

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity

Chair of Governors: Mr N Moore



30th January 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #18

Shrovetide Celebrations

Our students have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the Shrovetide countdown this week, embracing the excitement and traditions of this much-loved local event. Congratulations to our lucky Shrovetide hoodie winners:

- Harvey W – Year 11
- Harriet S – Year 9
- Daisy F – Year 8
- Jacob F – Year 7
- Sophie C – Year 10

This afternoon, a group of ten students will also be taking a stroll into Ashbourne to visit the Shrovetide Museum, where they will have the opportunity to learn more about the history and significance of this unique tradition.

A fantastic way to celebrate Shrovetide and connect with our local heritage.



Year 11 are Leaving Nothing to Chance!

This week we launched GCSEPod with Year 11, and the response has been *phenomenal*! In just a few days, you've accessed almost **2,500 pods** and completed **over 1,500 questions**.

And that's **on top** of the growing numbers turning up for lunchtime and after-school revision sessions.

Keep it up, Year 11 — stay locked in! Your mocks are just around the corner, and they're your chance to show just how much you've improved.

Year 9 Options form – closes on Friday 6th February

We are now halfway through the window for completing the Year 9 options form - making your choices for Key Stage 4.

If your preferred combination isn't possible because of the option blocks, please still complete the form as it stands but also email Miss Ward with your preferred combination. While it is *unlikely* that the blocks will change, we will look carefully at all requests once the form has closed and will make adjustments **if** they can work across the whole year group. If you have any other questions about the options process, contact Miss Ward (ward@qegs.email) or Mrs Dyer (dyer@qegs.email).

Online Safety Talk event

Thank you to those KS3 parents who attended our Online Safety Talk on Monday evening. With 70% of parents and carers in the UK stating that they were 'Very Concerned' about their children's online safety, it was a great opportunity to discuss concerns in our local area and hopefully you found the tips and resources useful. If you would like to see more sessions on online safety, please email Mr Simnett (simnett@qegs.email) with specific topics you would like to find out more about.

Snapshot of the LSU

These fantastic structures were created by our LSU students during their social times. They are made entirely of K'nex and have been a work in progress since September! Both structures have intricate moving parts and work flawlessly to transports items around the framework. Our social space in our LSU is a positive space for social interaction and helps students develop social skills, teamwork and determination. We hope for more spectacular creativity - Watch this space!



Year 12 Work Experience – Important Reminder

Year 12 students are reminded that they are required to organise their own work experience placements, as outlined in messages and support provided via tutor time last term.

Deadline:

All placements must be arranged by Friday 13th February 2026.

Next steps:

Once a placement is secured, details must be uploaded to Unifrog so that the relevant risk assessments and checks can be completed: <https://www.unifrog.org/>

Work experience dates: **15th – 19th June 2026**

Students who need help or advice are encouraged to speak to their tutor or Mrs Griffiths-Brown early next week.

Sixth Form Assemblies and Enrichment

Students in Years 12 and 13 have enjoyed the restart of their Fun Friday assemblies. Over the past two weeks, they have taken part in “Would I Lie to You?”, testing their knowledge of their form tutors. Highlights can be found on the Sixth Form Instagram page—see if you can spot who’s telling the truth!

In addition, Year 12 and 13 students recently attended a safeguarding assembly delivered by Mr Davis (Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Headteacher). Students were reminded of the different types of abuse and were asked to review and discuss a range of scenarios, considering how they would respond if they were worried about themselves or a friend.

Derbyshire Schools County Cross Country Championships

Congratulations to the 28 students that competed in the recent Derbyshire Schools County Cross Country Championships, representing both QEGS and the Derbyshire Dales. Every QEGS runner displayed an excellent attitude throughout the day, in the effort that they put into their races, as well as how they encouraged and supported each other as a team.



The Derbyshire Dales Teams were made up from students from QEGS, Lady Manners, Anthony Gell and Highfields. All students had qualified for the team by competing in the Derbyshire Dales race in December. All of the Derbyshire Dales teams performed really well, in what were exceptionally wet conditions, but a special mention to the Y7 girls and boys teams who both won their respective competitions. There were also individual student successes, with Nancy H (Y7) winning a silver medal, Max W (Y11) winning a bronze medal, and Frank W (Y11), Isabella M (Y12) and Joe Y (Y13) all being invited to represent Derbyshire in the National Schools Finals!

Derbyshire Schools County Cup Football

Congratulations to both the Y7 and Y11 football teams who have progressed through to the next round of the cup. Both teams went through on penalties and showed great resilience to keep their composure after conceding late goals during normal time.



Derbyshire Schools Indoor Cricket County Cup

Well done to the U13 boys, who put on a great team performance to win their first-round game against Derby Moor School this week. They now play Trent College in the second round, for a place in the semi-final.

Good luck to the U13 and U15 girls, who have away games against Ecclesbourne and Anthony Gell respectively, within the next few weeks, and the U15 boys, who are at home to Trent College next week.

Year 7 and 8 Football tournament

The Year 7 and 8 football tournament was a huge success, brilliantly organised by our Year 12 Sports Leaders. Despite challenging weather conditions, all teams showed fantastic determination, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the day. A huge well done to everyone who took part and helped make the event such a success.



Under 19 Netball Team - Regional Netball Tournament

The Under 19 squad travelled to Oundle School Sports Centre, Peterborough early Sunday morning to represent Derbyshire in the East Midlands regional tournament.

The girls played 9 games against very tough opposition, including Oakham, Uppingham and Stamford. After a hard morning of fixtures, the girls had a better afternoon winning 4 games and coming 7th overall in the East Midlands.



School Canteen

Menu choice week beginning 26th January 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.

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

Current QEGS vacancies:

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

Upcoming Key Dates This Term

- 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
- 4th March – Schools In pop-up uniform shop, 3:30pm to 5:00pm
- 12th March – Year 12 Parent Teacher Meetings, in person, 3:45pm to 6:00pm
- 11th to 14th March – School show, Legally Blonde the Musical www.qegs.link/tickets.

Finally

I am so fortunate to be able to start and end my week at QEGS. I continue to be amazed by the multitude of events, activities, successes and achievements which our students experience and our staff facilitate. This is far from the norm in many other state secondary schools. Thank you QEGS staff and thank you QEGS students, parents and carers for your ongoing support.

Have a great weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Scott Garrity
Executive Headteacher