

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The Green Road, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1EP

Tel: 01335 343 685 Email: enquiries@qegs.email

Web: www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr S Garrity

Chair of Governors: Mr N Moore



10th October 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #5

Countdown to Success – thank you!

Thank you to the many **many** year 10 and 11 students who attended the Countdown to Success event on Thursday evening. We were all so impressed by your positive attitude and engagement and the mature conversations students had with our staff and the visitors running the careers stands. We had lots of comments about how polite you were, making us very proud!

We hope you found it useful and we look forward to seeing how well you all do this year! For anyone who wasn't able to attend, we have the videos and booklets on our website:

www.qegs.link/c2s



Night at the Oscars – CDM Style! ✨

Last night, our Creative & Digital Media department rolled out the red carpet for an unforgettable evening of glitz, glamour, and celebration! From dazzling outfits to inspiring student showcases, our very own [#OscarsNight](https://twitter.com/OscarsNight) was a tribute to creativity, innovation, and the incredible talent within our school.

Huge congratulations to all the students, and a special shout-out to our winners Libbie A and Jamie M – your hard work and creative brilliance truly stole the show!

Swipe through for highlights from the evening.

[#TeamQEGS](#) [#CDMOscars](#) [#CreativeExcellence](#) [#Films](#) [#DigitalMedia](#) [#Explore](#) [#Succeed](#)



Harvest Festival assemblies this week

The recent harvest festival assemblies were a wonderful success, bringing our students together in celebration and gratitude. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Reverend Bexx and Reverend Nigel for delivering such meaningful assemblies. We also extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who generously donated to the Ashbourne Food Bank—your contributions will make a real difference in supporting those in need.



Phone Frights Short Film Competition – Finalist

Emily B & Iris L in Year 13 have entered the Phone Frights short film competition hosted by Wolverhampton University, aimed at 16–25-year-olds in college and university. The competition is judged by industry professionals, including representatives from companies such as Netflix and collaborators who have worked directly with directors like Tim Burton.

Emily's submission was a creative first-person horror short, centred on an occultist whose ritual goes terrifyingly wrong. The story is told entirely through the character's own recordings, creating an immersive and unsettling narrative.

Iris's film is about a family who is being haunted by their daughter who died in a mysterious way.

Both films were selected as finalists, earning them both an invitation to a screening event in Wolverhampton. As finalists they will receive public recognition on social media, a certificate and may also be eligible for additional awards if they win a category.

Good luck Emily & Iris!

Sixth Form updates

It has been a busy and productive week in Sixth Form!

Year 12 have been focusing on the key skills needed for success at Sixth Form during form time. Sessions have included how to take effective notes and the importance of discussion in developing deeper understanding — essential tools for A-Level and level 3 BTEC learning.

Meanwhile, Year 13 have been reflecting on their recent work experience placements, thinking about how these can be used to enhance interview performance. This is great preparation for their upcoming *mock interviews with external professionals* during Life Skills on Tuesday 21st October. All students have received a list of possible interview questions — please do check in and see how they're getting on with their prep!

Both year groups have also been getting involved in our Interform Challenge — and Friday's assembly featured a fun and fast-paced Countdown challenge! A big well done to Mr Hicklin's Year 13 form, who impressively found an 8-letter word and also won overall in year 13! The winners of this round in year 12 were tied between Mr. Chow's form and Mrs. Shaw's form although Mrs. Shaw did English proud by winning the conundrum. Have a go below if you like:

Clue:

"Enduring life oddly given no limit."

E G O N I V Y L T



Finally, we're looking forward to welcoming prospective students and families to our Sixth Form Open Evening this **Thursday 16th October at 6pm**, starting in the Main Hall.

Don't forget to follow us on Instagram for regular updates: [@gegssixthform](https://www.instagram.com/gegssixthform)

U14s Rugby

The U14s had a fantastic afternoon of rugby on Monday. They dominated Lady Manners 40-0 and West Park 25-5. Huge well done to the year 8s stepping up and the newcomers who played their first game today. Player of the day – Harley.



U15s ESFA National Cup

Congratulations to the U15 football team, who won their 2nd round match, in the ESFA National Cup, 2-0 against JCB Academy. The whole team put on an excellent performance and showed fantastic effort and attitude throughout.

U16s County Netball Tournament

On Wednesday, our Year 11 netball team represented the school in the U16 County Netball Tournament, competing against seven other schools from across Derbyshire for the title of county champions.

Their opening match was a closely contested game against Woodlands School, where, after a nervous start, they narrowly lost by just two goals. However, the team remained focused and resilient, bouncing back with determination. They went on to secure an impressive win against tournament hosts Repton, followed by strong victories over both Chapel and Lady Manners.



Despite their fantastic efforts, the team narrowly missed out on a top-two finish and a place in the regional round, following tough matches against eventual finalists Dronfield and a well-drilled Ecclesbourne side. With only one substitute available, the girls showed incredible stamina, teamwork, and spirit throughout the afternoon. Their positive attitude and commitment made for a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable tournament experience. Well done, girls!

Primary Sport

QEGS have held their first two Primary Events over on the Boothby Fields:

Year 5 & 6 Football with over 220 students competing.

Year 3,4,5&6 Cross Country with nearly 600 students competing.

Both events have been a great success.

We also have a new cohort of Year 9 Sports Leaders- our biggest group so far with over 65 putting their names forward to help run the events.



On top of that we have some Sixth Form helpers that support as part of their volunteering hours.

DofE updates

Thank you to everyone who attended the online meeting to launch **Bronze DofE**. It was great to see so much enthusiasm and answer so many questions. For anyone that could not attend, information was sent out with the presentation attached last Friday (3rd October) to all Year 9 parents.

Parent Pay now has the enrolment fee of £31 available to pay. Deadline is **Friday 24th October 2025**.

After half term we will start regular fortnightly form time meetings with the Year 9 cohort to explain and guide them through the award. There is nothing to do before then except sign up.

Silver DofE Parent Pay for enrolment will be opening shortly and £31 will be due by **30th October 2025**. All Year 10 students are eligible to complete the award regardless of completion of Bronze award.

After enrolment deadlines, regular form time meetings will start with the Silver cohort to explain and guide them through Silver award.

Further information on **Gold** award will be released to Year 12 shortly.

The DofE awards evening is coming up on **13th November 2025**, invitation letters to follow with details of the event. Anyone who has completed and had their award 100% signed off by school and the verifier will be contacted with an invitation to attend. Any of previous years Bronze and Silver cohorts who have not yet completed need to do so by **19th October 2025** in time to have their award processed before this awards ceremony. If that date is missed, then there will be a further awards ceremony later in the academic year.

Support to complete awards or ask questions is available every Friday lunchtime in Rm 408

DofE expedition dates are:

Bronze – **Thurs 7th and Fri 8th May 2026 Practise** and **Thurs 9th and Fri 10th July Qualifier**

Silver – **Weds 6th to Fri 8th May 2026 Practise** and **Weds 8th to Fri 10th July Qualifier**.

Community Artist Free workshops – Saturday 11th October 2025

Community Artist Laura Burrill is inviting students to take part in one of her workshops this weekend (see attached poster). This is a great opportunity to be involved in a fantastic community project.

Where: Ashbourne Town Hall

When: **Saturday 11th October**

Workshop times: **10:30am** or **12:30pm**

Book via EVENTBRITE or visit <https://everystitchastory.co.uk/textile-work/workshops/>

School Canteen

Menu choice week beginning 13th October will be week 3.

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>



Be part of something BIG!

JOIN STITCHING ASHBOURNE AND HELP CREATE A GIANT COMMUNITY ARTWORK CELEBRATING EVERYTHING THAT MAKES OUR TOWN SPECIAL!

- TRY YOUR HAND AT STITCHING, DRAWING, AND DESIGNING YOUR OWN FABRIC SQUARE.
- NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED – JUST BRING YOUR IDEAS AND IMAGINATION!
- FREE WORKSHOP WITH ALL MATERIALS PROVIDED.
- ALL AGES WELCOME (UNDER 13S WITH AN ADULT).

SHARE WHAT YOU LOVE ABOUT ASHBOURNE – YOUR ART WILL BE PART OF SOMETHING AMAZING!

saturday 11th October

Ashbourne Town Hall, 10.30am or 12.30pm
Book via EVENTBRITE or visit
<https://everystitchastory.co.uk/textile-work/workshops/>



WWW.EVERYSTITCHASTORY.CO.UK

Upcoming Key Dates This Term

- 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
- 3rd November – start of Autumn 2 Half Term
- 3rd to 7th November – Year 11 core mocks

Finally

I am really looking forward to leading the Year 13 trip to China next week. We will be traveling via Shanghai to Hefei where we will spend time at our partner school, Hefei Middle School Number 6, which has 10,000 students!!! The cultural aspects of our visit will be phenomenal and to see a school with 10,000 students will be really intriguing too!

My colleagues are also planning the next phase of QEGS trips, with news soon to come of a trip to Rome in June 2026, Sports Tour in October 2026 and a Conservation trip to Greece in 2027 to name a few! Full details to come soon.

Have a great weekend.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'SG', is positioned above the printed name.

Scott Garrity
Headteacher