



24th October 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #7

Locked In and Leaving Nothing to Chance!

Our incredible Year 11s showed true focus, determination, and teamwork on Tuesday as they took part in our Walking Talking Mock Masterclass.

A massive thank you to our dedicated English Department, whose passion, guidance, and belief in every student makes all the difference.

This is what success looks like: commitment, courage, and community.

We're so proud of you Year 11, keep pushing forward, your hard work is paving the way for greatness!



Senior Maths Challenge

A huge well done to our Year 12 and 13 maths students who took part in the Senior Maths Challenge on the 9th October. This is a 25 multiple choice question first round Challenge aimed at Sixth Form students. The problems on the Senior Maths Challenge are designed to make students think. Stimulating problems for both beginners and experienced problem-solvers.

Our students did incredibly well with 18 Bronze certificates, 15 Silver certificates and 2 Gold certificates. Special shout out to Charlotte H (Y13) and Harry M (Y12) who qualified for the follow on round the Senior Kangaroo. Massive congratulations to all our students, some amazing results!

Ashbourne Young Farmers Club

A number of our QEGS students who are members of the local Ashbourne Young Farmers Club, have recently taken on the challenge of organising and running a number of charity events including the Ashbourne YFC ploughing match and the Annual Harvest dinner and charity auction, supporting Breast Cancer Now.

This challenge allowed them to develop and demonstrate teamwork, communication and organisational skills - some skills that will greatly benefit them in their future endeavours!



We are incredibly proud of their hard work, dedication and commitment to fundraising within the local community. Well done to you all! #lockedintothecommunity #teamQEGS

7B1 Bake for Halloween

At the end of last week, 7B1 were discussing how to celebrate the end of our first half term and one of the suggestions (by Steph) was for a Bake off. The form were thrilled by the idea.

Archie B (and help of Nan) brought his entry in earlier this week, they baked the chocolate cookies with a chocolate detailed spider, chocolate cupcake with Oreo spider and cobweb inspired road bites, enough for the whole form. Students in 7B1 gave some feedback to Archie in true 'Bake Off' style: *'I love how light and airy the cupcake spider is and adore the creamy buttercream. The decoration (the spider) is so creative, and I think that the effort put into them is amazing'.*

'The rocky road was incredible and mouthwatering'.

'The way he came up with the design was really good'.

'The chocolate cookies are insanely good and the chunk of chocolate in the middle was a genius addition. Great start to a Monday morning!'



William brought in his entry this morning.



There are 11 other students who are planning to bring in their own creations for this Thursday.

There will be a winner announced at the end of the form and in the first form time back I am going to present a 'bake off apron'.



In addition to this we have been running a 'general election' where students can put themselves forward for the form Captain and then anonymously vote for a policy. (again, this was their idea)

Finally, three students (Theo, Jacob and Jimi) have been running a form time quiz where they create the questions and then get the form to mark their answers.

Year 12 Work Experience – 15th–19th June 2026

Our Year 12 students will be taking part in Work Experience Week from **15th to 19th June 2026**.

Information about this exciting opportunity has been shared in a letter sent to parents and carers this week, and students have received guidance and support during recent assemblies and tutor time to help them prepare.

We encourage students to use the upcoming half-term break to start reaching out to potential employers and securing placements. This is a great chance to make valuable contacts, explore future career interests, and gain real-world experience beyond the classroom.

If any students or families have questions, please refer to the letter or contact the Sixth Form Team for further advice and support.

Year 13 Mock Interviews – A Great Success!

On Tuesday this week, our Year 13 students took part in mock interviews with a fantastic range of employers and volunteers, giving them a real taste of professional interview situations.

The feedback from our visitors was outstanding; they described our students as ambitious, impressive, and an absolute pleasure to talk to. It was wonderful to see students presenting themselves with such confidence and maturity.

A huge well done to all our Year 13s for their hard work and positive attitude, and a big thank you to all the employers and volunteers who supported this valuable experience.

Update from China

Our Year 13 students have had an insightful, interesting, and truly fantastic week exploring more of China and immersing themselves in its rich culture. During their visit, they spent several days at a Chinese school, where they attended lessons and took part in a range of activities from mask painting and chemistry experiments to physical education sessions.

A particular highlight has been meeting and spending time with Chinese students, forming new friendships and learning first-hand about school life in China. It has been a memorable experience for all, and we look forward to welcoming them home and hearing more about their adventures in the coming weeks. If you would like to see more from the year 13s trip, follow our Sixth Form Instagram page @qegssixthform



Iris L wins Best Cinematography Award!

Iris attended the Best Cinematography Event which took place at the Arena Theatre in Wolverhampton; it was hosted by Neil Hughes and Russel Prior from Wolverhampton University's film course. It was the final stage of the competition and was a brilliant opportunity to watch the other finalist's films and be part of the build up to when the category winners were announced. Iris said that it was overall a great event and experience.



"Día de los muertos"

Señora Pontet has gathered her Mexican vibes in a traditional altar for the "Día de los muertos", known as "Day of the Dead". This celebration takes place on the 1st and 2nd of November every year in Mexico and Mexicans believe this is the only time of year when the dead are allowed to return to earth to visit family and friends. For this reason, they prepare an altar in their house, and decorate it with cempasuchil (Marigold flowers), velas (candles) and the famous calaveras (skulls). To honour their loved ones, they also put food and drinks that their loved ones used to enjoy.

Don't hesitate to collect a Day of the Dead drawing from 524 and decorate it at home during las vacaciones.



Spooktacular vibes at the Year 7 Halloween Disco yesterday!

A huge shoutout to 11H2 for pulling off an incredible event - you absolutely smashed it!



Upcoming key dates for Remembrance 2025

During the week beginning 3rd November, students will have assemblies focused on Remembrance, reflecting on history and the meaning of Remembrance Day.

Poppy Appeal 2025 - If students would like to buy a poppy or poppy day merchandise, they will be available in school to buy with cash/change between the **3rd and 11th November 2025**. Please bring money with you if you would like to buy anything.

Thank you for wearing a poppy during this week to remember the sacrifice made by those who have fought in global conflicts and for contributing to UK Poppy Appeal helps veterans and their families by giving support, care, advice, and services to make their lives better.

Remembrance Sunday- The Remembrance Sunday parade will be leaving the marketplace in Ashbourne at around **10.15am on Sunday the 9th November 2025** to St Oswald's Church and then to the memorial gates for the services of Remembrance. It would be wonderful to see many QEGS students and families there. If students would like to participate in the parade with QEGS please speak to Mrs Ward-Argument before Wednesday 5th November.

Food Preparation and Nutrition:

Last week we held the first FutureChef school heat at QEGS. This was open to Years 9, 10 & 11 students.

Springboard FutureChef is a schools-based programme across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland that supports the development of key life skills whilst inspiring young people to pursue an exciting career within the world of hospitality. It supports students to build industry based culinary skills and knowledge, as well as connecting teachers and students with industry professionals.

The Springboard FutureChef competition is now the biggest school culinary competition in the UK celebrating talent. This starts with the School Heat where two students will be selected to represent QEGs in the local final.

The students did a fantastic job and created some delicious dishes. Their task was to design, prepare and cook a main course for two people, that no more than £5 should be spent on ingredients for both portions and Cooking time should be up to 1 hour.

Dishes were judged and scored for skill, composition, taste, flavour and presentation. The results were as follows:

1st - Rose D (Year 9)

2nd - Faith G (Y10)

3rd - Alice B and Isla H (Year 9)

The top two students will go through to the local heats in Derbyshire. Thank you to all students who took part.



Year 9 Design & Innovation

In a new module for Year 9 D&I students have started to learn about CAD/CAM and production levels in industry. As always, students are developing transferable skills for their future. Here are some examples of the CAD work they have produced so far



A Level Product Design

Our amazing Product Design students are now fully fledged into the course and have been working to redesign the humble pizza cutter for a specific client. This week has seen them have their first hands on experience with the SMART material Polymorph, in preparation for moving onto their final working prototypes - we had creations from ghosts to cats, teapots and even a fireman helmet for the dinosaur; aka - Ian!



Craft Club

The Craft Club meet every Wednesday in the Library after school from 3:15 to 4:15pm, and everyone is welcome.

Any item students make is then taken home at the end of the session.



Shooting success for QEGS students

Olivia A in Year 8 took part in the British shooting schools' competition at the weekend and won the silver medal! This was a regional qualifier round and Olivia will now compete in the national finals in February 2026. Well done Olivia!



Oliver H, Year 11 has also been selected on the British Shooting Development Pathway again for the current year.

Oliver competed in his first international competition this year in 10 metre Precision Air Rifle, with his British Shooting Rifle Pathway squad at GB Junior International which is for competitors under 21 across many shooting disciplines.



It was a tough few days of competing and some tense finals, but he came away with a Team Gold which consisted of team made up with 2 other squad members, they also set the unofficial British record in the Men's 10m Air Rifle team event, Mixed Pairs Silver and 2 Individual Bronze medals.

Oliver is looking forward to representing QEGS in the schools Rifle and Pistol competition early next year and will be competing in the Welsh Open in October and Luxemburg in December.

Golfing success

A big well done to Oscar R in Year 7, who has competed in a number of events across the summer at some of Derbyshire's best golf courses in the Derbyshire Next Generation Tour. Finishing 6th out of 22 (nett score) was a great achievement in his first event of this type! Well done, Oscar!



Greece trip 2027:

Thank you to those who attended the meeting on Wednesday, it was a lovely evening. The next information letter will be going out during the first week back with details on another online meeting for those who could not attend and further details on signing up. Please do try and attend even if you are slightly interested, there is no obligation at all to sign up afterwards! Any immediate questions please do get in touch with Miss Bill.

House Cross Country:

House cross country will take place on Monday 10th November for all Y8 students and on Friday 14th November for all Y7 students. To help them prepare for this, students will take part in a fitness unit of work, exploring the different elements of fitness and which elements are important for which activities. We know that cross country is enjoyed by lots of students, but it can also make some feel worried. The House cross country is a participation-based event, where all students get to represent their House, so success for QEGS PE is that all Y7 and Y8 students take part and complete the 2km course. We obviously want all students to try their best on the day, but if that means that they need to walk some of the course, that is absolutely fine. Those that would like to will have the opportunity to race during this event to qualify for the cross-country team and represent QEGS in the Derbyshire Dales Cross Country Championship, in December.

Both events will take place during P1, on the respective days, so all students should come to school in their PE kit on the day of their event. They will then get changed into their school uniform after the run and attend their normal lessons P2 onwards.

QEGS Cross Country Team Trial:

As part of the cross-country event, athletes from Y9-13 will be able to sign up to race 4km during P3 on Monday 10th November, with the top 6 girls and boys from each year group qualifying to run for the school team at the Derbyshire Dales Championship. Students' sign-up by emailing Mr Hallam hallam@qegs.email or by going to the PE office and giving their name to a PE teacher at break or lunchtime between Monday 3rd and Wednesday 5th November. The Derbyshire Dales Cross Country Championship will take place on Wednesday 3rd December and those that perform well in this race will be invited to represent the Derbyshire Dales in the County Championships in January.

Ashbourne Pumkin Trail

Organised by volunteer group All Things Ashbourne with support from local businesses, the trail invites families to explore the town centre, spot creative pumpkin displays, and enjoy safe daytime trick-or-treating throughout the week.

Here's how it works:

- Pumpkin Trail: Businesses across Ashbourne will be decorating their windows with painted or carved pumpkins, creating a colourful trail for families to follow.
- Trick or Treat Stops: Posters in shop windows will show where children can collect a treat while exploring the town centre.
- Best Pumpkin Display: The Mayor of Ashbourne will be judging all displays during the week, with a certificate awarded to the winning business.

The event runs from **Saturday 25th October to Saturday 1st November** across Ashbourne town centre, please see the attached poster for more information.

School Canteen

Menu choice week beginning 3rd 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://gegsmat.face-ed.co.uk/vacancies>

Upcoming Key Dates This Term

- 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
- 5th November – Schools In pop-up shop, 3:30 to 5pm, School Canteen
- 7th November – Flu Vaccinations in school, students 7,8,9.10.11
- 11th November – Primary Sports, Tag Rugby
- 13th November – DofE Awards Ceremony, 4:30 to 5:30pm, by invitation to the event.

Finally

As we reach the end of a fantastic first half term, we'd like to wish all our students, families, and staff a well-deserved break. This is a perfect opportunity to relax, recharge, and spend quality time with family and friends. It has been an inspiring start to the academic year. Our ongoing focus on the QEGS Classroom and our shared routines continue to strengthen our commitment to striving for the highest expectations and standards both in learning and in how we support one another.

We are immensely proud of all our students, and a *special* well done goes to our Year 11s, who have shown outstanding dedication and focus, truly embracing the '**locked in**' culture that reflects their determination to succeed.

Across the school, staff have been working tirelessly under our guiding motto: '**Leaving nothing to chance**'. This captures our collective effort to ensure that every detail, big or small, contributes to the very best experience for our students.

This half term has also been filled with a fantastic range of co-curricular clubs, activities, and trips. A huge thank you to all staff who have gone above and beyond to make these opportunities possible. We also send our best wishes to those on the China trip, we hope you have had an unforgettable experience and wish you safe travels home.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all our parents and carers. Your continued support, encouragement, and partnership make all the difference.

Enjoy the half term break, whether you're taking time to rest or celebrating Halloween with family and friends, you've all earned it! We look forward to welcoming everyone back, refreshed and ready for another successful half term at QEGS.

Yours faithfully,



Matt Walker
Deputy Headteacher

Enc: Ashbourne Pumpkin Trail



OCT 25TH - NOV 1ST

PUMPKIN TRAIL OF TRICK AND TREATS

ALL THINGS
@ASHBOURNE

Take part in Ashbourne's week-long Halloween fun! Spot the pumpkins in shop windows around town. Each one marks a family-friendly trick or treat stop where you can pick up a little treat or surprise. It's a great way to explore Ashbourne and enjoy the spooky season together!

See who's taking part by scanning the QR code or spotting the pumpkins around town!

Grab treats while stocks last — fancy dress encouraged!

