



6<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

## Weekly Bulletin #19

### Shrovetide Assemblies

A huge thank you to our special visitors this week - Terry Brown (who crafted one of this year's Shrovetide balls), Rich Goodall, and Robin Wright joined us for our Year 8 Shrovetide Assembly and shared their experiences of this amazing local tradition.

It was fantastic for our students to learn more about the history, craftsmanship, and community spirit behind Shrovetide. Photos show our Wednesday visitors and staff proudly holding the Shrovetide balls.

We hope everyone in our community enjoys a fun and safe Shrovetide again this year!



### The Breck Foundation

This week we are proud to welcome The Breck Foundation into school to lead vital sessions with our students. Students are exploring the importance of knowing exactly who they are communicating with online and heard the powerful and emotional story of "Breck's Last Game" - a reminder of why online safety matters so much.

Some important facts we all need to be aware of:

- ⚠️ 1 in 3 children put themselves at risk by regularly playing online with strangers
- ⚠️ There has been an 84% increase in online grooming crimes in the last four years

The session focused on building digital resilience, helping students recognise risks, protect themselves online, and promote positive and safe online engagement. A huge thank you to the Breck Foundation for their impactful work and for supporting our school community in keeping young people safe online.



## Rotary Young Musician Success!

Last Saturday (31st January), 13 QEGS musicians took part in the Rotary Young Musician competition alongside students from other schools around Ashbourne. Adjudicator Sue Bloor, formally Head of Music at Foremarke, was full of praise and good advice for the young musicians as we were treated to one excellent performance after another. It was wonderful to see musicians of all ages supporting each other throughout the competition. All our QEGS students did us proud, but special congratulations to the winners and highly commended students in each category:

### Junior Vocalist

- Highly Commended: Louie D (Y8)
- Winner: Flora C (Y8)

### Junior Instrumentalist

- Highly Commended: John M (Y7)
- Winner: George R (Y8)

### Senior Vocalist

- Highly Commended: James Ba (Y9) and Esme C (Y12)
- Winner: Eleanor C (Y13)

### Senior Instrumentalist

- Highly Commended: James Ba (Y9) and Elijah M (Y10)
- Winner: James Br (Y9)

**Overall Cup Winner:** Julian H(Y13)



## The Proud Table has been buzzing with joy!

Last Friday, Miss Ward hosted the table and it's safe to say it completely made her day! The smiles, the stories, the proud moments...she loved every second! Don't forget students – we are outside the canteen every Friday at lunchtime. Come and share what you are proud of - big or small, in or out of school...every moment matters. Every achievement counts.



This Friday, Mrs Starkie welcomed students at the table - Proud Table achievements were incredible today. A super busy lunchtime with students sharing everything from ski racing and county cricket successes, to fixing a sit-on lawn mower and competing in their first motorbike events!! We also loved hearing about acts of kindness between friends.

Year 10 boys were full of it today — thank you for making us smile. We are proud of you all!



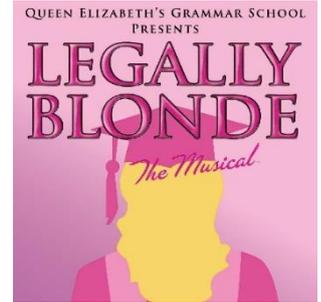
## Maths Challenge

Well done to all our Year 10 and 11 students who took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. Another set of fantastic results from our students with 2 Golds, 7 Silvers and 12 Bronze certificates too! Great work.

## School Show - Tickets are selling fast!

This show is proving incredibly popular, and seats are filling up quickly! With allocated seating, the best spots are being snapped up - so make sure you get your tickets now to avoid disappointment.

Secure your seats today <https://www.qegs.link/tickets>



## World Book Day Competition

Please take a look at our exciting World Book Day Competition accompanying this week's bulletin – the English Team and Library look forward to seeing your creativity!

Please email Mrs Roper ([roper@qegs.email](mailto:roper@qegs.email)) if you have a digital entry to submit and students will receive the link to TEAMS to upload their entry. Entries close on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026 for judging before World Book Day on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

## Sixth Form Update

### Year 13 Parents' Evening

Thank you to all parents and students who attended Parents' Evening on Wednesday. It was fantastic to see such strong attendance and engagement. We hope the discussions provided clarity and helped students develop a clear plan to ensure success during these final months of Sixth Form.

### Year 12 Work Experience

A reminder that the deadline for securing work experience placements is **Friday 13th February**. Well, done to students who have already arranged their placements. High-quality work experience can play a significant role in strengthening applications for competitive university courses and apprenticeships.

If you require support in securing a placement, please speak to your tutor or a member of the Sixth Form team.

### House Matches – next week

The Year 8 and 9 hockey and rugby house matches are on **Monday 9th February** next week – Year 8 P1 and 2 and Year 9 P3 and 4. Year 7 house matches on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February** P1 and 2.

Year 7 and Year 8 students can attend school in their PE kit on their allocated days if they are taking part in the house matches, **but** please do not forget to bring your school uniform to get changed in to after.

**We recommend students to bring a plastic bag for their kit and a towel as it is likely to be very wet and very muddy next week.**

### Year 8 Rugby

Well done to the Year 8 rugby team who had an impressive win over Ecclesbourne on Tuesday - final score 15 tries to 1. Tries scored by: Jack, Felix x4, Joshua c, Eddie x2, Matthew x2, Josh B x3, Hayden & Ed. An awesome team performance! They play St Joseph's college on Thursday next week.



### Running Club visit the Shrovetide goals

Run club ran to the Sturston goal this week, over some very wet & muddy fields. Next week we will be running to the Clifton goal. It would be great to see even more students/staff join us for this - remember to wear trainers that you don't mind getting muddy!

### Primary Sports

This week we had 200 year 5 & 6 children taking part in the Sports Hall Athletics. The event ran so smoothly thank you to our Year 9 Sports Leaders and Lucy in Year 12.

It was great to see so many people taking part.

### School Canteen

Menu choice week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> February 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>

Current QEGS vacancies:

- Exams Invigilator

### Upcoming Key Dates This Term

- 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> February – Year 11 mocks
- 9<sup>th</sup> February – Year 8 and 9 House matches
- 10<sup>th</sup> February – Primary Sports, Athletics
- 13<sup>th</sup> February – Year 7 House matches
- 13<sup>th</sup> February – Last day of Spring 1 term
- 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February – Half term break
- 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Return to school, Spring 2 term
- 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> February – Year 11 mocks continue
- 4<sup>th</sup> March – Schools In pop-up uniform shop, 3:30pm to 5:00pm
- 12<sup>th</sup> March – Year 12 Parent Teacher Meetings, in person, 3:45pm to 6:00pm
- 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> March – School show, Legally Blonde the Musical [www.qegs.link/tickets](http://www.qegs.link/tickets).

### Finally

This week we have seen many moments to be proud of across the school. We were incredibly grateful to welcome our guest Shrovetide speakers, whose assemblies were both powerful and inspiring for the next generation of players.

Behind the scenes, excitement is building as our next school production is now in full swing; the dedication and creativity on display promise something special, and we cannot wait to share it with our wider community. As always, a huge well done goes to all our sporting teams, who continue to represent the school with commitment, teamwork, and determination.

A special mention must go to our Year 11 students, who have been working incredibly hard and **leaving nothing to chance** as they prepare for their mock exams next week. We wish them the very best of luck and have every confidence that they will smash them out of the park.

Finally, it has been wonderful to see the Proud Table so full this week, packed with students celebrating their achievements and taking pride in their hard work. Moments like these remind us just how much there is to celebrate in our school community.

Yours faithfully,



Matt Walker

**Deputy Headteacher**

Enc – World Book Day Competition poster