

Queen Mary's Grammar School



A message from the Headmaster, January 2020

Dear parents/guardians

First word

January has certainly been a busy month and there has been lots going on in the life of the school. Farchynys has seen its first use of the year with the CCF recruits weekend and there is an exciting range of visits coming up in the coming weeks, including international trips to Italy and Switzerland over half term.

I am delighted to announce that Mrs McPhee has been nominated under the category of Health & Wellbeing for the Walsall Community Recognition Awards. Her work on PSHEE and Mental Health has been exemplary and we are running a series of events for mental health awareness in February 2020. I attach a schedule for these events and encourage you to look over them. We are covering some difficult topics, so please let us know if there are any issues. Please note that there is an evening for parents, run by the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust, on **Monday 3rd February**.

In rather more sad terms, I am very sorry to announce the sudden death of Jill Henderson, who worked for over 20 years as part of the kitchen staff. Jill was a much-loved member of the QM community and we are still coming to terms with her passing. Jill's funeral is due to take place on Friday 14th February and there will be implications to the running of the school day, which I will communicate closer to the time.

QMA

Thank you to everyone who supported the QMA's Burns Night Event on Saturday 25th January. The school hall and dining room were transformed and people enjoyed a fantastic evening of food and entertainment. Particular thanks go to the Burns Night and Bar committees for their amazing work. We are due to draw the student raffle later this week, but thank you for your support in buying tickets.

The next event takes place on **Saturday 27th June**, when we team up with QMHS to host the Summer Ball. For information, or if you want to get involved, email enquiries@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk

Also, don't forget 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/>

Sport Store Volunteers

The School's sports store is mainly run with the help of parent volunteers. This helps to keep the cost of the kit down, and gives a more personal purchasing experience. The store is open once a week on a Wednesday lunchtime and we also need help for our Sales Days held in June/July.

We are currently in need of more volunteers and would be grateful if you would be able to either spare one Wednesday lunch time a month or help during our Sales Days. Please contact Georgia Hopkinson on sports-store@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk if you want any further information or help regarding the purchase of school uniform.

Parent governor

I am delighted to announce that Mr Iftikhar Ahmed (who has a son in Year 7) has been appointed as a new Parent Governor. I am sure that with his background, Mr Ahmed will very soon prove to be a valuable member of our Governing Body. He is a qualified Chartered Accountant and has over 10 years of experience of working for the Department of Education. Mr Ahmed has previously served as a Governor at a local Primary School. On behalf of the Governing Body, I extend a very warm welcome to Mr Ahmed and I hope that he will enjoy his time as a Governor of the School.

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Online safety and appropriate behaviour

There have been a number of poor uses on online apps recently. Please can I remind parents and ask you to discuss with your child about e-safety? The following websites are excellent sources of advice and help as many apps have a legal age at which pupils are allowed to use them (e.g. WhatsApp is 16 years of age).

<https://parentinfo.org/article/whatsapp-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/apps-guide/>

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

Road safety and courteous driving

We continue to receive reports of issues related to dangerous driving and parking. Please be considerate around the school and consider dropping/picking students up a short walk away. When you do so, please respect local businesses and the United Reform Church (where parking is private).

Key dates for the diary coming up

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

31 Jan -2 Feb	CCF Antarctic training
3-7 Feb	Mental health awareness week
Thu 6 Feb	Year 12 Futures Evening
Thu 13 Feb	Year 9 parents' evening
Fri 14 Feb	End of the first Spring half term
Mon 24 Feb	Second Spring half term begins

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 for the school.

Regards



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