

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity

Chair of Governors: Mr N Moore



5th December 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #12

QEGS Christmas Advent Update!

Our QEGS Christmas Advent has been going down an absolute storm! We've been incredibly fortunate to receive so many wonderful donations from our amazing local businesses – thank you for your generosity and community spirit!

So far, our lucky students have won:

- 1x Large BENNY'S pizza
- The Olde Sweet Shop goodies
- The Little Shed Cream Tea voucher
- Howell & Marsden vouchers
- Cheddar Gorge voucher
- The Marketplace Fish & Chip Shop voucher
- Picnic Basket voucher
- F'Coffee voucher
- Subway voucher
- Handmade Designs goodies
- BEAR voucher
- The Barbers Shop voucher
- Chloe's Café Coffee Shop voucher
- Donations for Amazon vouchers
- Henmores Gift Card
- Dominos vouchers
- Avanti Jewellers Voucher

Important Reminder: The only rule is that students must be in attendance on the day to win the gift!

A huge thank you once again to everyone who has supported our Advent so far. Keep your eyes peeled—more prizes and winners still to come! Lantern Parade Tonight!

Lantern Parade Tonight & Christmas concert

Don't forget to join the QEGS choir and saxophone group tonight as we start off our Christmas season - 6:30pm in the Market Square.

Less than a week to go until our fabulous musicians take to the stage for a festival of Christmas delights. Book your tickets now at qegs.link/tickets

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



Springboard FutureChef Competition.

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.

The Springboard FutureChef competition is now the biggest school culinary competition in the UK.

In October we held our first school heat for the Springboard FutureChef competition. Two students were selected to represent QEGs in the local final.

Students had a budget of £6.50 to produce a main meal for two people in 1 hour. Faith G, Year 10, represented QEGs at Vision West Notts College. Faith produced an excellent curry dish with rice and Naan Bread. The competition was very close, and the Judges complimented Faith's balanced dish. On this occasion Faith didn't make it any further in the competition. However, she has gained valuable experience which she is hoping to use next year!

Rose D, Year 9, was the overall winner of the school heat and represented QEGs at Riseholme College in Lincoln. Rose produced Ramen with Prawn and mushroom Gyoza which blew the judges away. I am really pleased to announce that Rose won the heat and now progresses onto the next stage of the competition the regional final in February.



Mrs Flinders would like to thank the parents, carers and students that have been involved in making the competition a success.

Good luck Rose on the next phase of the competition!



Wellbeing Assemblies: Tackling Exam Anxiety

Both Year 12 and Year 13 took part in assemblies delivered by YAS (Young Adult Service), a local organisation that supports young people with wellbeing and mental health. The sessions focused on managing exam anxiety, offering practical advice, tips, and reassurance as we head into a busy period.

This support is especially timely as:

- Year 13 students begin their mock exams next week,
- BTEC students prepare for their real exams in January, and
- Year 12 students look ahead to their January mock exams.



However, the session also focussed on informing students that they are a local service who can offer support to young people aged 16-25, especially in situations where they are struggling to access support elsewhere. They provided the below contact email and QR code, in case students or parents/carers want to reach out for advice or if they have any questions re. how YAS can support:

A Festive Visitor!

Year 12 and 13 students were surprised this week with a special visit from Santa Claus and one of his trusty elves! A few lucky students even received an advent gift to kick off the festive season. Keep your eyes peeled for more surprise visits next week—proving you're never too old for a bit of Christmas magic.

Year 13 Mock Exams – Important Reminder

Year 13 have their mock exams next week. Please refer to the previous letter for full details. All students will have already received their timetables, which outline the daily exam schedule and room locations.

Students are on study leave from **8th –12th December** to support focused revision, provided parental/carers permission has been granted through the link included in the earlier communication.

Year 12 BTEC Business Team

Take a look at the amazing Christmas decorations available at the Ashbourne Lantern parade this Friday 5th December -

'The Gifting Tree' is a business set up by the Year 12 BTEC Business Team and details of their future events can be found on the instagram [Thegiftingtree.x](#)

Donations of old books would be gratefully received - please contact chow@qegs.email to drop off at Boothby Reception.

Well done to the Team, a great product!



'Chemistrees' decoration

Year 13 students spent a free period this week making a Science Department 'Chemistree' to feed their festive spirit before their mocks next week. It's now in pride of place by the fume cupboard in Rm 552, serving as an effort to inspire to keep revising through the sheer power of Christmas-ness. Thank you to Emma, Charlotte, Charlotte, Iris and Hannah!

Craft club gets Christmasy

The afterschool craft club have been busy making Christmas decorations – this week it was tinsel wreaths!

Following the holiday break, the club will run once a fortnight, first one back will take place on **Wednesday 14th January from 3:25 to 4:15pm** in QEGS Library.



Mrs Morgan, lunch time support with Post-16 or work placement ideas

Reminder to Year 11 and Year 10 students to drop into Rm 103 on a Tuesday lunchtime for support with Post-16 option advice or help with work experience placements. Laptops available to help with Unifrog searches and adding of placement information.

Parent Reminder: Equipment & Warm Clothing

We kindly remind parents that all students must come to school with their full equipment each day to ensure they are ready for learning please. www.qegs.link/uniform

- Pen
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Pencil Sharpener
- Ruler
- Scientific Calculator
- Protractor
- Pair of Compasses

We have also noticed an increasing number of students arriving without coats. As we encourage students to spend break and lunchtime outdoors for fresh air and wellbeing, it is important that they wear appropriate warm clothing. Please ensure your child comes to school with a coat, especially during colder weather.

Sustainable ideas for Christmas

As we move into December, here are some ways to make Christmas more sustainable:

- Choose natural decorations made from pinecones, holly, ivy, cinnamon and dried oranges.
- If you buy a real Christmas tree, make sure it is recycled in January
- Send e-cards instead of paper-based Christmas cards.
- Consider buying local sustainable gifts, such as experience days.
- Wherever possible, plan meals ahead to avoid food waste

School Canteen

Menu choice week beginning 8th December 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 QEGS vacancies:

- Exam Invigilator

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

Upcoming Key Dates This Term

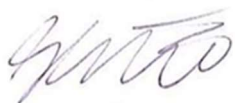
- 8th December to 12th December – Year 13 mock exams
- 9th December – Swimming Gala, Years 7-13
- 11th December – Christmas Concert, 7:30pm, Main Hall <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/qegsashbourne>
- 12th December – Christmas Jumper Day – Years 7 to 11
- 18th December – Parkinson's Group, Christmas Concert, 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 Autumn 2 term.

Finally

We are seeing an increasing number of students drinking cans of energy drinks on their way to school in the morning. These drinks are high in sugar and caffeine and have little nutritional value and/or health benefit. The government is consulting on a ban of sales of high sugar and caffeine drinks to under 16s. However, in the meantime, please check what your child is spending their money on and what they are consuming first thing in the morning. These canned, energy drinks are certainly not a substitute for breakfast. A reminder that all canned drinks are banned on the school site and will be confiscated. Our school canteen is open each day for breakfast from 8.15am, serving toast, pastries, fresh fruit and other breakfast items. We can also support families and students with free breakfasts if needed, please contact Mrs Starkie for more details starkiek@qegs.email

Thank you to local businesses and the local community for their kind generosity with gifts and prizes for our Xmas advent for students. The students and staff are enjoying seeing Santa each day to find out who was been drawn from the hat to win a prize.

Yours faithfully,



Scott Garrity
Headteacher