, Drama and Music teams. The Faculty Leader is Stacy Corboz (previously Head of Dance/Drama) and the Deputy Faculty Leader is Catherine Pettingale.

Congratulations to our colleagues with new responsibilities and we know both faculties have bright futures.

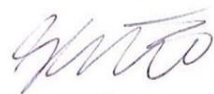
Secondly, we have a new Pastoral structure for September. **Please see the attached poster for a visual aid.**

The structure will have 2 tiers, 'leaving nothing to chance':

- The Deputy Head of Year tier remains with two new promoted posts as 'Achievement Leaders'. The Achievement Leader for Year7 will have additional responsibilities for Year 6/7 Transition and student recruitment with the Achievement Leader for Year 11 holding additional responsibilities for student outcomes and pathway progression.
- The Head of Year tier has been replaced with two promoted posts as 'Directors of Achievement'. In addition to line managing their Deputy Heads of Year/Achievement Leader, they will also oversee the achievement of their cohorts 7+8 or 9+10 (achievement in attendance, behaviour, rewards and academic outcomes). Year 11 Achievement Leader will be line managed by Michelle Ward (Assistant Headteacher) who will lead the Year 11 strategy for maximising academic success and student wellbeing.

We hope you all have a fantastic summer, and we look forward to welcoming new and existing students back to QEGS in September. Please note the dates of return for relevant year groups above in the Key Dates section of this Bulletin.

Yours faithfully,



Scott Garrity
Headteacher
#TeamQEGS

Encs: Pastoral Team 2025-26 poster



QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

PASTORAL TEAM

LEAVING NOTHING TO CHANCE

Year 7



Mr G Stevenson
Year 7/8 Director of Achievement
Stevenson@qegs.email
Room 205



Mrs N Vernon
Year 7 Achievement Leader
Vernon@qegs.email
Room 203

Year 8



Mr G Stevenson
Year 7/8 Director of Achievement
Stevenson@qegs.email
Room 205



Miss H Ratcliffe
Deputy Head of Year 8
Ratcliffe@qegs.email
Room 203

Year 9



Mrs S Dyer
Year 9/10 Director of Achievement
Dyer@qegs.email
Room 405



Miss S Forman
Deputy Head of Year 9
Forman@qegs.email
Room 403

Year 10



Mrs S Dyer
Year 9/10 Director of Achievement
Dyer@qegs.email
Room 405



Mrs S Johnson
Deputy Head of Year 10
JohnsonS@qegs.email
Room 403

Year 11



Miss M Ward
Assistant Headteacher
Leadership Link for Year 11
Ward@qegs.email
Room 307



Mr J O'Keefe
Year 11 Achievement Leader
Okeefe@qegs.email
Room 303

Year 12 & Year 13



Mrs L Allen
Assistant Headteacher
Head of Sixth Form
Allen@qegs.email
Room 850



Mr L Walker
Dept. Head of Sixth Form
WalkerL@qegs.email
Room 850