

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity

Chair of Governors: Mr N Moore



20th March 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #24

LEGALLY BLONDE – WHAT A SHOW!

We're still buzzing from an unforgettable run of Legally Blonde, and we couldn't be prouder!

A massive thank you to our phenomenal cast, crew, musicians, staff, and volunteers who have poured heart, soul, and countless hours into bringing this production to life. From rehearsing lines and choreography to perfecting every musical cue and backstage detail - your dedication shone in every moment.

Our cast absolutely lit up the stage with humour, charisma, and nonstop energy, keeping audiences hooked from the very first beat.



Our incredible band delivered a flawless, high-energy performance night after night - bringing the score to life with real musical magic. And behind the scenes, our technical wizards and backstage heroes worked tirelessly to ensure everything ran seamlessly. From lighting and sound to costumes, set changes, and stage management, you all made the entire production sparkle.

We are so unbelievably proud of every student and member of staff involved. This show was a vibrant celebration of creativity, teamwork, and what our school community can achieve together.

Congratulations to everyone involved! You made Legally Blonde a production we'll remember for years to come.

Red Nose Day – Friday 20th March

Thank you for supporting Red Nose Day today by wearing a red accessory, running and supporting a stall or donating via the Parent Pay link:

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=20452>

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 – the total raised will be shared next week.



Reports

Reports for Years 7–10 have been issued this week on GO 4 Schools. Students will also be bringing home printed copies today or early next week.

We warmly encourage you to take some time to look through the report with your child. Talking together about their progress, achievements, and targets can make a real difference to learning and motivation. These conversations help students recognise what they are doing well and understand how to keep improving, with your support and encouragement at home.

Thank you for continuing to work with us to support your child's success.

Pi Day competition results

Thank you to all who took part in the Pi Day competition! The results are in...Fantastic work!

Top 5 for words beginning with Pi:

Isabelle C, Year 7
Maddie B, Year 7
Francis S, Year 7
Evie M, Year 7
Allie F, Year 7

Digits of pi:

Penny T, Year 10 - Getting **430** digits of Pi correct!!!!
Robert F, Year 8
Callie L, Year 9
Megan T, Year 9
Oliver R,

Sixth Form Garden refresh

The Heads of Environment recently began a project to replant and improve the two courtyard areas in the Lower Sixth Form building, led by Mollie (Year 13 Student Council member). After designing a plan for the spaces, the team secured skilled support from Wyaston Nurseries and very generous financial support from the Ashburnian Society, who kindly helped make the project possible. Wyaston Nurseries provided complimentary gardening support along with a range of plants, flowers and trees. With the help of many volunteers from both Year 12 and Year 13, students spent the day cleaning, pressure washing, sweeping, de-weeding and replanting the courtyards, as well as improving the surrounding grounds with new flower beds, trees, features and two lovely new benches. It was fantastic to see so many students getting involved, and a huge thank you goes to everyone who helped, as well as to the Old Ashburnians and Wyaston Nurseries for their generous donations and support. The refreshed courtyards and grounds are now ready to be enjoyed during free periods, break and lunchtimes for generations of students to come — a lasting legacy from Mollie and the Student Council.



Year 12 Gold D of E

We are delighted to share that 20 Year 12 students have just begun working towards their Gold Award as part of the the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. This is the highest number of students we have ever had taking part in the Gold level!

The Gold Award is the highest level of the programme and requires a significant commitment from students. To achieve it, participants complete a range of challenging activities including volunteering in their community, developing a new skill, taking part in regular physical activity, and completing a multi-day expedition. Students must also undertake a Residential section, where they spend time away from home working with new people on a shared activity.

The programme is designed to build confidence, resilience, teamwork and leadership, while encouraging young people to step outside their comfort zones and make a positive contribution to their communities.

We wish all of our students the very best of luck as they begin their journey towards the Gold Award and look forward to hearing more about their progress in the coming weeks and months.

Swift Evening

Our swift evening was well attended by staff, students and members of the public. Our Year 12 Biodiversity Group made delicious cakes for the evening, and we had a talk from Charly Crump of Derbyshire Swift Conservation. Thanks to Iona's mum for the lovely paintings and to Iona, Kate, Carla, Sabah, Lillie and friends for helping out and making it a successful evening.

Look out for future events as we have now set up a group of volunteers to survey swifts and we will be running a training event in May with opportunities to watch nesting swifts at QEGS.



Year 8 Rugby

The Year 8 rugby team played Lady Manners on Wednesday afternoon, winning by a convincing 13 tries to 3, player of the match awarded to Felix who scored 8 tries!



Primary Sports



This week in the glorious sunshine we held the Year 5 and 6 High 5 netball.

We had 19 teams taking part and there was so much talent, smiles and fun being had!

Thank you to the Year 9 leaders that led the event.

Nature Notes

Look out for the lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), which is abundant in churchyards and woodlands at this time of year. Often forming a carpet of glossy flowers and leaves, it is a vital source of nectar for bees.



School Canteen

Menu choice week beginning 23rd March will be week 2.

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
- Caretaker

Upcoming Key Dates This Term

- 20th to 26th March – Morocco Trip for Yr 12 & 13 students
- 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
- 13th April – School Reopens, Summer 1 term
- 15th April – Schools In pop up shop, 3.30pm to 5pm, Canteen
- 16th April – Exam Performance Evening, 7pm to 9.30pm, Hall
- 17th April – Year 12 Scientists visit University of Derby
- 23rd April – Year 8 HPV vaccinations
- 28th April – Primary Sports, Athletics
- 28th April – Year 10 Parent Teacher Meetings, in person 3.45pm to 6pm

Finally

What a fantastic week it has been here at QEGS, with so many wonderful moments to celebrate across our school community.

Firstly, we would like to once again thank all of the students and staff who performed in and organised our recent theatre production. The talent, commitment and teamwork on display were truly exceptional, and we are incredibly proud of everyone involved.

This week also saw us celebrate Pi Day in style. A huge thank you to our Maths team for organising such an engaging competition complete with their fantastic pie-themed T-shirts! Special congratulations go to Penny in Year 10, who achieved an astonishing feat by reciting 430 digits of pi. An incredible and truly impressive accomplishment!

Today, the Easter Bunny made a special appearance around school, bringing smiles and cream eggs to students in recognition of their hard work and dedication this term. It was a lovely way to celebrate the positive spirit we continue to see across QEGS.

Fourteen Year 13 students with Miss Edwards and Mr Hughes from the Geography team arrived in Morocco today to enjoy a 7-day adventure exploring a different culture and country – we look forward to hearing of their experiences on their return.



The climate for learning this week has been excellent. Staff have been focusing on purposeful circulation in lessons to ensure that every student is fully engaged and supported, with no opportunity to opt out of learning. Our culture of 'leaving nothing to chance' continues to strengthen, and it is making a real difference in classrooms every day.

We were also delighted to host our Swift event last night, which was attended by students, staff and members of the public. It was wonderful to see our community come together in such a positive and enriching way.

Looking ahead to next week, we will be sharing feedback from our recent parental survey along with the key priorities and next steps. In line with our commitment to "you said, we listened, this is what we are doing about it" we will outline how we are continuing to work in partnership with parents and carers to further improve our school.

On behalf of all the staff at QEGS, we wish you a wonderful and restful weekend.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Walker', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Matt Walker
Deputy Headteacher