

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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10th July 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff,

Weekly Bulletin #37

Year 6 Transition Days

This week, we were delighted to welcome our new Year 6 cohort for their transition days, giving students the opportunity to experience life at our school ahead of September. It was also wonderful to meet so many parents and carers at our Year 6 information evening on Tuesday.

A special thank you goes to Ashbourne Cadets, Netball, Hockey and Rugby Clubs, Aztecs, Golf Club, Arts Festival and Young Farmers for joining us on the evening and showcasing the fantastic range of clubs and organisations available within our local community. Your support helps our new families discover the many opportunities that await them beyond the classroom.



During their visit, all students enjoyed watching our History of QEGS video, providing an insight into the school's rich heritage and traditions.

Sports Day 2026

Last week, students enjoyed a fantastic Sports Day, with many taking part in events to earn points for their house. Congratulations to everyone who competed and thank you to the staff who helped make the day such a success.

Year Group Winners:

- Year 7 Girls – Spalden
- Year 7 Boys – Hull
- Year 8 Girls – Spalden
- Year 8 Boys – Cokayne
- Year 9 Girls – Cokayne
- Year 9 Boys – Spalden
- Year 10 Girls – Hull
- Year 10 Boys – Cokayne

Overall House Results:

- 1st – Spalden
- 2nd – Hull
- 3rd – Cokayne
- 4th – Boothby



Year 10 Visit to the University of Derby and Buxton College

Our Year 10 students recently enjoyed an inspiring visit to the University of Derby, giving them the opportunity to experience life as a university student and explore the exciting range of opportunities available in higher education. During the day, students took part in two engaging taster sessions, where they experienced university-style learning in different subject areas. These interactive sessions encouraged them to think critically, ask questions, and gain an insight into the teaching and learning environment they may encounter in the future.

Students also enjoyed a guided tour of the university campus, exploring the modern facilities, learning spaces, and student amenities. The tour provided a valuable glimpse into university life and helped students imagine what studying at university could be like.



A key part of the visit involved researching the wide range of courses offered by the University of Derby. Students explored subjects linked to their interests and future career aspirations, learning about entry requirements, course content, and the many pathways available after completing their GCSEs and post-16 studies.

The visit was a fantastic opportunity to raise aspirations, broaden horizons, and encourage students to start thinking about their future education and career choices. We would like to thank the University of Derby for hosting such an informative and engaging visit.

This week, Year 10 students visited Buxton College to experience taster sessions in subjects ranging from Hair and Beauty, Public Services, Health and Social Care to name a few, or a session with Buxton FC at their training ground. The Catering session took part in the fully equipped kitchens with students preparing a pizza with toppings of their choice or spring rolls.

Thank you to the Buxton team of tutors who ran the sessions coming in specially for the day as their normal term had finished a couple of weeks ago, and to QEGS Staff accompanying the students on this and the University of Derby trip.

Our students represented the school exceptionally well at both venues, demonstrating enthusiasm, curiosity, and maturity throughout the day.

We look forward to continuing to provide our students with experiences that support their future ambitions with the upcoming **Career and Employability Day taking place on Tuesday 21st July**, in school, for our Year 10 students.



Sixth Form updates

Our Heads of Community Outreach in the Sixth Form Council recently had a positive introductory meeting with the manager of the new Link Centre in Ashbourne. The meeting highlighted a range of exciting opportunities for our Sixth Form students to become involved in community projects and volunteering in the future. We look forward to developing this partnership and collaborating further in the months ahead.

Our Year 12 students are making great progress with their personal statements for their future university and apprenticeship applications. Their recent Life Skills and tutor sessions have been dedicated to supporting students with planning, drafting and refining high-quality personal statements that showcase their strengths, experiences and aspirations. Alongside this, students have been receiving careers guidance to help them research their next steps and make informed decisions about their future pathways. This programme of support will continue throughout the autumn term.

Congratulations to Sarah B in Year 12, who has been shortlisted in the Philosophy category of the prestigious John Locke Institute 2026 Global Essay Prize. Chosen from over 100,000 entrants across 183 countries, this outstanding achievement places Sarah among the top 17.5% of young essayists worldwide – a fantastic accomplishment of which we are incredibly proud.

Year 7 County rounders

The Year 7 girls rounders team competed at the county tournament on Tuesday afternoon and results are out - QEGS got on the podium with 3rd place.

This is very impressive considering training has been mostly cancelled due to weather restraints, well done girls!



U17 Nottingham Forest Coaches' Player of the Season

Congratulations to Maizie G in Year 12 on being named the Nottingham Forest Under-17 Coaches' Player of the Season. This is a fantastic achievement and a thoroughly deserved recognition of your hard work, dedication and talent.

We are all incredibly proud of you and look forward to following your journey and seeing what the 2026/27 season has in store. Congratulations once again, Maizie!

Nature Notes

Students Lily C and George T have helped to set up a butterfly transect around the upper school site. George braved the heat on Wednesday to record butterflies along the route, spotting a total of 38 butterflies in half an hour: 14 small white, 18 meadow brown, 1 comma, 2 red admiral, 1 holly blue, 1 small tortoiseshell and 1 gatekeeper.



Parent Clare Tuck has kindly donated 2 hedgehog boxes, which we have positioned under the hedge at the top of the school. Thank you Clare!



Past students – collection of exam certificates

School is holding many exam certificates from students who completed exams at QEGS in the last 6 years (A Level, BTEC and GCSE); please email exams@qegs.email if you are unsure if collected previously or to arrange collection. Please note, school is unable to send the certificates out by post.

These are legal documents and will be required for employment in the future so please collect asap.

School Canteen

Menu choice week beginning 13th July 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/>

Tapestry Learning Trust Vacancies

Please keep an eye on our vacancies at QEGS and within the trust.

<https://mynewterm.com/trust/Tapestry-Learning-Partnership/145491>

Upcoming Key Dates This Term

- 16th July – Swift watching and walk, 7:30pm
- 19th to 22nd July – Year 7 Paris/France trip
- 20th to 22nd July – Year 12 Geography residential trip
- 21st July – Year 10 Career talks and Employability Day, in school
- **22nd July – Last day of term, finish 1pm.**
- 23rd July – Inset Day, school closed to staff and students

For planning ahead, next term:

- Friday 4th September INSET – staff only
- Monday 7th September INSET – staff only
- Tuesday 8th September Yrs7 and 11 only
- Wednesday 9th September Yrs7, 10, 11, 12 only
- Thursday 10th September all year groups in school

Finally

Thank you for your support this week with the warm weather. We have provided lolly ices and water to students travelling on school buses (and the drivers too!), we have moved classes from particularly hot classrooms, we have purchased and distributed pedestal fans around the school where needed (particularly for our pregnant staff), we have changed the uniform choices and made many other adaptations to help manage the heat. There have been lots of challenges for students and staff and they have coped with them really well, well done everyone!

For next week, the weather remains warm, so we are going to keep the option of QEGS PE kit available to students in Years 7-10. Please ensure your child wears the correct QEGS PE items if choosing this option, QEGS PE top and shorts (or plain black shorts of a decent length – mid thigh - must be appropriate for school or will be provided with alternatives).

Oh and I nearly forgot, 'come on England', thankfully a Saturday night KO so all expected in school on time Monday morning please!!

Have a great weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Scott Garrity
Headteacher

Enc – Local events on over the summer holidays