

# Queen Mary's Grammar School



## A message from the Headmaster, September 2018

Dear parents/guardians

### Looking back...

It seems like we have been back from the summer for some time, but a belated welcome back and I hope you had a good break. The school was open, of course for the public exam results in August and I was delighted to see some outstanding performances at GCSE and A-level. Full details can be seen on the School's website:

[http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=25&Itemid=137](http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=25&Itemid=137)

At the start of term, we also reflected on some of the extra-curricular activities which had taken place over the summer holiday, including international trips to Mexico (Biology) and USA (History). The army section of the CCF also took part in their annual camp and I received some excellent reports on the conduct of the students. Details of these three initiatives can be seen on twitter:

<https://twitter.com/qmgsbiology?lang=en>

<https://twitter.com/qm1554?lang=en>

[https://twitter.com/QMGSCCF?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor](https://twitter.com/QMGSCCF?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor)

### Looking forward...

#### Speech Day

We hold our annual speech day on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October. This is one of the highlights of the year and is a time to celebrate what has been achieved over the past year. The arrangements will be similar to last year (with St Matthew's church being the venue for both parts of the day), but the evening celebration will begin slightly earlier (at 5pm) and will include the prize giving as part of the main event. Our guest speaker this year is Professor Lloyd Peck, a former student of QMGS and (amongst other titles) holds the role of the Science Leader of the British Antarctic Survey. We look forward to his evening address and his student seminar in the afternoon.

<https://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/about-us/staff-profiles/tutor/professor-lloyd-peck>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/profiles/1v8Sss2PsLT4bh7fQwMh1m/lloyd-peck>

#### Road safety and parking

I have written to you before about being considerate over parking and conduct when driving past the school, but I am still receiving complaints about behaviours on the Sutton Road. You may have noticed members of the senior leadership team on duty outside the school at the end of the day, but this can only go part of the way to solving the issue. Could parents please make sure that they do not do the following:

- Park in entrances, across drive ways or in bus stops
- Double park or block in other people
- Perform U-turns or other dangerous manoeuvres

It would be most helpful if the students were able to walk for the last five minutes or so to and from school. It is good for their health and prevents the bottle neck of traffic. We are continuing to work with the local authorities on the matter and I am aware that some parents have had their cars ticketed in the last few weeks. Several residents have also informed me that they have been in touch with the police.

#### Building work

We were handed back full use of the science block at the start of term, but the building work continues and will do so until the spring term. We hope that the science/Moss Close project will be completed before Christmas, but the DT and Art refurbishment will follow on from this into the new year. Upon completion, we can look forward to a truly outstanding campus.

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## QMA

I took part in a photoshoot last week with Andrew and Seema of the QMA to officially welcome the new minibus into school (see separate press release attached). The QMA raised over £22,000 in 2017-18 and are determined to better that this year, as we look to improve cricket facilities and pay towards the continued upkeep of Farchynys.

*The events for 2018-19 are:*

Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Fireworks
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Burns night dinner
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Summer ball (in conjunction with QMHS)

It would be great if you could support these events and the raffles which take place before them. If you are interested in being part of the QMA, please contact Judy McCoy at [postbox@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:postbox@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk)

Please also follow the QMA twitter page [@qmgs1554qma](https://twitter.com/qmgs1554qma)

As we approach the Christmas shopping season, the QMA are also promoting the **Easy Fundraising scheme** – a great way of raising money for the school with very little effort. Make sure you register, if you haven't already, at: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/queenmarysgrammar/>

## Vacancies

We have a vacancy for a Chemistry technician. If you are interested, please see the School's website: [http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=186&Itemid=266](http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=186&Itemid=266)

## UCAS

I have started to sign off the first of the UCAS references of the year and I encourage the students in 6.2 to move on with their applications as soon as they can. Parents may find the following guide from UCAS useful.

<https://www.ucas.com/file/185091/download?token=4Pf51fWt>

## Other news and upcoming events

A number of letters have gone out recently about important aspects of school life, including changes to the after school club arrangements. If you are one of the parents who find old letters at the bottom of bags and in blazer pockets, please keep an eye on the letters page of the school website:

[http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=111&Itemid=233](http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=111&Itemid=233)

The following are events going on at the school you may be interested in:

- **QMC dinner** – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September
- **Farchynys open day** – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October
- **Year 11 parents' evening** – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October
- **Year 13 parents' evening** – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October
- **Speech Day** – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October
- **Half term** – starts after Speech Day on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October; return to school Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November
- **Remembrance Sunday parade** – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November
- **Year 8 parents' evening** – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

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Thank you for your continued support of the school

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. J. Langton'.



**Richard Langton**

Headmaster

Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall

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[www.qmgs.org](http://www.qmgs.org)

Twitter: @qmgs1554