

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity

Chair of Governors: Mr N Moore



19th December 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #14

Speech Day 2025

On Thursday 18th December 2025, QEGS proudly hosted its annual Speech Day, a cherished tradition celebrating student success. Guests and students were warmly welcomed into the Main Hall by the School Chamber Choir singing Christmas carols, setting a festive tone for the evening.



Mr Moore, Chair of the Local Governing Body, opened the event with a warm welcome, followed by our Headteacher, Mr Garrity, with an engaging presentation reflecting on the year's achievements. Mrs



Allen, Head of Sixth Form, then announced the prize winners, with awards presented by our guest of honour and former QEGS student, Claudia Sherry. In her inspirational address, Claudia shared memories of her time at QEGS and spoke about her journey since leaving school, offering words of encouragement to current students.

The evening was enriched by three wonderful musical interludes, showcasing the incredible talent within our school community:

- 1| Isabel H – [Harp Solo](#)
- 2| Eleanor C – [Vocal Solo](#)
- 3| Rory C & Mrs Etherington – [Saxophone Duet](#)

A special highlight of the evening was the presentation of an Affiliation Certificate from the Royal British Legion, awarded by Mr James Stafford DL, Vice Chair of the Derbyshire RBL, marking a proud moment of recognition for our school's ongoing support to the Ashbourne Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Prayers were led by The Revd. Dwayne Engh, after which guests enjoyed refreshments in the canteen, bringing the evening to a close.

The event can be viewed via the link <https://www.qegs.link/sdlive>

Sixth Form End-of-Term Celebration Assembly

This year's Year 12 and Year 13 end-of-term celebration assembly had a very special host – Santa Claus himself! His surprise appearance added extra festive cheer and made the event a memorable occasion for students and staff alike.

One of the highlights of the assembly was the announcement of the Best Decorated Form

Room competition. Congratulations to Mrs Brown's form and Mrs Walker's form for their wonderfully festive and creative displays – a huge well done to everyone involved.

We also enjoyed watching the music videos created by each form group, which showcased creativity, teamwork and plenty of festive spirit. The videos were made even more special by the musical talents of both tutors and students, who performed a range of popular Christmas songs that were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Congratulations to the winning forms: Miss Adams/Mrs Davis's form and Mr Simnett's form.

Life Skills Carousel Launch

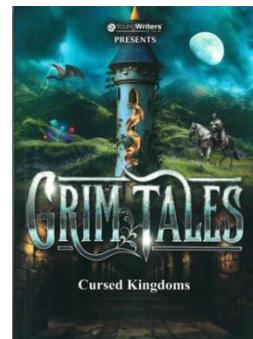
This week, students began an important Life Skills carousel, focusing on key topics such as online safety, driving safety, first aid, consent and alcohol awareness. The launch of this informative and engaging programme has been very well received by students.

The sessions are being delivered by excellent external providers, alongside representatives from local healthcare services and drug and alcohol support services. This ensures students receive valuable real-world guidance and advice, and the programme aligns fully with the government's recent announcements regarding PSHE content.

A big thank you to everyone involved in making these experiences both enjoyable and educational for our sixth form students.

Success in Young Writers Competition

Anaiah A, Year 12 student entered a young writer's story competition and has had a short story published in the Young Writers Grim Tales book. She is now through to the next round. A copy of the book will be available in the school library. Congratulations Anaiah.



Update on Co-Curricular Sport timetable from January 2026

Please see the attached poster to the bulletin for an update on the co-curricular Sport timetable from January 2026.

QEGS Running Club

Well done to everyone involved in QEGS running club so far this year, we will be continuing to run afterschool on Wednesdays in the new year and would love to see more students & staff join us! All abilities welcome!



Badminton Tournament



The Year 8 and 9 badminton tournament was a great success lead by the Year 12 leadership class. All students had amazing participation and sportsmanship throughout.

Congratulations to the winners: Oliver and Will, Year 8, and Joey and Phillip, Year 9. Second place goes to Leo and Harry, Year 8, and Ollie and George, Year 9. Third place goes to Felix and Josh, Year 8, and Cooper and Harry, Year 9.

Well done to everyone who took part!

U14 UK Lions

Good luck to Sam C who has flown off to Spain this weekend with U14 UK Lions. Sam is representing them for the second season as GK- this is the first of a few European trips this season!



Oliver H competes in Luxemburg

Oliver competed at RIAC shooting competition in Luxemburg against athletes from 10 countries, over 3 days and is now number 2 in the U21 Men's in GB.

He shoots 60 shots at an electronic target 10 metres away, using sights without magnification. The centre of the target the size of a pinhead, which he hits most shots. Hitting the pinhead gets a score of 10, and then the closer to putting the centre of the pellet concentric to the pin head, the score is increased in decimal points, with a 10.9 being a perfect, concentric fit, so hence scoring can go over 600. The top 8 scores from the match enter a grand final and shoot for medals.

Over the 3 days, he improved, moving from 14th place to 10th with a personal best (PB) of 611.4, and on the penultimate day placed 9th with another PB of 612.7, missing out on the final by one pellet landing 0.45mm further away than 8th place.



His memorable moment was when the 2024 GB Olympic shooter, Michael Bargeron shook his hand and congratulated him on his achievement.

Where did it all start you may ask, well in the hall at QEGS with a lunchtime activity called 'Laser Run'. Well done Oliver!

Activity over the festive period - Ashbourne Robin Trail

The trail is free to take part in and runs throughout the festive period and into the New Year, making it a flexible activity for families to enjoy over half term. Families can explore the town, spot the robins in participating businesses windows, read the dedications, and discover Ashbourne's independent shops along the way. Please see the attached poster to the bulletin.

A printed leaflet is available to pick up in Ashbourne town centre, which includes a trail map to help families follow the route. The leaflet also features a fun activity for children, where they can colour in, cut out and make their very own robin decoration to hang on their Christmas tree at home.

School Canteen

Menu choice week beginning 7th January 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.

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

Upcoming Key Dates This Term

- 5th & 6th January 2026 – INSET Days for Staff only
- **7th January – Students return to school, Spring 1 term**
- 8th January – Year 9, in person Parent Teacher Meetings, 3:45pm to 6:00pm
- 12th to 16th January – Year 12 mock exams
- 13th January – Post-16 Transition Day for Year 11 students
- 22nd January – Year 9 Option evening, 5:00pm to 7:00pm
- 3rd February – Primary Sports, Athletics
- 4th February – Schools In pop-up uniform shop, 3:30pm to 5:00pm, Canteen
- 4th February – Year 13 Parent Teachers Meeting, 3:45pm to 6:00pm
- 6th February – Primary Arts Day 1
- 10th February – Primary Sports, Athletics
- 13th February – Last day of Spring 1 term

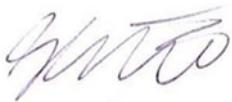
Finally

Thank you to our staff, parents and carers and students too! We have had a fantastic term with so many highlights and successes. Have a great festive break. For those who find Christmas a difficult time, we hope you have the support of your friends and family.

Please remember, staff have two INSET days on Mon 5th and Tues 6th January, all students return to school on **Wednesday 7th January 2026**.

Take care.

Yours faithfully,



Scott Garrity
Headteacher

Enc: Sport Co-curricular Timetable, Robin Trail Ashbourne posters.



Co-curricular Sport Timetable - January 2026

Day/Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime 12:05-12:35	<p><u>Y7&Y8</u> Sports Hall Athletics Sports Hall Mrs Barrie & Miss O'Reilly</p> <p><u>KS5</u> Intervention 904 Mrs Caton</p>	<p><u>Y9</u> Sports Leaders Gym Mrs Barrie</p> <p><u>GCSE</u> Intervention 566 Mr Brown & Mr Hallam</p>	<p><u>All Years</u> Badminton Sports Hall Miss O'Reilly</p> <p><u>All Years</u> Table Tennis Gym Mr Hallam</p>	<p><u>All Years</u> Badminton Sports Hall Mrs Caton</p> <p><u>All Years</u> Volleyball Gym Mr Brown</p> <p><u>A Level</u> Intervention 904 Mr Hallam</p>	<p><u>All Years</u> Basketball Sports Hall Mr Brown</p> <p><u>All Years</u> Table Tennis Gym Mr Hallam</p>
After school 15:20 - 16:20	<p><u>Y11 & 6th Form</u> Netball Sports Hall Miss Clayton</p> <p><u>All Years</u> Hockey Astroturf Mrs Caton</p> <p><u>Y7</u> Football Playing Fields Mr Hallam</p> <p><u>Y8 & Y9</u> Football Playing Fields Mr Brown</p>	<p><u>All years</u> Fitness Gym Miss O'Reilly</p> <p><u>Y10 & Y11</u> Football Playing Fields Mr Hallam</p> <p><u>Sports Leaders</u> Primary sport Miss Clayton & Mrs Barrie</p>	<p><u>Y7 & Y8</u> Netball Sports Hall Miss Brown</p> <p><u>6th Form Boys</u> Football Astroturf Mr Simnett & Mr Walker</p> <p><u>All Years</u> Running Club Playing Fields Mr Brown, Mr Hallam & Miss O'Reilly</p>	<p><u>Y9 & Y10</u> Netball Sports Hall Miss O'Reilly</p> <p><u>Y7-13</u> Girls Football Astroturf Mrs Barrie</p> <p><u>Y10 & Y11</u> Rugby Playing Fields Mr Brown</p>	<p><u>Y7</u> Rugby Playing Fields Mr Hallam</p> <p><u>Y8 & Y9</u> Rugby Playing Fields Mr Brown</p> <p><u>All Years</u> Girls Rugby Playing Fields Miss Mellor</p>