

# Queen Mary's Grammar School



## A message from the Headmaster, March 2019

Dear parents/guardians

With Easter falling late this year, the spring term has felt a long one and I am sure everyone is ready for the two-week break. For many students in the upper school, this is a time to consolidate revision efforts ahead of the final push.

This month has been busy and the student speakers we have seen in school assemblies have been very impressive. A large number have taken to the stage to present on their areas of interest. This week, we have heard from the cadets of their experiences over recent weeks, along with representatives from the 'Change your mind' and 'Wellbeing Group'. Last week, the Youth Integration Champions introduced their 'Breaking bread, breaking barriers' event, which saw a number of visitors attend the school to promote social cohesion. We also heard from a group of students on 'National Down Syndrome day' talking about discrimination and how we can combat this as a community, along with a sixth form student on his personal mission to raise funds for the UKIM.

Additionally, I have presented awards for success in the Physics Olympiad and to the winning Year 7 'Chance to Compete' indoor cricket winners. Students from the Florida and Canada trips have also wowed us with their tales of adventure, as well as with their technical skills in their presentations.

As I said to the Year 12 parents on Thursday, it is great to see so many events going on and for so many students to be taking part.

### Primary school outreach work

The work with local primary schools has continued this half term and on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March we welcomed over 160 year 5 pupils to the school from across the town. In partnership with QMHS, we are holding a series of aspiration sessions in order to encourage young people from some of the most disadvantaged parts of the town to apply to the school. Staff and students from QMGS ran taster sessions in maths, PE, art and DT this week and the year 5s had a great time. We hope it inspires them to want to come to us in the future.

### Farchynys spring clean weekend

Despite the weather, a hardy group of volunteers headed to Farchynys a couple of weeks ago. Following the lead of Mr Hudson, lots of cutting back and tidying was done in the grounds and cleaning and DIY completed in the buildings. I am very grateful to the parents, students, staff and other volunteers who took part.

### QMA

The remaining QMA event for the year is the re-formed Summer ball (in conjunction with QMHS) on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June**. We are just putting the committee together and are looking for new members. The next meeting of this takes place on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**. If you are interested in being part of this, please contact Judy McCoy at [enquiries@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk)

Please also support the school through the **Easy Fundraising scheme** – a great way of raising money with very little effort. Make sure you register, if you haven't already, at: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/queenmarysgrammar/>

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## Careers education and support

Organised by Miss Weston and Mr Matley, the sixth form team hosted a HE and careers fair at the start of March, with more exhibitions than ever before. Pictures of this and details of other careers events can be found on the 6<sup>th</sup> form twitter feed:

<https://twitter.com/QMGS6THFORM>

Please also remember the careers resources on the School's website:

<http://qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/careers/>

<https://nationalcareersweek.com/>

## Key dates for the diary coming up

The following are upcoming, which you may be interested in:

- **MEP Hurdle test 1:** Saturday 6th April
- **Easter Music Concert:** Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April
- **End of term:** Thursday 11th April, 2pm
- **Summer Term begins:** Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 9.45am
- **QMA Summer Ball Committee:** Thursday 2nd May, 7.30pm
- **Bank holiday:** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May

All key school events for 2018-19 are listed at:

[http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/content/2018\\_sep\\_calendar\\_of\\_events.pdf](http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/content/2018_sep_calendar_of_events.pdf)

Thank you for your continued support for 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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