



3rd October 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #4

Izzy T's feedback from trip to Ghana with Scouts

Over the summer break, I had the amazing opportunity to travel to Ghana with Scouts to volunteer in local schools. I spent time teaching children aged between 4 and 18, running lessons on topics like 'Maths in Real Life', 'The World Around Us', and even 'Music & Rhythm'. The children were so enthusiastic and involved — it was amazing to see them asking questions, joining in, and even teaching me a few things along the way!

One of the best parts of the trip was bringing all the equipment that our school kindly donated. Thanks to everyone's support, I was able to take loads of resources — footballs, cones, chalk, pens, rubbers, sharpeners, and more. Seeing how excited the children were to use everything and knowing it would continue helping their learning long after we left was such a brilliant moment.

Outside the classroom, I got to experience Ghanaian culture, from trying new foods to exploring the local communities. The energy, friendliness, and resilience of the people I met was so inspiring, and it really made me appreciate how much can be achieved when people work together.

This trip gave me a completely new perspective on teaching and teamwork. Being in a different environment challenged me in ways I didn't expect, and I came back with so many memories — the children's smiles, the lessons we shared, and the amazing sense of community that made it all so special. I feel really lucky to have been part of this experience and so grateful to our school for the resources to share.



Brailsford Ploughing Match

On Wednesday, over 80 QEGS students across all year groups attended the Brailsford Ploughing Match, where they had the opportunity to meet with local agricultural businesses and observe agricultural ploughing and hedge laying practices.

A great way to investigate future career options, engage with potential employers and connect with the local community!

A few of our students were even competing in the ploughing and hedge laying competitions!

Left pic - Rowland & Eddie R and Joe H with Clarkson's Farm's Harriet

Right pic - Richard W with his tractor and plough - Youngest ploughman competing at Brailsford ploughing match yesterday.



Final Reminder – Year 10 and 11 Countdown to Success – Thursday 9th October, 5pm to 7pm

We are looking forward to our annual 'Countdown to Success' event on **Thursday 9th October from 5pm to 7pm** in the Main Hall block, and welcoming Year 10 and 11 students plus parents and carers during the evening. Students will have the opportunity to speak to subject teachers, receive study advice, and meet with representatives from local colleges, the Army, Juniper and Smart Gas Training and JCB. Please remember to complete the online form shared in the letter sent to parents/carers this week. Remember Year 11 this is one of your 'Locked In' events!

'Ohmigod You Guys...' it's here!

We are beyond excited to announce the cast for this year's school production of **Legally Blonde**, coming to the stage in March 2026!

From the moment Elle Woods decides to "take it like a man" and chase her dreams, to the uplifting final chorus reminding us that "you must be legally blonde", this show is packed with heart, humour, and high-energy performances.

Our talented students are ready to bend, snap, sing, and dance their way through this fabulous story. We couldn't be prouder of their dedication, teamwork, and passion.

Expect laughs. Expect sparkle. Expect to be swept away. Because in the words of Elle herself: "What you want... is right in front of you!"

Follow us on Instagram @QEGS_SchoolShow for behind-the-scenes sneak peeks, rehearsal highlights, and all the build-up to opening night. Trust us, you won't want to miss a moment!

LEGALLY BLONDE

The Musical

CAST LIST

MAIN CAST		SUPPORTING CAST	
Elle Woods	Elia S	Enid Hoopes	Robyn A
Vivienne Kensington	Esmé C	Aaron Schultz	Michael B
Brooke Wyndham	Eleanor C	Sundeep Agrawal Padamadan	Takoda L
Paulette Buonufonte	Macy G	Carlos	Louie D
Professor Callahan	Fergus K	Nikos Argitakos	Takoda L
Margot	Grace M	Chutney	Mollie-Mae M
Serena	Bella C	The Judge	Aydon M
Pilar	Flora C	District Attorney Joyce Riley	Michael B
Emmett Forrest	Julian H	The Stenographer	Lexie P
Warner Huntington	James B	Bookish Client	Lara D
		The Cashier	Lara D
		Kiki (The Colourist)	Niamh K
		The Guard	Charlie C
		H&H Salesgirl/Saleswomen	Emelia R
		Kyle O'Boyle (UPS Guy)	Charlie C
		TV Reporter	Rosie N
		Kate (Delta Nu Sorority Sister)	Niamh K
		Dawsey (Paulette's ex)	Lexie P
		The Store Manager	Aydon M
		Gaelen	Mollie-Mae M
		Leitani	Elsie R
		Mr. Woods (Elle's Dad)	Fergus K
		Mrs. Woods (Elle's Mum)	Eleanor C

Harvest Festival 2025

Week beginning 6th October sees the start of Harvest Festival assemblies to each year group, let's come together to support the Ashbourne **Food Bank** by donating essential dry foods and goods.

What to donate please:

- Tinned meats
- Tinned vegetables and fruit
- Pasta, rice and noodles
- Dried lentils, beans, pulses
- Cereal, porridge oats
- Tea, coffee, long-life milk
- Biscuits and snacks

Donations can be brought along to the assembly or can be left with Mrs Waker on Level 1 next week. All donations will go directly to the Ashbourne Food Bank to help families in need this winter. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Food Technology updates

A warm welcome to Food Technology!

We have really hit the ground running with students starting practical work, NEA work and theory work.

New for this academic year we have introduced the cooking booklets. These contain the full recipes. We hope this encourages students to read through the recipes before lesson, to help give them a better understanding of what they will be doing and help build confidence. There are QR codes that link to short videos that demonstrate skills that might be used for a particular recipe. And of course, the full recipes are there should you want to make it again!

KS3 -

Year 7 - All year 7 students will complete a rotation in Food Technology as part of Design Innovation. So far, the students have all been enthusiastic to take part in food practical lessons. They have been demonstrating the bridge and claw method effectively in dishes such as fruit salad, vegetable soup and puff pastry tarts.

Year 8 - will be cooking later in the term with Mr Phipps.

Year 9 - Have been demonstrating higher level skills so far producing a chicken dish, fish cakes and sausage rolls including making the flaky pastry from scratch.

KS4 -

Year 10 - have been tasked with selecting their own recipes for some of the practical lessons and have so far made pizza, soup and bread rolls, chicken pie and sausage plait. Year 10s have so far shown a maturity to their approach to practical lessons and we have been very impressed with the groups.

Year 11 - Now in the final year of the GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition course, they have commenced NEA work. Students have been working hard to research and plan investigations. A reminder to parents and carers a letter has been sent out with information about NEA work and the practical dates. Drop-in sessions for all year 11 students are available Monday and Tuesday 3.20pm - 4.20pm in the Library. All are welcome.



Open evening – thank you from Mrs Flinders

It was great to see so many at open evening. Thank you to the wonderful Sixth Form students (Former GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition students) who put their cooking skills on display. We had lots of entries to the 'Grime Scene' competition; the winners were Darcey from Muggington C of E Primary School and Jude from Osmaston Primary School. Prizes have been delivered to those schools.

As always thank you to all parents and carers for your ongoing support and providing ingredients, we hope you enjoy the dishes as much as the students enjoy making them.

Reminder: EXCITING NEWS - LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION!

Come join us at the Elite Cinema on the **Tuesday 7th October** for a magical night of original films made by the CDM students of Yr13!

The night will be filled with exciting prizes to be won in a **golden ticket raffle**, including - A YNOT TICKET, AN AVANTI VOUCHER & MANY MORE. Please bring cash for raffle (£2 per ticket).

All welcome! Buy your tickets at: www.qegs.link/tickets

Date: Tuesday 7th October 2025

Doors Open: 5:00 PM

Screening starts: 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Venue: Elite Cinema Ashbourne

If you would like to purchase a golden ticket beforehand, please contact: tilley@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk.

A big thanks to all the local community that has donated vouchers and gifts to make the raffle happen.

Bold Voices Programme – Opportunity for Year 12 & 13 Students

We are pleased to share an exciting opportunity for our Year 12 and 13 students to take part in the 'Bold Voices Programme', led by an external organisation specialising in youth engagement and education.

The programme is designed to bring students together to learn, discuss, and tackle issues around gender inequality. Through workshops and discussions, participants will explore key themes, develop their confidence in speaking about social issues, and gain the tools to make a positive impact both within school and beyond.

We are delighted to be able to offer our students the chance to take part in this inspiring initiative, which not only supports their personal development but also encourages them to be active contributors to a more equal and inclusive society.

Students have been emailed a link (via Mrs Allen) to sign up if they would like to take part, with a deadline of **Friday 10th October**.

Launch of the Year 12 2025-2027 Aspiring Group

This term saw the launch of the Aspiring Group, a cocurricular club designed to support students aiming to apply for competitive courses such as Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, and Dentistry. The group is led by Mrs Thrupp, our KS5 Learning Coach, and held its first meeting of the term on Tuesday this week.

The launch was a great success, with over 20 enthusiastic Year 12 students attending. The Aspiring Group will meet monthly, with the next session scheduled for **Tuesday 21st October** at lunchtime in Rm 902.

At the first meeting, students received a range of resources to help them begin researching courses and universities. They were also encouraged to explore enrichment opportunities such as webinars and platforms like Unibuddy, where they can connect directly with universities and current students.

We look forward to seeing how this group develop their ambitions over the year!

If students are interested in joining the next session, please speak to or email Mrs Thrupp.

U19 Netball County Tournament Success

The Under-19 Netball team travelled to Repton on Wednesday to compete against seven other Derbyshire schools for the coveted title of County Champions. The pressure was on, with the Year 12 squad carrying an impressive legacy—securing the championship several times in recent years and even reaching a National Final.

The girls started strongly, recording a comfortable 10–3 win over both Ecclesbourne and Littleover. Next came a tough encounter with Trent College, another side in fine form. After a closely contested first half, the game was level. Early in the second half we edged ahead by two goals, but Trent’s composure and clinical play saw them claw back the lead, eventually handing us a narrow three-goal defeat.

Undeterred, the team refocused and went on to dominate the rest of the afternoon. A commanding win over Lady Manners set up a decisive final match against long-standing rivals Repton—who, like us, had only fallen to Trent. With a place in the Regional Finals at stake, the match began nervously as we fell two goals behind. However, once settled, the girls fought back superbly to lead by two at half-time. Determined and disciplined, they pressed on in the second half, producing several key turnovers and sealing a brilliant 10–6 victory.

The result means our U19s progress to the Regional Tournament in Lincolnshire this January. A huge well done to the entire squad—every player contributed to Wednesday’s success. Now the hard work continues as we prepare for the next challenge.



U13 Football vs John Port

The u13 football team had a tough match against John Port on Thursday. Despite a close first half where we trailed 5-4, John Port dominated the second half and secured the win. Well done to Archie on the first half hat **trick**.



U16 Rugby vs Lady Manners

The u16’s enjoyed a good afternoon of rugby on Monday, with a win against Lady Manners and a close 21-14 loss to Anthony Gell. Player of the day, Oliver S.

QEGS Governor Vacancies

Parents and carers will have received a letter this week seeking to appoint new governors:

- One Co-opted Governor
- Two Community Governors

If you are interested in one of these roles and feel you have the enthusiasm, skills and experience to offer, please get in touch with our Clerk to Governors, Alison Griffiths-Brown: griffiths-brown@qegs.email for further information and to receive an application form.

School Canteen

Menu choice week beginning 7th October will be week 2.

Prices for items purchased in the canteen can also be found on the below page:

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

QEGSMAT Vacancies

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

Currently live for vacancies:

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

Upcoming Key Dates This Term

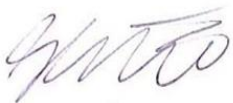
- 7th October – Primary Sports, Cross Country
- 7th October – QEGS Oscars, Elite Cinema, 5:30 to 7:30pm www.qegs.link/tickets
- 8th October - Schools In uniform pop-up shop, Canteen, 3:30 to 5pm
- 9th October – Countdown to Success, Year 11 and 10 students, Parents and Carers, 5pm to 7pm, School Hall
- 15th to 24th October – Year 13 China Trip
- 16th October – Sixth Form Open Evening for Year 11 students, Parents and Carers, 6pm to 8pm, School Hall
- 21st October – Primary Sports, Football 7-a-side
- 24th October – last day of Autumn 1 Half Term

Finally

We say farewell to Zoe Brown today from our admin team. Good luck Zoe in your new role.

The QEGS Rewards shop has been really busy this week with lots of students looking to spend their points or saving up for some of the new items on offer. Well done to all students who have been awarded QEGS points for working hard and trying their best in and out of the classroom. Keep it up! #TeamQEGS

Yours faithfully,



Scott Garrity
Headteacher