



13th March 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #23

School Production Success: *Legally Blonde: The Musical* – AMAZING!

Our school production of *Legally Blonde: The Musical* has been a tremendous success and a true celebration of the talent, commitment, and teamwork within our school community.

Over the past several months, students have dedicated countless hours to rehearsals, learning lines, mastering the music, refining choreography, and coordinating the many technical elements that bring a production to life. Their hard work, determination, and enthusiasm were evident in every moment of the performance, resulting in a vibrant, energetic, and thoroughly entertaining show.

The audience response has been overwhelmingly positive. Many have commented on the exceptional standard of the production and the confidence and professionalism displayed by the students. The cast delivered outstanding performances, bringing their characters to life with impressive energy, humour, and heartfelt characterisation. Each performer contributed to creating a lively and engaging atmosphere that kept audiences captivated from beginning to end.

Our talented musicians also deserve special recognition. They performed the demanding score fluently and with great musicality, providing a fantastic live accompaniment that enhanced every scene and added depth and excitement to the production.

Behind the scenes, a dedicated team of students and staff worked tirelessly to ensure everything ran smoothly. From lighting and sound to set changes, costumes, and stage management, their careful preparation and teamwork helped create a polished and professional performance.

Productions like this would not be possible without the commitment of so many people. We would like to extend our sincere thanks and congratulations to all the students, musicians, backstage crew, technical teams, and staff who contributed their time, creativity, and enthusiasm to make this show such a memorable success.

Thank you to the FPTA, to Cat Garrat and the team of volunteers for supporting the event with refreshments each evening.

If you have not yet had the chance to see it, **tickets are still available for tonight Friday 13th March and Saturday 14th March evening performances**. We would love to see you there and encourage you not to miss the opportunity to experience this fantastic production. <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/qegsashbourne>



Eggcellent effort from Team QEGS!

A huge well done to Mrs Roberts, our wonderful staff and our fantastic students for collecting over 200 Easter eggs!

These eggs are being sent to Ukraine as part of the Ashbourne Rotary Club Easter Egg Appeal, helping to bring a little Easter joy to children and families who need it most.

It's amazing to see #TeamQEGS working together to make others smile across the world.

Special mention to 8H1 and Miss Tomlinson for collecting 21 eggs!



British Science Week

This week, students across the school have been celebrating British Science Week, exploring the theme of Curiosity. Our Year 7 and 8 students have been getting into the mindset of real scientists by investigating the surprising properties of bubbles. From testing different solutions to pushing the limits of surface tension, we saw lots of brilliant ideas and inventive approaches. Many students also took on the challenge of creating the biggest bubble, with several classes achieving impressive bubbles over 15 cm tall!

Year 9 had a day with a pharmaceutical company on Wednesday learning all about the science that goes into products we use daily and the importance of suncream- including making a bracelet that indicates to them when they should be wearing SPF.



We have also launched our annual Science Week poster competition for Years 7–10, giving students the chance to express their creativity and scientific thinking. This year's theme is '**Young People's Visions for a Positive Childhood**', and the top entries will be submitted to the national competition. Full details on how to enter can be found on G4S as a homework task. We can't wait to see what our young scientists produce!

International Women's Day

To celebrate International Women's Day, a lunchtime of interesting and entertaining activities was held in the library on Monday 9th March.

Organised by Iris L in Year 13, with help from Miss Angris and the school librarians, students in all years were able to learn about historical and modern women who have shaped our world, such as Michelle Obama, Emmeline Pankhurst and Malala Yousafzai.

Students were asked to create a small fact file of an inspiring woman, engaging them with the topic, learn new information through a game of Guess Who? and could read suggested literature written by and about amazing women.

The event was a relaxing, informative success, worthy of its crucial message.



Red Nose Day – Friday 20th March

Next Friday we will be taking part in Red Nose Day and raising money for a fantastic cause. To help support the day, we will have a range of fundraising stalls in the school hall at lunchtime. There will be cakes, sweets and other fun activities for students to take part in.

Please remember to bring some spare change into school so you can join in and help us raise as much money as possible.

Students are also invited to wear red accessories (such as red socks, hairbands, badges) and make a £1 donation for this amazing charity. The link to the Red Nose Charity Link on Parent Pay will be shared next week.

The money raised for Red Nose Day supports Comic Relief, which helps people facing poverty, hardship and inequality both in the UK and around the world. Donations help fund projects that provide food, safe housing, education, mental health support and protection for vulnerable people and families.

Every contribution makes a difference, so let's work together to make this year's Red Nose Day a huge success!

♥ #TEAMQEGS Thank you for your support



Proud Table

Mrs Baugh joined the Proud Table last week and heard about all the wonderful things our students have been proud of.

A very well done to Philip C-L (Year 9) passed his grade 3 piano exam with a Merit, congratulations!

We also had a lovely surprise when a member of the community dropped in a box of chocolates for Richard W and his friends in Year 9. Last week they supported someone in the community, and the family wanted to show their appreciation.

We are incredibly proud of our students for showing such kindness and for representing #TeamQEGS so positively in our community.



Sixth Form update

This week Year 12 welcomed David Gilmore from R&Be a Lifesaver to learn about how young people can register on the Anthony Nolan Trust register for stem cell donation and potentially be a lifesaver. We are proud that so many students each year join the register and several students who have registered have then been called to donate. David also presented an award to QEGS Sixth Form *"in appreciation and recognition of outstanding dedication to the education of young people about blood, stem cell and organ donation"*



Head Students appointments



We are really proud to announce that we have appointed four new Head Students this week. After completing a three-stage recruitment process — including an application letter, an assessment centre and a final interview — we are delighted to confirm that Sophie, Dylan, Johnny and Lucy were successful.

We can't wait to see how they implement their ideas and lead the Student Council to create a lasting legacy within the Sixth Form and wider school community.

Their hard work has already begun. They have been meeting with younger year groups in preparation for an

upcoming student panel, and they are also booked in to speak to Year 11 students about their journeys and experiences in an assembly on Tuesday.

Finally, well done to everyone who applied. Each year we are incredibly proud when we read the applications and listen to students share their ideas, ambitions and achievements — it always reminds us just how amazing our students are.

Year 13 Leavers Date

Year 13 students' final day in Sixth Form will be Friday 8th May. The day will be a chance to celebrate their time with us and will include a leavers' assembly, a year group photo, a BBQ and much more.

A letter will be sent home to parents and carers with further details before the end of this half term, but we wanted to share the date now so that families are aware.

Please note that students studying BTEC qualifications should check with their subject teachers regarding their final day in school, as they may still be working towards separate or different final assessment deadlines.

The Sixth Form team will remain available to support students throughout the exam period, and revision sessions will be shared ahead of the leaving date so students know when they can come into school to access additional support from their teachers.

We are looking forward to celebrating the Year 13 cohort and everything they have achieved during their time in the Sixth Form.

U13 Netball

The Under 13 Netball team travelled to Highfields School to represent QEGS in the Derbyshire County tournament, placing 5th overall.



House Football matches

On Tuesday 10th March we celebrated International Women's Day with girls football house matches!

We had over 100 girls taking part!

Well done to everyone!

RESULTS

Year 7&8 Results

- 1 Spalden (on goal difference)
- 2 Cokayne
- 3 Boothby
- 4 Hull

Year 9&10

- 1 Cokayne
- 2 Hull
- 3 Spalden
- 4 Boothby

Shout out to Hull who played with 9 players throughout!



Year 7 Rugby

On Thursday, the Year 7 rugby team fought hard against a strong Chellaston team and their efforts paid off in a thrilling draw as QEGS scored a last-minute try with 4 tries each. Well done to all involved!

Upcoming fixtures:

16/03- Year 10 county 7s tournament at Derby Rugby FC

18/03- Year 8 vs Lady Manners (A)

20/03- Year 7 vs Ecclesbourne (H)

23/03- Year 8 county 7s tournament at Derby Rugby FC

24/03- Year 9 vs JCB (A)



Police and Crime Commissioner's Listening to You Survey

Parents and carers were sent the link to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Listening survey this week to share with students Year 10 and above – please share with your child and complete if wish to provide feedback on feelings of safety, experiences of crime and anti-social behaviour before the survey closes at the end of March. Thank you.

Nature Notes

Look out for signs of Spring if you are out and about in the countryside around Ashbourne.

Last weekend at Carsington there were lots of Scarlet Elf Cups (*Sarcoscypha austriaca*) near the Lane End hide. This bright red fungus grows on the woodland floor on decaying sticks and branches.



This turkey tail fungus (*Trametes versicolor*) grows on rotting wood and can be found throughout the year. It was once used as a table decoration and to add interest to hats!

A reminder about the Swift Information Evening at **7.30pm on Thursday 19th March** at QEGS, Boothby campus. This is a chance to find out more about swifts and how to protect them in Ashbourne.

This is a free event, but you can book your place using the link below:

<https://bit.ly/4rvDNui>



School Canteen

Menu choice week beginning 16th March 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://mynewterm.com/trust/Tapestry-Learning-Partnership/145491> Current QEGS vacancies:

- Finance Assistant
- People & Culture Assistant

Upcoming Key Dates This Term

- 17th March – Primary Sport, netball
- 19th March – Swift Information Evening, Boothby Campus, 7pm to 9pm
- 20th to 26th March – Morocco Trip for Yr 12 & 13 students
- 20th March – Red Nose Day – wear a red accessory to school and fundraising stalls in school
- 24th March – Primary Sports, netball
- 25th March – Year 11 Parent Teacher Meeting, in person, 3:45pm to 6:00pm
- 27th March – Last day of Spring 2 term

Finally

Firstly, we have seen the fantastic start of our school show this week. The performances so far have been incredible, and the feedback from audiences has been shown in their joyous applause each night. A huge thank you goes to all the students and staff involved, both on stage, behind the scenes and the orchestra. Your hard work, creativity and commitment have truly shone through.

I would also like to say a big thank you to our families and carers for their generosity in donating Easter eggs. We have received a fantastic number of donations from students, which is brilliant to see, and your kindness will make a real difference.

This week we were also pleased to appoint our new Head Students. Congratulations to those who were successful and thank you to everyone who put themselves forward. The standard was extremely high, and we are very proud of the leadership shown by our students.

We were also proud to recognise and support International Women's Day. Many of our students played an active role in helping to highlight the importance of the day, and it was wonderful to see such thoughtful engagement across the school community.

Finally, a massive thank you to our PE team for the wide range of fixtures and house matches that have taken place. Your dedication ensures that students have so many opportunities to take part, represent the school and enjoy sport. Thank you again to everyone who has contributed to such a positive week in school.

I hope you all have a wonderful and restful weekend with your family and friends.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Walker', written in a cursive style.

Matt Walker

Deputy Headteacher