



21<sup>st</sup> November 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

## Weekly Bulletin #10

### Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Last week saw our first of two DofE Award Ceremonies in the academic year, celebrating 35 QEGS students who have achieved their Bronze or Silver Award.

Each of these students has spent considerable time volunteering in the community, taking part in a chosen physical activity, developing a skill, and undertaking a multi-day on-foot expedition. The universal skills they have developed in completing their Awards including teamwork, resilience, leadership, problem solving and time management are highly valued by universities and future employers.



His Majesty's Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Derbyshire

Mr. Andrew Cochrane DL, as well as Mr Garrity and Nick Moore, the Chair of Governors, and families and friends of our Award holders attended the event to share in our celebrations. Year 13 students, Emma W and Rory C gave an inspiring insight into Gold D of E and what is involved to achieve.

We are incredibly proud of all QEGS students that achieve their Bronze, Silver or Gold, and recognise what an incredible achievement this is alongside school and other commitments. Well done!

### Christmas Shoeboxes

We're sending a HUGE thank you to the incredible Mrs Roberts! Her compassion and dedication have inspired our amazing Form Tutors and Students from Years 7–13 to unite and create Christmas Shoeboxes for children this Christmas.

We've already packed 150 shoeboxes (and counting!) thanks to the kindness of our students and staff. Through the wonderful Ashbourne Rotary Club and the fantastic charity Teams4U, these gifts will reach children across the globe who might otherwise receive nothing this Christmas.

Thank you, Mrs Roberts, Form Tutors, and Students for making a real difference! You are what #TeamQEGS is all about!



## Children in Need 2025



Last Friday, we celebrated Children in Need, and the hall was filled with lots of wonderful stalls organised by our Head Students. We raised a fantastic total of **£439.24** during lunchtime alone!



## Road Safety with Longcliffe Quarry

All Year 7s received a session from Longcliffe Quarries related to road safety this week. This was delivered as part of Road Safety Awareness week. Students were invited into the cab of the quarry vehicles to appreciate what a lorry driver can see. If you look at the photo the mat in front of the cab demonstrates the area the lorry driver has no visibility of. It helped students understand the importance of them taking responsibility for their own safety. They had a bit of fun along the way as well and all of them were gifted a hi-vis waistcoat to take home.



## Reminder - Year 11 Mosque Trips next week Monday 24<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November

Parents and carers, please ensure that given your permission and consented for your child to attend the Mosque trips next week otherwise they will be unable to go. Students have been told which morning they are attending.

Other important information:

**Meet straight at the bus bay - do not go to registration**

**Girls** may wish to take a head covering to use in the Mosque - this will be optional to wear but many students choose to out of respect.

**All students** to bring some cash for samosas afterwards if they wish to purchase some in the local shops!

If students have any questions, please email Mrs Waker, Head of RS.

## Sixth Form update

Our Interform Friday Competition continues to bring fantastic energy to the end of each week. So far, students have taken part in challenges ranging from drawing and Countdown to a safeguarding quiz, chopsticks contest and even a duck hunt! Thank you to everyone who has taken part and shown such enthusiasm.

In the current standings, Mr Chow's form leads Year 12, while Mr Hicklin's group tops the table in Year 13. A huge well done to all students for getting involved and contributing to your form's success.

It's also been brilliant to see new clubs launching across the sixth form. Today we held our very first Debate Club, led by Ms Askey, with students tackling the thought-provoking motion: "Having a child is a human right." Well done to all who participated in such a confident and mature discussion.



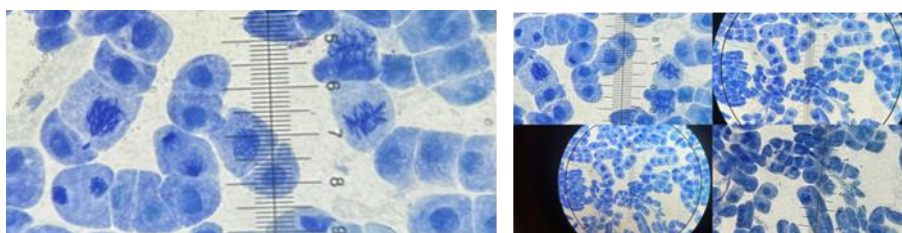
Looking ahead, we're excited to host a political debate in Life Skills next Tuesday. Representatives from Labour, the Conservatives, Liberal Democrats, the Green Party and Reform UK will be joining us to answer questions prepared by Year 13 during form time this week. We hope it will be a valuable and engaging event for everyone involved. In previous sessions year 13 have had practice interviews with helpers from industry and a mock assessment centre organised through JCB.

Finally, a big congratulations to the Sixth Form Council for organising the "Wear Your PJs" Day for Children in Need. Thanks to your generosity, we raised over £160 for the charity. Well done to all who took part and donated!

### Sixth Form Science

Year 12 students have been titrating, using their prepared standard solutions, to determine the molarity of an unknown acid.

In Biology Carla Year 12 has shared these fantastic microscope views, showing different stages of mitosis (prophase, metaphase, anaphase & telophase) from her root tip squash RP using garlic, in Biology!



And Year 12 and 13 physics students have had an amazing time at A Level Science Live at Birmingham University. Fascinating talks on everything from space to architectural acoustics to quantum entanglement, plus tips from a

senior examiner. Minds blown and lots to talk about over the next few lessons back in school!



### Thank you to the Woodroffe Benton Foundation

We are delighted to share that our newly refurbished Food Technology Room is now fully equipped and ready to inspire the next generation! This exciting upgrade was made possible partly thanks to the generous donation of £8,000 from the Woodroffe Benton Foundation, which enabled us to purchase cookers, fridges and essential equipment for the space.





Earlier this month, we were honoured to welcome Mrs Jill Wesley, who officially opened the room and celebrated this milestone with us. This investment has provided students with a modern, professional, industry standard environment to develop practical skills and a love for food technology. We are extremely grateful to the Woodroffe Benton Foundation for their continued support, kindness and commitment to the education of our students.

### **Crafting in Year 8**

Isla B in Year 8 has been crafting and creating in her spare time, it's a working progress currently but she is doing a great job! Keep up the good work!



### **Student visits BBC Radio Derby**

Joseph C, Year 11 has had an amazing experience at the Jamhaus last week. Meeting Dean Jackson BBC Radio Derby presenter and interviewing him, whilst listening to, and being the audience of the recording of a local artist for his show.

Joseph was a credit to the school and thank you to Mrs Smith for accompanying him on the visit.



### **U16 Rugby**

On Wednesday the u16s had a tough match against Haberdashers' Abraham Darby, with the windy conditions making it hard for both teams to play. Final score 21-15. Tries from George, Liam & Isaac. MOTM Liam.

### **Badminton tournament**

Our recent Badminton tournament had 30 students take part, with 10 doubles teams and 10 singles players competing in year 7.

In doubles Kean O & Holly H were the clear winners, earning 65 points and winning every game. Joint 2nd went to Leo M & Freddie C and Lexie J & Isla C with 36 points, and 3rd place went to Ros V & Max A with 31 points.

In singles, Isaac W came 1st with 58 points, followed by Jimi W in 2nd with 43 points, and Gabby H in 3rd with 40 points.

All students were enthusiastic and really enjoyed the tournament. Well done everyone!



### Gymnastic Golds for Tizzy

Tizzy B in Year 11 recently competed for England in Greece in Gymnastics. Tizzy won Gold on Bars, Gold on Floor, Bronze on Beam, and was the highest scorer on Vault, meaning she went on to win the All around Gold. Well done, Tizzy, an amazing achievement!



### Shooting success for Olivia



Olivia A, Year 8 took part in the British Schools Shooting Competition in Ipswich this week. Olivia competed against 46 competitors in her class and made the final taking the silver medal. Congratulations Olivia!

### QEGS Music Department Christmas Concert

You are warmly invited to join us for **A Christmas Festival** - the QEGS Music Department Christmas Concert. Come and hear some festive favourites from the QEGS Orchestra, Choirs and Chamber Ensembles and even join in with a few Christmas Carols! Refreshments will be provided by the FPTA.

When: **7:30pm on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

Where: QEGS Main Hall.

Tickets are now available on Ticket Source by following the link below

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/qegsashbourne>

### Interested in joining the cadets?

A huge thank you to Darren and our two Year 12 students who led this week's assemblies for Years 8 & 9 about the fantastic opportunities available through joining the cadets. Becoming a cadet is an amazing way to build teamwork, resilience, and determination — skills that not only look great on future applications but are also directly transferable to your learning and everyday life.

The cadets meet right here at QEGS every Monday night from 7–9pm, it couldn't be more convenient!

Click the link to get involved! <https://armycadets.com/county/derbyshire-acf/>



### School Canteen

Menu choice week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> November 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://recruit.sampeople.co.uk/Jobboard/Trust/qegsmat>

**Upcoming Key Dates This Term**

- 24<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> November – Year 11, Mosque trip
- 25<sup>th</sup> November – Primary Sports, Hockey
- 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Primary Sports, Basketball
- 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Schools In pop-up uniform shop, 3:30pm to 5:00pm, Canteen
- 4<sup>th</sup> December – Year 11 Face to Face Parent Teacher meetings, 3:45pm to 6:00pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> December – Ashbourne Lantern Parade, from 5:30pm
- 8<sup>th</sup> December to 12<sup>th</sup> December – Year 13 mock exams
- 9<sup>th</sup> December – Swimming Gala, Years 7-13
- 11<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Concert, 7:30pm, Main Hall
- 18<sup>th</sup> December – Parkinson's Group, Christmas Concert, 2pm St Oswald's Church Hall
- 18<sup>th</sup> December – Speech Night, by invitation to attend
- 19<sup>th</sup> December – Year 7 students, Carol Service, St Oswald's Church
- 19<sup>th</sup> December – Final day of Autum 2 term.

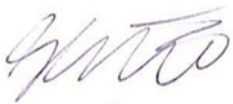
**Finally**

Thank you to Mrs Roberts who has led our Shoebox appeal, an amazing response and generous donations from students and groups. Well done to all who have contributed.

Also thank you to the site team and IT team who have had to deal with multiple power cuts from the national grid. Resulting in lots of our electrical items needing fixing or replacing – it has been a difficult few weeks – the teams have been amazing thank you!

Have a great weekend, stay safe, warm and dry!

Yours faithfully,



Scott Garrity  
**Headteacher**

**Enc: QEGS Christmas Concert poster**

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
presents

# A Christmas Festival

11<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
7:30pm | Main Hall



Tickets £8 (Concs. £5)  
[www.qegs.link/tickets](http://www.qegs.link/tickets)