

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity

Chair of Governors: Mr N Moore



28th November 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #11

QEGS Proud Table Shout Outs!

We were delighted to speak with 30 students at the Proud Table on Friday last week! Mrs. Starkie had a queue throughout lunchtime, which just shows how many fantastic achievements our students are celebrating.

A special shout out to Veronika P and Veronika M, for signing up to Cadets. Congratulations to Robert F. for achieving Stage 7 in swimming, and to Alex L. for completing his 10th swimming gala.

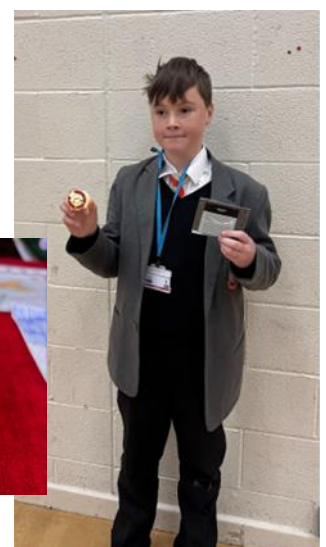
Well done to Ralph D. for kindly creating three shoeboxes for the Shoebox Appeal, and to Isaac W. for securing 1st place in the Singles Badminton competition!



We are super proud of all your achievements — well done, everyone!

Year 8 create for QEGS 440 celebrations

Year 8 were asked last half term to create something to celebrate our school being 440 years old this year and WOW, did they impress us! We received so many fantastic entries, we had banners, signs, a cake, even a model hot air balloon!! Our winning entry was a 3D printed light made by Jack L, he won a £10 amazon voucher and all the other students that entered received a sweet treat. Well done and thank you to all involved!



Proud to be part of the **QEGSMAT**

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Year 11 visit Derby Mosque

This week, our Year 11 students visited the Jamia Mosque in Derby as part of their RS GCSE studies. They were given a guided tour of the mosque, helping them deepen their understanding of the faith and its practices. After the visit, students enjoyed samosas and had the opportunity to purchase additional food from shops outside the mosque.



QEGS RS visit to the Ethika Conference

This week, our A-Level and prospective A-Level students attended the Ethika Conference in London. The event offered valuable insights and included several lecturers from scholars studied as part of the specification.

As part of the trip, students also had the opportunity to visit Harrods, where they enjoyed some free time to look around and shop. It was a fantastic day, combining academic enrichment with a memorable experience in the city.

QEGS Sixth Form Update

The eagerly anticipated 'QEGS Question Time' took place this week. In its third year, we welcomed back Robert Court (Liberal Democrat), John Hill (Green Party), Fraser McGuire (Labour), Jeremy Ruse (Reform) and also Simon Spencer (Conservative). Simon kindly stood in at very late notice when the original participant had to withdraw.



After short introductions, the Year 13s put the visitors under the spotlight with a series of questions. Some examples of the probing questions Year 13 had devised:

- Do you have any plans to address the lack of employment for young people in more rural areas?
- Do you think we should raise or lower taxes, or keep them the same and who would you target with those taxes?
- What is your plan to improve air quality in Derbyshire?
- What is your party's stance on AI and how do you believe the UK should approach its regulation and development?
- If you had to work with another party to form a government or pass a policy, which party would you choose and what compromises would you be willing to make?

Each participant had the chance to put their party's views, and the students represented the school brilliantly, not only with the quality of their questions, but also the respectful and attentive reception they gave to the visitors.

In other Sixth Form news, the QEGS first team girls' football have booked their place in the county cup final after a dramatic win on penalties!

The team stated strong with a goal from Freya. After the opposition equalised, another goal came from Phoebe putting QEGS in the lead 2-1. With around 20 minutes to go, the opponents levelled the score 2-2, taking the game to penalties. With goals from: Freya, Phoebe, Bella, and Lillie, QEGS won on penalties 4-3 with two brilliant saves from goalkeeper Sophie! A brilliant team performance, sending the team into the final!! We look forward to hopefully see them bring it home in the final.



QEGS Senior Kangaroo Maths Challenge

Huge well done to Charlotte H (Y13) and Harry M (Y12), who took part in the Senior Kangaroo Maths Challenge earlier this month. Both did exceptionally well. Congratulations to you both!

QEGS Christmas Music Events

Come and join the musicians of the Performing Arts Faculty as we spread a little Christmas Cheer around Ashbourne! Students and staff have been working hard since September to bring together a selection of festive favourites to brighten these dark winter nights. Catch us in the Market Square during the Ashbourne Lantern Parade, or join us at QEGS for our Christmas Concert full of music and merriment. We'd love to see you!

Dates and Times

Lantern Parade - **Friday 5th December, 6:30pm, Ashbourne Market Square**

QEGS Music Christmas Concert - **Thursday 11th December, 7:30pm, QEGS Main Hall** - Tickets for the Christmas Concert can be purchased here; qegs.link/tickets

We will also be visiting Ashbourne Lodge Care Home on Wednesday 17th December and the Ashbourne PUK Christmas Party on Thursday 18th December during the school day for some community carol singing, plus the annual Speech Day and final day Carol Service at St Oswald's Church.

QEGS School Show – Legally Blonde

In March, pink is our signature colour as the Performing Arts Faculty presents *Legally Blonde the Musical!* Join Elle Woods as she trades the sunny shores of Malibu for the hallowed halls of Harvard Law school and tackles stereotypes and scandal in pursuit of her dreams. Having charmed her way into law school to win back her ex-boyfriend Warner, Elle struggles with her peers, her professors, and Warner's new girlfriend. With the support of some new friends, though, Elle quickly realizes her potential and sets out to prove to the world that you can't judge a book by its cover.

Tickets go on sale via Ticket Source **9am, Thursday 1st January 2026**

Performances will take place from **Wednesday 11th to Saturday 14th March 2026**

Update on QEGS Sports Tour

Thank you to those who have showed initial interest in the sports tour, we have received enough interest to run the trip, however, unfortunately there has been a scheduling issue with a clash with other trips. It has been requested that we move the trip to Easter 2027, the trip will still run for current Years 8 and 9, once we have further information, we will send out another letter. Many thanks for your understanding.

Cross Country Results

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Y7 Girls	Spalden	Boothby	Cokayne	Hull
Y7 Boys	Hull	Boothby	Spalden	Cokayne
Y8 Girls	Spalden	Boothby	Cokayne	Hull
Y8 Boys	Spalden	Cokayne	Boothby	Hull

Congratulations to all of the Year 7 and 8 students in Spalden House, who contributed to Spalden being the overall winners in the House Cross Country this year. The PE Team were really impressed with the attitude and effort of all those that took part and tried their best.

Students that finished in the top 10 in their race are invited to represent QEGS in the Derbyshire Dales Cross Country, which will take place on **Wednesday 3rd December 1-3pm**, on Ashbourne Recreation Ground.

Special mention to the following students who finished 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively in their race:

Year 7 Girls - Nancy H, Elsa G, Maddy L.

Year 7 Boys - Freddie C, Reuben S, Blake P.

Year 8 Girls - Freya R, Molly R, Ginny M.

Year 8 Boys - Dex B, Ben L, Misha K.

We are looking forward to the next competitions, which are the House Swimming Gala on the **9th December**, and the House Hockey and Rugby, which will take place week beginning **15th December**.



U15s Rugby

It is the end of the road for our U15s national cup campaign, they didn't quite get the start we wanted after a long bus journey and paid the price at HT, but the boys showed great resilience in the second half, final score 50-24. MOTM's- Dan and Joey. 2 Tries each for Joey and Leo and kicks from Fred.



U18s Rugby

It was great to see the U18's in action on Wednesday against St Joseph's College, there was some lovely rugby played in a close match. Final score 5-22 to St Joseph's. MOTM Ted B.

Year 7 Rugby

The Year 7 rugby team played a development game against Anthony Gell School this week. The team played really well, took on feedback positively and improved an incredible amount throughout the game. We were very proud of how the team represented QEGS and the attitude and effort they showed. Player of the match was Arni M, for his incredible commitment to tackling throughout the game!



We are still looking for new players to join the Year 7 rugby squad, and no previous rugby experience is needed. We train every Friday after-school from 3.20-4.20pm.

Football updates

Congratulations to the Year 11 football team that won their Derbyshire Schools County Cup 1st round match against St John Houghton School. They will play their 2nd round match after Christmas.

Year 11 also participated in a friendly match against Anthony Gell on Wednesday, which they drew 3-3. This game was an opportunity for the GCSE PE students to play in a competitive match, so for some it was their first game of football for school. The support given to the less experienced players, by the more confident players was excellent, which was fantastic to see!



Year 10 entered 2 teams into a 7-a-side tournament against the other Derbyshire Dales schools this week. They both played really well and displayed great attitude and effort to finish 3rd and 4th against some very competitive teams.

QEGS Skiing & Boxing Success

Last weekend Florence H, Year 7 competed in the National Schools Outdoor Championship on Saturday at Swadlincote Ski Slope representing QEGS. Florence smashed it and finished 1st place in the U12 female category and came away with a Gold medal. Congratulations Florence!



Dylan S, Year 12 reached the semifinals of the British Association of Boys and Girls Clubs NABGC. Dylan will be competing in the English National Championships in February 2026 and is currently ranked 4th in his Great Britain age group. Well done Dylan!



School Canteen

Menu choice week beginning 1st December 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 QEGS vacancies:

- Exam Invigilator

<https://recruit.sampeople.co.uk/Jobboard/Trust/qegsmat>

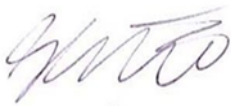
Upcoming Key Dates This Term

- 2nd December – Primary Sports, Basketball
- 3rd December – ‘Schools In’ pop-up uniform shop, 3:30pm to 5:00pm, Canteen
- 4th December – Year 11 Face to Face Parent Teacher meetings, 3:45pm to 6:00pm
- 5th December – Ashbourne Lantern Parade, from 5:30pm
- 8th December to 12th December – Year 13 mock exams
- 9th December – Swimming Gala, Years 7-13
- 11th December – Christmas Concert, 7:30pm, Main Hall <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/qegsashbourne>
- 18th December – Parkinson’s Group, Christmas Concert, 2pm St Oswald’s Church Hall
- 18th December – Speech Day, by invitation to attend
- 19th December – Year 7 students, Carol Service, St Oswald’s Church
- 19th December – Final day of Autum 2 term.

Finally

Really sad to hear the news that one of our ex-students Lexi D passed away earlier this week, aged just 17yrs old. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends. Many of our Sixth Formers will have known Lexi and our Pastoral Team are on hand for any student needing support. Our staff have also been shocked by this news, and we have been supporting each other as we remember the good times Lexi enjoyed whilst at QEGS.

Yours faithfully,



Scott Garrity
Headteacher