

# Queen Mary's Grammar School



## A message from the Headmaster, September 2019

Dear parents/guardians

The first month of the school year seems to have gone by very quickly, with the summer a distant memory! The governors met at the start of this week to review the exam performance and passed on their congratulations for all the hard work and achievements which we saw. In particular, the provisional Progress 8 figure at GCSE looks to have set a new school record. It has been great to welcome new students and parents to the school over the past month; I hope you feel settled into the QMGS community.

### QMA

I had the pleasure of attending two QMA meetings last week, as we prepare for the year ahead. On Tuesday, the management committee met and considered bids from the staff for projects to support in 2019-20. The Geography department will be funded in their purchase of a set of Microsoft Surface Pro tablets and the Library will be refurbished later in the year.

I hope that you can contribute to the fundraising which goes into funding these projects (along with others); both of which will have a direct impact on the learning experiences of students at the school.

On Wednesday, I attended the first committee meeting of the new event: 'Tastes of the World'. This will replace the Fireworks event and will take place on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019**. We are looking to celebrate our diverse community in a family evening of food and entertainment. If you can support the event (through catering/entertainment contacts, through the donation of raffle prizes or by being on the committee), please let us know at the school.

The full list of events for 2019-20 are:

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Sat 7 Dec 2019  | Tastes of the World |
| Sat 25 Jan 2020 | Burns Night         |
| Sat 27 Jun 2020 | Summer Ball         |

If you are interested in being part of the QMA in 2019-20, please contact Judy McCoy at [enquiries@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk)

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/>

### Other School news

We have celebrated different aspects of the School's life over the past two weekends, with formal dinners of the CCF contingent staff and the Queen Mary's Club (our alumni). I have been proud to attend both dinners and am grateful for all the work that goes on with these organisations.

In September, Mrs McPhee and I attended the launch of a new book by the acclaimed educational author Ross Morrison McGill. 'Just Great Teaching' highlights best practice in education across the UK and we feature for our work on student mental health. This is great recognition for the work that has gone on in this area across the school:

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2019/aug/27/britain-most-influential-teaching-expert>  
[https://twitter.com/TeacherToolkit?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Eembeddedtimeline%7Ctwtterm%5Eprofile%3ATeacherToolkit&ref\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.teachertoolkit.co.uk%2F2019%2F09%2F05%2Fjust-great-teaching-4%2F](https://twitter.com/TeacherToolkit?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Eembeddedtimeline%7Ctwtterm%5Eprofile%3ATeacherToolkit&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.teachertoolkit.co.uk%2F2019%2F09%2F05%2Fjust-great-teaching-4%2F)

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Speech day is fast approaching and this is taking place this year at St Matthews on the evening of Thursday 24th October. Our guest speaker this year is Faeza Vaid MBE. She is a former student (leaving in 2002) and is the Executive Director of the Muslim Women's Network. She was awarded an MBE in the 2019 New Year's Honours list for her work advancing women's rights, particularly supporting vulnerable Muslim women:

<https://twitter.com/2faeza?lang=en>

<http://www.mwnuk.co.uk/staff.php>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-46693941>

## Road safety

I need to make you aware of a serious road traffic incident that occurred outside the school two weeks ago, where a sixth form girl was hit by a car. She was, fortunately, not seriously hurt, but it clearly raises issues about the Sutton Road.

We started a SLT duty last year, where one of our team each day is on the Sutton Road from 8.30-8.45 and 15.40-16.00. I speak regularly in assembly to students and I am going to write to the police, local MP and council over convening a meeting. I have also written to other local schools and I must also make a plea to you, as parents, about responsible driving and parking on the road. If you can drop children off further away from the school gates, then please do so. Please work with us to make the local area a safer place.

## Message from Walsall Council

We have been asked to remind parents/carers to be vigilant about leaving bags and other possessions in their cars and on view following a smash and grab in the Aldridge area, this happened at school drop off time. The impact of viewing such an incident can be damaging to children and young people

## Key dates for the diary coming up

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

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Sat 5 Oct  | Farchynys open day                               |
| Thu 10 Oct | Y11 parents' evening                             |
| Thu 17 Oct | Y13 parents' evening                             |
| Fri 18 Oct | CCF field day                                    |
| Thu 24 Oct | Speech Day                                       |
| Fri 25 Oct | School closed (half term begins until Mon 4 Nov) |

**The live calendar and term dates for 2019-20 and 2020-21 are available on the School's website:**

<https://qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/school-live-calendar/>

<https://qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/term-dates/>

Thank you for your continued support

Regards



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