

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity

Chair of Governors: Mr N Moore



14th November 2025

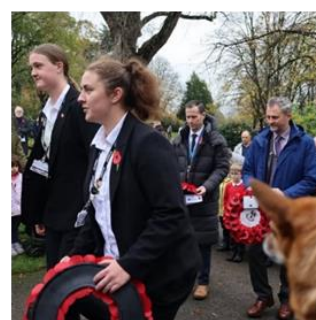
Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #9

QEGS Remembrance 2025

This year, QEGS proudly honoured Remembrance through a series of meaningful events that united students, staff, and the wider Ashbourne community.

Our commemorations began with the thoughtful work of our Sixth Form students, who decorated poppies across Ashbourne in the days leading up to Remembrance Week. Thank you to Matthew, Henry, Aled, Ben and Seb in Year 12, and Maya and Evie in Year 13 for supporting this initiative.



In the week leading up to Remembrance Sunday, every year group took part in an assembly reflecting on the importance of remembrance. Throughout the week, we were privileged to welcome several special guests, including the Deputy Lieutenant of Derbyshire, Mr Brell Ewart, who led our Acts of Remembrance with dignity and warmth. We were also joined by Royal Air Force veteran Mrs Sarah Simms and Royal Navy veteran Mr Steve Hughes, all of whom praised our students for their respect, attentiveness, and maturity during such a significant time.



On Sunday, QEGS students proudly joined the annual Remembrance Parade and Service, filling the streets of Ashbourne with a moving display of respect. Students represented the school in a wide range of community roles, including as Cadets, Scouts, Girl Guides, the Boys' Brigade and many more organisations, all united in a shared act of remembrance. Mrs Ward-Argument and Mr Daughtry marched alongside our students, representing the school community and joining the hundreds who gathered to remember. Among them, Rob (Year 13) was a real asset to the school, leading the main standards in the parade with calm confidence and pride, even supporting those new to the role of standard bearer. Fergus and Hannah (Year 13) represented QEGS beautifully as they read aloud the names of the Second World War fallen from Ashbourne. Georgia (Year 13) carried the school standard with pride, while Izzy and Freya (Year 13) laid a wreath with Mr Garrity on behalf of QEGS, ensuring that our school paid its own tribute.

Proud to be part of the **QEGSMAT**

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QEGS Academy Sponsors: The Woodroffe Benton Foundation - The Old Trust (founders 1585)

Every student involved demonstrated a deep sense of respect, and it was clear to all who watched that they made QEGS extremely proud.

On Tuesday, November 11th, the morning began with a special Act of Remembrance by the memorial gates in Ashbourne, attended by pupils from local primary schools, nurseries and members of the local community. We were honoured to be led by a representative from Ashbourne RBL, Royal Navy veteran Ann Smith, whose words reminded students of the courage and sacrifice of those who have served their country. Rob (Year 13) once again carried the main standard with great composure, while Scarlett (Year 13) proudly carried our school standard. Wreaths were laid by Mr Mallender, CEO, and Mr Garrity on behalf of QEGS and QEGSMAT. The Act of Remembrance was made even more poignant by ex-student Arlo's moving performance of *The Last Post* and *Reveille*, a moment that stilled the crowds and reminded everyone present of the solemnity of the occasion. The service continued back at school, where Scarlett (Year 13) also read the war poem *The Green Hills of Ashbourne*, written in memory of those from our town who lost their lives in the First World War, providing a fitting and emotional start to the service. Rev. Dwayne Eng also attended both services and led us in moments of quiet prayer and reflection.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved, our students, staff, guests, and members of the RBL and the local community, for making this year's remembrance so meaningful. Their commitment and conduct throughout these events truly reflected the spirit of QEGS and the strength of our Ashbourne community.

Making a difference

Meet our wonderful team of students who volunteered their Friday lunchtime to help clean up our community. From picking up litter to spreading smiles, they showed that small actions can make a big difference.



Thank you to everyone who took part — you're helping build a better, brighter future for us all! We're so proud of their kindness and commitment — our students are amazing!

Free Webinar for Parents and Carers – Keeping Young People Safe Online

Parents and carers are invited to join a free Bold Voices webinar exploring how AI and deepfake technology are impacting young people.

When: Monday 17th November, 6:00–7:30 PM

Where: Online (Zoom webinar)

How to join: [Click here to register on Eventbrite](#) Register on Eventbrite using the promo code **BoldVoicesQueenElizabeth** for free access.

The session will explain how AI can be misused, offer guidance for talking to young people about these issues, and share practical advice and support.

Don't miss this valuable opportunity to stay informed and help keep our young people safe online.

Year 13 Assessment Centre Experience with JCB

This week, our Year 13 students took part in an exciting Assessment Centre Experience during their Life Skills sessions, expertly prepared with the support of JCB. This built on the practice/mock interviews the students had last half term and the presentation training in Year 12, making our students as equipped as possible for their futures. The session was designed to help students prepare for future application processes, particularly for higher-level apprenticeships and employment opportunities. Students had the chance to experience what real-world assessment activities might look like and to develop key skills in communication, teamwork, and problem-solving.

One highlight of the session involved teams working together to rank a list of items for survival on the moon—a challenging and engaging exercise that encouraged collaboration, reasoning, and negotiation.

Form Tutors, along with Mrs Allen and Mrs Thrupp, facilitated the activities and provided valuable feedback to help students reflect on their performance and identify areas for growth.

Our Year 13s rose to the challenge brilliantly, demonstrating maturity, enthusiasm, and excellent teamwork throughout the session. Well done, everyone!

Children in Need Fundraiser: Pyjama Day!

To support Children in Need, our Sixth Form students came into school in their pyjamas, showing fantastic spirit and generosity while raising money for a great cause. The day brought plenty of smiles and laughter, all while contributing to an important national charity that supports children and young people across the UK. A huge thank you to everyone who took part and donated!

QEGS Sixth Form Rewards Scheme Launch

We are also excited to announce the launch of the new QEGS Sixth Form Rewards Scheme!

Students in Years 12 and 13 will now be able to exchange their QEGS points, earned for excellent punctuality, for high street vouchers and hot drinks from the Boothby Canteen.

This initiative is being trialled this year as part of our ongoing commitment to recognising and rewarding positive habits and responsibility within the Sixth Form. We look forward to hearing student feedback to help us refine and develop the scheme moving forward.

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 11th December**

Where: QEGS Main Hall.

Tickets will be available on Ticket Source from Monday 17th November by following the link below

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



Christmas Advent – Local Businesses – we need your help!

Please take time to read the attached information about the QEGS Christmas Advent taking place in December – we would be grateful if the request for prize donations could be shared in the community. If you would like to get involved, please contact Mrs Starkie via starkiek@qegs.email for more information.

U15 Rugby

On Wednesday, the U15 rugby team travelled over 2 hours to play Oswestry School in the National bowl competition. Trailing 3 tries to 1 at half time the boys rallied together and played some fantastic rugby in the second half with the game finishing 28-29 with QEGS stealing the win in the last play of the game with a try from Joey L (his 3rd of the game) followed by a kick by Fred. Joey L MOTM, but this was a great team performance! Onto the next round!



Sports Tour 2026

The sports tour response has been really positive, Mr Hallam and Mr Brown will be sending out the information letter very soon to all who have shown interest in the trip.

Netball success!



Congratulations to Maizie G and Jess B (Year 12), who have been selected to represent Nottingham Forest Netball Academies for the 2025/26 season.

We can't wait to follow your journey, and we wish you both luck for the upcoming season.



QEGS Swimming Gala

QEGS students from Years 7-13 have been invited to compete in a swimming gala which will take place on **Tuesday 9th December**.

All students have been sent a link via their email with all of the races they can choose from (3 races plus 1 relay max). They also need to include their times if they have them.

Any student that cannot access their email/link please speak to Mrs Barrie.

Joseph and his Technicolour Dream Coat

Last night was opening night of Joseph and his Technicolour Dream Coat at Derby Theatre where some of our students and ex-students took to the stage. Ralph G, Louie D (both Year 8), James B and Jack B (Year 9) were part of the incredible choir alongside former student Oscar D, who took on the main role of Joseph.

The show is fun, bright, energetic and runs until Sunday evening at the high standard that Derby Youth Musical Theatre (DYMT) always delivers. Tickets are still available to support our students.



School Canteen

Menu choice week beginning 17th November will be week 1.

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

- 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
- 9th December – Swimming Gala, Years 7-13
- 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.

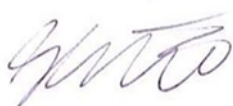
Finally

I have been so proud of our students' involvement in local remembrance events. Whether it be directly representing the school, or for scouts, guides, cadets, sports teams and many other community groups, we had hundreds of students doing their bit to remember the fallen and to think about people currently affected by conflict. Thank you.

This week, I have started a new role as Executive Headteacher, supporting another of our trust schools whilst they recruit and appoint a new Headteacher. I will be spending 2-3 days a week at Chellaston Academy and the remainder of the week at QEGS. I want to thank Mr Walker and Mr Davis, who will be leading QEGS for the days I am offsite at the other school.

Following today's weather, I hope you have a dry and warm weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Scott Garrity
Headteacher

Enc: QEGS Advent information letter



❖ 🎄 As a Local business could you help us make the QEGS Christmas Advent Extra Special? 🎄 ❖

As we build up to Christmas, we are launching something truly festive — The QEGS Advent!

From 1st to 25th December, we'll be running a daily prize draw using a random name generator for our students. Each day, one lucky student will win a prize — starting small and building up to something truly amazing for Day 25 (think haircut vouchers from our bougie salons, a festive meal out, hampers or other big surprises!). They simply win a lovely gift if they are in attendance that day.

We're reaching out to our wonderful local businesses to ask if you'd like to get involved and help make our advent extra special. Any prize you can donate — big or small — will bring a smile to one of our hardworking students and help us celebrate the incredible community spirit we're so proud of here in Ashbourne.

Our students have given a lot back to our community recently — from joining the Ashbourne Remembrance Parade, to litter picking, volunteering across many local organisations, celebrating sporting successes, and showing kindness and dedication every single day. We'd love to give something back to them this Christmas, with your help.

What's in it for you?

We will proudly share and celebrate your support across our social media platforms and weekly school bulletins throughout December, featuring your business name and logo — shining a light on your generosity and community spirit.

Let's spread the joy together with hashtags like #CommunitySpirit #We♥️QEGS #TeamQEGS

If you'd like to get involved or have any questions, please contact Mrs Starkie or drop your donation at QEGS reception. starkiek@qegs.email

Thank you so much for considering supporting our QEGS Advent — together, we can make this Christmas one to remember for our amazing students!

With warm festive wishes,

Mrs K Starkie
Assistant Headteacher

Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Ashbourne
#CommunitySpirit #We♥️QEGS #TeamQEGS