

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The Green Road, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1EP

Tel: 01335 343 685 Email: enquiries@qegs.email

Web: www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr S Garrity

Chair of Governors: Mr N Moore



23rd January 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #17

Legally Blonde the Musical – tickets on sale

Get ready to “bend and snap” your way to the most feel-good show of the year as our school proudly presents **Legally Blonde the Musical**, live on stage **11th–14th March**!

Bursting with energy, heart, and hilariously catchy songs, this dazzling production follows Elle Woods as she proves that “you must always have faith in people — and most

importantly, you must always have faith in yourself.” With unforgettable moments like “Omigod You Guys!” and the empowering anthem “So Much Better,” this show is packed with laughs, dance, and plenty of pink-powered confidence. QEGS is renowned for its stunning musical productions, and this year is no exception. Join our talented students for what promises to be a spectacular evening of musical theatre. Whether you’re a longtime fan or brand new to the story, you’ll leave smiling and singing all the way home.

Don’t miss out — tickets are on sale now at www.qegs.link/tickets. “What, like it’s hard?” #Elle Woods



What an amazing Year 9 Options Evening!

Thank you to our fantastic students and supportive parents for joining us face to face to have meaningful conversations about the next exciting steps in our students’ journeys.

It was a pleasure to see such engagement, curiosity, and ambition as families explored our broad, balanced, and student-centred curriculum, gaining an in-depth understanding of each curriculum area and specification. We are so lucky that our students can pursue their passions through the wide range of opportunities our curriculum offers. A huge thank you to our incredible staff for offering such a wide variety of subjects and for their dedication in supporting students to make informed, confident choices. Our curriculum is carefully designed to ensure every student can thrive, and tonight truly showcased how seriously our Year 9s are taking their futures, asking insightful questions, exploring possibilities, and locking in their options with confidence - leaving nothing to chance. We couldn’t be prouder of our students and staff.



An overview of the Y9 options process can be found below, please note the Options Form shared with students closes midday, Friday 6th February 2026.



Year 11-History Revision

Year 11 History revision takes place every **Tuesday after school in Room 406** and is a vital part of preparation for exams. The next few weeks will focus on preparation for the February mocks, and these sessions will give students support with Paper 2-Superpower Relations & the Cold War and Paper 3- USA: At Home and Abroad, helping them secure key knowledge, practise exam questions and avoid costly mistakes under pressure. Regular attendance builds confidence, improves exam technique and can make the difference between a good grade and a great one.

Please can you also continue to encourage students to be following the weekly revision schedules which are on go4schools. All Year 11 History students should be bringing evidence of revision to their History teachers which prepares them for focused exam practice in class. Regular revision will make all of the difference and help students to reach their full potential. It's important to remember that we should leave nothing to chance.

Instrumental Lessons

Discover the joy of music and unlock your potential with **instrumental lessons at QEGS**, led by our amazing team of **peripatetic teachers**. Whether you're a complete beginner or an experienced musician looking to take your skills to the next level, our expert tutors offer inspiring, supportive, and personalised tuition across a wide range of instruments. Learning an instrument builds confidence, creativity, and discipline — and it's a fantastic way to make new friends and get involved in school ensembles, concerts, and productions. With friendly teachers who are passionate about helping every student succeed, there's never been a better time to start your musical journey. **Enquire now and let our brilliant peripatetic team help you find your rhythm!** Please send enquiries to enquiries@qegs.email for more information.

Year 7 Artwork

Some brilliant work in Year 7 from Iona, who has learnt all about the colour theory and even practiced her clay making skills at home. Keep up the amazing work and a true artist in the making!



Snow activity

Year 11, Class YO rose to Mr Smith's challenge when it snowed a couple of weeks ago creating an atom out of snow as part of their revision of atomic structure. A big shout out to Megan P who created this masterpiece!



Nativity Film Production – Year 12

Before half term, Year 12 students Edie M, Grace A, Lily H and Eboni B visited

St Oswald's School to film their Nativity production. Over two days of performances, they captured all the required footage. The completed Nativity film has now been sent to the school, who have been extremely pleased with the final result and its distribution.

Well done to everyone involved!

Sixth Form exams Jan 2026

Well done to BTEC students and Year 12s for the positive way they managed their exams and mock exams over the past few weeks. Y12 Mock exam feedback will be shared in lessons over the coming weeks, with support available where needed. The data/grades relating to these, will also be available on go4schools from 13th February.

Year 13 Advanced Futures Award Presentations

Congratulations to our Year 13 students who completed their Advanced Futures Award presentations last week; presenting confidently to a panel including our Chair of Governors, Nick Moore, and Director of Education, Mr Hudson. These students completed over 60 hours of volunteering during Year 12 and as a result, presented to the panel to share the details, skills and learning that they gained as a result of their outstanding commitment to the school and local community.

Advanced Futures presenters included: Iris L, Charlotte C, Scarlett C, Alastair D, Oliver S, Izzy T, Fergus K, Lucy A, Charlotte H, Hannah S and Freya H.

Year 13 Parent Teacher Meeting

This will take place **Wednesday 4th February 2026, 3.45–6.00pm**, with in-person appointments bookable from Monday 26th January. A letter has been sent to Year 13 parents/carers with further information.

Update to Sixth Form Dress Code

Following feedback and consultation from students, we have updated our Sixth Form Dress Code to include stripe shirts. The below is a reminder of our dress code and we greatly appreciate your support in encouraging and ensuring that your child follows this:

- Plain black jacket and/or smart fine knit red, black, navy, grey or dark green jumper with either
 - Tailored black trousers
 - QEGS Tartan Grey Skirt
- White or striped shirt or blouse with a collar
- School tie or QEGS pin badge (available from school)
- Black or neutral-coloured tights
- Black or brown shoes (low heel, no trainers or canvas)
- ID lanyard at all times
- Small earrings and one nose piercing (no other facial piercing)

Flag Football

On Monday we had over 130 students taking part in a flag football (non-contact version of American football) event run by the PE department. It was great to see the students pick up new skills and develop a new sport. We have now entered a tournament, which will take place in February.





Under 19 Netball

The Under 19 team faced Denstone & Ecclesbourne in a triangular fixture on Wednesday in preparation for the regional tournament this weekend in Peterborough. Good luck!

Primary Sports

This week we had nearly 200 Year 3 and 4 students taking part in the Sports Hall Athletics events.

It was a highly successful afternoon and lovely to see so many children smiling.

A big thank you to the Year 9 sports leaders and to Lucy and Jess in the Sixth Form for their help.

Girl Guides badge winner

There was a competition at guides to design a County Christmas badge for Girlguiding Derbyshire and Nancy A, Year 9 came 1st! Guides from all over the county entered so it was a massive achievement. Big well done to Nancy it's a great design!



Year 7 student competes in Italy

Florence H, Year 7 returns to school following training and competitions in Italy. Florence entered several races, representing Gressoney Monterosa ski club, competing in the Castle Pipe Cup in Courmayeur and for the Lo Stambocco Trophy in Gressoney. At these she was competing against 75 athletes in her age group and put in some great runs, Florence best time put her 18/75 overall in the Lo Stambocco trophy. Well done!

School Canteen

Menu choice week beginning 26th 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/>

QEGRSMAT Vacancies

Please keep an eye on our vacancies at QEGRSMAT and within the trust.

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

Current QEGRSMAT vacancies:

- Student Services Receptionist (Maternity Cover)
- Sixth Form Administrator

Upcoming Key Dates This Term

- 26th January – Parents/Carers of Years 7, 8, 9 Online Safety evening, Main Hall 5pm to 6pm
- 3rd February – Primary Sports, Athletics
- 4th February – Schools In pop-up uniform shop, 3:30pm to 5:00pm, Canteen
- 4th February – Year 13 Onsite Parent Teachers Meeting, 3:45pm to 6:00pm
- 6th February – Primary Arts Day 1
- 9th to 13th February – Year 11 mocks
- 10th February – Primary Sports, Athletics
- 13th February – Last day of Spring 1 term
- 16th to 20th February – Half term break
- 23rd February – Return to school, Spring 2 term
- 23rd to 27th February – Year 11 mocks continue

Finally

School received sad news of the passing of Dave Allsop, ex QEGS music teacher earlier this month, our condolences go out to friends and family, and past students of Dave.

Thank you to all the parents, carers and students attending the Year 9 options evening yesterday; if wish to recap the information shared or you were unable to attend in person, please visit www.qegs.link/ks4opt

Thank you and farewell to Kay Lockie, SEND Administrator this week, all the best to you.

Next week is the final week in January, with the lighter evenings on their way and Shrovetide in just over 3-weeks' time, February here we come!

Yours faithfully,



Scott Garrity
Executive Headteacher