

# Queen Mary's Grammar School



## A message from the Headmaster, February 2020

Dear parents/guardians

### First word

I hope you have followed the international adventures of QM students on twitter over the past couple of weeks. The ski trip to Italy enjoyed some fantastic weather and students made great progress in their skiing. A group of upper school students were also in Switzerland, visiting the CERN centre, amongst other science-related attractions, in Geneva. I am grateful to all staff who have led these trips.

I have communicated to parents about the implications of the ski group returning to school, following the Coronavirus concerns. As I have said, the party did not visit the area on lockdown and therefore should continue to attend school as normal, unless they develop symptoms (however mild) of a cold or flu. I appreciate the concern of parents who have contacted the school this week, but I have followed very carefully the advice of the government, Public Health England and the Public Health department of the local authority. A letter sent to schools on 27<sup>th</sup> February from Walsall council stated that:

*“Public Health England and Department of Health have advised that schools do not need to close in relation to COVID 19 (even if there are associated possible cases currently undergoing testing). If a confirmed case is identified with links to a school, specific advice would be given on a case by case basis and parents and students would be updated appropriately”*

In relation to the summer MEP trip to China, we continue to communicate with the Institute of Education at UCL. I will make an announcement on this next week (W/B 2<sup>nd</sup> March).

### Governing board changes

The governing board met at the start of February. We paid our tributes to outgoing chair Mr Paul Lee, thanking him for all the work he has done. Mr Lee retains a link with the school as a trustee of the MAT. Mr Lee is succeeded as chair by Mr Lee Roberts. I look forward to a long working relationship with Mr Roberts.

### Farchynys

Farchynys has had its first visits of the year, with the CCF and Geography departments braving the cold! Mr Hudson is organising a spring cleaning/DIY weekend on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March. If you are interested in helping out, please contact him via [enquiries@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk)

### QMA

The summer ball committee have started their planning for the next QMA event, which takes place on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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/>

### 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/>

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## 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).

## Clive Mark Uniform survey

We have been asked to distribute a survey on behalf of our uniform supplier, Clive Mark. The Schoolwear Association is conducting a survey of parents and guardians to gather a clearer idea of current attitudes and sentiment towards school uniform cost, quality and sustainability. I would be very grateful if you could spare 5 minutes to complete the survey, which can be accessed here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MJWTDGG>

The information collated from this survey will be used only for the purposes of research. All responses will be treated anonymously, and data collected will largely be used publicly in an aggregated form. Any direct quotes or comments used to support our work will be anonymised, and we will redact any points that could be used to identify a respondent.

Four survey respondents will be picked at random to enter a prize draw to win a £100 Amazon voucher. Please enter your email address on the final page of the survey to enter. If you have any questions, please contact [JoelKyereme@wacomms.co.uk](mailto:JoelKyereme@wacomms.co.uk)

## Key dates for the diary coming up

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

Sat 7 Mar	Year 7 MEP session
Thu 12 Mar	Year 7 parents' evening
Sat 14 Mar	Farchynys spring cleaning weekend
Fri 20 Mar	CCF field day (biennial review)
Thu 26 Mar	Year 8 parents' evening
Wed 1 Apr	Spring music concert
Thu 2 Apr	School closes for Easter
Fri 3 Apr	Staff training day (students not expected in)
Mon 20 Apr	School open for the summer term

**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



**Richard Langton**  
Headmaster

**Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall**

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

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