



# Queen Mary's Grammar School

A message from the Headmaster, October 2019

Dear parents/guardians

As we near the end of the first half term of the school year, our eyes inevitably turn towards Speech Day. We are all looking forward to our annual celebration on Thursday, where we celebrate what has gone on over the past 12 months. In penning my speech, I have reflected on what makes the 21<sup>st</sup> century school and have described a diverse community, with equality at his heart.

We are delighted to welcome Faeza Vaid as our guest speaker. 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. Faeza will lead a student seminar in the afternoon, as well as addressing the celebration event in the evening.

Please be aware that there are different arrangements for the school day (see below), including an interlude in the afternoon and an expectation of attendance at the evening event. Can I please emphasise our high expectations of behaviour at the event and in the town on the day?

## QMA

As I described in my last email, we are working on the new QMA 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. Look out for raffle tickets and for more promotion of the event after half term.

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@qmg.s.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@qmg.s.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

It was great to see such an impressive turnout for the Year 11 and 13 parents' evenings. Your support is hugely welcomed.

Last week, I attended the CCF's Field Day and witnessed a diverse range of activities going on. I am grateful to all of the staff who made this happen, along with the Tactics weekend that followed.

<https://twitter.com/QMGSCCF>

It was also good to see so many parents attending the Farchynys open day at the beginning of the month. Thanks to Mr Hudson, other staff and members of the QMA who made this possible.

## Road safety

Following on from my email in September, can I please remind all parents again about the need for responsible driving and parking in the vicinity of the school? 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.

## Key dates for the diary coming up

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

Thu 24 Oct	Speech Day (half term begins at the end of the event)
Fri 25 Oct	School closed
Mon 4 Nov	Term starts at 8.45am
Fri 22 Nov	School closed (staff training day)
Thu 28 Nov	Sixth form open evening (early finish)
Thu 5 Dec	Y12 parents' evening
Sat 7 Dec	QMA Tastes of the World Event
Mon 16 Dec	Year 13 leavers' event
Tue 17 Dec	Christmas music concert
Sat 25 Jan	QMA Burns night

**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. I hope that you have a restful half-term.

Regards



Richard Langton

Headmaster

Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall

01922 720696

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

Twitter: @qmgs1554

## Speech Day arrangements – 24 October 2019

### In the morning...

8.45-9.00am	Short Registration
9.00–9.50am	Period 1 ( <i>Pupils will NOT have bags and books. No HW will be set</i> )
9.50am	Break: There will be no service from the Kitchens.
10.40am	Departure is signalled by the Bell in the Tower
11.15	All seated in St Matthew's
c12.20	Service ends;. Years 7-9 to be escorted back to school where they will be registered and dismissed. Years 10-13 must be registered and then are dismissed from the church.

Good behaviour and smart appearance are expected in town.

**At lunchtime ...**

There will be a limited Harrison's Service: pre-orders only.

Pupils must order before Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

**In the afternoon ...**

3.00-4.00pm Faeza Vaid MBE seminar to take place in Lecture Theatre.

**In the evening ...**

The evening event will be held back at St. Matthew's Church.

**Years 8 and 9 will be walked to Blue Coat School after the event for dismissal.**

**Years 10 to 13 will be dismissed from St Matthews Church.**

4.45pm 'Platform Party' gathers in the side-chapel at the church.

4.50pm All pupils should be seated in the church according to the Seating Plan.

5.00pm Platform Party enters. All stand.

c6.45pm The end of formal proceedings (half term begins)