



7th November 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #8

China Trip

Miss Tilly's highlights:

The China trip with 26 QEGS Sixth Form students was an unforgettable experience filled with laughter, culture, and adventure. Our visit to Hefei No.6 High School offered a fascinating insight into Chinese education and gave us the opportunity to build friendships while sharing our own traditions and embracing new ones. The trip also challenged our sense of adventure when some students bravely sampled unusual local delicacies such as chicken heads and feet, while others developed a strong fondness for rice, which quickly became a staple at every meal. Beyond our school visits, we explored vibrant markets, admired impressive architecture, and wandered through beautiful parks, often ending each day with endless laughter and stories to share. Overall, the trip was not only educational but also a truly enriching experience that strengthened our bonds and left us with memories we will never forget.



Mr Walker's highlights

Going into the trip, I could never have imagined just how valuable and rewarding the experience would be. From the first sleepy morning on the coach to the tired journey home, every moment demonstrated the benefits of the trip — not only culturally, but also academically and socially.

Some of the highlights for me included:

1. Seeing students support one another when they were tired or feeling a little homesick
2. Watching everyone adapt to new foods and master the use of chopsticks
3. The enthusiasm shown in building friendships with our Chinese buddies at the school
4. The outstanding conduct of all students during lessons and throughout our time at the school

As part of the Sixth Form Leadership Team, I couldn't be prouder of the students who took part in the trip. It truly made me reflect on how fortunate I am to be part of such an amazing Sixth Form community, surrounded by such inspiring people.

Mr Garrity – I was honoured and proud to be with my students and colleagues on this amazing experience and I look forward to the strengthening partnership with our partner school in Hefei for many years to come.

Emily B - Fright night!

Emily 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. Emily won the whole thing overall with BEST FILM, where she was awarded a certificate and £50 voucher! Huge congratulations to Emily.



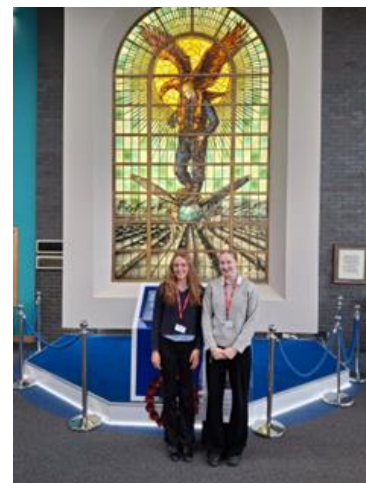
Senior Team Maths Challenge



On Tuesday 4th November, Noah, Charlotte, Emmie and Naor represented QEGS in the Senior Team Maths Challenge at Leicester Grammar School. The Senior Team Maths Challenge gives students the opportunity to tackle a variety of engaging maths activities while developing teamwork and communication skills. Our students worked hard on 3 rounds of challenging tasks and made QEGS proud! A huge well done to them for all their hard work during the day and for representing QEGS so well!

Rolls Royce – Behind the Scenes project

Matilda C and Hannah S, Year 13 attended the Rolls Royce 'Behind the Scenes' during their half term break. The QEGS students were selected from over 1,500 applicants, with 30 taking part across the local area. They experienced talks from industry professionals, tours of the Nuclear Skills Academy workshops, Apprenticeship Academy workshop for civil apprentices, the Engine Assembly and the Rolls-Royce Heritage museum to name a few of the highlights. Rolls Royce were impressed with all the attendee's enthusiasm, dedication and willingness to step outside their comfort zones.



House Cross Country

Reminder that it is the Year 7 and Year 8 House Cross Country next week.

- **Year 8 will race on Monday 10th November P1**
- **Year 7 will race on Friday 14th November P1.**

Students should come to school in their PE kit on the day of their race but need to bring their normal school uniform and shoes to get changed into afterwards. This is a participation-based event, and all students contribute to their House points. Those that want to, will have the opportunity to race to qualify for the QEGS cross country team.

Sports tour 2026, Year 8 & 9 Students

The response for the 2026 Sports tour has been so positive (letter sent out 24/10/2025 to parents and carers), if you are yet to show your child's interest in attending this, the link is below for you to complete the Microsoft form. A letter with further information on the tour will be sent out next week to interested students/parents and carers of Years 8 and 9. [Sports tour - 2026 – Fill in form](#)

Cricket Emerging Star

Congratulations to Penny T, who took part in the England Indoor Cricket Emerging Stars tour to India in the U17 girls' squad, during the October half term. The England girls won the tournament, bagging an impressive trophy. Penny played 6 matches over 5 days including playing in the final against India and won Player of the match in her penultimate game!



U16 Football



The Year 11 boys took part in a 7-a-side football tournament, against the other secondary schools in the Derbyshire Dales. QEGS entered 2 teams, with one coming 3rd and the other coming 1st and winning overall!

Staff attend Continuing Professional Development evening

On Wednesday night, our staff took part in a *bespoke Continuing Professional Development (CPD) evening* centred on the QEGS Classroom, a model designed to strengthen high-quality teaching and learning across the school. The sessions were carefully tailored to meet the specific needs of our teachers, drawing on evidence-informed practice to ensure every strategy makes a meaningful impact on student learning - *leaving nothing to chance*. Engagement was exceptional throughout the evening, with staff making thoughtful reflections and contributions via their CPD logbooks. One of the standout moments came from our Sixth Form students, who shared fascinating insights from their recent educational visit to China, highlighting how questioning techniques can shape deeper understanding and global perspectives in the classroom.

We're incredibly proud of our staff's ongoing dedication to excellence and innovation, as they continue to refine and reimagine what outstanding teaching looks like at QEGS.



Uniform Donations Needed!

Calling all old uniform your child may have grown out of! If you have any school uniform items you no longer need, we'd be very grateful for your donations. You can send them in with your child, who can drop them off at Student Services, or you can bring them directly to Reception. There will also be staff on the gate each morning, so you're welcome to hand items to them. Thank you for your support!

Lantern Parade volunteers required

There are always spare lanterns that need carriers and we would like to hear from both adults and (once again) older children who can help us. We are especially in need of extra adult carriers this year to help with some of our larger lanterns. If you would like to be involved, email us at info@ashbournefestival.org with your names and ages (U18s only). Timings for the procession are 5.30pm – 6.00pm at Church to collect your lantern and at 6.30pm everyone leaves to walk to the Market Place.

<https://www.ashbournetowncouncil.gov.uk/christmas-eve-carol-service>

Tips for a sustainable bonfire night celebration.

With bonfire night celebrations taking place this week, here are some tips for making it more sustainable:

1. Use only untreated wood on your bonfire, nothing painted or varnished as this can release harmful chemicals into the atmosphere.
2. Check under your bonfire for wildlife such as hedgehogs before lighting
3. Use reusable plates and cups instead of disposable items.
4. Recycle all cans and bottles after your celebration.
5. Soak any fireworks in water before disposing of them in the household waste but recycle any cardboard packaging.

School Canteen

Menu choice week beginning 10th November 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://gegsmat.face-ed.co.uk/vacancies>

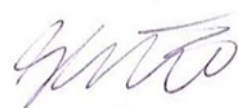
Upcoming Key Dates This Term

- 11th November – Primary Sports, Tag Rugby
- 13th November – DofE Awards Ceremony, 4:30 to 5:30pm, by invitation to the event.
- 18th November – Primary Sports, Tag Rugby
- 25th November – Primary Sports, Hockey
- 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
- 11th December – Christmas Concert, 7:30pm, Main Hall
- 18th December – Parkinson's Group, Christmas Concert, 2pm St Oswald's Church Hall
- 18th December – Speech Night, by invitation to attend
- 19th December – Year 7 students, Carol Service, St Oswald's Church
- 19th December – Final day of Autum 2 term.

Finally

Well done to Year 11 on their first week of mock exams. The students have displayed an excellent attitude, effort and conduct. Year 11 attendance has been the highest it has been so far this year, with 96% of Year11 students sitting their exams onsite. Showing a real commitment to 'leaving nothing to chance' and being 'locked in' with their staff, wanting to achieve their best. Well done to Mr O'Keefe and Miss Ward for their care and leadership of Year 11 through this exam period, the students feel well supported and motivated from your positivity #TeamQEGS.

Yours faithfully,



Scott Garrity
Headteacher