



QUEEN MARY'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Academic in purpose - Generous in approach - Enterprising in spirit - International in outlook



Information Pack

Queen Mary's Grammar School
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Welcome



Queen Mary's Grammar School was founded in 1554 by Mary Tudor. We have been shaped by our past and are proud of our traditions, but we are also confident of an exciting future as we help to shape the new educational landscape.

Queen Mary's is an academically selective school. It is our aim to support pupils to achieve their full academic potential. We value the life of the mind and want to pass on a love of learning.

Outside the classroom, we offer a range of life-enriching opportunities: time at our Field Centre in Wales; membership of our thriving Combined Cadet Force; individual and team sports; foreign exchanges and travel; participation in music, drama and many other activities. We believe that achievement and enjoyment go hand in hand.

We equip our pupils to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world. Most choose to go on to Higher Education. Through partnership between School, pupil and parents, we aim for the examination success that will open doors to the very best HE institutions and international employers. We were rated as 'outstanding' by OFSTED and it is our mission to attain excellence in all that we do.

Our House system celebrates the four pillars of school life at Queen Mary's: an academic focus, an international ethos, an enterprising spirit and a sense of community. We enjoy our social, cultural and ethnic diversity and recognise our many privileges. We are keen to share what we have - experience, expertise, enthusiasm - both with those who live on our doorstep and those from further afield.

To do so is very much in the spirit of our motto *quas dederis solas semper habebis opes*: it is what you give that you will keep as eternal riches.

Richard Langton
Headmaster

About us

Queen Mary's Grammar School is an invigorating and rewarding place to work: the pupils are intelligent and committed to study; the staff are friendly and forward looking. It is far more than just a place of work – it is a thriving community, proud of its past and confident of its future. In November 2008, it was recognised as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

There are currently nearly 1100 pupils on roll, including over 400 in the Sixth Form. The School has an outstanding academic record and regularly features in the upper reaches of the national league tables. In 2018, 67% of GCSE grades were 7-9 (A*/A) and 70% of A Level grades were A*, A or B. Our value added scores are particularly impressive (with a Progress 8 score of +0.53 in 2018); we do not rest on our laurels, but encourage all our pupils to take up the challenge of realising their full potential.

In June 2011, the School converted to Academy status and we have undertaken a series of exciting building projects over the past 8 years, including a new Sixth Form Centre, Science labs and a Humanities wing, music and PE refurbishments, as well as a new dining room and reception. We partnered a local Charity in the founding of Walsall Studio School in 2012 and were a founding member of the Mercian Multi Academy Trust (along with five other schools) in January 2018. We are also expanding, adding additional capacity through the building of extra science rooms and improving Design Technology and Art facilities.

The School encourages an enterprising and international outlook: we have enjoyed trips, expeditions and exchanges all over the world in recent years and have many successes in national competitions but also carry out a wide range of vibrant and formative trips and experiences closer to home such as theatre visits, visiting speakers and the mental health ambassadors programme. In fact, we are incredibly proud to be appearing in Ross Morrison McGill's (aka Teacher Toolkit) upcoming book showcasing our mental health work with staff and pupils.

We want our own pupils to lead happy and fulfilled lives. Learning here is not just about passing exams, but about enjoying the life of the mind. We also encourage all our pupils to take part in a wide range of enrichment activities in sport, drama and music, in the Combined Cadet Force and at our Field Centre on the Afon Mawddach in Southern Snowdonia.

You will notice a relaxed working atmosphere as you walk round the school. Our pupils come from diverse backgrounds, but they all thrive on the sense of support, encouragement and care that characterises Queen Mary's.

Location

Queen Mary's Grammar School,
Sutton Road,
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Queen Mary's Grammar School is located on the Sutton Road, in the leafy south of the town and close to the centre of Walsall. Travel to the school is very convenient, being approximately 10 minutes' drive from both junctions 7 and 9 of the M6.

There are good bus links from Birmingham to Walsall (with the 51 and X51 buses) and there is a direct train route to Birmingham from nearby stations in the town centre, Bescot Stadium and Tamebridge Parkway.

The close proximity of Walsall, Wolverhampton and Birmingham City Centre provides excellent access to shopping, leisure facilities, museums, cinemas and a wide range of nightlife.

House prices in Walsall are also very competitive compared to the Midlands as a whole and there is a range of good local primary schools and nurseries for those with young families seeking to move close to Queen Mary's.

Benefits of working at Queen Mary's Grammar School

- The opportunity to teach outstandingly gifted and intelligent students who have a real motivation to succeed.
- A thriving and expanding school that achieves enviable examination success at both GCSE and A Level.
- Professional autonomy in the classroom – you are encouraged to teach in a style that suits you and your subject!
- A senior leadership team that is approachable and fair in its approach
- Plenty of opportunities for professional development in the school, across our MAT, and externally.
- A real sense of community, both amongst staff and pupils.
- A dedicated induction programme for new staff and NQTs to ensure you are supported.
- We take our mental health seriously, always considering work load and staff wellbeing.
- We are encouraged to organise school trips, travelling across the globe.
- The chance to play a key role in the wider life of the school, from involvement in the CCF and music, coaching of sports teams and countless other opportunities
- Career progression – many of our current middle and senior leaders are home-grown promotions from within

Some quotes from the Good Schools Guide about us:

"...QMGS is a calm yet bright environment."

"There are no elephants in the rooms at QMGS - mental health and well-being of pupils and staff alike are taken very seriously."

"There is no 'typical' QMGS pupil. Students come from a wide range of backgrounds. This is what perhaps makes QMGS stand aside from the usual grammar schools."

"QMGS is rich and fulfilling for both students and staff. A school with one foot in the past and the other in the future."

Find out more

You can find out more about our amazing school at <http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk>

Alternatively, for a real flavour of daily life at QM follow us on Twitter at @QMGS1554