



5th June 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff,

Weekly Bulletin #32

QEGS Students Celebrate Duke of Edinburgh Achievements at Buckingham Palace

Three current QEGS students Emma, Freya and Matilda, two ex-QEGS students, Barney and Sam plus Mrs Wright (DofE manager) attended a special celebration held at Buckingham Palace on Friday 22nd May, marking both their Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award achievements and the 70th anniversary of the DofE Award scheme.

Hosted by His Royal Highness Prince Edward, The Duke of Edinburgh, the event brought together young people from across the country to celebrate their accomplishments and the positive impact of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

The magnificent setting of Buckingham Palace provided a memorable backdrop for the occasion. Each student was accompanied by a parent, making the day an especially memorable experience for the families involved. Guests enjoyed tea and cupcakes while exploring the palace gardens and taking part in the celebrations. The event featured beautiful live music and a series of inspiring speeches from well-known figures, including Dame Kelly Holmes, entrepreneur Sara Davies, and professional dancer Katya Jones. Their messages encouraged young people to continue challenging themselves, developing new skills, and making a difference in their communities.

For the QEGS students and alumni in attendance, the day was a wonderful recognition of the dedication, resilience, and commitment required to achieve their Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. It was also a unique opportunity to celebrate alongside thousands of other young people as the organisation marked 70 years of helping young people discover their potential.

Congratulations to all five QEGS students on this outstanding achievement and on representing the school so proudly at such a prestigious national event.



Year 11 Sixth Form Transition Day (Part 2) – Monday 29th June

A reminder to all Year 11 students who have applied to join our Sixth Form that Transition Day (Part 2) will take place on **Monday 29th June**.

Students should sign in at Boothby Reception at 8:45am before making their way to the Sixth Form building. The day will provide an excellent opportunity for students to experience Sixth Form life and prepare for the transition in September.

Throughout the day, students will take part in a range of taster sessions and receive information on study skills, independent learning, and other key aspects of Sixth Form study.

A letter containing further details will be sent to students and families next week.

QEGS Sixth Form Information Evening for Year 11 Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are also invited to attend a Sixth Form Information Evening on **Monday 29th June at 6:00pm**, in the Sixth Form Common Room, Boothby Campus. This presentation will provide an introduction to Sixth Form life, along with important information to help families prepare for Results Day and the start of the academic year in September.

We look forward to welcoming both students and families to these important transition events.

Homerton College, Cambridge Commendations



We are delighted that Charlotte H and Isabella H, Year 12 have both received Commendations from Homerton College, University of Cambridge

The first was for a joint project for the Homerton College Design Programme, called '*The Biophilic Burrow: An Architectural Social Solution*', an architectural design exploring biophilic principles as a response to social and environmental challenges.



We are in a moment where awareness of the need to adopt a more plant-forward diet differs significantly from the rigid vegetarian and veganism movements that defined our parents' and grandparents' generations. Rather than strict dietary guidelines, today's emphasis has shifted toward adaptable approaches, commonly referred to as flexitarian eating, which has become increasingly popular among younger generations.

Existing evidence strongly suggests that plant-based diets can provide numerous benefits, both physical and mental, and that their broader adoption contribute positively to the long-term sustainability of the planet. However, this idea is more complex than it initially appears. There is an important distinction between a rigid "just-eat-plants" model and a more flexible "eat-more-plants" approach.

Isabella also entered the Homerton College Essay Programme, receiving a Commendation for her essay entitled '*Just Plants? The Case Against Dietary Absolutism*'.

They have been invited to attend the Homerton College Student Conference on 'Building a Sustainable and Healthy World' at Homerton College, Cambridge where they will participate in sustainability workshops and games, student-led college tours and hear from expert-led panels.

Congratulations to Isabella and Charlotte! We look forward to hearing all about the conference!

Mrs Starkie's Proud Table today!

A wonderfully busy Proud Table at lunchtime today, celebrating some truly fantastic achievements across our school community!

A special congratulations to our outstanding students:

- Erin S – achieving her green belt in ju-jitsu, and Harmony L for achieving her black belt a fantastic display of dedication and discipline
- Isaac H – crowned *Player of the Year* in football – an incredible sporting achievement
- Matthew S – recognised for his expert shepherding skills – a unique and impressive talent
- Ellen N – smashing her personal best with her fastest ever mile – a brilliant milestone
- Joseph C – for his exceptional hard work and commitment in preparation for his exams
- Evie M – achieving a distinction in her tap exam – a superb accomplishment
- Poppy W – for her outstanding first aid skills, bravely helping to save her friend from choking – a truly remarkable and courageous act

We are incredibly proud of each and every one of you – a true reflection of the talent, determination and spirit within our school. Keep striving, keep shining!

Stitching Ashbourne project:

We've had a lovely message of thanks from Laura Burrill, the community artist who ran our in-school workshops for this fantastic project. Several students attended the unveiling to see their work. Laura says:

'I wanted my sincere thanks to the students and staff of QEGS for their fantastic support of the recent Stitching Ashbourne Community Unveiling Event.

A number of QEGS students contributed to the project itself, creating stitched squares celebrating Ashbourne, while many others additionally volunteered their time to help organise and deliver the unveiling event. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm, creativity and community spirit on display.

Special thanks go to:

- Irene T, who was part of the artwork construction team, stitching together the panels of contributions, and the unveiling welcoming volunteer team, signing in guests and ensuring everyone received a warm welcome.
- Evalyn B, who supported event set-up and refreshments.
- Isobel B and Jess A, who helped with event set-up and were later joined by James B to run the children's activity table.
- Esme B, Miriam W, Jess A and Isobel B, who, alongside students from St Oswald's Primary School, had the honour of unveiling the completed artwork.
- Nina H, who attended the unveiling alongside three generations of her family who had participated in the project.'

A big thank you to all of the students who take part, and to Laura for asking us to get involved in the project. We look forward to displaying the work in school later this year.

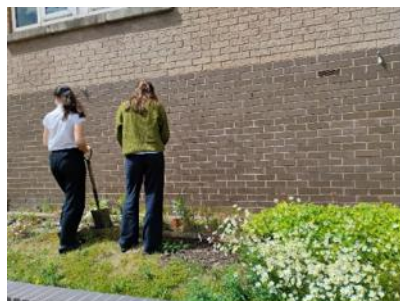
Message from Ms Morgan, Land based subject

This week we said goodbye to Mrs Sargeant as she goes off on maternity leave. We wish her all the best. I had a lovely time as her 'stand in' visiting our students on placement. Whilst I have a few sheep of my own and my parents farm I still consider it to be big shoes to fill. What struck me most today about my visits was how valued our students are. They are a real asset to the farms they work on and were praised for their attitude and work ethic. A real proud teacher day! Thanks to all the businesses that support the education of our students.



Noah W – 800m race

Noah W, Year 11 took part in a recent athletics meeting for Burton Athletics club and ran an amazing 1:51 for the 800m race – to run a sub-2-minute race for his age group is outstanding! This time beats the women's World Record of 1:53.28, and just over 10 seconds slower than the men's World Record of 1:40.91.



QEGS Biodiversity Group

As part of our bee and butterfly garden project, Carla and Sabah in year 12 have planted some sunflowers in front of the Level 3 teaching block.



Nature Notes

There are lots of painted lady butterflies around at the moment as a result of a warm May. The painted lady migrates from Africa in stages, with its caterpillars feeding on thistles in the UK. In the autumn millions will fly back to Africa as they cannot survive the British winter.



School Canteen

Menu choice week beginning 8th June 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/>

Take a look at the upcoming themed menus coming soon, posters attached to the bulletin::
Thursday 11th June, France and throughout June and July, World Cup themed menus!

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:

- Child Protection Officer
- Site Manager
- Teacher of Music, Deputy Performing Arts Faculty Leader

Upcoming Key Dates This Term

- 8th to 24th June – GCSE & A Level exams period
- 8th to 12th June – Year 12 mock exams
- 11th June – Year 7 Parents Teacher Meetings, on site 3:45pm to 6pm
- 15th to 19th June – Year 8 trip to Rome
- 15th to 19th June – Year 12 work experience week
- 16th June – Primary Sports, rounders
- 15th to 19th June – Year 10 core mocks
- 22nd to 26th June – Year 10 work experience week
- 23rd June – Primary Sports, rounders
- 29th to 1st July – Year 12 Gold DofE practice expedition
- 29th June – Year 11 Sixth Form Transition Day
- 29th June – Year 12 A Level Biology fieldtrip[

- 29th June – Year 11 students and parents/carers Sixth Form information evening, Sixth Form Common Rm
- 29th June – Swift watching, 8pm, meet at Main Reception
- 30th June – Year 9 Sports Leaders Spring Lakes trip
- 30th June – Year 10 and 12, DT/CDM trip to the London Design Museum

Finally

Really sad to hear the news that Abbotsholme School will be closing in two weeks' time. We have already been contacted this morning by 4 families, and we have secured places at QEGS for their children. Please share these contact details if you know of a family with a child at Abbotsholme who may need to get in touch to secure a place at QEGS. Please contact us by phone on 01335 343685 or email via Mrs Starkie starkiek@qegs.email for a chat and tour if required.

If you missed our recent ITV News piece on 'Teens without screens' the details can be found here <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/teens-without-screens/>

Have a restful weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Scott Garrity

Headteacher

Enc: Canteen themed menus