



15th May 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff,

Weekly Bulletin #30

Duke of Edinburgh – practice expeditions

Last week our Silver and Bronze participants completed their practice expedition. A total of 130 students developed their skills in map reading and navigation while walking with all their kit for 2 days (bronze) or 3 days (silver).

They had inputs from our provider, Rich Adventure, on first aid, camp craft and cooking on Trangias safely. They all learned a lot... from how to administer an EpiPen to how to pitch a tent.

We are proud of their achievements, and feedback from instructors and members of the public was excellent. Their conduct was outstanding both out and about and at a very busy campsite. A huge well done to everyone.

Thank you to all the parents who supported them too, from dropping off to menu planning they couldn't do it without your help.



Year 12 Attendance & Mock Exam Update

During the first week of next half term, attendance letters will be sent to all Year 12 parents/carers via Arbor. Information regarding this process will also be shared with Year 12 parents and carers next week. These letters are part of our ongoing commitment to regularly share information about students' attendance and to provide support where needed.

A separate letter has been sent to Year 12 parents/carers regarding the upcoming Year 12 mock/progress examinations, which begin on 8th June. A link is included within the letter to provide permission for study leave; please ask parents/carers to complete this as soon as possible. Revision support is available in the lead up to the examinations through subject departments, tutor time sessions and with our KS5 Learning Coach, Mrs Thrupp.

Royal Society of Chemistry Schools' Analyst Challenge

Year 12 chemistry students have taken part in a 4-lesson enrichment activity led by the Royal Society of Chemistry in conjunction with Northumbria University. The students have been set various analytical challenges. These included determining how much caffeine is in a mug of coffee found at the crime scene, working out the brand of a mystery lipstick mark found on the victims shirt collar and finally the identification of a mysterious tube of cream found on the victim.

Students submitted their answers to the RSC and had the chance to submit their own creative writing piece that gave them the licence to explain how the evidence may or may not hint at foul play.



Many thanks to the technicians and teachers for giving our students the opportunity to extend their chemistry learning beyond the usual curriculum.

ESAA Track & Field Cup Round 1

The ESAA Track & Field Cup is a competition between school teams which is held in three rounds. On Thursday, over 50 students went to Moorways to represent QEGS in one of the 4 teams we entered (Years 7&8 girls, Years 7&8 boys, Years 9&10 girls and Years 9&10 boys). Each athlete in the team competed in 2 events and each individual performance contributed to the team total.

We are really proud of the excellent effort and attitude displayed by all of the QEGS students that represented us yesterday. All showed great determination, to perform at their best, resilience, to overcome difficult weather conditions, and team work, to encourage and support each other.

Furthermore, there were lots of fantastic individual performances that lead to overall success for each of the teams. The Junior Girls finished 5th and will hopefully have enough points to compete again in the B-Final on the 15th June. Both the Junior Boys and Inter Boys finished 2nd and will compete in either the B-Final or A-Final, depending on the scores from other competitions. The highlight of the day though was the Inter Girls team who won their competition and will now go through to the A-Final at Moorways on Wednesday 17th June.

Videos of some of the events are available to watch on the QEGS PE Instagram.

Young Founder Award – QEGS Alumni

Alumni student of QEGS, Deputy Lieutenant Jo Ewart-Sear is overseeing the prestigious 'Kings Award for Enterprise' in Derbyshire. To find out more, please visit the link below to check eligibility and apply for the award.

Young Founder - <https://www.gov.uk/kings-awards-for-enterprise/eligibility>

To apply for the **Young Founder Award**, you must:

- be actively leading an organisation between 6 May 2026 and 8 September 2027
- be aged between 18 and 30 years on 6 May 2027

You'll need to prove that your organisation has achieved commercial success or growth potential, such as either:

- a turnover of £250,000
- £500,000 in external funding such as investments, loans or grants

You also need to provide evidence that you've made an impact over 5 different themes detailed in the webpage link. The Kings Award Team would be happy to support anyone through the application process for this year or in future years, please contact enquiries@qegs.email, and school will forward your details for support.

Second hand uniform donations

We are looking for donations of pre-loved school uniform and PE kit.

Has your child outgrown their uniform? Is it still in great condition for someone else to use? Rather than it going to waste, we would love to give it a second life!

Our aim is to have a range of pre-loved uniform available at our transition event for new students joining our school community. Uniform will be available on a donation basis, with all proceeds going towards our school environmental group to help fund planting seeds, bulbs and trees around the school grounds

By reusing uniform, we can support families and help look after our planet too.

If you can donate any clean, good-quality uniform, please send it into school reception/Student Services, Thank you for your support!

Choc Ice Tuesday – fund raising for Rome trip

Choc ices will be on sale for £1 each outside the canteen at lunchtime! Come along and support us as we raise money for Rome!

Cash only. First come, first served.



Swift watching update

We are privileged at QEGS to have critically endangered swifts nesting on site. These acrobatic birds migrate from Africa each summer to breed in the UK and we have seen 2 pairs entering their nest sites. If anyone would like to attend a swift watching evening, we will be surveying swifts on Monday 18th May and Wednesday 3rd June; please meet at Main Reception at 7:30pm if wish to attend. Look out for more details of a swift walk during National Swift Awareness week at the beginning of July. For further

details, please contact Mrs Fretwell using this email address: Fretwell@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk

Bluebells

At this time of year, we are seeing bluebells in our woodlands, but how do you tell the difference between our native British bluebells and the invasive Spanish bluebells?

Our native bluebells are a blue-purple shade, have flowers on only one side of the stem and narrow leaves. They are also highly fragranced, whereas the Spanish bluebells have no scent. Spanish bluebells are upright with broad leaves. They are a problem in our woodlands as they block the light for native bluebells and form hybrids threatening the genetic make-up of our native bluebells.



School Canteen

Menu choice week beginning 18th May 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:

- Teacher of Spanish & French
- Teacher of Design & Technology

Upcoming Key Dates This Term

- 18th May to 24th June – GCSE & A Level exams period
- 12th May – Primary Sports, Kwik Cricket
- 14th May – Year 8 Parent Teacher Meetings, in person 3.45pm to 6pm
- 18th May – Swift Watching, 7.30pm, meeting at Main Reception
- 19th May – Primary Sports, Kwik Cricket
- 20th May to 22nd May – Year 10 Geography Fieldtrips, Buston & River Dove
- 22nd May – last day summer 1 term

Finally

Well done to Year11 and Year13 students who got their exam season underway this week. Attitude and conduct have been exemplary and the wet and windy weather has probably encouraged some indoor revision – hopefully! If your child has exams over the coming weeks, please remind them that we have free breakfast on offer every day at Boothby and Main Site. Food and hydration definitely help with exam performance, stamina and concentration. Reducing screen time, getting some fresh air and exercise also help maintain a healthy body and healthy mind. Teaching staff are also on hand to advise, reassure, guide and support your child with their revision and practice for the exams.

We try to leave nothing to chance. If you think we have missed anything, please let Mr O’Keefe or Miss Ward know and we will do our best to provision whatever it is.

Exciting News!

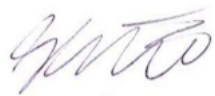
We’re delighted to share that some of our students and QEGS will be featured on **ITV News Central** next week! The first segment will air on ITV News Central on **Monday 18th May at 6pm**, with follow-up features on **Tuesday** and **Wednesday** at the same time.

As part of this feature, **18 of our Year 10 students** took part in a **Social Media Ban Experiment**, giving up social media for an entire week. ITV visited the school throughout the week and spent time with some students at home to explore how the experience impacted their daily lives.

Please help us spread the word and tune in to watch!

Have a safe and restful weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Scott Garrity
Headteacher

Enc: Consultation letter: Reopening of an Enhanced Resource/Specialist Resource (ERS) for Pupils with ND/ASD