

Queen Mary's Grammar School



A message from the Headmaster, October 2020

First word

After a relatively quiet few weeks, we have again faced challenges of dealing with confirmed cases over the past fortnight. Thank you for your co-operation and support with the enforced self-isolations. I hope the students are able to access their online learning and I am grateful to the staff for making such resources available.

This week should have marked our annual Speech Day event. Instead of the morning service, afternoon seminar and evening celebration, we are running a series of morning assemblies this week:

- Mon 19 Oct:** A presentation and questions with Mr Lawrence over the history and context of Speech Day
- Tue 20 Oct:** A reflection on the year from the PSLT and an opportunity for the chair of governors to address the school
- Wed 21 Oct:** A session delivered by the preacher, Rob Denton (alumnus), in the style of what would have been delivered on Speech Day.
- Thu 22 Oct:** An interactive session with Dr Ben Spencer MP (alumnus), who was due to be the speaker this year.

I am hoping that the students can get a flavour of the key elements of the Speech day experience and look forward to the presentations. We are planning to stage the prize giving element nearer to Christmas.

School finishes at the end of the usual School day on Thursday, according to the year group departure times. I'm sure that all members of the community are looking forward to the half term break and I wish you and your families well.

Local Covid-19 alert level

You will be aware that Walsall is designated an area of high alert. I have included an information poster on this at the end of this email. Students must remember to wear masks on entry/exit to the school site and in communal areas, including corridors. Please remember the other key control measures in operation:

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene procedures by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable

GCSE English Literature (Mr Fadden)

Students will be aware that a national decision has been made to drop the poetry anthology from the GCSE English Literature syllabus, for this year only. We will still be doing Jekyll and Hyde and the unseen poetry alongside the other elements. There are no changes to the English syllabus apart from not needing to record speaking endorsement entries, for this year only.

Online learning and the use of MS Teams (Mr Kolaric Mrs Round)

We are continuing to adapt our approach to online learning and would be grateful if parents could complete a short [MS Forms survey](#), if this hasn't already been done.

We have increasingly been using Seneca Learning as a school to encourage pupils to consolidate their learning. Seneca have just released a free parent monitoring platform which allows you to check the

Queen Mary's Grammar School



progress of your child and completion of Seneca homework assignments. It also lets you see how long your child has spent on their different subjects, their average score & number of questions answered. Here are some instructions for getting started:

1. [Click here to create a parent account](#) (if you arrive at a login page, make sure to click on the 'Sign up' option)
2. Click 'invite child'
3. Share your code with your child(ren) and ask them to click on the link
4. Login to review their progress.

Parents' evening feedback forms

Thank you to those parents who have completed the parental questionnaires, following the Year 13 and Year 11 parents' evenings. These are an important part of our quality assurance and I would be grateful if these parents could do so, if they haven't already:

[Year 13 questionnaire](#)

[Year 11 questionnaire](#)

Sports store (Mrs Hopkinson)

I would like to include a big thank you to all the staff who have helped me with handing out kit to the different year groups in the last few weeks. It has been extremely helpful and made my job that bit easier.

We will be closing the Year 8-13 Sports store and the Year 7 Presta Sports store from the 19th October to the 3rd November. Orders will not be able to be placed during this period. This is so we can combine the two stores into one whole school store. This will allow for easier ordering and processing both for the parents/guardians and internally.

Our order from Samurai is due in sometime this week (w/c 19th October). This stock will be added to the store, ready for when the store reopens on the 3rd November. Any students waiting on kit to be supplied, will receive this kit on Monday 2nd November.

Please note that to use the new store, an account must first be opened, before you can place an order. Years 7 – 10 will have kit handed out either on Monday or Wednesday lunchtimes. Year 11s must collect any ordered kit from the Sports Store on a Wednesday lunchtime. All 6th form kit will be handed out by Mr Hitchin as the start of the games lesson on Wednesday.

If you have any queries, please contact myself on sports-store@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk.

Lost property update (Mr Collins)

Last year we ran a Kits4less whereby any lost property that could not be returned to a pupil due to it not being named was laundered and then sold to pupils at a termly Kits4less sale run by the school council in the hall.

With the current pandemic and the school operating a year bubble approach it is difficult to undertake last year's ventures. This year so far we have returned over 80 items of lost property to pupils and I encourage everyone to make sure that their child's clothing is clearly named and their form written too. Any items that we cannot return are laundered and pupils may buy these second hand from the welfare hub via Mrs Hill at a price of £1 no matter what the item is.

Queen Mary's Grammar School



Well-being (Mr Collins)

The Student Welfare Hub is up and running and is adding value to our SEMH and SEND provision. The wellbeing e-mail address we used during lockdown is still open and parents or students can use this to contact the team on such matters: well-being@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk

Road safety and considerate driving

We have continued to monitor the situation on the Sutton Road and the senior leadership team are still having to speak to a large number of parents with regards to inconsiderate parking and manoeuvres. I am in consultation with Walsall Council and the police in order to generate more support for this. I am looking for an increased level of enforcement patrols, whereby people not following the rules may be issued fines. Please work with us in making the surroundings of the school a safe place for everyone.

Key dates for the diary coming up

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

Thu 22 Oct	School closes for half term at the end of the usual school day (according to year group arrangements)
Fri 23 Oct	Teacher training day – no students in school
Mon 2 Nov	Term begins at the start of the usual school day (according to year group arrangements)
Fri 20 Nov	Teacher training day – no students in school
Thu 2 Dec	Year 12 parents' evening

The live calendar and term dates for 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



Richard Langton

Headmaster

Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall

01922 720696

www.qmgs.org

Twitter: @qmgs1554



VERY HIGH
HIGH
MEDIUM

HM Government

NHS

LOCAL COVID ALERT LEVEL

HIGH

Social Contact 1 household / bubble indoors. Rule of six outdoors.	Weddings and Funerals Up to 15 guests for weddings and up to 30 guests for funerals. 15 for receptions, wakes and related ceremonies.	Overnight Stays Overnight stays permitted subject to social contact rules.	Working from home guidance Work from home where possible.
Shopping and Retail Open.	Leisure and gyms Open.	Hospitality Open with some restrictions including 10pm closing time and table-service only.	Entertainment and tourist attractions Open, except nightclubs and adult entertainment.
Education Schools, FE colleges open. Universities must reflect wider restrictions.	Healthcare Services Open.	Residential Care Closed to external visitors other than in exceptional circumstances.	Travel and Transport May continue to travel to open venues, but reduce number of journeys where possible. Avoid travel into Local COVID Alert Level Very High areas where possible.
Sporting Activity Organised sport / licensed physical activity allowed in outdoor settings. Indoor organised sport must follow social contact rules (other than youth or disabled sport).	Worship Open, subject to social contact rules.	Childcare Registered and wraparound childcare. Supervised activities permitted in private homes. Children's groups permitted. Childcare bubbles for under 14s.	Youth Clubs and Activities Permitted.

There are three simple actions we must all do to keep on protecting each other:

- Wash hands**
 keep washing your hands regularly
- Cover face**
 wear a face covering in enclosed spaces
- Make space**
 stay at least 2 metres apart - or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions

For more information and detailed guidance visit:
gov.uk/coronavirus